

## SUMMIT COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the February 7, 2024, Regular Meeting

**OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Turk Montepare, Jeff Zimmerman, Paul Semmer, Dave Bittner, John Taylor, Terry Craig, Peter Grosshuesch, Laura Rossetter, Arthur Hardin, John Uban

**OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Meagan Graham, Bob Gregory

**STAFF PRESENT:** Katherine King, Allison Morton, Jessica Forsyth, Jordan Mead

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT:** Cindy Ebbert – USFS, Kristi D’Agati – Town of Silverthorne, Anne Lowe – Town of Breckenridge, Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco, Avery Glassman, Larissa O’Neil, Tamara Park

**Call to Order:** Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 5:36 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** Council members approved the agenda as submitted.

**Approval of Minutes:** Council members approved the January 2024 OSAC minutes unanimously.

**Approval of Summary Report:** Council members approved the summary report as submitted.

#### **Public Comments:**

#### Discussion of 2024 Historic Resources Management Plan (Breckenridge History)

In 2019, OSAC gave a recommendation for the Board of County Commissioners to approve Breck History’s Historical Resources Management Plan. Breck History has updated that plan to reflect ownership changes and project priorities. While most of the content has remained the same, Breck History looked comprehensively at all the historic resources located in the Upper Blue to create a matrix of priorities based on five criteria: location, accessibility, interpretive potential, historical significance, and risk. This matrix helps Breck History prioritize which sites the organization should focus on in the future. Breck History’s scope of work is in the Breckenridge/Golden Horseshoe area and does not restore sites in other parts of the County. In addition to the matrix, Breck History created an online interactive map showing the location of each as well as providing photos and a description of each site’s history.

OSAC praised Breck History for their very professional, thorough, and well put together report and interactive map. They could see that Breck History put a lot of time and energy into this comprehensive plan. OSAC did have a few comments and suggestions, including:

- I. OSAC recommended that parking and amenities (e.g., trash, restrooms) are addressed in the report and/or each site’s project plan. If these historical sites start becoming more popular, OSAC wants to ensure that we are not creating problems for parking congestion and resource degradation.
  - a. To follow up with this comment, Larissa stated that they do not believe these sites will start becoming a major destination for visitors, so parking is not of great concern. Katherine also mentioned that Breck History does a wonderful job of bringing each project to OST prior to restoration to address any concerns. This included parking. Peter, who is on the Breck History board, stated that these sites are in the “front county” of the Golden Horseshoe, which have well-maintained roads, improved trailheads, and are short hikes to the mine site. These sites are not expected to have a big impact on trail use.

2. OSAC suggested Breck History has a “check off” list for any environmental impacts caused by the project.
  - a. Larissa stated that for each project, they have a detailed review to address environmental impacts (both temporary and long-term), site access, etc. Peter followed up with a comment stating that all restoration projects go through a very heavily scrutinized review process.
3. OSAC recommended that Breck History confirms that this report includes all the sites that were inventoried in the previous 1999 historic resources inventory to confirm that all historic sites were captured.
4. OSAC suggested that certain words and verbiage in the report are changed to be more “politically neutral” to give a positive view of the historical resources. Particular words, such as bulldozed, have a negative connotation. Therefore, OSAC would like for Breck History to reword certain terms. For example, the plan states that the public is discouraged from entering the sites. OSAC recommends that Breck History rephrases this to say, “the public must view sites from a distance.”
5. OSAC applauded Breck History’s interactive map and believes this will be a wonderful resource for the public. However, there were errors on the page and OSAC strongly encourages Breck History reviews the map before it is published online. For example, photo #8 of the Wise Mountain cabin is not of the cabin but some site nearby, and some sites are located on private property but are on USFS land.
  - a. Cindy and Paul stated they will work together to correct any errors and will send this information to Breck History.

To finish the discussion, Peter wanted to remind OSAC that Breck History has a small staff with limited capacity, so can only do a few minor projects or one large one per year. Many of these sites will not be able to be restored and might not get more than some interpretation signage.

