

### **Roll Call**

Jeff Cospolich called the January 19, 2015 BOSAC meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Other BOSAC members present included Elisabeth Lawrence, Jeffrey Bergeron, Jeff Carlson, Craig Campbell and Elizabeth Miller. Chris Tennal was absent. Staff members present were Peter Grosshuesch, Scott Reid, Mark Truckey and Chris Kulick. Todd Rankin from the Summit County Open Space Commission and Jeff Zimmerman from the Breckenridge Ski Resort were also in attendance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes were approved as presented.

### **Approval of Agenda**

A Pro Forma update was added as an agenda item.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Staff Summary**

#### **Breckenridge Ski Resort On-Mountain Activities NEPA Decision Update**

As discussed by BOSAC last [February](#), the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) has proposed new on-mountain infrastructure which is currently being analyzed by the U.S. Forest Service under a NEPA review. The proposal, which includes zip lines, canopy tours, new mountain bike trails, and other associated amenities would be consistent with the *Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act* of 2011 by focusing increased summer and winter visitation on the ski area, where ski lifts, restaurants and other on-mountain infrastructure exists. BOSAC and Town Council developed and submitted the attached comment letter regarding BSR's original proposal. The USFS released the draft EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) on January 16<sup>th</sup> and includes three alternatives to be considered for public comment (including one no action alternative).

Staff provided BOSAC with an electronic version of the document to review prior to the upcoming February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Town Council will then review the EIS and BOSAC's recommendations on February 24<sup>th</sup>, in order to comment by the USFS's March 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline.

Mr. Zimmerman – The EIS report is available online. The two action alternatives include the ski area proposal (Alternative 2) and a USFS-generated alternative (Alternative 3). I look forward to discussing the specifics with BOSAC in February.

Mr. Campbell – Please send a reminder to BOSAC regarding the opportunities for public input (2/24 at approximately 4:00 pm Town Council discussion and 2/24 5:00-7:00 pm at the Mountain Thunder Lodge for a public open house.)

### **Kingfisher Claims Update**

The Town closed on a partial interest in the 18.89-acre American Gulch-based Kingfisher Claims (43.75% interest). As previously discussed, the Town and Summit County now split 87.5% ownership in the parcel, which includes a portion of the Wapiti town site. The Town's purchase from Summit County closed on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **Open Space**

### **Breckenridge Ski Resort 2015 Summer Work Proposal**

Annually, the Breckenridge Ski Resort (BSR) submits a summer work proposal to the U.S. Forest Service to address on-mountain work. Unlike the on-mountain activities EIS proposal above, the summer work proposal does not require a large-scale NEPA review (EA or EIS), but rather undergoes an expedited “categorical exclusion” (CE) analysis. The attached scoping notice seeks public input for BSR-related work, including grading a portion of the Monte Cristo trail and installing a snowmaking pipe extension for the lower Peak 6 runs.

Mr. Bergeron – How will the snow making pipes cross Cucumber Creek? (Mr. Zimmerman – They will be bored under one branch of Cucumber Creek and above ground for the second branch. Topographically, it caused the least amount of disturbance.)

Mr. Bergeron – How will the additional snowmaking impact the Cucumber Gulch watershed? (Staff – There will be minimal impacts in terms of additional water in the creek. Seasonal variation in snowfall is much greater than the potential amount of additional snow from the proposed project.)

Mr. Bergeron – However, is there a difference between the melt off of manmade and natural snow? (Mr. Zimmerman – Manmade snow does not increase the immediate intensity of runoff but does increase the duration.) (Staff – Snow pack does not tend to produce big runoff surges on its own. Large rain events during peak run-off are generally responsible for large surges.)

Mr. Bergeron – What about noxious weeds? Recently disturbed areas on the ski area tend to have weed infestations. (Mr. Zimmerman – The USFS monitors our revegetation and weed eradication efforts. We have the resources and staff to address weed eradication and the USFS oversees that work annually.)

Mr. Campbell – How much site disturbance will this project cause? (Mr. Zimmerman – The entire area where the snowmaking pipe will go was disturbed as part of the Peak 6 expansion two years ago; that is the reason we have proposed the project now. We want to complete the trench before the revegetation comes back on the ski runs. As part of our permit, the USFS monitors our sediment control efforts as well.)

Mr. Carlson – Does the proposed boring excavation under Cucumber Creek include a sleeve or PVC pipe to contain the snowmaking lines? (Mr. Zimmerman – Yes, the air and water pipes will be included within a plastic conduit where we bore.)

