



Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631

This agenda, meetings, and information about the Committee can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.

OSRAC MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION

This will be an in-person meeting with access via Microsoft Teams. First-time users of Microsoft Teams will need to download the free app before joining the meeting.

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9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items; 3-Minute Limit Please)

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (30 min) Open Space Ranger Position Research Update

9:45 a.m. (20 min) Dog Park Planning Update

10:05 a.m. (15 min) Bike Park Update

10:20 a.m. (15 min) Haymaker Trail berms and High School Race Update

10:35 a.m. (10 min) New Business/ Future Agenda items

10:45 a.m. ADJOURN



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631**

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9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL

Call to Order at: 9:02

Roll Call:

Committee members present: Roger Mitchell, Chris Kehoe, Jess Foulis, Ernest Saeger, Erinn Hoban, and Phil Kirkman

Committee members absent: Lizzy Owens

Staff Present: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Town Council Present: Ellen Bodenheimer and Bryan Woods

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

MOTION to approve the April OSRAC meeting minutes by Foulis and second by Kirkman. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

OSRAC Committee Appointment Recommendation

- Staff informed the Committee that the Town received 10 applications for the vacancy on the Committee.
- Staff advertised the vacancy on March 8, 2024. Information about the vacancy was posted on the Town's website, Eagle Today newsletter, Town social media, and posted in the Vail Daily.
- Applications were accepted through Friday, April 5, 2024.
- Staff and the Committee developed a rubric that has been used to evaluate applications. This rubric was distributed to Committee members and included in the packet.
- The Committee provided the opportunity for public comment- no comments received.

MOTION to recommend that the Town Council of the Town of Eagle, Colorado, appoint the candidate with the most votes [Chris Cohen] as the alternate Committee member for the Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee to fulfill an existing term through December 2024 by Saeger and second by Foulis. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

- Vote Results:
 - o Chris Cohen received the most votes with 2 votes.
 - o Dan Lambert received 1 vote.
 - o Jason Holt received 1 vote.
 - o Jonathan Christensen received 1 vote.
 - o Kate Sheldon received 1 vote.
- Staff will present the vote results and motion to the Town Council. The goal is to have the appointment on the May 14 Council agenda, and then have the new Committee member start during the June OSRAC meeting.

Respect the Wild 2023/24 Winter Recap Presentation

- Nicky Asselin, the Development & Engagement Manager for the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA), presented a recap of the Respect the Wild program from the winter and upcoming goals.
- Staff requested that VVMTA provide an update on the following:
 - o *Total number of users on Haymaker and other open trails in Town where data collection occurred.*

Usage Summary - Total Users from December 1 - April 15

Haymaker Loop 1	2021	2022	2023 (partial)
Total Human Users	908	863	1066
Total K9 Users	459	493	335
% Of K9 Users Off-Leash	82%	74%	64%
% Responsible Users - No dog or on-leash	60%	57%	78%

Haymaker Loop 2	2021	2022	2023 (partial)
Total Human Users	N/A	N/A	1605
Total K9 Users	N/A	N/A	398
%K9 Users Off-Leash	N/A	N/A	68%
% Responsible Users - No Dog or On-Leash	N/A	N/A	83%

- o Report on any closure violations observed on any of the cameras on closed trails in the Eagle area.

Eagle Area Seasonal Closure Violations*

Trail Name	2021	2022	2023
Haymaker 3rd Loop	2	1	9**
2nd Gulch/Arroyo	0	0	0
Turniphead	1	0	0

*This is observational data gathered from cameras that are located in the same place year over year with the addition of a second camera on the Haymaker Loop. This is not designed or intended to be statistically significant. This data indicates year over year trends and is limited to the areas we monitored.

**4 violations were between 12/1 and 12/17 indicating that education around the date change from 12/15 to 12/1 would be beneficial.

- Data presented here was collected from trail cameras managed by VVMTA. It does not include data from the Town of Eagle Open Space department.
- Data collection is standardized to only include information captured with the trail cameras.
- Data collected on trail and open space use will never be 100% accurate. The data is collected to provide an overall trend and pulse on use. The data is a huge step forward from a few years ago when there was no hard data at all.
- o What happens to the program over the summer?
 - Two paid ambassadors will be working at trailheads this summer for education on responsible recreation education and Leave No Trace.
- o What is the planned future of the program for next winter?

