



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

Third Floor Hearing Room

County Court House

1325 Pearl Street, Boulder

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

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

Moved by Paula Fitzgerald

Seconded by Kristine Johnson

APPROVED

4. Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

None

5. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

6. Presentations

6.1 The Boulder County Parks & Open Space Foundation: History, Successes, and Future Opportunities

Staff Presenters: Justin Atherton-Wood, Planning Work Group Supervisor and Tina Nielsen, Special Projects Coordinator

Action Requested: Information Only

Public Comments:

Melanie Muckle, Louisville. She is a former POSAC member, and she currently sits on the Foundation, but is leaving due to term limits. She encouraged membership on the Foundation by former POSAC members who would like to continue their service. She also encourages donating to the Foundation.

6.2 2023 Youth Corps Season In Review

Staff Presenter: Luiz Bertolo, Youth Corps Program Manager

Action Requested: Information Only

Public Comments:

Rod Brueske, Eastern Boulder County. He complimented the Youth Corps program. He suggested better outreach to high schools. He also added that he thinks herbicides are a risk for youth being in the outdoors.

Don Murray, Longmont. His son was a member of Youth Corps and he thinks it's a wonderful program for youth.

6.3 Integrated Weed Management Plan Update

Staff Presenter: Tina Nielsen, Special Projects Coordinator

Action Requested: Information Only

There is a new schedule for the IWMP process:

- POSAC Update, Dec. 5
- POSAC Update, Jan. 25
- POSAC Hearing, Feb. 22
- BOCC Hearings
 - March (date TBD)
 - April (date TBD)

Tina Nielsen stated that POSAC members may send feedback and edits to staff that are related to grammar, punctuation, and style in the draft plan. Any feedback that is substantive to the policy should be discussed at a public meeting. The final draft will be provided at least eight days prior to the February 22 POSAC hearing.

Public Comments:

Mark Guttridge, Longmont. He owns Ollin Farms. He manages the land without herbicides and pesticides, and he is disappointed by the use of chemicals on open space.

Richard Andrews, Boulder County. He lives on an organic farm. He believes the plan is flawed and not based on science. He would like to see pesticides banned.

Don Murray, Longmont. He is a beekeeper and sells products made from his honey from his hives. He does not use toxic chemicals on his farm and in his business. He would like to see nonchemical methods used to control weeds and pests.

James Lissy, Longmont. He spoke against using chemical methods. He believes the plan in its current draft works against nature, not with it.

Shelby Kaminski, Goldhill. She owns Adaptive Solutions. She was pleased to see alternative solutions presented at the open house and she would like to see more of those methods used instead of chemicals.

Olin Harrison Anguiano, Lafayette. He is a student at Peak to Peak High School. He stated the current plan is costly and harmful. He suggested using volunteer groups to remove weeds and looking to students to fill that role.

Rod Brueske, Boulder County. His home is near county open space and claims that his family have been repeatedly chemically trespassed. He stated that the

county needs to inform residents before spraying chemicals and the practice should be put up for a vote by residents.

Erin Meschke, Boulder. She spoke against the plan because she believes the chemicals being recommended in the plan are unsafe.

Tim Villard, Longmont. He is an organic farmer and he is confident that alternative methods can be successful in controlling weeds. He stated that the residents take pride in the county's open space lands and the plan should work for the health of these properties.

Erika Whitaker, Boulder. She is a restaurant owner and her restaurants are known for organic and locally sourced foods. Her restaurants will not buy foods that have been contaminated with chemicals and they will end up needing to outsource.

Rubin Anguiano, Lafayette. He would like to see the county use goats to control weeds.

Patricia Butler, Boulder County. She is in support of the plan. For 26 years, she volunteered to control invasive weeds for the USFS. She believes county staff should be allowed to use a full spectrum when treating weeds. Her experience has shown that using volunteers to pull thistle is not enough not help with the problem.

Tess McDonald, Lyons. She is against the plan. She spoke about the drift of chemicals during aerial spraying.

Kathleen Sands, Lyons Climate Action. She is against using herbicides to control weeds.

Michelle Cole, Longmont. She is opposed to aerial spraying. She spoke of possible health problems related to the proposed chemicals. She requested that the county pay for water testing due to exposure to chemicals.

Alex Markevich, Nederland. He sees a flaw in the process of forming the weed management plan by referring only to conventional ways of doing things. He would like to see a more organic approach to weed control by consulting with organic farmers and others who have those skills and knowledge.

6.4 East Boulder Creek Site Draft Management Plan

Staff Presenters: Heidi Wagner, Resource Planning Division Manager, Jeff Moline and Whitney May Taylor, Resource Planners

Action Requested: Information Only

Public Comments:

Chris Hanna. He lives near the project area and is concerned about the location of the proposed trailhead. He doesn't believe 109th is prepared for the resulting traffic and he thinks it will become dangerous if more cars are on the road. Fishing currently takes place near the bridge that is marked No Fishing and he doesn't think people will walk to a designation fishing spot. He would like staff to consider relocating the trailhead off of 109th St.

Name not given. She lives on 109th, near the project area. She does not want more traffic and parking on 109th near her house. She also thinks more dogs will disrupt her neighborhood.

Courtney Rella, Lafayette. She stated that the site has high species diversity and that recreation will endanger those species.

Dana Bovey, Boulder County, Director of Front Range Eagle Studies. He states the plan lacks information about the species of special concern that reside near the site. He would like to see more of this information included in the plan. He stated that the the EBC site is an important foraging area for the Bald eagles that nest nearby.

Wendy Sweet, Boulder. Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance is in support of the plan. She stated the trail connectivity is the best part of the plan. She would like the trail extended from the proposed shelter in the NE parcel to Kenosha Rd. and north 119th St. to provide a 4-mile loop.

7. Director's Update

- Sheds on the Dorothy Rogers property, located east of Nederland, are being restored.
- On Oct. 25, staff conducted a prescribed fire on 35 acres at Hall Ranch.
- Restoration work on the South St. Vrain Creek project is moving ahead and staff are considering three potential designs.
- Work on the Coalton Trail is on track and may be completed ahead of schedule.
- Funds from County Issue 1A, which voters approved recently, funded a new mower that will help with fire mitigation on open space.
- There will be a POSAC site visit this Friday, Oct. 27.

8. Adjournment

10:40 p.m.