

Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission June 26, 2023 Lower Level Conference Room in Town Hall (Please Note Meeting Location Change) 150 Ski Hill Road, Breckenridge, CO 80424

This meeting will also be broadcast live over Zoom. Log-in information is available in the calendar section of our website: <u>www.townofbreckenridge.com</u>. Questions and comments can be submitted prior to the meeting to <u>websiteopenspace@townofbreckenridge.com</u>.

- **4:00 pm Site Visit** McCain Blue River restoration. Meet on site at the gate (park at the community gardens or college opposite McCain).
- 5:30 pm Call to Order
- 5:35 pm Discussion/Approval of Minutes • May 22, 2023 Draft BOSAC Meeting Minutes
- 5:40 pm Discussion/Approval of Agenda
- 5:45 pm Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

5:50 pm Staff Summary

- Field Season Update
- Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) Events
- Xcel Line Work at B&B
- Keystone Drill Update
- Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch Parking & Shuttle Program
- Naturalist Hikes and Interpretive Stations
- Invasive and Noxious Weed Control
- Race Breck
- Now Hiring
- Forest Health Project Updates

5:55 pm Open Space Discussion

- BOSAC Officer Terms
- Trails Workplan
- Signage Workplan
- Council Matters Related to Open Space Topics
- Other Matters
- 7:15 pm Executive Session
- 7:30 pm Adjournment

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I) CALL TO ORDER

Duke Barlow called the May 22, 2023, regular meeting of BOSAC to order at 6:32 pm. Other members of BOSAC present included Krysten Joyce, Nikki LaRochelle, David Rossi, Chris Tennal, and Council liaison Jeffrey Bergeron. Bobbie Zanca was absent. Staff members present included Scott Reid, Anne Lowe, Zara Hickman, and Tony Overlock. Members of the public included: Katherine King (Summit County Open Space).

II) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A) BOSAC REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 24, 2023 The minutes were approved as presented.

III) PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Executive Session was struck from the agenda.

V) STAFF SUMMARY

A) UPCOMING FRIENDS OF BRECKENRIDGE TRAILS EVENTS

Ms. Lowe: June 3, 2023, is our next Friends of Breckenridge Trails (FOBT) event for National Trails Day. Next on the calendar is June 17, 2023, at Illinois Creek. This stewardship event focuses on closing social trails and putting up buck and rail fencing for vegetation restoration.

Mr. Bergeron: Is there a time frame for when Illinois Creek Trail will be open?

Ms. Lowe: Unfortunately, the trail remains closed as the landowners are suing the County regarding the development plans.

Mr. Reid: I talked to the landowners' attorney, and they are currently in litigation. The landowners also inquired whether they could submit a new proposal to planning during the lawsuit.

Ms. Lowe: Finally, the OST Technician crew will install handrails on the new Little Mountain trail this summer to make it safer to get to the summit.

Ms. Joyce: I have never been up to Little Mountain. Is the trail clear now?

Ms. Lowe: Yes, the trail is clear.

Mr. Bergeron: Is it a child-friendly trail?

Mr. Barlow: The trail is short, worth the view, and family-friendly.

B) BOSAC OFFICER TERMS

Ms. Lowe: The only other staff update is the proposed BOSAC officer term limits. Per the Town's BOSAC rules, proposed changes are included in the packet to reduce BOSAC officer terms from two-year to one-year terms. If the majority of BOSAC is in support at the June meeting, the resolution can be signed and will go into effect. This is the only change.

Ms. LaRochelle: What do the BOSAC rules say? Is it different from the Town Code?

Ms. Lowe: The Town Code references that BOSAC must have rules. Previously, the Town Code and BOSAC rules were intricately tied, and Tim Berry, former Town Attorney, removed redundancy to make the rules easier to change, if necessary.

