



Parks & Open Space

5201 St. Vrain Road • Longmont, Colorado 80503
303.678.6200 • Fax: 303.678.6177 • www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE August 23, 2018

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

POSAC Members in Attendance

Present: Sue Anderson, Jenn Archuleta, Cathy Comstock, Jim Krug, Scott Miller, John Nibarger, Gordon Pedrow, and Heather Williams

Excused:

Staff in Attendance

Renata Frye, Marni Ratzel, Jeff Moline, Therese Glowacki, Vivienne Jannatpour, and Eric Lane

Guests

Patrick Hammer - Town of Superior Parks, Recreation and Open Space Director

Approval of the July 26, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Action Taken: Jim Krug moved to accept the July 26 minutes. Sue Anderson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. [John Nibarger abstained because he was not at the July meeting.]

Public Participation - Items not on the Agenda

None

Chu Property Trailhead Proposal from Superior

*Staff Presenters: Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager
& Marni Ratzel, Resource Planner II*

Public Comments:

- Ken Lish, 1326 S. Idalia Ct., Superior. He is the Chair of Superior's Open Space Advisory Committee. He spoke in support of the proposal.

Action Taken: Gordon Pedrow moved to accept staff recommendation for the proposal as presented, and Jenn Archuleta seconded the motion. After discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Update on Eldorado Canyon – Walker Ranch Trail Feasibility Study

Staff Presenter: Marni Ratzel, Resource Planner II

Public Comments:

- Gretchen Frederickson, 4395 Martin Dr., Boulder. She is a board member of the Indian Peaks Traverse Coalition. She spoke in support of an Eldorado Canyon–Walker Ranch connector.
- Bob Kershner, 4410 Hastings Dr., Boulder. He spoke in support of this project.

Action Taken: Information Only

Director's Update

- The BOCC held their first hearing on e-bikes on August 22, and indicated support for e-bikes on certain county open space trails. The date of the second hearing will be announced at a later date. Staff is working on fleshing out information on two possible paths forward:
 - Change the passive recreation definition in the comp plan to allow e-bikes on trails.
 - Change classification of land under trails purchased with open space tax funds through a divestment process, in order to permit e-bikes.
- More hail storms have hit crops this summer.
- POS wildlife staff and researchers will conduct thermal imaging for bats at Cardinal Mill and Rocky Mountain Mammoth sites.
- On August 30 POS forestry staff will host a tour for FEMA on Defensible Space work completed. Parks & Open Space received a \$650,000 FEMA grant for the project.
- Staff is working on the implementation for elk hunting management at the Ron Stewart Preserve on Rabbit Mountain for this season. Hunting will start on September 17 and run through January 31. Areas of the property will be closed to the general public on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays during that time. All 57 hunting spots have been filled.
- Upcoming real estate closings: Brand 2, Zapf, Hicks 2, Tice CE.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

The full audio, available staff memos, and related materials for this meeting can be found on our website: www.BoulderCountyOpenSpace.org/POSAC



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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: Thursday, August 23, 2018
TIME: 6:30 pm
PLACE: Commissioners' Hearing Room, Third Floor, Boulder County Courthouse,
1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

AGENDA

Suggested Timetable

- 6:30 1. **Approval of the July 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes**
- 6:35 2. **Public Participation - Items not on the Agenda**
- 6:40 3. **Chu Property Trailhead Proposal from Superior**
*Staff Presenters: Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager
& Marni Ratzel, Resource Planner II*
Action Requested: Recommendation to BOCC
- 7:10 4. **Update on Eldorado Canyon – Walker Ranch Trail Feasibility Study**
Staff Presenter: Marni Ratzel, Resource Planner II
Action Requested: Information Only
- 7:30 5. **Director's Update**
- 7:35 6. **Adjourn**

Available staff memos & related materials for this meeting may
be viewed on our website:

