



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

*Minutes
December 3, 2009*

Meeting Summary

The Broomfield Nature Program presented a review of their activities in 2009 and an update on their current status and upcoming programs for 2010. The committee also received staff updates on the 2010 Broomfield Trail Adventure, the Conoco Phillips development, the potential Anthem prairie dog site relocation, the Co-Existence with Wildlife Plan, and the Metzger Farm Master Plan.

Roll Call

Present:

Annette Cislo
Pascale Fried
Dan Wilkie
Judy Enderle
Rob Bodine

Absent:

Patrick Tennyson

Others in attendance:

Kevin Standbridge, Assistant City and County Manager
Kristan Pritz, Director of Open Space and Trails
Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Planner
Bob Gaiser, City Council Member

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting
2. Introduction of Interested Citizens:
3. Public Comment on Issues not on the Evenings Agenda by Interested Citizens:
C.J. McKeral, open space advocate and proponent of local wildlife. Stated that she would like to support the wildlife and natural resources in the community.
4. Update on the Broomfield Nature Program
Karen Steele from the Broomfield Nature Program provided an introduction on the programs that have been offered in the past year and the programs currently available. In 2009 the Nature Program held 25 programs with over 600 attendants.

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Many of the programs are for preschoolers and mothers as that has become one of the most popular age groups among participants. There are currently about 10 volunteers that guide and teach the programs. Karen thanked both the Open Space and Trails staff and the Recreation Department and their staff for their support. The Nature Program will be working to expand some programs into the Anthem neighborhoods in the next year as there are a lot of new residents and families in that area.

>Dan-The Open Space Foundation could offer support to the Nature Program in the future and will discuss this at their next meeting.

>Bob G.-suggested that Kristan/Kevin could contact Boulder County Naturalists to get contacts to help or offer assistance for the Broomfield Nature Broomfield. He also noted that Susan Basinet who works with the Senior Programs may be a good contact.

>Karen-At this time, our organization is operating at maximum capacity given the number of volunteers that we have. We want to continue to do a good job with our current programs and do not believe that we can expand into more programs.

5. Update the Broomfield Trail Adventure on June 5th, 2010

Pete informed the committee about the 2010 Broomfield Trail Adventure on June 5th. This year's event will be hosted at the Anthem Recreation Center within the Anthem Highlands neighborhood. The event will again be combined with the Children's Wellness Day and will have a shared agenda. On the day of the event, registration for the walk will begin at 7:30 am and the walk will commence around 8:00. Volunteers will be needed for the event and anyone interested should contact Pete Dunlaevy.

>Pascale-suggested involving the public art committee or having art as a component for the event such as an Arts in Nature drawing event, plein air painting or nature/wildlife related crafts. She suggested talking with Diana Wilson and/or Karen Gerrity about this idea. The Library Board may also want to showcase nature books and resources.

>Rob-suggested having the trail route pass by the pond near Lowell in Anthem to show participants some of these neighborhood amenities.

6. Update on Tentative January 7th Conoco Phillips Open Space Committee Meeting

Kristan informed the committee about the Conoco Phillips meeting and asked the committee to consider any feedback or questions on particular issues of concern for the committee.

>Judy-discussed the prairie dog situation and mentioned the possibility of moving prairie dogs onto the portion of the Conoco Philips property in Broomfield;

>Kevin-It is not clear if the developers will be requesting to move prairie dogs across the county line into Broomfield; these are issues that may be raised at the meeting

and we have asked the developer to come before the Broomfield City Council as well;

>Pascale-will be interested in the transportation impacts and the open space use of the many employees that will eventually be at this facility.

>Pascale and Judy offered to review this project on behalf of the committee.

7. Update on Anthem Prairie Dog Relocation Site near Spruce Meadows

Kristan and Pete provided an overview of the current prairie dog colony on the east side of the Anthem development next to Spruce Meadows and the possibility of relocating these prairie dogs to Great Western reservoir Open Space. Originally, there had been an active colony in this location but several years before the relocation, it appeared that a plague event occurred, leaving vacant burrows. In 2002, Pulte relocated twelve prairie dogs to this location before the Policies for Prairie Dog Conservation and Management were in place. The current colony has caused complaints from the adjacent residential neighborhood.

