



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Approved October Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 5, 2021
9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway
Eagle, CO 81631**

*This agenda and the meetings can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.
*The public is invited to comment at the end of each agenda item**

MEETING ACCESS PUBLIC WIFI - TOEG – townofeagle2019

This was an in-person meeting, although participants could still log in via zoom. 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: 9:02 by Saeger

Absent: None.

9:05am APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Bailey requested a change to the minutes under the New Business section. The Hardscrabble Road seasonal closure is for wheeled vehicles, not mechanized use.

Motion to approve the September OSRAC meeting minutes by Kehoe second by Foulis, with the changes suggested by Bailey. Motion passes unanimously.

9:10am DISCUSSION

9:10am (30 min) Haymaker Winter Use

- Brian Wodrich, the District Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the Eagle area, provided information to the Committee regarding the potential impacts to wildlife from winter use of the Haymaker trail.
- Wodrich said according to the best available science, people can easily stress wintering wildlife while recreating or even just walking the dog in the outdoors. This stress can have negative consequences for birth and survival rates of ungulates.
 - However, Wodrich confirmed that a localized study to determine specific impacts from winter use on wildlife in the local area does not exist. A study of this magnitude would take 3-5 years and cost around \$500,000.
 - The Committee agreed that the cost should not be a prohibiting factor of pursuing such as study. However, it would take additional resources to secure that funding. And it would be worth considering if there are other equally effective alternatives.

- Members of the Committee thought it would be beneficial for the Council to host a panel of wildlife experts and community stakeholders to discuss winter recreation and wildlife in the Eagle area.
- Education efforts are a key component for winter recreation to coexist with wildlife in the Eagle area. VVMTA's Wildlife Trail Ambassadors program and CPW will be available this winter to educate users on how to recreate in the region while minimizing stress to wintering animals.
- The Committee intends to work with Town staff and community partners to provide educational opportunities for the public to learn about seasonal trail closures, why they are essential, and how to recreate responsibly during the winter in areas that are not subject to seasonal closures.

Motion to recommend to Town Council to host a panel of local wildlife experts and community stakeholders to present available science and data on seasonal wildlife closures in the Haymaker trail area by Saeger second by Foulis. Motion passes unanimously.

9:40am (20 min) Town of Eagle E-Bikes

- Moved to the November meeting.

10:00am (20 min) Open Space and Trails Master Plan First Open House

- Moved to the November meeting.

10:20am (5 min) Ongoing projects update (LOV Bridge and Haymaker) –

- Haymaker TH improvements have been completed.
- Staff is continuing to coordinate updates for the LOV Connection bridge.

10:25am (5 min) Future Agenda items/ New Business

- Foulis introduced a potential land acquisition project in the Eagle River Valley. The project is near the Town of Eagle. Foulis requested that the Committee consider recommending a letter of support for the project.

Motion to recommend that Council provide a letter of support for the proposed land acquisition project by Wescoatt second by Bailey. The motion had the support of four votes on the Committee. Foulis abstained, and the other Committee members had to leave before this presentation. Five votes are required for a quorum on the Committee.

Motion to ADJOURN at 11:05 by Saeger second by Foulis. Motion passes unanimously.