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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
DATE/TIME:	Thursday, August 23, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION:	Commissioners Hearing Room, 3 rd floor, Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO
AGENDA ITEM:	Chu property trailhead proposal from Superior
PRESENTER:	Jeff Moline, Resource Planning Manager Marni Ratzel, Resource Planner II
ACTION REQUESTED:	Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners

Background

The Chu property is a 6.57-acre parcel located in the Town of Superior on the west side of McCaslin Boulevard. In 2014, the Town of Superior acquired the Chu property for open space at a purchase price of \$680,000, of which Boulder County contributed \$125,800 in return for a conservation easement. The easement protects the property's conservation values in perpetuity including hiking and biking trails and other recreational uses that have been contemplated over the years. Following the purchase, the property was rezoned in Superior to their Open Space and Natural Uses District. The Chu property also is bordered on the west by the Erin Arsenault property that is jointly-owned by Boulder County and the City of Boulder and the Boulder County-owned Mayhoffer 2 property. The Boulder County Parks & Open Space (BCPOS) department manages both properties, which are used for hiking and biking recreational activities upon the Meadowlark Trail traversing them. The Mayhoffer 2 property also is used for agricultural cattle grazing. The property locations are detailed in **Figure 1**. An essential part of this project is the town's proposal to construct a 45-foot long connecting trail across county open space which will connect the trailhead to the Meadowlark Trail.

Since 2015 the Town of Superior's advisory committees have been discussing a proposal to locate a trailhead at the Chu property. It was identified to potentially replace existing trail access parking at 3rd Avenue and Depot Street in Original Town Superior. After preliminary internal discussions, town staff reached out to BCPOS staff to propose the new Chu property trailhead idea. BCPOS staff advised the town to move forward on the possible trailhead project by making a recommendation to the county and sharing a draft project plan for Boulder County review. The proposed trailhead design is detailed in **Figure 2**.

Public Process

The proposed trailhead and associated trail connection were identified to address community concern for the existing trail access located at 3rd Avenue, which has become problematic in the eyes of local residents as use of the Meadowlark Trail increased over the years. The most frequent resident complaint is that the volume of on-street parking along 3rd Avenue by trail users occasionally blocks resident and emergency vehicles from safely navigating the local streets. Rocky Mountain Fire District also has shared the concern as they're not able to navigate a fire truck down 3rd Avenue during periods of peak trail use when vehicles are

parked on both sides of the roadway. Establishing a trailhead with a connection to the Meadowlark Trail at the Chu property has been identified as a top priority by Superior's Open Space Advisory Committee and the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Advisory Committee since the property was purchased in 2014. The project is currently listed as the top priority in the town's Five-year Trail and Open Space Capital Project Plan, and has been submitted as part of the annual open space and trail requests to the county since 2015. Public input, specific to the project, has been captured by the town's committee members during community events, and the project was the topic of discussion during a community open house to identify trail priorities throughout the community. Superior's elected officials are supportive of this project and have included funding in the 2019 budget for construction pending approval from the county.

This Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee (POSAC) meeting will provide the opportunity for the public to provide comment along with any recommendations that POSAC may provide. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will also consider the approval of this amendment request with the opportunity for the public to provide comment.

Staff Discussion

The Town of Superior would fund the development of the Chu trailhead improvements, including the new connector trail on Boulder County open space property to the existing Meadowlark trail. The Town of Superior and members of the public desire the connection, and the proposed trail location has minimal resource impacts to open space. The Boulder County Comprehensive Plan states that the county will work with the municipalities to assure linkage of county trails and connections between communities.

Chu Property

The easement agreement allows construction of trails and other improvements with written approval from the county of specific plans detailing the improvements. Staff finds that all of the activities associated with this trailhead request from Superior can be approved by the county and are consistent with the terms of the easement. Staff will recommend that the county provide written approval of these plans.

Erin Arsenault Property

Completing the new trail connection to the Meadowlark trail would necessitate an amendment to the Marshall-Superior-Coalton Trail Corridor Management Plan. Additionally, the Erin Arsenault property is covered by the Jointly-Owned Open Space Management Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) that requires the county to give the City of Boulder the opportunity to provide comments on changes to existing management plans. The county has contacted City of Boulder OSMP about the minor change to the Marshall-Superior-Coalton Trail Corridor Management Plan which will be necessary on the Erin Arsenault property. County staff will update POSAC with any information received prior to the meeting.

