



Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, July 9, 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 JUNE MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (15 min) Eagle Trail Projects Update

9:30 a.m. (15 min) Soil and Plant Analysis Project Update

9:45 a.m. (30 min) Eagle Municipal Code Title 6 Review Update

10:15 a.m. (15 min) New Business/ Future Agenda items

10:30 a.m. ADJOURN



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 4, 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: 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call:

Committee members present: Chris Kehoe, Ernest Seager, Roger Mitchell, Phil Kirkman, Dan Lambert, and Jessica Foulis

Committee members absent: Lizzy Owens and Erinn Hoban

Staff Present: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Town Council Present: Ellen Bodenheimer and Scott Turnipseed

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented by Seager and seconded by Foulis. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Seager, Mitchell, Kirkman, Lambert, and Foulis) and 0 opposed.

9:05 a.m. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Tom Olden said he is concerned about stakeholders being on the Committee that the Town partners with to accomplish projects. He recommended that all work for the Town should be procured through a bidding process. He was also concerned about the conditions of the trails and said more maintenance is needed.
- Kate Sheldon asked if the Town ever delays the opening of trails for elk calving. She also voiced her support for hiring an Open Space Ranger and said it was a top priority in the 2022 Open Space and Trails Plan.
- John Ives asked if there are plans in place to postpone races if it rains and there is a potential for natural resource damage. He also asked about fire mitigation projects.

9:10 a.m. APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

MOTION to approve the MAY OSRAC meeting minutes by Kirkman and seconded by Kehoe. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Seager, Mitchell, Kirkman, Lambert, and Foulis) and 0 opposed.

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

Open Space Ranger Position Research Update

- Town staff provided an update to the Committee on the process of proposing a new Open Space Ranger and Maintenance Specialists position for the Department.
 - o The new position will be proposed by Open Space staff during the 2025 budget process.
 - o The proposed position will be reviewed by the Town administration and Town Council during the budget process, which generally starts in July and ends in November.
 - o During this process, the Town will evaluate the budget implications and other considerations. The position could be approved, altered, or denied.
- Staff will keep the Committee updated on the progress of this position.
- The Committee discussed the position. There seemed to be general support for the ranger position.
- The Committee accepted public comment.

Dog Park Planning Update

- Town staff updated the Committee on the planning and research that has been completed regarding potential updates to the Town's Dog Park.
- At this stage, staff are trying to understand and refine the desired improvements by stakeholders and the community for the Dog Park.
- There is \$45,000 allocated from the Capital Projects Improvements Fund for the Dog Park in 2024.
- Staff are proposing to use this funding to gather public comments, determine the desired scope of the project, find partnerships and grants, and ultimately develop a design for the park.
 - o Staff needs to check in with Council on this approach.
- Although the park is located in an open space, park improvements will likely be handled by the engineering department, and it is unlikely the open space fund will be used to pay for improvements.
- The Committee discussed the topic. In general, there seemed to be support for the approach laid out by staff.
- The Committee accepted public comment.

Bike Park Update

- Ernest Saeger, Executive Director for the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance, provided an update on the construction of the Bike Park.
- The Bike Park was open to the public on June 1. VVMTA will be responsible for ongoing maintenance.
- Most of the main construction projects have been completed.
- The Committee accepted public comment- no comments from the public.

Haymaker Trail berms and High School Race Update

- Staff told the Committee that in 2022/23, the berm decent section of the Haymaker Trail was rerouted to be more suitable, decrease annual maintenance responsibilities, and improve the user experience.
 - o Some of the reroutes include using large grade reversals to assist with drainage and to slow speeds down on the trail (ultimately contributing to less wear and tear and maintenance responsibilities).
- The large grade reversals caused concern for the High School league, which uses the trail for its annual race.
 - o The league did not use the berm section last year because of the new reroutes.
- The league and other community members have requested that the town remove or alter the grade reversals to get the high school race back on the trail.
- Staff told the Committee that the Town plans to collect additional public and stakeholder comments on this proposed project to identify any serious concerns.
- A fix to the issue that the league supports and would also maintain the sustainability of the trail would cost around \$7,500 in labor and \$500-\$4,000 in machine costs (depending on partnerships).
- The Town would work with partners to help fund the project.
- The Committee discussed the topic. In general, the Committee seemed supportive of pursuing the project after collecting additional community feedback.
- The Committee accepted public comment.