Ms. Miller – Why was the snowmaking infrastructure not proposed as part of the original Peak 6 proposal and NEPA analysis? (Mr. Zimmerman – Following our first season, we realized that we needed better coverage for the Zendo Chair offload area and the lower portions of the runs towards the bottom of Kensho Chair. Our goal is to make approximately one foot of snow on these areas, so we can open up all of the upper terrain earlier.)

Mr. Reid – I am joining USFS and Summit County staff on 1/21 for a site visit to the proposed construction areas. BOSAC members are certainly welcome to join us.

BOSAC directed staff to attend the site visit and draft a comment letter to be submitted to the USFS prior to the deadline.

### **Blue River Restoration Background Discussion**

As requested during the December meeting, staff provided BOSAC with an overview of Blue River restoration efforts in town during the past 30 years.

Staff presented BOSAC a PowerPoint slideshow outlining previous Blue River restoration efforts. This was the same presentation that Town Council received in July 2013 from Peggy Bailey of Tetra Tech. The goal of this presentation was to educate BOSAC on prior and current restoration projects along the Blue River. The McCain property is the next reach to be restored in 2015 and 2016 with funding coming from the open space and general funds. Also, the draft McCain property master plan will likely be presented to BOSAC at its April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. This master plan will provide the broader context for the McCain parcel, overall site programming, and public interaction with the river corridor.

Ms. Miller – Is there any way to reallocate funds from the Wellington Oro Treatment Facility to a more effective mitigation strategy for all of French Gulch? (Staff – We are in the middle of a five year review of the Wellington Oro facility with the EPA so we will have a better understanding of the project's success once that review is completed.)

Ms. Lawrence – Council is still reviewing options for the Block 11 stretch of the river, including the Coyne Valley Bridge. We will look at the option more in-depth at the May 12<sup>th</sup> Council retreat.

Mr. Campbell – What are the priorities for sections of the river to restore? I know McCain is important but what about the stretch behind the Parkway Center? (Staff – The Parkway would be a good candidate for future restoration, however, due to space constraints its somewhat dependant on a redevelopment of the site. The McCain parcel has fewer constraints; therefore it is closer to being shovel-ready.)

Mr. Carlson – Is there any water quality testing going on at the confluence of French Creek and the Blue River? (Staff – There are many testing sites along both French Creek and the Blue River, including at that confluence. Overall, the water quality gets much better the further downstream it is from French Creek.

Mr. Cospolich – How do you decide when and where to use crusher fine as opposed to single track for a trail design. (Staff – We generally try to avoid using crusher fine due to its installation and upkeep costs but it ultimately comes down the volume of use.)

BOSAC thanked staff for the restoration primer and anticipates being involved in the future river restoration efforts on McCain and elsewhere.

### **2015 Open Space Work Plan**

Staff presented the draft 2015 open space work plan. This document, updated annually, outlines the program goals for the year. Please note that there are two pages: ongoing duties and 2015 work plan. Staff reviewed both categories with BOSAC and sought feedback.

Mr. Cospolich – How do you audit the license agreements? (Staff – Since the license agreements are ongoing and most have existed for many years we feel we have a pretty good understanding of how the operations are functioning. In general, we tend to be much more involved in and watchful over the 20 or so special events we permit each year.)

Mr. Cospolich – How is the GOCO grant proposal for the river plan different from the existing plan prepared by DTJ? (Staff – The grant proposal will distill the scope to the three highest priority projects from the DTJ plan and potentially bring them to a 70% design level.)

Mr. Bergeron – I noticed the Hoosier Pass trailhead is not being plowed this year; who has plowed the trailhead in the past? (Staff – CDOT.)

Ms. Miller – When will it be decided on which USFS projects will be taken on this year? (Staff – Most likely, we will reach out to partner with the Friends of the Dillon Ranger District on a Baker’s Tank Trail project to start.)

BOSAC approved the 2015 work plan as presented.

### **Pro Forma Update**

Mr. Truckey – We have learned more about the restrictions and penalties for early payout of the B&B bond and are now reassessing our options. We may not pay the B&B debt off early at all, or switch bond holders to benefit the program. We will let BOSAC know of any changes, but for now it looks like the B&B debt service will not be paid off early.

### **Council Update**

Ms. Lawrence updated the BOSAC on the affordable housing density transfer from Prospector Park to Maggie Point and the amended smoking ordinance which now prohibits smoking on Town open space parcels, parks and the recpath.

### **Executive Session**

Ms. Miller – Motioned to move into Executive Session at 7:26 pm to discuss property acquisition negotiations.

Mr. Bergeron – seconded the motion.

Mr. Bergeron – Made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:37 pm. Mr. Cospolich seconded the motion.

### **Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Monday, February 16, 2015, at the Breckenridge Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road.

Mr. Bergeron motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Cospolich.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

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Jeff Cospolich, Chair