- Continue with education and signage for 2024/2025 encouraging responsible recreation.
- *Debrief on the effectiveness of the paid trail ambassador.*
 - This was a difficult experiment. There are positive impacts to the last few people who haven't been educated. Although there was significant pushback and frustration from some of the trail users. A paid trail ambassador position in the winter will not be pursued in the future.
- *Any other takeaways from the winter?*
 - There were as many people taking the pledge this year as in the first year.
- The Committee accepted public comment.
- The Committee brought up related topics that it would like to discuss at future meetings (moved to future agenda items):
 - Should the messaging be no off-leash dog use in the winter at all to protect wildlife, or should the messaging steer people to where off-leash dog use is permitted?
 - Can CPW weigh in to help guide this conversation?
 - Staff to provide an update on the process of research and proposing an Open Space Enforcement Position.

Eagle Bureau of Land Management Environmental Assessment Projects Implementation Update

- Staff updated the Committee on the Environmental Assessment (EA) that the Bureau of Land Management has been reviewing for the past 1.5 years. The proposal, submitted by the VVMTA, largely included projects identified as high priorities in the Town's 2022 Open Space and Trails Plan (OST Plan).
- Staff told the Committee the EA is now complete. The Town budgeted \$100,000 to support projects from the OST Plan. VVMTA will be responsible for project implementation and project management.
- Ernest with VVMTA provided some additional updates about project timing. VVMTA aims to complete projects this summer, but some work may be required in 2025.
- Approved projects include decommissioning trails, creating new trails, additional signage and wayfinding projects, revegetation, and rehabilitation.

New Business

- Council members have been approached by the Wildridge Trail Coalition to assist with brainstorming methods to improve access for OHV use to public lands from Eagle. This is with the Forest Service and will not include Second Gulch.
- River Park users have developed a 501 (3) "Friends of the River" user group. Their goal is to provide assistance and advocate for river improvements.
- A Community Survey is available through the Town of Eagle on quality-of-life considerations and there are questions that concern Open Space.
- Eagle County Open Space also has a survey live related to their new Open Space Plan.

Future Agenda Items

- Off-leash dog use messaging, ideally involving CPW
- Update on the process of research and proposing an Open Space Enforcement Position
- Review/ discussion of potential Dog Park updates
- Possible presentation on the Quality-of-Life tax
- Possible presentation on Eagle County Open Space Master Plan update

10:30 a.m. ADJOURN

MOTION to ADJOURN at 10:47 by Ernest Saeger and second by Chris Kehoe. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Mitchell, Foulis, Saeger, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: June 4, 2024

Agenda Item: Open Space Ranger Position Research Update

REQUEST: None- update.

BACKGROUND: Last year, the Town Council expressed interest in researching the costs, training, partnerships, job descriptions, and legal requirements involved in hiring a full-time Open Space Enforcement Ranger in Eagle. Town staff have been researching these topics and will evaluate them during the 2025 budget preparation that generally begins in June.

The position's goals would be to take over all maintenance responsibilities of the existing seasonal Open Space and Trails Technician, add additional maintenance duties throughout the year, assist with program planning and administrative support, and focus on education and enforcement of open space rules and regulations.

Staff are currently researching job requirements and preparing a budget for consideration by Town administration and Council this summer.

ANALYSIS: Open Space staff are preparing a new personnel request for an "Open Space Ranger and Maintenance Specialist" position for 2025. The budget and position requirements will be evaluated by the Town Administration and Council this summer. At that point, the Town will determine if the proposed position is feasible with the projected revenues from the Open Space Fund and with consideration of any other potential constraints.

Town staff have been engaging with the Eagle Ranch HOA, Metro District, and Wildlife Committee to determine the potential for partnerships to help fund and support the position.

COMMUNITY INPUT: Community members have expressed support for this position to increase the education, enforcement, and maintenance capacity of the open space program. Other community members have emphasized the need for the position to focus on education first rather than enforcement.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: Staff are currently preparing a budget for the position. In addition to the salary/benefits cost, there would be a number of upfront costs associated with establishing an open

space enforcement position. Some of these include PPE, dispatch licenses, body cams, and other associated gear.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: The Town's 2022 Open Space and Trails Plan includes the following goals:

- OS1 (high priority) – Enforcement Officer/Ranger: Explore the inclusion of wildlife closure enforcement in Town Code Enforcement officer duties or a dedicated open space ranger.
- OS4 – Dog/Wildlife Conflict: Work with CPW and public land managers to address dog/wildlife conflict issues and consider enforcement on open space as necessary.
- The Plan also includes several objectives geared towards improving education about wildlife, natural resources, and recreation. This position could assist with those goals.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: The Town's Open Space and Trails Plan can be viewed on its website at <https://www.townofeagle.org/402/2022-Open-Space-and-Trails-Plan>.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: June 4, 2024

Agenda Item: Dog Park Planning Update

REQUEST: Staff are providing an update to the Committee on planning for improvements at the Dog Park and are requesting feedback on approaches and types of amenities desired.

