



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 7, 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 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%

- *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.
- *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.
- *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.