Ms. Lowe: Next, staff would like to ask BOSAC about moving the Keystone Driller to the B&B trailhead. Breckenridge History originally proposed the Reiling Dredge location, but it would require the removal of trees in an already busy area. BOSAC did not support the Reiling Dredge location, but there was some support for the B&B trailhead.

Mr. Bergeron: I did not want the Keystone Driller at the Reiling Dredge trailhead as there is not much parking there. I think the west side of the B&B parking lot has a 50–60-foot trail leading people to the drill. I do not think the drill would be an attraction like the troll. Lastly, the location is historically significant for the drill.

Ms. Lowe: Generally, is B&B the right location, or does BOSAC want to look at other locations? The Town's Engineer suggested the McCain property. The existing recpath goes right by piles of dredge rock, and more parking will be available on McCain.

Mr. Tennal: I am open to the B&B location for the Keystone Drill. I am glad it is away from the Reiling Dredge bridge. I am open to it anywhere in the French Gulch area; however, I do not want anything on McCain, no matter what.

Ms. Joyce: I am supportive of the B&B location. This may be too prescriptive for us, but I had not considered a footpath. I do not know how laborious, but it would be nice to have a flagstone path for people to see the Keystone Drill from all sides.

Mr. Rossi: I am against flagstone, but I agree with what has been said.

Ms. LaRochelle: I am curious about what the B&B trailhead location looks like in the winter regarding snow storage. Is the snow storage on the west end of the parking lot?

Mr. Barlow: I also support B&B and am reminded that Ms. O'Neil stated the historical context in French Gulch versus the McCain property.

Ms. Lowe: From BOSAC's perspective, and knowing Ms. Zanca supported the B&B Trailhead, is BOSAC comfortable bringing this in a committee report to Town Council?

Mr. Reid: Staff wants Council to bless this idea.

Ms. Joyce: A quick question, has anyone ever tracked whether or not an attraction like this brings more visitation to a location?

Ms. Lowe: Staff could potentially put a counter at the spur trail. This is helpful for staff; Breckenridge History is anxious to nail down a location and move the drill off of the Country Boy Mine site and provide the drill with a shelter.

Ms. King: Summit County Open Space discussed the Keystone Drill with OSAC, and they want to agree with what BOSAC decides.

VI) OPEN SPACE DISCUSSION

Open House Recap and Debrief

Ms. Lowe: Staff would like BOSAC to provide a quick recap of comments heard from the public tonight at the OST Annual Open House. Additionally, are there any suggestions on how to improve the event going forward?

Mr. Rossi: For the Peabody Placer Hazardous Fuels and Forest Health project, because of the time frame, can OST announce this and the detour information closer to the beginning of the project?

Ms. Lowe: Staff has a press release that went out last year. We hope to rerelease the press release as soon as we hear from Colorado Timber Resources (CTR) with the anticipated start date two weeks from the project's start.

Mr. Rossi: That is a great idea. I wonder if the information at trail junctions could include a QR code to learn more about current projects.

Ms. Lowe: That is a great idea. The County maintains the Peabody Placer project page. Town Council is discussing wildfire updates, including this project, at its meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Rossi: How does working with Red White & Blue Fire District (RWB) work? Who makes the prescription call on Open Space?

Ms. Lowe: Staff and Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) make decisions on forestry prescriptions and RWB makes decisions on intown projects. Staff has had many conversations with RWB to protect viewsheds and prioritize screening.

Ms. Barlow: I acted as a greeter as people arrived. An initial reaction was people thought the Open House was a little loud.

Mr. Rossi: I like Carter Park better, but the Open House at the Recreation Center brought some additional people in.

Ms. Lowe: From BOSAC requests last year, staff wanted the Open House to be more of a festive experience.

Ms. LaRochelle: I know that people want to share their thoughts. Is there a better way to receive feedback? A friend of mine was excited to see Mr. Overlock and remembered him from trail days.

Ms. Joyce: I also received a nice shoutout for Mr. Overlock, although it had nothing to do with the Open House. Last year, there were opportunities to submit written comments, which might help bring out additional comments.