A site visit by BCPOS resource planning staff did not identify concerns with this connection. The development of improvements associated with the trailhead and connection to the existing trail on the county's open space would be acceptable to the county so long as they are constructed in accordance with the plans submitted and approved. If there are material changes to the plans as the project moves forward, the county would be consulted.

Upon approval of this amendment BCPOS would develop an IGA with the Town of Superior that would provide specific conditions related to the trail connection such as:

- Town of Superior would be responsible for construction, revegetation of disturbed area, and maintenance of trailhead and associated parking lot.
- New fencing and gates would need to be installed as part of the construction of the trail connection.
- Town of Superior would acquire and be responsible for any needed permits or approvals.

POSAC Action Requested

Recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for approval of the trailhead improvements to the Chu property and for the trail connection on the Erin Arsenault Open Space as depicted on the attached plan to connect the new trailhead to the Meadowlark Trail. If approved, the trail connection will amend the Marshall-Superior-Coalton Trail Corridor Management Plan.

Suggested motion language: I move to approve the staff recommendation for the Chu trailhead development improvements and an amendment to the Marshall-Superior-Coalton Trail Corridor Management Plan as outlined in the staff memo.

Figure 1 – Chu and adjacent BCPOS properties





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PARKS & OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO:	Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
DATE/TIME:	Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
LOCATION:	Commissioners Hearing Room, 3 rd floor, Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO
AGENDA ITEM:	Update on Eldorado Canyon – Walker Ranch Trail Feasibility Study
PRESENTER:	Marni Ratzel, Resource Planner II
ACTION REQUESTED:	Information only

The county is partnering with the City of Boulder on a feasibility study to consider a multi-use trail between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Boulder County's Walker Ranch Open Space. The local agencies are working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Eldorado Canyon State Park. At the POSAC meeting, staff will provide an update on the project and present materials that will be shared with the public at an upcoming open house detailed below.

For many years, there has been a desire to create a multi-use link between Eldorado Canyon State Park and Walker Ranch that could reasonably accommodate bicycles. While there is an existing pedestrian/equestrian link, the trail is steep and rocky. The feasibility study is evaluating options to realign portions of the existing trail or to construct a new trail. Primary objectives of the Eldorado-Walker connection are:

- Improve trail access to the Walker Ranch Loop trail.
- Expand the range of trail-based recreation opportunities.
- Reasonably accommodate bicycles while maintaining the currently allowed activities of hiking, running, and horseback riding.

Members of the public are invited to attend an open house meeting to learn about the Feasibility Study. The open house details are as follows:

What: Eldorado Canyon to Walker Ranch Connection Feasibility Study Open House
When: Aug. 28 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Where: Meadows Branch Library
4800 Baseline Road, Boulder

The purpose of the open house is to present the work completed to date on developing a range of conceptual alignment options for further study, the proposed analysis plan for evaluating impacts to resources, and a timeline for completing the feasibility study. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide feedback related to conceptual trail alignments and the proposed evaluation criteria.

Join Us!



Front Range Mountain Lion Research Presentation



Mat Allredge, Ph.D.
Wildlife Researcher,
for Colorado Parks
and Wildlife

In 2007, Mat Allredge, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Researcher, began a 10-year study investigating mountain lion ecology, prey, movements and interactions with humans in the Front Range of Colorado. This study tracked close to 100 individual mountain lions over the past 10 years in Boulder and Jefferson counties, including the City of Boulder. The study concluded last year. As the data continues to be analyzed, Mat will share information and answer questions at a joint presentation to POSAC and the BOCC about what we have learned about our local lions.

**Thursday
August 23**

4 - 5:30p.m.

**Boulder County Courthouse
1325 Pearl St. , Boulder
Third Floor Hearing Room**
