



Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee

Final Minutes
April 28, 2011

Meeting Summary

The committee received an overview of the new Department of Justice regulations for access in public spaces and trails from City Attorney Bill Tuthill. The committee received a presentation on the Broomfield Nature Program. Staff provided an update on the upcoming Broomfield Trail Adventure. OSTAC members reviewed and commented on the Capital Improvement Program project descriptions and the potential 96th Street area trail/pedestrian railroad crossing.

Roll Call

Present:

Rob Bodine

Patrick Tennyson

James Haedrich

Annette Cislo

William Olney

George Zack

Walt Spader, Mayor Pro Tem, Ex Officio Member

Absent:

Kevin Jacobs

Dennis Thompson

Others in attendance:

Kristan Pritz, Director of Open Space and Trails

Pete Dunlaevy, Open Space and Trails Planner

Kevin Standbridge, Assistant City and County Manager

Bill Tuthill, City and County Attorney

Agenda Minutes

1. Call to Order OSTAC Meeting
2. Introduction of Interested Citizens and new OSTAC members and Public Comment on Issues not on the Evenings Agenda by Interested Citizens:

Jaan Raamot

Joel Hollis

Chris Petrizzo

CJ McKeral

April 28, 2011

Page 2

Joel Hollis stated that he is interested in winter sport uses of the open space, such as cross country skiing or sledding. Other open space departments do this and it is something Broomfield should consider.

>Rob-there has always been cross-country skiing and sledding, so it is something we could look at;

>Kristan-we can certainly follow up on this and explore the idea. Thank you.

3. Overview of U.S. Department of Justice Trail Access Regulations

Kristan introduced Broomfield City Attorney Bill Tuthill to describe and review the regulations for the committee.

Bill described the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and discussed the recent regulations that came from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that have affected these original ADA laws. The new regulations are more inclusive in terms of ensuring disabled use of public resources. The Broomfield code includes provisions for disabled access that allows disabled access to Broomfield trails with wheelchairs and some motorized devices.

The DOJ regulations have created a new category defined as “other power driven mobility devices” for access on public land or trails. Local governments can now plan for these uses on the basis of thoughtful regulations within several areas of criteria outlined in the DOJ regulations. We are already reviewing the regulations of other communities, such as Larimer County, and will be trying to develop reasonable regulations for access on our trails.

>Bill T.-Larimer County looked at factors like width, environmental damage, trail user conflicts, and noise issues as the basis of regulations; Broomfield will likely be looking at something similar;

>Walt-will the code regulations address just trails or will all public land be addressed?

>Bill-the regulations will have to apply to trails and any public space; there are separate traffic laws that may apply for issues in roadways;

>Joel Hollis (interested citizen)-some of the issues to consider in developing the regulations might be safety issues with other trail users; environmental impacts, particular purpose of the trail, and noise issues;

>George-this is broader than just trails, it is really about all open lands;

>Bill T.-the game plan will be not to preclude these devices, but rather to determine what types of devices and locations make sense for what uses;

>Bill O.-are these codes the same for the state parks?

>Bill T.-yes, the state parks will have these same regulations, only federal wilderness areas are excluded;

>Annette-concerned that this expands from the disabled individual to a business or commercial enterprise; is the staff corresponding with any disabled people or groups to get that perspective?

- >Kristan-we have consulted with an expert from the National Parks who is disabled and very involved with this issue; we will continue to seek input;
- >George-in regards to the process, do you see this as a policy or a change to the municipal code?
- >Bill T.-I foresee staff getting recommendations from the committees and then going to the Council and Attorneys and trying to evaluate what makes sense for Broomfield;
- >George, since this really applies to all public lands, will we be working with the parks on this?
- >Kristan-yes, Broomfield will be coordinating with other departments and it may be helpful to have a meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.
- >George, is this an area that Broomfield has had complaints or conflicts in the past?
- >Bill T.-no, not really; we are always addressing ADA issues with our projects and trying to update anything that does not meet the requirements;

4. Nature Program Presentation

Kristan introduced Karen Steele, a volunteer and leader of the Broomfield Nature program to provide a summary and status update of the program.

Karen described the program for the committee. The Broomfield Nature Program is a local, all-volunteer, non-profit group that provides nature education and outings for the community. In 2010, there were 614 participants in the programs. The pre-school programs are the most popular, but there are a variety of classes, outings, and moonlight hikes that draw participants of all ages. The Nature Program also coordinates walks for Friends of Broomfield, a local group of disabled adults. Karen was also happy to report that the program has five new volunteers this year

>Kristan-we are so appreciative and thankful for what the Nature Program does for the community and local kids. Thank you.