Ms. Lowe: I received a comment from a person involved with OST years ago who wanted to advocate for multi-use trails, more women on BOSAC, and women of different age groups. What does BOSAC think about having the Open House during mud season and on a Monday? I know it is graduation week, and things are busy. Is this still a good time of year for the Open House?

Mr. Tennal: I think a social gathering element linked to our volunteer events would be great. A season launch and a season wrap-up. In the last two years, the attendance feels light. I suggest moving the Open House to the fall and incorporating a season wrap-up.

Mr. Bergeron: How about the summer? I think May is a little early.

Ms. Joyce: If the Town of Breckenridge's social media channels could do some simple notifications that BOSAC could repost on Instagram, that would be helpful. Many people could have come, but did not attend. That would be a great way to push out OST events as well. That would help BOSAC circulate information; I had nothing to share with anybody.

Ms. Lowe: Anything else for the good of the order? Next month BOSAC will discuss the first signage and trail workplans.

Mr. Tennal: Were the rest of the year's BOSAC meeting dates sent out?

Ms. Lowe: Yes, but I can resend them.

Mr. Barlow: I have a very small topic regarding the new GIS map. We posted on the map, and the conditions report that the Wellington Bike Park was open, but it was closed over the weekend. If we want to point everyone to one spot for trail information, we must post that the Wellington Bike Park is susceptible to quick changes.

Mr. Overlock: I struggled with that, Mr. Barlow. It was great on Friday, then it rained Friday evening, making the track very tacky that it had to stay closed. We do have a sign at the Wellington Bike Park that states that.

Ms. Joyce: I have a related matter that I brought up with Ms. Lowe. Slopestyle, a local ski and bike shop, has a trail conditions page on its website. If OST could coordinate with them, that would be great.

Ms. LaRochelle: I wanted to quickly ask, with the FOBT events, do staff feel the events will be as popular as last year?

Mr. Overlock: It's hard to say this year because the events are so different than last year. People turn out for new trail projects. We don't know how that's going to pan out, either.

Ms. LaRochelle: Compared to last year, does FOBT need more volunteers?

Mr. Overlock: I do not think FOBT is lacking volunteers. This year's numbers should be similar to last year's.

Ms. LaRochelle: I am thinking of families with little kids. Maybe there could be one event with provided childcare.

Mr. Overlock: I think that is a great idea. FOBT did have a similar event last year for the Lace Up Your Boots Chantilly Day. The Mountain Top Museum came and provided programming.

Ms. LaRochelle: That is great.

Ms. Lowe: Mr. Bergeron, do you have any Council matters?

Mr. Bergeron: No, I have been traveling.

VII) ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barlow made a motion to adjourn the BOSAC meeting, and Mr. Bergeron seconded it. The May 22, 2023, regular meeting of BOSAC ended at 7:19 pm.

The next regular meeting of BOSAC is scheduled for June 26, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

Duke Barlow, Chair

Memorandum

To:Breckenridge Open Space Advisory CommissionFrom:Open Space & Trails StaffRe:June 26, 2023 Meeting

Staff Summary

Field Season Update

Summer is finally here and the OST Technicians have been busy completing the following:

- Maintenance walks on the entire trail system. Duties include cleaning out drainages, deberming critical edge, hazardous tree removal, and armoring wet areas.
- Jump Doctors and staff completed maintenance on the Wellington Bike Park. Duties included reshaping and compacting all features, training staff, and improving the Blue Line with new dirt and features.
- Collecting visitation counts at popular trailheads and trails.
- Closing off Cucumber Gulch Preserve for its annual spring closure with signage and buck and rail fencing.

FOBT Events

June 3 - National Trails Days: Fifteen volunteers participated in maintaining the trails around Carter Park. Duties included cleaning out drainages, deberming critical edge, invasive weed removal, and tree thinning.

