

**MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE,
October 23, 2008**

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

POSAC Members in Attendance

Present: David Batts (arrived at 6:35), Sue Cass, Lisa Dilling, Eric Hozempa, Paul Jurasin, Mary McQuiston, Christian Meyer, and Janice Moore.

Excused: Jason Vogel

Staff in Attendance

Matt Bruce, Jim Daus, Renata Frye, Therese Glowacki, Larissa Read, Steve Sauer, Ron Stewart, and Janis Whisman.

September 25, 2008 Meeting Minutes

Eric Hozempa moved to accept the September 25 minutes. Sue Cass seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

None

Property Transaction: Prescott

Acquisition of 105 acres along Bunce School Road, northwest of Peaceful Valley.

Staff Presenter: Jim Daus

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

** Action Requested-*

Recommendation to BOCC

Questions

Eric Hozempa: Is there a time frame for the first right of refusal? Jim Daus: No. Sue Cass: If this is not transferred to the Forest Service, how does the County envision using it? Jim Daus: It will be open to the public. One could hike to it from FS land. Lisa Dilling: I didn't know you could sell a first right of refusal. Is this a typical price for that? Jim Daus: This is not an unreasonable price for a first right of refusal. A first right is an encumbrance; the owners cannot sell this land to the highest bidder without first consulting the County. Christian Meyer: Is this first right of refusal non-expiring? Jim Daus: I think the offer is for 99 years.

Public Comment

None

Motion

Eric Hozempa moved to accept staff recommendation for the purchase as presented, and Lisa Dilling seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion on Motion

Lisa Dilling: This parcel looks beautiful. It sounds like this is a reasonable price and it the parcel is contiguous to other open space. Eric Hozempa: It's a gorgeous piece of property.

Property Transaction: Eagle Crest Farm

Proposed purchase of a conservation easement over 35 acres at 5650 St. Vrain Rd
Staff presenter: Janis Whisman
See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

** Action Requested-
Recommendation to BOCC*

Questions

Mary McQuiston: The barn would be kept on the homestead parcel, but no house would be allowed there? Janis Whisman: There is a house on the property, but the house has no historical significance so the restrictive covenant would not address the house in any way. It would require the house to be maintained in some fashion, but it wouldn't restrict the size or visual character. Sue Cass: What is the status of the Feeder Canal trail? Janis Whisman: My understanding is that it is in its infancy. Ron Stewart: The Feeder Canal is one of the regional trails that will be built by the Transportation Department through the regional transportation tax that was extended last year. POS will be involved in helping the process along. That process is beginning now. There will be a lot of neighborhood and public involvement. You should hear more about it by next summer or fall. Eric Hozempa: I'm concerned about the language regarding the picnic area and trail. It seems definite in the first paragraph and then there is an "if and when" clause later. Janis Whisman: It's definite that the landowner will give us an easement, it's uncertain when it will be built. Eric Hozempa: The landowner has experience with raptors and condors, will there be oversight by DOW? Janis Whisman: Yes, DOW has already started discussions about the width of the platforms. Mary McQuiston: What could be done with this property if we didn't purchase the conservation easement? Janis Whisman: It could be sold and a house of any size, subject to approval by Land Use, could be built.

Public Comment

None

Motion

Sue Cass moved to accept staff recommendation for the purchase as presented, and Lisa Dilling seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion on Motion

Lisa Dilling: This is a beautiful property and I like that there will be public access. Sue Cass: This is a great property, at a good price.

Introduction to Eagle Scout Projects

**Information Only*

Presenters: Kyle Ginley, BSA Troop 377 and Matt Bruce, POS Volunteer Project Coordinator
See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Questions

Christian Meyer: Where did you find your group of volunteers? Kyle Ginley: Some were Eagle Scouts, others were friends and family members. Christian Meyer: On the day of the project, what role did POS play? Kyle Ginley: They provided a caravan to the project site, they provided the tools we used, and staff members were available to us if we had questions. Lisa Dilling: What was the goal of the project? Kyle Ginley: Fire prevention. Paul Jurasin: What does it take to become an Eagle Scout? Kyle Ginley: You start as a regular scout rank, next is Tenderfoot where you learn first aid, next are Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and then Eagle.

