



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, November 5, 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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Passcode: E6WQzL

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

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

9:10 a.m. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9:13 a.m. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

9:15 a.m. (70 min) Hockett Gulch Parcel OS-1 Winter Closure Recommendation

10:25 a.m. (25 min) OSRAC Committee New Member Evaluation Recommendation

10:50 a.m. (10 min) New Business/ Future Agenda items

11:00 a.m. ADJOURN



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
Unapproved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 9:00 AM
Council Chambers - Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway Eagle, CO 81631**

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Phone Conference ID: 870 694 782#

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

Call to Order at: 9:02 a.m.

Roll Call:

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

Committee members absent: Roger Mitchell

Staff Present: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Town Council Present: Ellen Bodenheimer

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

- A member of the public told the Committee that there was no “historic” or “traditional” access for motorized users on the Second Gulch trail. They said the ability for motorized access on the Second Gulch Trail below 50 inches in width was for game retrieval only.

- A member of the public expressed concern about erosion on trails, mainly on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management adjacent to Eagle. They suggested that more attention is needed from agencies and volunteers to address the issue.

9:10 a.m. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

9:13 a.m. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER MINUTES

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

9:15 a.m. DISCUSSION/ BUSINESS ITEMS

Open Space Fund Budget preparation and prioritization

- Staff presented changes to the Open Space Fund budget since the last presentation in August.
- Mainly, staff was requested to reduce funding from the general fund transfer by 5%. Staff made adjustments in operating expenditures by 5%.
- Staff informed the Committee that the Open Space Ranger position continues to be a high priority for the Town Council.
- Staff said that revenues will need to be increased or expenditures decreased to support the position from the Open Space Fund. Therefore, staff requested that the Committee assist in identifying capital project priorities and if anything could be reduced or pushed back.
- In general, the Committee supported the ranger position and capital projects. They suggested pursuing grants and partnerships to complete all projects.
- The Committee accepted public comment.

Committee bylaws update

- At the September 24, 2024, Town Council meeting, the Council passed a resolution permitting them to adjust OSRAC terms to achieve staggered appointments.
- Staff will need to prepare a separate resolution proposing the adjustment of actual terms during a future Council meeting. The Council will make final term adjustments at its decision.
- The original four members would expire in 2024 while the three newest members will be expiring in 2026.
- OSRAC members seemed to be supportive of the above approach to achieve staggered terms.
- The Committee accepted public comment.

Joint work session prep

- Staff asked the Committee to consider if there are any additional topics to discuss at the upcoming joint OSRAC/Council meeting.
- The Committee seemed to be in favor of discussing the items listed on the agenda for the meeting and summarizing the Open Space Fund Budget preparation and prioritization discussion.
- The Committee accepted public comment.

New Business/ Future Agenda items

- Interpretive signs were installed along Brush Creek last month.
- Staff would like to reschedule a site visit or meeting to discuss proposed fuel mitigation projects in open space.

10:00 a.m. ADJOURN

MOTION to ADJOURN at 10:23 by Foulis second by Lambert. Motion passed with a vote of 6 in favor (Kehoe, Foulis, Saeger, Lambert, Kirkman, and Hoban) and 0 opposed.

10:10 a.m. OSRAC SITE VISIT TO BRUSH CREEK OPEN SPACE

- ***Canceled- postponed to another date.***



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: November 5, 2024

Agenda Item: Hockett Gulch Open Space Winter Closure Recommendation

REQUEST: Staff requests that the Committee consider the winter management of the Town's new Hockett Gulch Open Space parcel and determine whether a seasonal closure or other management changes should be recommended to the Town Council.

BACKGROUND: Through the Reserve at Hockett Gulch development, the Town acquired 3.5 acres of open space (OS-1) on the southeastern side of the development (see Map 2). The Reserve at Hockett Gulch development now hosts the Pike Apartments.

Phase 1a of the development is mostly complete. There will be additional phases called Phase 1b and Phase 2. All open space dedications occurred during phase 1a.