Because of the occurrence of plague at the Great Western relocation site in 2009, there is currently a large area at Great Western that will be available for relocation. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has reviewed the possible relocation of the colony and provided preliminary approval for it to take place in the summer of 2010. Pulte is willing to pay for the relocation of the animals to Great Western, assuming the relocation is given final approval by CDOW and Broomfield.

>Judy-how many prairie dogs would be relocated?

>Pete-our latest survey totaled 62 prairie dogs in this colony;

>Judy-How long do you need to wait to use a relocation site that has been hit with the plague?

>Pete-there is not a set amount of time, but the Colorado Division of Wildlife ("CDOW") has recommended waiting one full year, or at least until there has been a full winter that would likely kill the fleas at the site; the CDOW has told staff that they are willing to allow for a relocation this summer if a site review in June indicates that there is not a plague concern.

8. Update on Co-Existing with Wildlife Policy and Metzger Master Plan

Kristan provided the latest updates to the Co-Existing with Wildlife Plan, including the latest edits based on feedback from OSTAC and the Division of Wildlife. Kristan also provided an update on the Metzger Farm Master Plan, which is currently undergoing final editing before the project is presented to OSTAC and City Council for consideration. Kristan informed the committee that the Metzger Farm Master Plan will be ready for the January OSTAC meeting. Kristan also mentioned that staff is currently seeking a grant from Adams County on behalf of the project. The deadline for the grant is early February. Adams County has indicated that they are comfortable with staff submitting the grant proposal as long as the Broomfield-Westminster Open Space Foundation and two City Councils eventually approve the project before the grant decision is made.

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9. Approve Minutes of the October 22, 2009 OSTAC Meeting
Judy moves for approval, Annette seconds, minutes pass unanimously.

10. Updates:

>Kevin informed the committee about possible sites for solar energy generating facilities that are under consideration. The two open space sites under consideration are the lift stations at Willow Run and the Outlook open space areas. The solar facilities would be powering the lift stations, so they would be installed adjacent to the buildings. Kevin asked if this is a concept that the committee would be willing to consider for more specific proposals.

>Judy asked that the amount of area used for this would be replaced elsewhere;

>Kevin-yes, this is what the open space charter would call for; there would need to be compensation for the use of the open space, the area used for the panel would likely be quite small;

The committee agreed to consider these proposals.

11. Other Issues as Desired by OSTAC

>Dan-asked about Russian olive removal on the west side of LeGault Reservoir dam. He was concerned that larger Russian olives were cut down instead of being girdled and left on the site to provide wildlife habitat.

Kristan will speak with the open space maintenance staff and will follow up with the committee.

>Pascale-asked that signage about the Russian olive tree removal stay up longer when trees are cut down since some people are not in the open space every day, and may notice the downed trees for the first time after the signs have already been removed.

Kristan stated that staff can keep the signage up longer.

>Judy-What would it take to name the 10th Avenue Pond?

>Kevin-The city Attorney is working on a policy for public naming of sites.

>Judy-The Red Leaf neighborhood is concerned that their HOA is maintaining areas that are actually public, open lands.

>Kevin-stated that these areas likely belong to the HOA, even if they have public access/use, but we can look into the concern.

>Kevin-informed the committee about the settlement of the lawsuit with the Town of Erie and the new IGA that was constructed between Erie and Broomfield.

>Kristan-mentioned that Dan had asked her about the possibility of moving extra fill dirt from the Hoopes property to build up a berm on the south side of Tom Frost Reservoir to provide more shelter and limit the noise from the surrounding roads.

>Dan-the quality of the experience at Tom Frost is compromised by the traffic and the noise.

>Kevin-the first issue would be to draw something up that we could use to get a better understanding of the height and cost of the berm. This information would be presented to OSTAC and if the project is appropriate a public process would involve the neighborhoods to hear what citizens think about the concept. Kristan will talk

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with the CIP staff to see if they can provide the basic concept design and cost information.

>Kristan-Potential Items on the December 8th City Council Agenda Include: Willow Run Open Space Management Plan, Wildgrass Trail Project, Lustig Parcel Acquisition. The final agenda has not been set yet so the projects may be tabled to a later city council meeting.

>Rob-suggested inviting local photographers to an open space property to photograph the site. The photos could be publicized in the Enterprise. Metzger might be a good property for this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Happy Holidays!

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on January 28th, 2010