June 17 - Illinois Creek Restoration: Twenty-five volunteers participated in constructing buck fencing at 3 critical restoration areas, closing off social trails, planting willows, picking up garbage, and pulling false chamomile.

Next event is July 8th for the Community-Wide Weed Pull.

For more information on upcoming FOBT events, please visit <u>Friends of Breckenridge Trails</u> <u>Breckenridge Recreation</u>.

Xcel Line Work at B&B

As BOSAC will recall, Xcel did extensive line work on the powerlines near the B&B trailhead in the fall of 2022 on jointly-owned Town and County lands and on the neighboring Country Boy Mine property. The work included five large structures/poles that were replaced, extensive line work for failing lines, and other routine maintenance. While Xcel put the area to rest for the winter months with signage and barriers along their easement route, they are now focused on restoration and meeting the terms of their permit with the County.

Under the County's permitting system, Xcel is required to revegetate and restore the area. Town and County staff walked the area with Xcel and their lead contractor on June 20th. While the majority of the area is in need of proper drainage, fencing, and revegetation efforts, as expected, the team also discovered that Xcel's crew cut new access roads along our steep hillside for guide wire installation that were not permitted; that particular work was supposed to have been done by hand. Xcel's lead contractor was not aware of this unpermitted work but said the people on the crew had already been let go for performance issues. As a result, Xcel is obligated to now develop an extensive restoration plan

to restore these cuts. The County holds a large bond from Xcel to ensure the restoration work is done properly. Staff will keep BOSAC apprised of restoration work.

Keystone Drill Update

Our partners at Summit County are supportive of placing the BreckHistory's Keystone Drill on jointlyowned Town and County Open Space near the B&B trailhead. After walking the area with BreckHistory, the partners identified the most suitable location with minimal grading as the area immediately east of the entrance to the B&B trail along the existing interpretive trail. Staff can assist BreckHistory with creating wheelchair access to the Keystone Drill. For visitors wishing to extend their experience, the interpretive trail provides loop access back to the B&B Trail. BreckHistory is unsure of timing yet, as they are hoping to locate a pre-fab structure to place over the drill and have additional site planning and permitting to complete.

Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch Parking and Shuttle Program

The Quandary Peak and McCullough Gulch parking reservation and shuttle system for the 2023 summer hiking season opened on June 17, 2023 and will end on September 17, 2023. Starting on June 1, visitors can make parking reservations and purchase shuttle tickets two weeks in advance of their hiking date.

There are a few new changes to the program this year, including the parking fee structure for peak and non-peak days, below. Parking is free and first-come, first-serve after 3pm each day.

- Full-Day Reservation (5am-3pm) recommended for Quandary Peak
 - \$30 Monday Thursday (excluding holidays)
 - \$55 Friday Sunday (plus holidays)
- Short-term (4-Hour) Reservation recommended for McCullough Gulch
 - \$10 Monday Thursday (excluding holidays)
 - \$20 Friday Sunday (plus holidays)

Shuttle tickets can be purchased two weeks in advance of your intended hiking date beginning June 1, 2023. Visitors are required to show proof of payment to board the shuttle. Dogs are allowed on the shuttle, however, visitors are encouraged to make a parking reservation if planning to hike with a dog. Fare costs are:

- \$0 for residents (round trip) proof of residence can be submitted when making a reservation
- \$7 for visitors (round trip)

For reservations and more information, visit <u>https://hikequandary.com</u>.

Naturalist Hikes and Interpretive Stations

Our OST Naturalists have been busy roving Cucumber Gulch Preserve during the annual spring closure and educating and redirecting visitors, as well as leading a few guided hikes and interpretive stations within the open portions of the Town's trail network.

For more information on guided hikes, please visit <u>Guided Tours and Naturalist Programs | Breckenridge</u> <u>Recreation</u>.

