



MEETING OF THE PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2024, 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
Jackson Moller
Kristine Johnson
Carol Byerly

Members Excused: Drew Adams
Derek Turner

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

Moved by Trace Baker

Seconded by Paula Fitzgerald

APPROVED

4. Presentations

4.1 Agricultural Housing Update

Presenters: Adrian Card, CSU Extension, and Mike Foster, BCPOS Agricultural Resources Division Manager

Action Requested: Information only

Q: How many of those surveyed responded?

Response: 14 out of 62 responded.

Q: What do you think is the number of people who need agricultural housing?

Response: I suspect that it might be close to 300.

Q: Should we assume the need is located more in the eastern part of the county?

Response: We geolocated some the demand and most is north of Highway 52 and along the Diagonal.

Q: How many acres do you think is affected by this need?

Response: Approximately 250 acres out of 16,000 acres of irrigated cropland.

Q: Do you have data on how many farmers have left because of this issue?

Response: I can't think of one that has left recently due to business conditions.

Q: Do you think you can do a follow-up survey with more nuance to keep the information flowing?

Response: There is survey fatigue out there, but farmers have been telling their stories for years and need action on this issue. What we do need to know is the total number of H-2A workers who require housing.

Q: Are there other factors that Boulder County can have an influence over that can improve the situation?

Response: Rent subsidies would help and would be a quicker solution. The BOCC did approve subsidies and financial support for small businesses. When that program is up and running, growers can try to qualify for that support.

Q: Could BCPOS provide subsidies from open space funds?

Response: That would have to be weighed against other program priorities. For 267 workers, if we provided \$800/month per worker for 9 months, that is just under \$2 million. That's half of the Agricultural budget.

Q: What could be waived to meet the need?

Response: The BC POS Charter limits housing on open space land that was purchased with open space dollars and if possible to change, it would likely require a public vote. It might be possible on properties purchased with general fund money, but those would also require a full Land Use review.

Q: Do mobile homes violate the charter?

Response: That's something I'll need to check on.

POSAC requested that staff provide a map that shows the locations of growers and any properties purchased with general fund money that could allow housing. They also requested a legal opinion around the charter and the ability to allow roll-ons and roll-offs as temporary housing and what approvals are required.

4.2 Fairgrounds Policy Manual Update

Staff Presenter: Joe LaFollette, Fairgrounds Manager

Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC

Q: Where does the \$1 million to run the fairgrounds come from?

Response: It comes from the general fund and money that comes in goes back to the general fund.

Q: Have you considered raising fees over time on profit programs to subsidize youth programs?

Response: Yes, that is something that should be investigated so we don't end up in this same situation. I would recommend reviewing it every five years.

Moved by Carol Byerly

Seconded by Paula Fitzgerald

APPROVED

4.3 Capturing Boulder County Parks & Open Space's Work on Video

Staff Presenters: Pouria Montazeri, Education and Outreach Seasonal, and Mike Lohr, Buildings and Historic Preservation Field Supervisor

Action Requested: Information only

These videos are found on the BCPOS Facebook page under the Reels tab.

5. Public Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

None

6. POSAC Members Comment Period for Items Not on Agenda

Trace Baker: Request for redlined versions whenever there are revisions to be approved to an existing document.

Carol Byerly: Carol recounted being on open space land and observing visitors walking their dogs in the field off the trail. The next time she visited, county rangers were putting up fencing so visitors can no longer access the area off-trail.

Paula Fitzgerald: She gave a shoutout to Tony to bring the housing topic to the forefront. She also recommended Carol Byerly's book *Mosquito Warrior*.

Tony: Arapaho youth and elders held an encampment near Allenspark recently. This might be an opportunity for Boulder County to offer a place here to have their encampment.

7. Director's Update

Therese responded to Tony's comment about collaborating with Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes. BCPOS staff are currently working with the tribes and are involved in Right Relations Boulder on upcoming events.

- The county acquired the Loveland property, which is in Lefthand Canyon, north of Rowena. It is surrounded by other county open space and its acquisition will improve how we manage the properties in that area. The cost was \$28,000 and POSAC may remember having recommended this property for acquisition in April.

- The county acquired the Divide property, which is at the west end of Eldora. This was a donation of 5 acres near Caribou Ranch.
- The Wapiti Reroute is now open.
- Toll is opening on July 1.
- The City of Boulder’s North Sky Trail is nearing completion, and it crosses a small stretch of BCPOS land, which we are closing so all trail users must stay on trail. This is a request from the city since the majority of the trail is surrounded by City’s Habitat Conservation areas and we want to be consistent.
- Wildlife Crossing: The preliminary design is nearing completion – 4 crossing potential (3 overpasses, 1 underpass) we can pick and choose. We’re applying for Federal funds with funding for future years in conjunction with Highway 36 bikeway.
- Barnyard Critter Day at the Agricultural Heritage Center attracted over 300 people.
- Plant Ecology – Prescott Wetland contractor selected. Volunteer Seed Collections at Mayhoffer.
- Water Resources field trip is tomorrow at 8:30, meeting at BCPOS.
- June theme in the parks is “Pride Month”.
- July theme will be “The Ranger in You”.

8. Adjournment

8:11 p.m.

This is only a summary of the meeting. The meeting video is viewable on the [POSAC webpage](#).