

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, August 24, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Christine Quinlan in the Hearing Room of the Board of Commissioners, Third Floor, Boulder County Courthouse, Boulder, Colorado.

POSAC Members in Attendance

Present: David Batts, Barbara Hawke, Sean McCoy, Mary McQuiston, Janice Moore, Melanie Muckle, Eric Vogelsberg, Christine Quinlan and Dave Robertson

Excused: Lisa Dilling and Chris Meyer

Staff in Attendance

Mel Stonebraker, Summer Adamietz, Larissa Read, Bob Hamblen and Melissa Arnold

Minutes of July 27, 2006 Meeting

Dave Robertson moved to accept the July 27, 2006 minutes. *Melanie Muckle* seconded the motion. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

- *Dave Robertson* asked if there is an effective means of discouraging people from leaving dog waste bags along trails and residential neighborhoods. Members briefly discussed solutions. *Eric Vogelsberg* said FIDOS educates responsible dog owners to pick up after others to keep the community clean and maintain a favorable view of dog owners. He said a County-wide program of this sort may help the situation.
- *Janice Moore* received an email this afternoon from Judy Wolfe who is the liaison of the Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee (LOSAC), asking her if she was asked to write a letter of support for the Harney-Lastoka GOCO grant. She commented that she was unaware of this grant, but suggested that members respond if they so choose.
 - *Summer Adamietz* said Boulder County, Louisville and Lafayette submitted a joint GOCO application for a project on Harney-Lastoka, and people who will be using the trails and community gardens were asked to write letters of support. LOSAC received a packet with a form response letter a couple of weeks ago. *Christine Quinlan* commented that because Boulder County was an applicant to the grant, a letter from POSAC as a group would not be as strong as letters from the members as individuals. *Summer Adamietz* said she could get the form letter, packet and deadline information from Bridgette McCarthy and email it to members.

Property Transaction:

* Action Requested- Recommendation to BOCC

S&L Property Investments

Staff Presenter: Mel Stonebraker

See staff memo for detail. 51 acres on the north side of Boulder Canyon Drive. Staff requested recommendation of this purchase to BOCC.

Discussion/Questions by POSAC Members

Answering questions about the ownership and development status of the parcels to the west and east, *Mel Stonebraker* said there are several private properties to the west that the County is watching. Also, the parcel to the east sold recently and it's possible that a home will be built there. The County was unaware of this sale but will still inquire as to whether the landowners are interested in selling. *Barbara Hawke* asked what the impact would be to Platt Rogers and other County goals if the County did not purchase this land and a house were to be built. *Mel Stonebraker* said the goal in Boulder Canyon is to reduce the development up to Nederland and to protect the Boulder Creek corridor to the extent possible. By buying land along this canyon, the County hopes to prevent the construction of new houses, which may have a larger impact than older ones, and reduce the impact of more people pulling out into the canyon from driveways. The owner of this parcel, *Leslie Ranniger*, was asking \$295,000.

Public Comment - None

Motion

Sean McCoy moved to accept staff recommendation. *Melanie Muckle* seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on Motion by POSAC Members

Sean McCoy said this acquisition is one step in a logical progression of purchases, as the County already owns property to the east. He said if property in this area has to be acquired one piece at a time, so be it. *Melanie Muckle* spoke in support of limiting development in the canyon. *Eric Vogelsberg* commented that he is pleased that the property is a long strip because quite a bit of the canyon corridor becomes acquired with this purchase. *David Batts* said he is concerned about names such as "S & L Property Investments" because he would hate for the County to be funding investment houses. *Mel Stonebraker* said this was not the case here, but he would keep his comment in mind. *Barbara Hawke* commented that she has mixed feelings about this purchase because some of the needs are not very critical. She gave credit to staff for having a Boulder corridor development management strategy, and will support the purchase for this reason. *Janice Moore* agreed with Barbara's comments. *Christine Quinlan* commented that one of the characteristics being protected is a viewshed, which is an important property value. *Eric Vogelsberg* commented that there is a NUPUD directly to the north of this property that is not shown on the map; the strip of land (S & L Investments) is the only piece that the County can predict.

Update: Amendment to the Boulder-Lafayette Jointly Owned Properties Management Plan (Stephenson-Nelson)

Staff Presenter: Summer Adamietz, AICP

** Information Only*

Staff memo not provided for this item. At the meeting, staff provided a letter from the director of the City of Lafayette Open Space and Golf. Issues to be addressed are the Regional Trail Alignment, options of crossing Highway 7 to the north, habitat protection especially along riparian areas, wildlife management, the South Boulder Road Extension and renaming the property group "Two Creeks". A public open house and field reconnaissance for alternate trail routes are the next steps in the process. The staff recommendation will come before LOSAC and POSAC in November.

Discussion/Questions by POSAC Members

Barbara Hawke asked to see the resource evaluation when it is completed. *Eric Vogelsberg* commented that off trail usage is not necessarily illegal, but the best way to keep people on trails for the protection of the resource is to build them in a way that will make people want to stay on them. *Summer Adamietz* responded that the interdisciplinary team is in consensus of keeping the trail out of the riparian corridor, and there are plans for building interpretative spur trails to the confluence. *Eric Vogelsberg* supported this idea, because it is better for the resource and user experience if people are provided a means to access areas they would hike to anyway. *David Batts* suggested that the management plan offer a way to mitigate potential development of the minerals in the next 10 years before the County gains ownership of the subsurface. *Mary McQuiston* expressed concern that the trails would become trampled from the adjacent Anthem development community. *Summer Adamietz* responded that she has seen the conceptual plan for Anthem and noted that the corridor between the development and County land is being planned for open space and trails, which may divert some use. *Eric Vogelsberg* agreed that there will be pressure from the east, but believes it's a good tradeoff to better develop areas that can carry some of the load than to squeeze all of the load into sensitive mountains areas. *Janice Moore* commented that although an increase in population may increase impact to mountain open space, the effort required to access remote open space (eg: Caribou) would limit visitation. *Melanie Muckle* asked if riparian restoration is being addressed in the plan, as the streams banks along the properties to the north have steeply eroded cuts and would present dangers for nearby trails. *Summer Adamietz* responded that although the County is not prioritizing riparian restoration at this time, the management plan would support it for the future because it's a County interest. She added that the Water Resource Specialist expressed interest in talking to Urban Drainage to address this issue.

Summer Adamietz mentioned that following BOCC's purchase approval of the Olson property, staff was assigned the task of updating the management plan amendment, which will consider the potential of a bringing a trailhead and parking to the area. Staff is currently working with the Town of Lyons and hopes to bring this item to the public in early November.

Cooperative Extension Office Update

** Information Only*

Staff Presenter: Bob Hamblen

Staff memo not provided for this item. Staff presented background information as well as an update on the Cooperative Extension Office.

Discussion/Questions by POSAC Members

Following *Eric Vogelsberg's* suggestion, *Bob Hamblen* said he would post this presentation to the Cooperative Extension website and request a link on the Parks and Open Space website. Several members spoke in favor of the programming that they provide and commended staff on their efforts that enrich the community. *Barbara Hawke* commented that she values Cooperative Extension services as well as their means of mentoring others about our culture through the flow of information; it is very important for people to learn about fruitful ways to use our land.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.