



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Approved Meeting Minutes
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

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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.