New Business

- Staff had a conversation with Brian Wodrich (Eagle area District Wildlife Manager for Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)) about messaging for off-leash dog use during the winter for the Respect the Wild Campaign. Brian informed staff that his preference is to continue with the existing approach of focusing our messaging on leash use for all dogs in the Eagle area during the winter. Although adjacent lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management do not have the same leash law as the Town of Eagle Open Space and Trails, the area is still within winter range. CPW's recommendation is to keep with the existing approach. No comments from the Committee.
- Staff informed the Committee that there is no request for evaluation or review of winter management on the Haymaker Trail from staff or the Council at this point. Staff could add this as an agenda item at the request of a Committee member, and staff wanted to check in with the Committee and share this before adding it to an agenda. No comments from the Committee.

Future Agenda Items

- Chris Kehoe suggested that a meeting/ information session should be prioritized outside on site of an open space or trail project.

- Ernest suggested that staff plan an OSRAC and Town Council joint work session. Some topics for the work session that were suggested include:
 - o Collaborative goals and communication
 - o The Open Space Ranger Position
 - o Open Space budgeting
 - o The OSRAC appointment process
- Phil Kirman suggested that staff and the Committee continue to consider a Code revision for Title 6 of the Eagle Municipal Code.

10:30 a.m. ADJOURN

MOTION to ADJOURN at 11:01 a.m. by Seager and seconded by Kehoe. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Seager, Mitchell, Kirkman, Lambert, and Foulis) and 0 opposed.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: July 9, 2024

Agenda Item: Eagle Trail Projects Update

REQUEST: None. Staff with the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA) will provide an update on the implementation of trail projects on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

BACKGROUND: In early 2023, the Hardscrabble Trails Coalition (HTC) and the Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance (VVMTA) submitted a proposal for trail decommissioning, reroutes, and some new trail miles on BLM lands adjacent to the Town of Eagle. The proposed projects are largely derived from high-priority items identified in the Town's 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan (OST Plan). The Town's OST Plan can be viewed on the Town's website: <https://www.townofeagle.org/402/2022-Open-Space-and-Trails-Plan>.

The BLM evaluated the proposed projects through an Environmental Assessment (EA) as part of the requirements identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and made a final decision on permitted projects, which can be viewed here:

https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2024351/200555545/20107999/251007999/DOI-BLM-CO-G020-2023-0037-EA_ac.pdf.

Approved projects include building 5.46 miles of new trail, decommissioning 15.63 miles of trail, and rehabilitating 3.85 miles of social trail. Most of the new trail mileage consists of reroutes.

VVMTA, HTC, and local volunteers have been implementing the approved projects. VVMTA staff will provide an update on what has been completed and the anticipated schedule for finishing the remaining work.

COMMUNITY INPUT: Significant public input was collected to develop the Town's 2022 OST plan. The EA NEPA analysis had an opportunity to provide public and stakeholder comments.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: VVMTA will implement the projects approved in the EA. The total cost for labor and materials is about \$95,000. The Town budgeted \$100,000 to contribute to the implementation of high-priority recreation and trail items identified in the 2022 OST plan for FY 2024. Staff time includes project coordination responsibilities with VVMTA and the BLM.

Implementation of these projects started in May 2024.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: The 2021 Elevate Eagle Comprehensive Plan includes the following goals:

- Goal 3.10- Continue coordination with the BLM on trail network expansion.
- Goal 3-3. - Continue to maintain the incredible trail and park system and find new opportunities for expansion and connections to keep up with the adventurous residents' lifestyle.
 - o Support efforts to enhance and expand parks, trails (hiking, biking, motorized), and recreation amenities.

The proposed projects are largely derived from high-priority items identified in the Town's 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan (OST Plan).

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. The Town's OST Plan can be viewed on the Town's website:
<https://www.townofeagle.org/402/2022-Open-Space-and-Trails-Plan>.
2. The Final EA, which details the approved projects on BLM lands, can be viewed here:
https://eplanning.blm.gov/public_projects/2024351/200555545/20107999/251007999/DOI-BLM-CO-G020-2023-0037-EA_ac.pdf
3. The Elevate Eagle Comprehensive Plan can be viewed here: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.townofeagle.org/DocumentCenter/View/17074/2021-Amended-Elevate-Eagle-Comprehensive-Plan.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: July 9, 2024

Agenda Item: Soil and Plant Analysis Project Update

REQUEST: None. Staff will provide an update on an open space project with the Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee.

BACKGROUND: The Town's 2023 Open Space Management Plans (Management Plans) include recommendations and strategies for revegetation and improvements of vegetation cover and soil health. Most of these proposed recommendations and projects would benefit wildlife by encouraging better vegetation growth in an important winter range.

