



Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee

APPROVED March Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

9:00am

ONLINE MEETING

**Public Meeting Room / Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway
Eagle, CO**

This agenda and the meetings can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.

MEETING ACCESS PUBLIC WIFI - TOEG – townofeagle2019

This will be a Zoom Meeting, the link can be found here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83472864496>

Meeting ID: 834 7286 4496

9:00am CALL TO ORDER

Call to order at: 9:10am

Absent: None

9:05am APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES

Motion to approve the February minutes by Owens second by Bailey. Motion passes unanimously.

9:10am DISCUSSION

9:10am (5 min) Setting the standing meeting date

- The general public will be provided the opportunity to comment at the end of each agenda item.
- Rather than have bi-monthly (twice a month) Committee meetings, Lieberman and Sager will consider the idea of OSRAC subcommittees that could also meet once a month.
- The new meeting date is the first Tuesday of every month at 9am.

9:15am (10 min) Fire mitigation and prescribed burns on town-owned open space update

- Lieberman met with Hugh Fairfield-Smith, Wildland Coordinator with the Greater Eagle Fire Protection District ("District"), to discuss past and proposed fire mitigation measures on Town-owned open space.
- In 2019, the District burned along Brush Creek and mowed fuel breaks in Eagle Ranch. Nothing happened in 2020 due to COVID.
- The District is proposing continuing prescribed burns along Brush Creek and mowed fuel breaks in Eagle Ranch this year.
- The District does a great job with outreach for the public.

- Council approved these management actions in 2019. The District will be providing an update to the Council in March.

9:25am (10 min) Abrams Creek OS project update

- For 2021, Council budgeted for the removal of a 6,800-foot unneeded and unmaintained fence in the Abrams Creek OS and the upkeep of the bridge on the LOV Connection trail.
- Lieberman is asking CPW's Habitat Partnership Program and the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee to contribute funding for this project.
- If both entities provide funding, we will hire a youth corps to remove the fence. Volunteers, TOE staff, EVLT, VVMTA, and HTC will tackle the needed upkeep on the bridge.
- Repairs for the bridge should occur as soon as possible once the wildlife closure is over. Handrails and decking are the biggest concerns on the bridge that need to be addressed.
- There needs to be a solution in place to provide a safer experience for users this year. However, OSRAC considered the need for more extensive bridge work or a complete replacement of the bridge at a future point.

9:35am (15 min) Proposed campground and trails projects discussion

- The intention for this agenda item was to have a high-level discussion focusing on trail connectivity and how a potential campground along Brush Creek Road could benefit the trail network in Eagle.
 - o Eagle Basecamp is an active land use application with the Town, OSRAC cannot discuss the merits of the project, any project details, or provide any recommendations.
- If the campground is approved, OSRAC thought having a trail connection to the existing trail network would be very beneficial.
- The Town has long considered a trail connection across Brush Creek and Brush Creek Road that would connect the East Eagle trails with Eagle Ranch.
 - o Some Committee members thought other trail connections should be a higher priority.
 - o Eagle County Open Space plans to construct the Rim Trail in summer 2021. This trail would provide this needed connection, although further out.
- Other trail connections have been proposed in this area as a component of the Haymeadow PUD, however, the timing of these trails is still uncertain.
- This conversation will continue when more details are available. No action items came out of the conversation.

9:50am (20 min) Spring open space work-list discussion/ Haymaker Trailhead Recommendations

Haymaker Trailhead OSRAC Recommendations:

- TOILETS: OSRAC discussed temporary toilet options for the Haymaker Trailhead ahead of improvements planned to occur with the Mountain Rec Master Plan.
 - o The Committee recommended keeping the portable toilets until a permanent restroom could be built. This was preferred over investing in an upgraded temporary solution that would ultimately need to be removed or altered.
 - o The Committee supported building an enclosure around the portable toilets to prevent them from blowing over, as an improvement to the appearance of the parking area, and to provide an intentional layout that helps encourage sustainable use of the area.
 - o Trail users can access the restrooms in Pool and Ice when they are open.
- CHANGING ROOMS: OSRAC saw the benefits of this trailhead amenity, however, the Committee thought a changing room would not be as important as the restroom shield or other proposed trailhead improvements.

- TRAILS: The Committee supported routing the start of the Haymaker trail from the new paved rec path. Social and duplicate trails should be closed and restored. Recreationists should be kept off the recently revegetated areas.
 - o This should be prioritized for completion in early spring.
 - o Signage and possibly a fence will also be a big component.
- The Mountain Rec ballot measure will be before voters this November. The results of this will help determine the timeline for permanent improvements in the area.
- Lieberman, Ernest, and Lucas have created a spring work-list plan for all Town-owned open space assets and will get started once the trails dry out and the wildlife closures are over.
- Lieberman will contact CPW to assess the potential need for any wildlife closure extensions this season.

10:10am (15 min) Open Space and Trails Master Plan discussion

- Lieberman will have the Open Space and Trails Master Plan RFP distributed to Committee members for review ahead of the April OSRAC meeting.
- OSRAC will discuss the RFP at the next meeting.
- Trail use data would be a very valuable addition to include in this planning process. Purchasing counting technology would not only be beneficial for the master plan, but it would also provide beneficial data for grants, be available for businesses, help budget for annual maintenance and infrastructure improvements, and identify change over time for trail use.
- TrafX provides a package that includes 3 trail counters, all needed hardware, and the data service for \$2,280.

Motion to support staff exploring the feasibility of purchasing trail counters by Seager second by Bailey. Motion passes unanimously.

9:25am (5 min) Future agenda items/ new business

1. Haymaker TH follow up.
2. Open Space and Trails master plan RFP review.

Motion to ADJOURN at 10:40am by Seager, second by Owens. Motion passes unanimously.