#### Request to use Reiling Dredge Trail and Open Space for the Breckenridge International Festival of Art (BIFA)

In 2019, the Town of Breckenridge started their own 501(c)(3) non-profit group called Breck Create to manage cultural venues in town. The purpose of this group is to drive creative tourism and celebrate the community, entertain those who are here as visitors, and improve the quality of life for locals. They want to use art as a tool to celebrate the values of Breckenridge and inspire people to respect the environment, foster a relationship with the land, and learn about the Town’s history. Their signature programming is the Breckenridge International Festival of Art (BIFA). BIFA is focused on combining art and the outdoors to create a sense of wonder. One aspect of BIFA is their Trail Mix program. The goal of Trail Mix is to have locals and visitors have unexpected encounters with art on trails and open spaces. In the past, Breck Create worked with international artists, but are focusing on American and local artists this year.

These art installations have previously been located on Town-owned land, but this year they would like to utilize the Reiling Dredge, which is co-owned by the Town and County. Local artist Bill Orisich would like to install a sound installation at the Reiling Dredge from August 16 – 25, 2024. This soundscape would be a poetic interpretation of the mining era at the Reiling Dredge, and Bill would create an audio track of sounds that weaves multiple narratives of mining sounds. This site-specific soundscape would play for 2-3 hours per day throughout the ten-day festival and would be on 10-minute continuous loops. The plan is to place four battery-powered speakers around the Dredge. Each speaker will play a different piece so as visitors walk around the site, they will hear different sounds. Breck Create is aware of the County’s noise ordinance and will ensure sound levels are compliant within the residential zone (under 55 decibels) and will not be on during dawn and dusk when wildlife is most active.

Breck Create brought this proposal to BOSAC, which was recommended for approval during their January meeting, and are now asking for the County’s approval. BOSAC’s only concerns were about parking and

wildlife. Breck Create mentioned that they will not market this art installation as to make this a surprise to help alleviate any overcrowding issues.

The following topics were discussed during the OSAC meeting:

1. Parking: Breck History understands that parking is limited at the Reiling Dredge and will instruct visitors to either park at the B&B Trailhead or take public transportation to the trailhead and then walk to the site.
  - a. One suggestion from OSAC is to count cars in the B&B Trailhead during the 10-day festival since staff will be at the site. This way, Breck History can have data on how these installations impact trailheads and trail use, which will be valuable information for future projects.
2. Signage: Breck History will promote Leave No Trace and stay on the trail messaging. They will also ensure their signs include the distance from the B&B trailhead to the Reiling Dredge so people can plan ahead for their hike.
  - a. One concern from OSAC is that people will want to add soundscapes in their own backyards after seeing this one. Therefore, OSAC recommended that Breck History includes a statement on their signage about how this is a temporary modification and should not be done at home. OSAC suggested “this is a one-time permitted professional art installation.”
3. Wildlife: Breck History plans on monitoring how wildlife responds to the soundscape, as they do not want animals to destroy the installation. Breck History will not monitor how the installation affects wildlife behavior.
4. Restrooms: OSAC requests that Breck History has a porta-potty onsite during the festival. Staff mentioned that Breck History will need to go through a special event permitting process with the County, and we can require this on their permit. Breck History does not have any concerns with this request since visitors will need to walk a farther distance to this installation than their other ones.
5. Dog Waste: Breck History will ensure that their signage and messaging encourages people to pick up dog poop.

OSAC agrees to move forward with this request and will support Breck Create’s proposal if the above items (signage, dog waste, leave no trace, bathrooms, and trail capacity monitoring) are addressed.

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

### **Open Space Management:**

There were no open space management topics discussed during the February 7, 2024 meeting.

**Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:** Laura Rosseter made a motion to enter Executive Session and Peter Grosshuesch seconded the motion. OSAC entered Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Peter Grosshuesch made a motion to leave Executive Session and Terry Craig seconded the motion. OSAC left Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

## **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Peter wanted to give kudos to the special ops team who have been monitoring people having parties at some of the Upper Blue trailheads. Peter said the special ops team caught a party on camera and was able to read three license plates to issue citations to two people.

Katherine provided a quick update about the OSAC appointments. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) reviewed the appointments and supported OSAC's recommendations. All existing members will be reappointed, Libby Pansing and Greg Guevara will fill Turk Montepare and John Taylor's vacancies, and Jerod Swanson will be appointed as the Tenmile representative.

The next OSAC meeting will be held on March 12. OSAC will have a joint meeting with the BOCC at 10:30am at the Breckenridge Courthouse, and then we will have our regular meeting in the Breckenridge Police Department conference room (150 Valley Brook Road) afterwards.

Finally, thank you Turk and John for all your years of service! We appreciate you coming to this last meeting!

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Allison Morton*

Allison Morton, Open Space and Trails Resource Specialist