

**MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, December 13, 2007**

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: Lisa Dilling, Mary McQuiston, Janice Moore, Melanie Muckle (arrived at 6:50), Christine Quinlan (Chair) and Jason Vogel.

Excused: David Batts, Christian Meyer, Sean McCoy.

Staff in Attendance

Lynette Anderson, David Bell, Jim Daus, Therese Glowacki, Vivienne Jannatpour, Tina Nielsen, Larissa Read, Ron Stewart, Chris White.

November 15, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Lisa Dilling moved to accept the November 15, 2007 minutes. Janice Moore seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

None.

Update of the 2005-50 Rules and Regulations

Staff Presenter: David Bell

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation

**Action Requested-*

Recommendation to BOCC

Questions

Jason Vogel asked why park hours 5am to 11pm? David Bell answered that it was decided after a group discussion. POS tried to meet the needs of commuters.

Public Comment

Mike Barrow; 802 Sherman, Longmont; President of Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance. He thinks the hours need to be extended to allow nighttime visitation at some open space properties. November through March, some parks close at 5:00.

Discussion

Some trails go very close to homes. Do community noise regulations apply? David Bell answered that trails are subject to local ordinances, as well as park rules. Jason Vogel commented that, regarding the 5-11 hours, using trails for transportation is prohibited by these hours. In addition, it seems unenforceable. Other laws take care of the issues of misbehaving on the trails. What is point of closing regional trails? David Bell answered that POS thought the hours were a good starting point to address the issues. Lisa Dilling agrees that many people make

use of regional trails at night and the hours seem arbitrary. David Bell responded that these are valid suggestions and POS is willing to consider them. Jason Vogel added that at a future time it would be worth discussing nighttime visitation on non-regional trails, such as the Marshall/Superior Coalton Trail. David Bell responded that the department tries to balance between wildlife and human interaction and use. In the winter, many animals are active in the parks at twilight. We would be willing to consider it at a later date. Janice Moore had concerns regarding calling assistance to commuter trails. David Bell responded that staff is working with GIS and dispatch to improve public safety.

Motion

Jason Vogel moved to approve with an amendment to number 15 to remove limitations on hours of use for regional trails. Lisa Dilling seconded the motion. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion on Motion

It makes sense to leave trails open so they become more useful to commuters. Melanie Muckle: Liability and safety issues of people using trails late at night? David Bell: Accidents happen during daytime hours and multiply after-hours because users rely on headlamps. Lisa Dilling suggested the restriction be left off and it can be addressed again once we see if there is a problem. Jason Vogel: Paths should be open 24 hours a day, like roads are, to promote bike usage. Lisa Dilling: Using reflectors and other options to make regional trails safer. ?: Aren't certain trails very close to homes, such as the Niwot Loop? Consider making exceptions on a case-by-case basis? David Bell: Yes, it is for that reason trails are not like roads. It can impact people in their homes. Need to work with other agencies so cyclists traveling between cities are not in violation in one area but not another. Lisa Dilling asked if the regulations can be amended at a future time to add the restriction back if necessary? David Bell: Yes.

Property Transaction: Dake

35 acres near Sugarloaf and Primos Road
Staff Presenter: Jim Daus
See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation

**Action Requested – Recommendation to BOCC*

Questions

Melanie Muckle asked if the County is not acquiring the parcels to the north & south? Jim Daus replied that the sellers are holding on to those parcels because of the mountain TDR program. Mary McQuiston asked about visibility and a building site on the parcel. Jim Daus answered that no site is established yet. A house located in the woods could be seen from certain vantage points. Mary McQuiston: Will there be a conservation easement on the home parcel? Jim Daus: Not at this time.

Public Comment

None.

Motion

Jason Vogel moved to accept staff recommendation for the purchase. Melanie Muckle seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Property Transaction: Davies & Ador

22 acres near Magnolia and Boulder Canyon Drive; *Action Requested – Recommendation to BOCC
13 acres adjacent to Magnolia and Boulder Canyon Drive
Staff Presenter: Jim Daus
See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation

Questions

None.

Public Comment

None.

Motion

Lisa Dilling moved to accept staff recommendation for the purchase of the Ador Property. Janice Moore seconded. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Lisa Dilling moved to accept staff recommendation for the purchase of the Davies Property. Janice Moore seconded. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion on Motion

Jason Vogel amended to clarify that each property may be purchased individually.

Walker Ranch “Wall” Trail Reroute Feasibility Update

**Information Only*

Staff Presenter: Larissa Read
See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation

Public Comment

Suzanne Webel; 5735 Prospect Road, Longmont; Boulder Area Trails Coalition.
Thanks to POSAC for their support and to staff for its work on the project.

Mike Barrow; 802 Sherman, Longmont.

Disappointed that a solution could not be found because he thinks it’s an important trail for mountain bikers.

Questions

Janice Moore: Disappointed with the outcome but pleased that it was studied.