Although the Management Plans included a robust natural resource inventory, they indicated that implementing some recommendations would require additional analysis to evaluate site-specific conditions. Some projects that would require additional analysis include many of the recommended vegetation restoration projects. The plans recommended more in-depth analysis to determine soil nutrient loads and existing vegetation composition.

The Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee (ERWC) has expressed interest in funding further analysis recommended by the Management Plans, with the objective of funding revegetation and/or restoration projects based on the analysis's results.

Staff approved the Committee's hiring of a contractor to collect additional natural resource data in open space properties. The Committee would need to request approval from the Town for any future phases of work focused on actual restoration implementation.

The ERWC was established through the Eagle Ranch HOA to steward a fund for the purpose of protecting and managing wildlife within, affecting, or affected by Eagle Ranch. Through a real estate transfer tax on properties within the HOA, the ERWC has funding to use for projects that benefit wildlife within five miles of Eagle Ranch.

The Committee's specific interest is funding revegetation projects in open space that would improve forage for wintering big game.

COMMUNITY INPUT: The development of the 2023 Open Space Management Plans included significant opportunities for public input.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: The Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee will fund this project. The budget is still being finalized, but the work will likely cost around \$30,000.

Staff time will include coordinating with the Committee and its selected contractor to complete the analysis projects.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: The 2023 Open Space Management Plans include several recommendations for projects and additional analysis to improve natural resources in open space properties. Soil and vegetation analysis are recommended by the plan.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: The Town's Open Space Management Plans can be viewed on the Town's website at this link: <https://www.townofeagle.org/1014/Open-Space-Management-Plans>.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: July 9, 2024

Agenda Item: Eagle Municipal Code Title 6 Review Update

REQUEST: None. Staff will provide an update on the priority level and requirements for completing an update of Title 6 of the Eagle Municipal Code (Public Parks, Recreation Areas, and Open Space Areas).

BACKGROUND: Title 6 of the Eagle Municipal Code defines the rules, regulations, and provisions that specifically apply to users of open space properties owned by the Town. Other sections of the Town code, specifically Title 9 (Public Peace, Safety, and Morals), also apply to Open Space properties. However, Title 6 is the primary source for rules governing open space.

Title 6 is predominantly derived from the Town's former travel management plan developed in the 2000s. It was integrated into the Code as the most effective approach to making the plan's provisions enforceable. As most of Title 6's contents are 10-20+ years old, staff have identified sections that need updates and criteria that are missing to effectively steward and maintain open space properties.

Most of the issues that have arisen so far are from instances when staff have attempted to use the code to achieve a desired outcome, but it has fallen short owing to missing or vaguely worded statutes. Even if an issue has not yet arisen, there are likely other areas of the code that need to be updated.

Staff intends to start the review this fall and complete some updates within the year. However, some issues may require extensive research, community input, and legal work to implement, so completion could take some time.

Some known issues will be initially targeted for updates while the staff continues to evaluate the entire section pertaining to open space. Lower-priority reviews and updates may be pushed out.

During the Code update, staff will review the fines and fees associated with provisions in the Code to ensure they seem relevant to the issue, as well as the direction from the Town Council and similar fees in comparable communities. If appropriate, staff may recommend changes to fines or fees.

Should any fines need to be adjusted, staff will utilize the existing fine structure identified in Section 1.12.010 of the Eagle Municipal Code (General penalties designated) to guide any recommendations for fine changes. Fines may also be subject to the Colorado State statute.

Fees will also be evaluated based on similar communities, the needs of the program and our community, direction from the Town Council, and the staff time required to administer or collect fees.

ANALYSIS: Staff will update the Committee and the Council during the review process. Most proposed updates will be included as an agenda item during an OSRAC meeting for review and public comment collection.

All Code changes require passing an Ordinance to enact them. Therefore, all proposed changes must be properly noticed and subject to a public hearing before the Town Council. The Council is responsible for passing any and all Code changes.

COMMUNITY INPUT: Staff intends to use the Town's strategic and long-term planning documents and examples from comparable communities to guide the review of Title 6. Proposed changes will be subject to public comment during an OSARC meeting and a public hearing during a regularly scheduled Town Council meeting.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: Significant staff time would be needed to review and draft the new Code language to propose to the Town Council. The Town's legal counsel will also need to review all proposed changes.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: None.

ATTACHMENTS: The Town of Eagle Municipal Code can be viewed on the Town's website at this link: https://library.municode.com/co/eagle/codes/code_of_ordinances.