

## SUMMIT COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes of the March 12, 2024, Regular Meeting

**OSAC MEMBERS PRESENT:** Turk Montepare, Paul Semmer, Dave Bittner, Terry Craig, Peter Grosshuesch, Laura Rossetter, Arthur Hardin, John Uban, Greg Guevara, Meagan Graham, Bob Gregory, Jared Swanson, Libby Pansing

**OSAC MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jeff Zimmerman

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

**MEMBERS OF PUBLIC PRESENT:** Cindy Ebbert – USFS, Kristi D’Agati – Town of Silverthorne, Anne Lowe – Town of Breckenridge, Tony Overlock – Town of Breckenridge, Alex Stach – Town of Breckenridge, Pete Swenson – Town of Frisco

**Call to Order:** Turk Montepare called the meeting of the Summit County Open Space Advisory Council to order at 11:50 a.m.. Everyone present introduced themselves to the group.

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

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

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

#### **Election of OSAC Chair and Vice-Chair:**

Dave Bitter nominated himself for Chair, Turk seconded. Dave Bittner was appointed as chair unanimously. Terry Craig nominated herself for Vice Chair, Turk seconded. Terry Craig was appointed as vice-chair unanimously.

#### **Public Comments:**

Paul Semmer requested an update on the Upper Blue Stewardship Project. Jordan Mead responded that work should occur in summer/fall 2024 which will include putting the project to bid and completing the fuel reduction work. All work will be completed with hand saws. Paul asked if a decision about the social trails had been made. Cindy responded that it was not in the scope of work but that she would investigate.

#### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

##### **Open Space Management:**

##### **OST Updates**

Katherine King debriefed OSAC from the BOCC-OSAC meeting which occurred earlier on March 12 at 10:30 am. She updated OSAC that the bidding for the Quandary shuttle and parking management contract is underway. It is anticipated that the program will function similarly as last year. Katherine provided additional information on revenues from the Lodging Tax, that a portion of the funding will come through OST for responsible recreation programming. This year, a focus will be addressing safety and management of the Recpath, as well as trailhead amenities.

##### **Laurium TH Discussion:**

Jordan Mead presented five drawings from Civil Insight to show possible improvements at the Laurium Trailhead. OSAC was most supportive of the 5<sup>th</sup> alternative which shows parking along CR 532. This

alternative was favored by OSAC as they felt it was the most practical in terms of constructability, resource preservation, plowing, and capacity. OSAC members discussed closing the current parking area if a new alternative is used and reserving that space in the long-term for a potential shuttle or bus turnaround/drop off. Currently there are approximately 10 official spaces; at busy times in the winter there are approximately 15 vehicles parked at the trailhead. Bob Gregory suggested that 14 spaces is an appropriate number. Peter Grosshuesch added that that one side of the parking area could be developed prior to the other side to phase the project. Laura Rossetter suggested that staff consider how overflow parking and signage will work with the trailhead design.

### **Visitor Use Monitoring**

Allison Morton presented about OST's trail counters, Recpath Counters, vehicle counters, and trailhead cameras which monitor visitor use.

In response to data showing that the Lily Pad Lake TH is full 100/300 days and full every day in July, OSAC discussed ideas for management at this trailhead. Such ideas included, "parking lot full" signs at the bottom of the hill, utilizing Lodging Tax dollars for communication campaigns to inform visitors about alternatives such as riding the bus or avoiding the TH during peak hours, as well as the installation of a bike rack. OSAC also discussed that there are upsides to very busy trailheads in that these "destination THs" can keep tourists away from the more rural/backcountry trailheads.

OSAC discussed the difference between the perception of a full trailhead vs. an actually full trailhead and that based on the data presented by staff, some of the THs that may have the perception as "full" are only at capacity during the most popular days/times. OSAC additionally discussed that the County should employ messaging to the public about good times to go to trailheads and when to avoid them due to capacity concerns. In regard to communications campaigns, staff will likely work with the County's communications department and may consider hiring a consultant. There was also discussion of using the Summit County Outdoor Coalition for messaging.

Allison informed the group that additional trail counters were added to Blue Lakes Road at the end of McDill Placer, Spruce Creek, and Quandary to analyze visitor use in the winter. Paul Semmer suggested that staff confirm landowner permissions for all trail counters. There was an additional question about who installed the sign for Lower McCullough Trailhead on Hwy 9, which staff will investigate.

### **Executive Session to Discuss Acquisition of Real Property Interests:**

There was no executive session at the meeting.

### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Katherine checked if OSAC could meet April 10<sup>th</sup> as opposed to April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jessica Forsyth*

Jessica Forsyth, Open Space and Trails Senior Resource Specialist