

**MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, May 24, 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: David Batts, Sean McCoy, Mary McQuiston, Christian Meyer, Christine Quinlan, and Jason Vogel.

Excused: Lisa Dilling, Janice Moore and Melanie Muckle.

Staff in Attendance

Jan Burns, Jim Daus, Vivienne Jannatpour, Chad Julian, Larissa Read, Ron Stewart, and Ron West.

April 26, 2006 , Meeting Minutes

Sean McCoy moved to accept the April 26, 2007, minutes as presented. David Batts seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

None

Marshall-Superior-Coalton Trail Management Planning

** Update Only- No Action Requested*

Presenter: Larissa Read

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Questions/Discussion by POSAC:

Jason Vogel asked about the character of the trails with regard to public comment noting preference for narrow width and natural surface trails and ADA issues that would prevent this type of trail. Larissa Read commented that one of the options is to maintain the same type of feel as the Cowdry Draw Trail between Marshall and Superior, which is a narrower width natural surface trail (this option is still being explored) the second piece between Superior and the Coalton Trailhead is subject to stipulations due to the DRCOG funding which the County Transportation Department is using to help fund the trail. Some of the stipulations include trails 8-10 feet in width with crusher-fine material and gates should be used instead of cattle guards. Jason commented that wide open trails tend to lead to user conflict issues. Christian Meyer asked for the name of the ditch company. Larissa Read stated that it is the Farmer's Reservoir and Irrigation Company. Christian Meyer asked if the County owns any shares in the ditch. Larissa Read replied that the County does own shares in the ditch but the County will still need to negotiate crossings with the ditch company. Christian Meyer asked about the Town of Superior proposed trailhead, i.e. is it one of the proposed trailheads on the trail map? Larissa Read replied that it has not been shown explicitly as such but the Town of Superior is interested in the County talking to the public about using it as an option. Jason Vogel asked for additional information regarding the slides entitled constraints and opportunities, specifically the 15% slope

and secondly how will prairie dog colonies affect the alignment of the trail? Larissa Read replied that 5% slope is an ADA requirement. The areas marked as 15% slope indicate particularly steep areas that will have to be crossed. With regard to the prairie dogs, the Habitat Conservation Area designation does allow for trail building but impacts should be minimized. The prairie dog colony has been there since the 1930s. Christian Meyer asked for clarification on the review process.

Property Transaction: McCurdy

* Action Requested- Recommendation to BOCC

Staff Presenter: Jim Daus

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Discussion/Questions by POSAC:

None

Public Comment:

None

Motion:

Sean McCoy moved to accept staff recommendation, Jason Vogel seconded the motion. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Property Transaction: North Pointe, Outlot A, Lot & 7A

Staff Presenter: Jan Burns

* Action Requested- Recommendation to BOCC

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Discussion/Questions by POSAC:

Mary McQuiston asked if the seller is the same person who has applied for special use permits. Jan Burns replied, yes, the last request was from Eaton, who is the representative of the trust, that owns the property. She lives back east and wanted to settle what would be allowed on the property when it was listed. When this property was originally developed back in the 1980s, it had special use approval for cabins that were never built. The permit for this use has expired. Mary McQuiston asked for clarification on the other offer on the property and what it means for the County. Jan Burns replied that in the last week, the sellers have received a written offer, which they say is for substantially more than the list price. The sellers faxed a signed copy of the signature page of the contract, if POSAC recommends approval and the BOCC approves and signs the contract the County will be under contract to purchase the property. Jason Vogel asked Ron Stewart for a figure of the remaining unencumbered funds. It is about \$15,000,000.00.

Public Comment:

None

Motion

David Batts moved to accept staff recommendation for the acquisition of the North Pointe property, and Sean McCoy seconded the motion. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion on Motion

Jason Vogel commented that he is voting against approval of the acquisition because he feels that he was not given adequate time to review the acquisition and in addition he feels that it is a lot of money for a relatively small property. Chris Meyer commented that he supports the motion but raised concerns regarding public notification. Ron Stewart commented that staff posted the revised agenda and supporting materials on the County website at noon and also consulted with the County Attorneys office. The County Attorneys office has informed staff that the standard for public notice is what ever is reasonable. Jason Vogel commented that he did not receive the information nor could he find it available to the public on the website. Christine Quinlan commented that she strongly supports the acquisition and understands that these types of acquisitions are opportunity driven. David Batts commented that this property meets all of the criteria that POSAC has set forth for acquisitions. Mary McQuiston spoke in support of the acquisition. *Motion passes on a vote of 5 to 1, with Jason Vogel opposed.*

Christine Quinlan left the meeting, Christian Meyer chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Forest and Fire Policy Management Update:

**Information Only- No Action Requested*

Staff Presenter: Chad Julian

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Questions by POSAC:

Sean McCoy asked for clarification on the map. Mary McQuiston asked about the two red zones on the map near Boulder. The red zones are determined by aerial flights and indicate dead or dying trees in the canopy. These areas are field-proofed by staff. Jason Vogel asked about the trend in beetle kill areas. David Batts asked for more information on the wildfire policy, in other words are there areas where we would let a natural fire burn? There is a term called Wildland Fire Use. Boulder County likely will not be able to use this as a tool because the acreages are not large enough. We (the County) would propose a variation of Wildland Fire use, a modified confinement strategy. Sean McCoy asked about community involvement and things that private citizens could do for fire management and prevention. Christian Meyer commented that a chronology would be a useful tool for educating the public and suggested including in the policy document what the County can and will do in terms of fire management.

Public Comment:

None

Director's Update:

Discussed POSAC retreat topics based upon the votes by POSAC members.

The Parks and Open Space Department is in the process of looking at options for re-routing the trail at the Wall at Walker Ranch. The County is using a two-pronged approach. Dave Hallock is conducting a resource inventory as part of phase I. Phase II is based upon resource limitations

and/or constraints, i.e. is it possible to re-route the trail in the area of the Wall? BATCO has committed to some funding for part of the study.

The County is closing on the Benjamin property on May 30. ERO has been hired to conduct a rapid resource assessment. The process is underway for stakeholder issues.

The County received a partial grant (\$45,000.00 out of \$150,000.00 requested) for the Heil-to-Lyons trailhead. We will be able to apply for a grant again next year.

POS Road Show presentation 2005 – 2007. The Road Show will be presented to most communities in the County to either their City Councils and/or Open Space Boards. Acquisitions, Management Plans and projects will be highlighted.

Discussion by POSAC:

David Batts asked if a Life Zone Map and Fragmentation Map can be made available for the POSAC retreat. Christian Meyer suggested a POSAC field trip with Dave Hallock.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.