



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Third Floor Hearing Room

County Court House

1325 Pearl Street, Boulder

Members Present: Janet George
Trace Baker
Paula Fitzgerald
Drew Adams
Jackson Moller
Kristine Johnson
Derek Turner

Members Excused: Tony Lewis
Carol Byerly

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- 1. Call to Order**
 - 2. Roll Call**
 - 3. Approval of Last Month's Minutes**

Kristine Johnson requested one correction.

Moved by Paula Fitzgerald

Seconded by Derek Turner

APPROVED

4. Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

none

5. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

Paula Fitzgerald: Today was a sad day for wetland protections because the Supreme Court overturned rulings that have been in place for a long time. I'd like to have the county bring forth some information later on what actions they are taking on the local level.

Kristine Johnson: Policy review for weed management that is coming. Do we have a timeline? What is the learning process for POSAC in the meantime? What is the feedback process?

Toward the end of the evening, Therese Glowacki responded to Kristine's questions: The team has not yet finalized a Weed Management Plan. When they do, she will provide more information during future Director Updates before the fall. Staff will bring in experts while working on the plan and include POSAC updates, online surveys, and public events to get different opinions. At the end of the process, POSAC will give their recommendation and then we will ask approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

6. Presentations

6.1 Museum Master Interpretive Plans for the Agricultural Heritage Center and Mining Museums

Presenters: Seth Frankel and JJ Rutherford, Studio Tectonic

Action Requested: Information only

Public Comments:

Tess McDonald, Lyons. She spoke about the idea of giving back lands to indigenous peoples so they can give their own stories and uses.

Toward the end of the meeting, Therese Glowacki responded to this comment:

BCPOS has an Indigenous Ways Land Commitment internal committee who have been partnering with the Native American Veterans' Group. The group uses

Southdown Mountain at Rabbit Mountain Open Space for a sweat lodge and for holding ceremonies. We are also working with another indigenous group to find a new open space area to allow celebrations that would be open to the public. We'll update the public as the we know more.

6.2 Historic Preservation Update

Staff Presenter: Will Towle, Buildings and Historic Preservation Supervisor

Action Requested: Information only

Public comments:

none

6.3 Wapiti Trail Reroute Update

Staff Presenter: Jarret Roberts, Recreation and Facilities Division Manager

Action Requested: Information only

Public comments:

Wendy Sweet, Boulder. She is the Exec. Director of Boulder Mountainbike Alliance. She commended staff for their work on the project and for looking at different options. BMA members were surveyed about the reroute and results showed that members wanted to encourage staff to look for a way to avoid the service road and to bring a singletrack trail all the way to the trailhead.

7. Director's Update

- An Asset Management System is a database that will allow our Parks & Open Space staff to plan and budget projects more effectively. We are in the process of getting RFPs [Request for Proposal] to get this new system.
- COSWAP [Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program] is up and running at Hall Ranch. We are working in partnership with Boulder Valley and Longmont Conservation District, The Watershed Center, and City of Longmont. This will be a 4,000-acre project.
- The Boulder County office of CSU Extension plays a key role in sharing information about managing agriculture and natural resources. They have recently hired new staff to fill vacant positions, which include an Agriculture Specialist, a Small Acreage Expert, and someone in Public Engagement that will help in linking Public Health with the outdoors.

- Weed mowing along trails and roadsides has begun for the season. We ask for people to be patient and stay clear when they see our mowers.
- National Trails Day is June 3. We are hosting an event at Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain. This project will focus on improving trail conditions to lessen muddy trail closures.
- The 2023 Youth Corp season is ramping up, with 12 crews starting June 12.
- East Boulder Creek Management Plan is entering Phase 2. We will host Open Houses soon, including one in Spanish. Please check the webpage for additional information. The BOCC and POSAC will have a field trip to the site in August. bouldercounty.gov/open-space/management/east-boulder-creek/
- BCPOS has updated its agricultural leasing program to make it more inclusive and encourage a more diverse community to lease our lands. We'll host two trainings next week to explain the criteria and to help broaden our pool of interested farmers.
- Northern Leopard Frogs, a species of special concern, have been heard and recorded at the South County Grasslands.

POSAC Questions:

Paula: I was recently on the St Vrain Greenway Trail and saw 6-8 inches of mud from the Keyes property. It would be nice if staff can create a berm or direct the water away.

Paula: I did the survey for East Boulder Creek, but it seemed too short. I suggest a series of surveys to get more helpful information.

Trace: Regarding the update to the Weed Management Plan, what disciplines are on the team and how are they picked?

Therese: There will be a planner to manage the process, Joe Swanson, Senior Weed specialist, and his team, a plant ecologist, a wildlife biologist, and Stefan Reinold, who is the Resource Management Division Manager.

Trace: We've received a number of public comments on weed management. I recommend your staff identify alternatives during the management plan process and explain how the decisions are reached.

Kristine Johnson: I saw Therese speak at the in Erie during a forum hosted by CU Center for Sustainable Landscapes and Communities.

Therese: We are happy to work with the University of Colorado and enjoy participating at these events.

8. Adjournment

8:11 p.m.