Quicksilver Trail Management Plan for City of Longmont's St. Vrain Greenway on BOCO Open Space

**Action Requested-
Recommendation to BOCC*

Presenters: Larissa Read, Resource Planner, BCPOS and Paula Fitzgerald, City of Longmont Parks & Open Space
See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Questions

Christian Meyer: In general, will we be following County or City guidelines? Larissa Read: I believe that in the interim, County guidelines will be followed. Then Longmont Law Enforcement will take over once the joint management agreement is complete. Eric Hozempa: What is the criteria determining where the underpasses will be built? Paula Fitzgerald: We have two underpasses planned in this phase, one at 119th Street and one at County Line Road, and we do plan on building both of them. We feel there is enough traffic on both of those roads to warrant them. We decided there is not enough traffic on Quick Silver to build an underpass

there, as we had previously planned. Christian Meyer: Concerning the relocation of the drainage ditch, is it just a drainage ditch, or an irrigation ditch? Larissa Read: They are irrigation ditches, they are active, and I believe Longmont will pay BCPOS to move them. Christian Meyer: Are these ditches privately owned, and do we have the owners' permission to move them? Larissa Read: I'm not sure, but I will have Ernst Streng follow up with you about that. Christian Meyer: I just wanted to be sure you asked the question of the ditch owners.

Public Comment

None

Motion

Eric Hozempa moved to accept staff recommendation for the management plan as presented, and David Batts seconded the motion. ***Motion carried unanimously.***

Discussion on Motion

Eric Hozempa: It is exciting that this project is going forward. David Batts: Management is good, accountability is good.

Front Range Cougar Pilot Study Update and 5-year Plan

Presenter: Dr. Mat Alldredge, Colorado Division of Wildlife
See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

**Action Requested-
Recommendation to BOCC*

Questions

Christian Meyer: This plan you are moving forward preserves the options for other types of aversive conditioning than you've used. What criteria does DOW use to determine that they will switch methods? Mat Alldredge: If we have used the beanbags on an individual, and that cat continues his behavior, we will move up to pepper spray or hounds with that individual. If we find that the beanbags have no effect based on the continued behavior of 10-15 cats, we will run them with hounds. So we will try the beanbags for a while longer to see how well they work. Christian Meyer: I would request that, if DOW does decide to switch the methods, that you provide an update to Boulder County. Mat Alldredge: Okay. Mary McQuiston: When a cougar is relocated, do you try to avoid the home range of a known adult? Mat Alldredge: It depends on the age and sex of the cat. Females are very tolerant of other females. And generally, what we try to do is keep a cat close to its home range. I wouldn't take a cat out of south Boulder and release it up at Heil. Young cats are best candidates for relocation because they will disperse anyway. Janice Moore: These cats obviously learn about traps very quickly, and they don't like them. Is there a stimulus, a sound or scent, that they could associate with being trapped? Mat Alldredge: Cougars aren't olfactory, the way some other animals are. A sound might work, I'll need to think about that. Sue Cass: Is there ever a time when you would decide to put a cat down? Mat Alldredge: When it is a safety issue, and that is a management call. Lisa Dilling: At what age will kittens get tagged, and does that affect whether or not the mother comes back to

the den? Mat Alldredge: Some researchers mark kittens at a very young age, 3 months or younger. There have been no problems with the mother abandoning the den. My plan is to wait until the kittens are older. If the mother is collared, I don't need to handle the kittens until 6-9 months. Lisa Dilling: How many animals do you need to collar to get good data? Mat Alldredge: 20 animals, under the best situations, barely get us there. Realistically, we are talking 30-40 cats before we can say it is worth doing.

Public Comment

- Jim McKee, 1037 Champion Circle, Longmont, Co. He stated that the cougar study along the Front Range is vital and strongly urged the continuation of this study.

Motion

Janice Moore moved to accept staff recommendation for the management plan as presented, and Sue Cass seconded the motion. *Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion on Motion

Janice Moore: I don't see coexistence without this kind of information. Lisa Dilling: I appreciate your efforts and I think this is a really important study.

Weeds Update

**Information Only*

Staff Presenter: Steve Sauer

See Staff Memo for Detail on Presentation.

Questions

Sue Cass: Has the State been enforcing the Noxious Weeds Act? Steve Sauer: One problem the State experienced is getting the different municipalities to enforce. Sue Cass: So enforcement is at the local level? Steve Sauer: Yes, it is. We have had good success in Boulder County, with over 90% compliance. Different counties have different procedures; we try to educate the public. Eric Hozempa: Did I hear you say the use of herbicide is increasing? Steve Sauer: We did spike in 2006, because of some re-vegetation projects, but use decreased again in 2007. We are trying to lessen the amount of herbicides we use. We try to use the lowest toxicity herbicides. Lisa Dilling: Are we winning the battle against any of the weeds at this point? Steve Sauer: I think we are making progress with Mediterranean Sage and Purple Loosestrife. I think we are making progress with Myrtle Spurge and Leafy Spurge. Russian Olive we have made progress on.

Public Comment

None

Director's Update

POS formed a Stakeholders' group to get input on the Betasso/Benjamin Management Plan. Christian Meyer is a member of the group. This group is made up of neighbors and Stakeholder groups who will meet to see if there is a consensus that can emerge about what the management plan might provide. The group has planned field trips and meetings, by invitation. Public meetings will be held later.

Due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the next two POSAC meetings will be held on November 20 and December 18.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.