BACKGROUND: The Town of Eagle Dog “Park” was initially developed as an “open area where dogs were permitted off-leash.” It was a partnership project, and the number of amenities were purposely limited because of budget and concerns about ongoing maintenance. The Town has continued to manage the area with that goal in mind.

Over the past couple of years, there has been growing feedback from the community and stakeholders about the dog park. With increased leash law enforcement and concern about off-leash dog impacts on wildlife in the winter, some community members have been pushing for better amenities at the dog park.

The Eagle Ranch HOA has received considerable community concern about the dog park and has suggested that the Town consider improvements. The HOA has expressed its willingness to collaborate on this project to provide assistance. However, the specific details of a potential partnership are currently unclear.

Late last year, the Town Council allocated \$45,000 from the Capital Improvements Sales Tax Fund for improvements at the Dog Park. There seems to be some consensus that improvements may be needed. However, the extent of the improvements desired still needs to be refined.

ANALYSIS: Staff are in the early stages of determining the best method to approach improvements at the dog park. There are a wide range of options to consider for the project. Of course, budgetary confinements will likely help shape the options.

Staff are providing an update to the Committee on the project and requesting some feedback on approaches and amenities at the dog park.

Although the Dog Park is within an open space property, improvements would likely be the responsibility of the engineering department.

COMMUNITY INPUT: Staff believes that additional community input should be collected for this project.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: In 2024, the Town Council allocated \$45,000 from the Capital Improvements Sales Tax Fund for improvements at the Dog Park. No other funding has been committed, and most improvements at the park would likely require additional funding. Should the project require additional funding, it is unlikely to come from the Open Space Fund.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: Goal #3.12 from the 2021 Elevate Eagle Comprehensive Plan: “Pursue funding for park maintenance and enhancement and for the construction of new parks, including dog parks.”

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: None.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: June 4, 2024

Agenda Item: Bike Park Update

REQUEST: None.

BACKGROUND: Ernest Saeger, Executive Director for the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA), will provide an update on the Bike Park.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: None.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: June 4, 2024

Agenda Item: Haymaker Trail berms and High School Race Update

REQUEST: Consider if small reroutes on the Haymaker Trail berm descent should be pursued to enable the Colorado High School League race to use that section of Haymaker during its annual races.

BACKGROUND: In 2022, the Town of Eagle adopted its first-ever Open Space and Trails Plan (“OST Plan”). Among other things, the plan evaluated trail conditions and provided recommendations to improve sections of trail that were unsustainable or in poor condition.

The OST Plan, developed with the active participation of our community, identified the berm descent on the Haymaker Trail as an area that could benefit from trail work to reduce steep and straight-away sections. The old berms also required a significant amount of annual maintenance.

In 2023, the Town took a significant step towards improving the trail's sustainability by hiring a professional trail builder to reroute sections of the Haymaker berm descent. This work was highly successful, improving sustainability and reducing maintenance needs. The improved trail sections now feature the following:

- More sustainable berms – the new larger berms were built to slow erosion over time. The larger berms also have a wider riding surface to spread wear and tear throughout the trail.
- More turns and grade reversals- decreasing straight-aways in the trail ensures water does not run down the trail surface, and the features slow the speeds down on the trail and reduce brake bumps.

Although the trail maintenance and minor reroutes have been beneficial for trail sustainability, some of the new trail features and grade reversals have prevented the high school league from using the berm section of the trail during their annual races.

Some of the large grade reversals minimize sightlines to help slow speeds down. The High School Mountain Bike League (“League”) feels these present a potential hazard for races.

The Haymaker Trail was designed to meet certain specs to accommodate the League races and the races have occurred annually on the trail for over ten years.

ANALYSIS: Last year, the league decided against using the berm section of the Haymaker descent owing to concerns about sightlines in the event of a crash. Instead, the League routed racers onto the lower section of the Pool and Ice Trail.

This option still exists this year, but the Town has heard from parents, racers, and community members that they would like the race to be moved back to the Haymaker berms.

Town staff walked the trail alignment with a professional trail builder and the League staff to identify the areas of concern and discuss potential solutions. There are two areas where additional berm turns could be created to reduce the size of the large grade reversals and still satisfy the goal of keeping the trail sustainable.

Town staff have some concerns about doing more reroutes on the trail, as this would be the second set of reroutes in two years. After the first reroutes were completed last year, the Town fielded community concerns about changing the existing trail. While these two proposed reroutes would be much smaller than the previous year, there is still some concern about new changes to the trail.