>Rob-also thanked the Nature Program for all the wonderful activities they provide for the community.

5. Broomfield Trail Adventure Update, Saturday, June 4 at the Broomfield County Commons

Pete provided a summary of the upcoming Broomfield Trail Adventure which will be celebrated in conjunction with National Trails Day on June 4. The event will be hosted at the main pavilion in the Broomfield County Commons and there will be three trail loops -- a main walking loop of 2.5 miles, a short walking loop of 1 mile, and a longer biking route of about 7 miles.

The committee also voted on a new logo for the event from three possible designs. The committee chose logo #1 (logo showing "2011" surrounded by open space themes).

6. Capital Improvement Program Draft Project Descriptions

Kristan reviewed the project descriptions for possible upcoming CIP projects and provided an introduction on Finance Criteria for the Approval of CIP Projects. Kristan reviewed the current list of proposed projects for 2011 and 2012 with the committee.

>Rob-aside from the money, these projects need to be prioritized by the opportunity available in regards to the timing;

>Kristan-yes-that is very true; some of the 2011 projects are likely to be pushed back and some may end up in 2012, so we will need to review and prioritize each year;

>Patrick-in regards to the stated criteria of funding approval, do trail projects better meet those objectives than the acquisition or habitat improvement projects?

>Kristan-we are looking at a number of acquisition opportunities, so it really depends on the project; we often do not put land acquisition into CIP priorities until we have an opportunity in place and we have the approval of the City Council to proceed;

<Kevin-the CIP projects also draw from a slightly different pool of money than acquisition, like developer commitments, conservation trust funds, cash-in-lieu, etc.

7. Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad Tracks Pedestrian/Bike Crossing in the 96th Street Neighborhood

Kevin and Kristan-described the Midway Blvd. to Brainard Drive trail connection and the original Terracina development planning for an overpass at the BN & SF railroad, and plan for a trail connection to the existing Rock Creek Trailhead;

>Rob-so this connection will be a little bit further from the residents in Terracina;

>Kevin-yes--a little bit further to the south – about 1/8 of a mile;

>Kristan-we think the Midway area connection is much better as far as appearance than a railroad crossing at Terracina, will be more practical financially, and will get more use than an overpass at Terracina;

>Jaan-what is the status of the Midway Extension/Hoyt Street/Trail project?

>Kevin-the project has been on hold as RTD needs to complete design on the bridge in that area; they need an agreement with Burlington Northern and Santa Fe railroad; the bridge would be slightly west of Hoyt St. but it is still something that is planned; it will probably be a few years out because we are waiting on the railroad/bridge agreements to be completed;

OSTAC, although no formal vote was taken, was supportive of the projects presented in the PowerPoint.

8. Review and Approve Minutes of the February 24, 2011 OSTAC Meeting

George motions; Jim seconds. Minutes approved

9. Updates and Reminders

-Upcoming OSTAC Meetings: No Meeting in May; next meeting June 23

-Palisade Development at State Highway 7: Rob Bodine is the OSTAC representative. The plan is to have a joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to address this project as there are park and trail amenities, preservation of the barn, and cash-in-lieu topics to discuss.

-Mountainview Estates Concept review: Jim Haedrich is the OSTAC Representative. Jim and Kristan reviewed the site and are requesting that the developer provide a trail on the eastern edge of the project if at all possible.

-FirstBank Center Bike Facility Locations: Pete reviewed the locations of the bike facilities at the FirstBank Center as requested by OSTAC.

-Alexx and Michael's Pond: Pete showed pictures of the area where the fires occurred and showed how the citizen that volunteered to clean up the site completed the work. This information was requested by OSTAC at the last meeting.

-Prairie Dog Signage: Staff showed the signage that is used during prairie dog management projects to OSTAC. Members agreed the signage was acceptable.

-Refuge to Refuge Trail; Kristan explained that Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ken Salazar is working on a Rocky Mountain Arsenal Wildlife Refuge to Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge Trail. He plans to unveil the idea at the opening ceremony for the Visitor Center at the Arsenal Wildlife Refuge in late May.

-Kids Fishing Derby at BCC and Common Grounds with the Mayor: May 7th

-Boards and Commissions Dinners: May 14th

10. Other as Desired by OSTAC

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes Prepared by Pete Dunlaevy

Approved by OSTAC on June 23, 2011.