Invasive and Noxious Weed Control

Staff has partnered with our Streets and Parks division to hire a weed contractor to eradicate noxious and invasive weeds from Town open spaces, trails, and other Town properties. A separate contractor has been hired for hand control methods in Cucumber Gulch Preserve. Finally, staff partner with the Summit County weed program on many of our jointly-owned open spaces.

The targeted weeds in our area generally include musk thistle, Canada thistle, bull thistle, plumeless thistle, oxeye daisy, yellow toadflax, and scentless chamomile. For a list of weeds in Summit County and more information on identifying weeds, visit <u>Summit-County-Weeds- (summitcountyco.gov)</u>.

Race Breck

The Town's summer race series on our trail network is underway, including the Summit Trail Running Series, Summit Mountain Challenge, and the Firecracker 50. Town staff are coordinating to relay information to our trail users about events taking place on trails, primarily through our social media channels. For more information, visit <u>Races | Breckenridge Recreation</u>.

Now Hiring

We are seeking and accepting applications for the Open Space & Trails Coordinator position. Please send interested candidates to <u>Open Space & Trails Coordinator (Natural Resource Technician)</u> | Job Details tab | Career Pages (governmentjobs.com).

Forest Health Project Updates

The Peabody Placer Hazardous Fuels and Forest Health project may begin as early as July 1, 2023. Contractors plan to remove material from the units where possible and create mechanical piles. When contractors are operating in the immediate vicinity of Extension Mill Road, Hard Luck, Middle Flume, Tom's Baby, and Upper Flume trails, temporary trail closures will be in place per safety procedures. The attached map shows trails that will experience temporary closure and major junctions that detour signage will be displayed. No trails will be closed for more than five days during events or on weekends. This project is a collaboration between the Town, County, Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS), and the USFS Dillon Ranger District.

CSFS believes the contractors will start in mid- to late-July and take approximately three weeks to complete the project. Town and County staff are in the midst of updating the press release from 2022 and have already updated 3rd party apps to help spread the word to trail users about temporary closures. Staff is planning on adding signage and QR codes, below, at the kiosks and portal posts around the first of July.



Open Space and Trails

BOSAC Officer Terms

During the April BOSAC meeting, commissioners expressed the desire to change the term of BOSAC officers from two years to one year. Per the BOSAC Rules, the Rules may be amended at any regular or special meeting by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Commission; provided, however, that such proposed amendment has been submitted to the Commission in writing at the preceding regular Commission meeting so that the Commission members will have adequate time to review and consider such proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment was provided to BOSAC at the May meeting and is also enclosed in this packet. A vote will be taken at the June meeting.

Staff requests that BOSAC review the proposed amendment to BOSAC officer terms.

- 1. Does BOSAC have any questions about the rules or proposed officer terms?
- 2. Is BOSAC in favor of changing officer terms from two years to one year?

Trails Workplan

At the April BOSAC meeting, BOSAC members recommended discussing the topic of trail loops as part of the Trails Workplan at the June meeting. The plan is to take one overarching topic for discussion at each meeting in order to go into further detail, have meaningful discussion, and provide direction to staff.

As a reminder, these are the overarching trail topics identified by BOSAC:

- a. Trail Loops
- b. Parking Strategy
- c. Free Ride to Forest/Public Transit to Trails
- d. Trailhead Infrastructure
- e. Trail Ambassadors or Rangers
- f. Capacity
- g. Community Engagement/Messaging
- h. Specific Trail Connections (see Trails Appendix: <u>Trails workplan Conceptual and Proposed</u> <u>Trails (arcgis.com)</u>)

The concept of trail loops has been used and discussed for many years as a means of dispersing trail users across our vast network and improving the user experience. Creating trail loops is a way to also provide more detailed information about the trail loop itself so that users can make good decisions, including elevation profile, recommended direction of travel, level of difficulty, recommended user types (mountain biking vs hiking vs family-friendly walking), identifiable wayfinding/branding, and estimated time to complete.