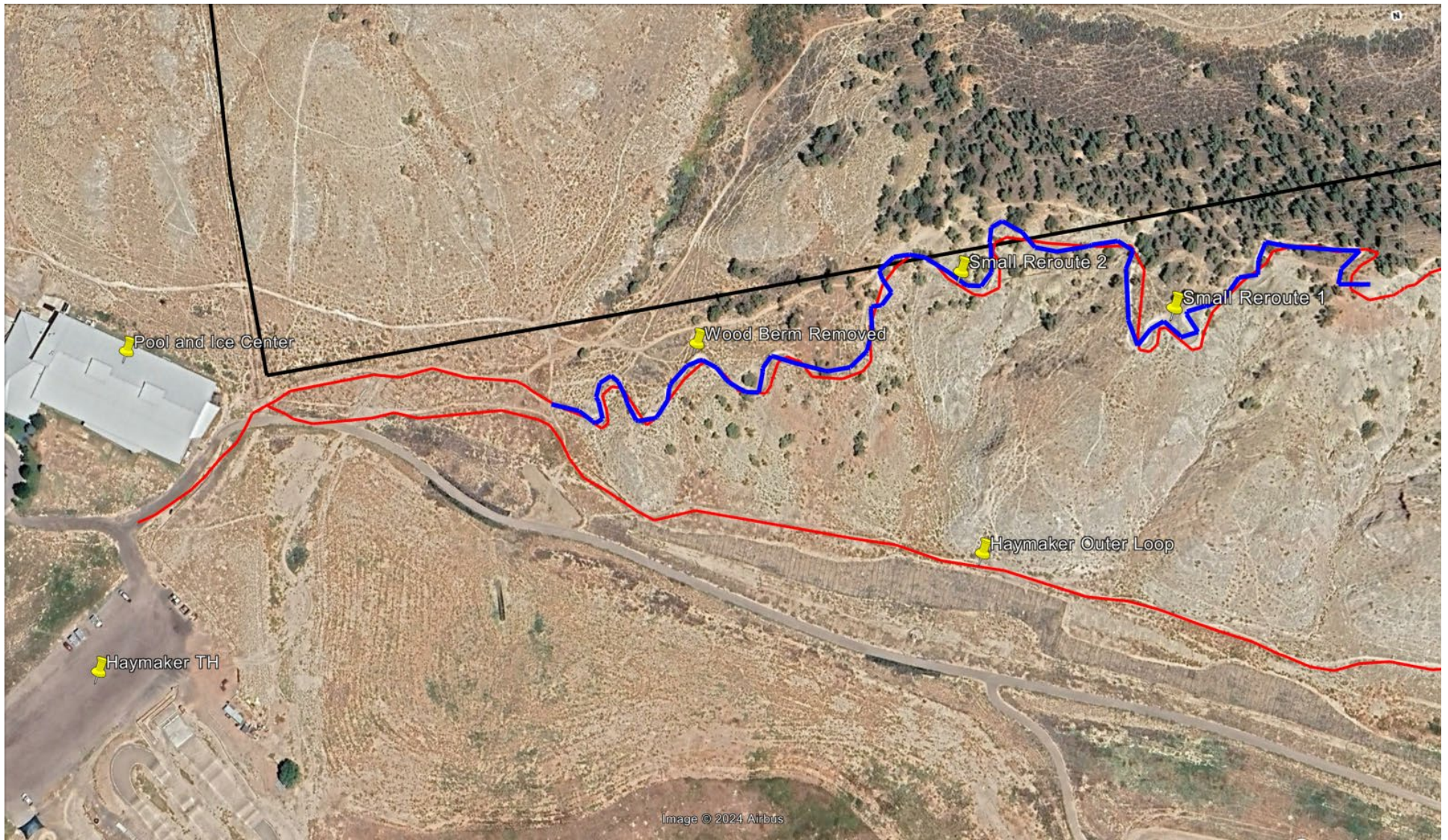
COMMUNITY INPUT: Staff believes that additional community input should be collected for this project.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: Depending on the final design, the proposed reroutes would cost between \$7,500 and \$10,000. This cost also includes funds to replace the wood berm with a dirt berm. Staff time would be significant for the next couple of weeks to conduct additional community engagement and to provide water for the reroutes.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: Staff believes that the goals of improving sustainability on the Haymaker Trail identified in the 2022 Open Space and Trails Plan have been achieved.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: Consider if small reroutes on the Haymaker Trail berm descent should be pursued to enable the Colorado High School League race to use that section of Haymaker during its annual races. No motion requested.

ATTACHMENTS: Map 1 (page below) shows the Haymaker Berm descent and the locations of the proposed trail work.



Map 1: The Haymaker Berm descent section is shown in blue. The rest of the Haymaker Trail is in red. The location of the proposed trail work and landmarks are designated by the yellow markers.