Written comment from Christian Meyer read into the record by Christine Quinlan:

Sorry to miss this one as I was one of the members of POSAC who asked for the study to be performed sooner rather than later. I was lucky enough to walk the property with Dave in September. We hiked up what is essentially the Angel Route, then looked at the top and bottom portions of the East route. The Angel route did not seem to be any

improvement over the wall - still steep, lots of switchbacks, plus a long run next to the creek. I think the Kentucky route is a no go at this time based upon wildlife movement patterns and the lack of trail to join with on the north side of the creek. It should be re-assessed by staff after the entire Walker study is complete if a larger change to the trail system is envisioned. I understand the current impasse with regards to access to the lower portions of the proposed East route. I encourage staff to keep a discussion present with the City of Boulder and private landowners regarding potential access to this area. I believe the East route is the best end solution to the issues that are presented by the Wall.

I agree with staff's conclusion that a viable option to the Wall route does not exist at this time. I want to thank them for working with IMBA and altering the planned assessment timeline to see what was possible.

Jason Vogel: The information he received from Pete Weber was that, regarding the lower section of the eastern route, it is so steep and exposed that it would not be suitable for horses.

**2008-2013 Parks & Open Space
Capital Improvement Projects**

**Action Requested – Recommendation to BOCC*

Staff Presenter: Tina Nielsen

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Questions

Jason Vogel: What is the opportunity fund? Tina Nielsen: This gives staff more flexibility in planning for a particularly large project. We use the opportunity fund for exceptional projects that would benefit from seed money or leveraging. Christine Quinlan: Is the 2008 grant money already awarded? Tina Nielsen: It a combination of money already awarded and funds we are anticipating. Lisa Dilling: Is \$25,000 enough to complete the work needed on the Benjamin property? Tina Nielsen: No, POS will be looking for other funding sources. Ron Stewart added that much of the cost of these projects will be offset by labor performed by Youth Corp, POS staff, and volunteers. Christine Quinlan: Does Agricultural Resources need to have a new granary and pivot sprinklers or can they get used equipment? Ron Stewart responded that buying and moving older granaries is actually more expensive than a new one. The lease revenue helps pay for the equipment purchase. Tina added that sometimes previously used products are supplied, such as pipes.

Written comment from Christian Meyer as read into the record by Christine Quinlan:

Where in the budget would/do you consider Web-based public education improvements? Probably not capital. I consider this an area for significant out-reach to local schools. What are the plans in this area?

Tina: It would not be a capital improvement project. But staff agrees it would be a great idea and they will begin looking into it.

Christian Meyer: Is the delay in USFS work on Caribou connections the only issue that has pushed this out several years?

Ron Stewart answered that there are a couple issues prolonging the project. One issue is the County's unsuccessful attempts to integrate the Guercio family private trail system on the west side of Caribou. Second are the ongoing discussions with the USFS regarding the extension of the Forest Service trail head. Either one of these two things would cause us to do additional work.

Christian Meyer: Gold Hill activities shown in 2012. Do you have any indication when BLM intends to act on the RPPA application?

Ron Stewart responded that it keeps getting pushed back every year. BLM is facing staff shortages and therefore they are not able to respond in a timely manner. In addition, POS is still looking for an exchange parcel outside of Boulder County that BLM would be interested in.

Christine Quinlan added that she has obtained the name and number of the new staff person at BLM.

Christian Meyer: I personally consider Reynolds/Rogers improvements a higher priority than a Hall to Lyons connection. Same thing for public access to Cardinal Mill over the Braly barn rework. Good to see the mining tour only a few years away instead of five years out. The report continues to improve. The overall funding picture is much clearer.

Ron Stewart responded that the County has been waiting on the USFS to complete their Travel Management Plan for that area. At some point the County will do its own plan even if the USFS is not ready to be on board at that time.

Lisa Dilling added that she loves the idea of having an artist-in-residence program at Caribou. Janice Moore suggested contacting local artists who have participated in artist-in-residence programs elsewhere to get their input. Tina Nielsen commented that staff has discussed doing that.

Public Comment

Mike Barrow; 802 Sherman, Longmont. Regarding the Betasso Preserve and Walker Ranch, he wants to understand what the cost is to build a trail.

Motion

Lisa Dilling moved to accept staff recommendation for the Capital Improvement Plan budget. Melanie Muckle seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Director's Update

POS received two Pinnacle Awards from Boulder County:

1. Award for Public Involvement for the Gold Hill Community Wildfire Mitigation Project, which provides a wildfire protection plan for the Gold Hill Community.

2. Award for Innovation for the Granary and Hay Barn Program, which make agriculture more sustainable in Boulder County by increasing the value of agricultural crops.

Lion Study Slideshow

POS has been working in cooperation with the Division of Wildlife to capture and collar adult lions for data in human-used areas. So far two males and one female have been collared. The lions are often observed a distance from where they were initially captured. Trail cameras help to locate lions as well as other wildlife.

Questions

Have any lions been captured on city open space? Ron: The female was captured on Green Mountain. This is the first phase? Ron: This is the first phase; DOW will let us know what the next phase will be. At that time POS will determine if we want to continue the collaboration. How often are they tracked? Because they are trying to capture three more lions, staff goes out several times per week to track.

Did we get a GOCO Grant for the Benjamin property? Ron: Yes, \$600,000.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.