



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Third Floor Hearing Room

County Court House

1325 Pearl Street, Boulder

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

Excused: Tony Lewis
Jackson Moller

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

Moved by Carol Byerly
Seconded by Trace Baker

APPROVED

4. Presentations

4.1 2025 Capital and Stewardship Projects

Presenter: Tina Nielsen, Special Projects Coordinator

Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC

Q: Do staff mind having their driving monitored by the vehicle tracking system?

Response: We did hear a lot of concerns initially, but I think staff has acclimated to it and our safety record has improved. I think staff also know that it also can protect them against erroneous reports.

Q: What kind of driving complaints come in from the public?

Response: We receive various complaints, but we find that oftentimes it wasn't a county vehicle, but city or another entity. If our staff are responsible, we speak to them about it.

Q: Is the Platt property with the prairie dog issues an agricultural property?

Response: Yes, it had been leased to an agricultural tenant who gave up the lease due to the prairie dog pressures and the degraded land. The new tenant wants to grow organic crops and so we need to get them irrigation water and help them remove the prairie dogs

Q: How much of the entire Parks & Open Space budget is the \$7.3 million for CAST?

Response: Our whole budget is about \$45 million.

Q: You said this is the most this line item has been. Is this an increasing trend every year?

Response: Yes, it is growing. It includes big projects, like Prairie Run implementation which is \$2 million. We've been spending money to bring our rental houses up to code. We're hoping that once we get through projects like that on our maintenance backlog, it will level off.

Q: How much of this increase is dependent on the revenue that came in the previous year, and how steady is that revenue stream?

Response: Our revenue stream is about \$36 million per year. We have a very healthy fund balance, so we are using some of the money in the bank to pay for some of this.

Q: Can you give more information about the Mill Water Quality project?

Response: We purchased the Cardinal Mill years ago and spent money to restore the mill. The county did not conduct the mining; we purchased the mill after the mining had stopped. We have been using a consultant to monitor the water quality monthly. Recently, there have been new spikes of zinc and lead. Because of that we are out of compliance. We have RFPs out to find long-term solutions. There is a Sept. 6 site visit to Cardinal Mill scheduled with the BOCC that you are all welcome to attend.

Moved by Kristine Johnson

Seconded by Paula Fitzgerald

APPROVED

5. **Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

6. **POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda**

Kristine: She attended Weed Warriors training day. She is impressed with the project.

Derek Turner: He commented on the very dry conditions this summer and the over-irrigated fields he sees. Water is being wasted with this practice.

7. **Director's Update**

- We completed purchase of the Sunny Bell property, 5-acre mining claim near Rowena.
- We received 220 applications for the 14 Flood Buy-out properties. Staff is reviewing those applications and should decide in early fall.
- Forestry Cone Collection volunteer projects – 40 volunteers – Limber and Ponderosa Pine – healthy genetic stop.
- Bob Quinn, an organic farmer and sustainable ag consultant from Montana, is coming to Boulder County in the fall to consult with our farm tenants.

- Equity Budgeting – the county is looking to reallocate funds for 2025.
- The Stearn’s Lake parking lot is closed for reconstruction for ADA improvements. The Cradle Board Trail will be closed for an additional two weeks for the bald eagle fledgling.
- Youth Corps season ends July 31.
- The Anne U. White trailhead restroom is in place.
- Two upcoming retirements: Joe Thiltgen, POS Shop Foreman and Conrad Lattes, Asst. County Attorney for POS.
- There will be a Wildlife Crossings open house on Aug. 6, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Parks & Open Space building.

8. Adjournment