Staff has used this concept with the Welcome Center over the years as they continue to receive questions from the public on recommended trails and, in 2012, we produced a public trail map with recommended loops that was used for several years. Our trail network has grown and changed since 2012, but these loops were in use at the time: <u>Trails Workplan - Loops</u>.

As always, there are pros and cons to every approach with trails and trail loops. The benefits of having trail loops are that it can improve the user experience because trail users have the information and knowledge they need to make better decisions about which routes to take. Loops also provide for easier wayfinding and can alleviate congestion at more popular areas by redirecting and dispersing users. The downside of this approach is that other areas will likely see increased traffic and use, which could lead to new areas of congestion. If we move forward, staff would plan to evaluate loops on an annual basis and monitor visitor use.

Staff requests that BOSAC review the options for trail loops in the link above and answer the following questions.

- 1. Does BOSAC recommend moving forward with trail loops this summer?
 - a. If so, which loops would you recommend? Are any loops missing from the examples provided?
 - b. How would BOSAC like staff to implement the trail loops concept? Should we quietly introduce a pilot test of loops to the Welcome Center and 3rd party apps, for example, or do a bigger announcement and promotion on social media and go for it? Using 3rd party apps allows staff to capture metrics.
 - c. What other information should be included in trail loops concept that would be helpful for trail users, such as transit information?
 - d. Does BOSAC recommend a particular form of wayfinding and branding, for example colors or shapes?
- 2. What is the next topic that BOSAC would like to discuss at the July meeting?

Signage Workplan

At the April BOSAC meeting, BOSAC members recommended reviewing signage plans from other open space organizations and examples of the four types of signs across our network. These four types or categories of signage include regulatory, wayfinding, etiquette, and interpretive signs.

BOSAC discussed previously some of the challenges and opportunities for signs within our network, including de-cluttering of existing signs, especially at our trailhead kiosks, ensuring proper wayfinding signage as appropriate within each management zone, especially at trail intersections, using more universal icons and less text, utilizing QR codes and Spanish language, including accessibility information at trailheads, as well as adding signs or information at transit stops.

Staff requests that BOSAC review the signage plans and sign examples and answer the following questions.

- 1. What is BOSAC's initial impression of the signage plans from other open space organizations?
 - a. What specifically did you like?
 - b. What would you want to see in our own Signage Workplan?
 - c. Would you want our Signage Workplan to address all four sign categories?
- 2. Can BOSAC reach consensus on the direction we take next?
 - d. Do we hire a consultant to develop a full Signage Workplan similar to Pitkin County, for example?
 - e. Do we hire a graphic designer to set sign design standards?
- 3. What is the recommended scope of work in hiring either a consultant or a designer?

Council Matters Related to Open Space Topics

Jeffrey Bergeron, in his role as Council liaison to BOSAC, will provide updates on open space-related topics that Council has recently discussed.

Other Matters

This standing agenda item is intended to provide commissioners an opportunity to raise questions for a brief discussion and response, or to suggest items for upcoming agendas.

BEFORE THE BRECKENRIDGE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 1

SERIES 2023

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING REVISED RULES OF THE BRECKENRIDGE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (Revised June 2023)

WHEREAS, Section 2-4-8 of the <u>Breckenridge Town Code</u> requires the Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission to adopt rules and regulations governing the transaction of business by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the "Rules and Regulations of the Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission (Revised June 2023)" have been prepared and reviewed by the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the "Rules and Regulations of the Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission (Revised June 2023)" were submitted to the Commission at the regular Commission meeting preceding their adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BRECKENRIDGE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION:

<u>Section 1</u>. The attached "Rules and Regulations of the Breckenridge Open Space Advisory Commission (Revised June 2023)" are adopted as the rules and regulations for the transaction of business before the Commission. The adopted rules supersede all previous rules of procedure heretofore adopted by the Commission.

Section 2. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2023.

BRECKENRIDGE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION

By:____ Chair