The open space parcel has an approximately ¼ mile trail that connects to other sidewalks and a perimeter trail around the Pike Apartments (see Map 3). Otherwise, the open space parcel has pretty steep slopes, sage, pinion, juniper, and some grasses. Most of the property faces north.

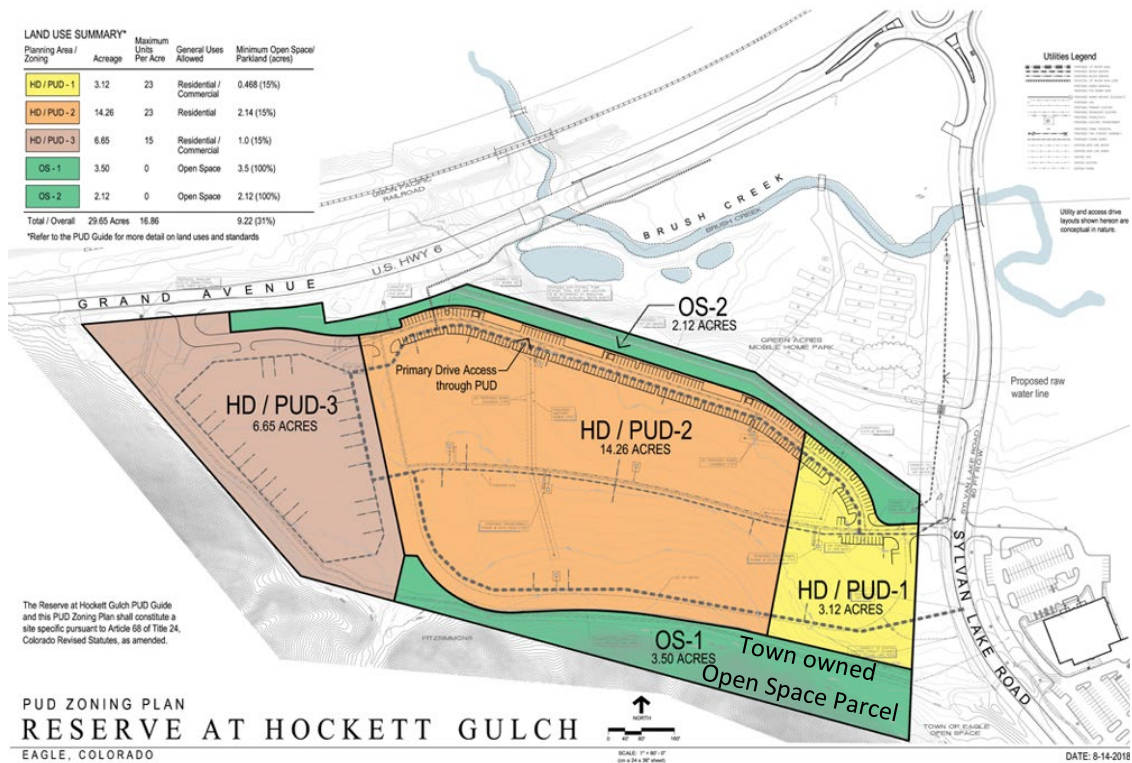
The development has an additional open space parcel (OS-2), which the developer/HOA will retain ownership of. There is no direct access from OS-1 or OS-2 to Bureau of Land Management property.



Photos 1 and 2: Hockett Gulch OS-1. The 10-foot gravel path traverses the property with sage, grass, and junipers.



Map 1: Overview map of the Reserve at Hockett Gulch Planned Unit Development (PUD). The PUD is in Purple.



Map 2: Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning Plan for the Reserve at Hockett Gulch Development. The Town was deeded parcel OS-1 as public open space, and the developer/HOA retained ownership of OS-2.

According to the Planned Unit Development (PUD), the use of the OS-1 is restricted to the trail for non-motorized users. Dirt bike use may be permitted if a connection to public lands from the adjacent property is established.

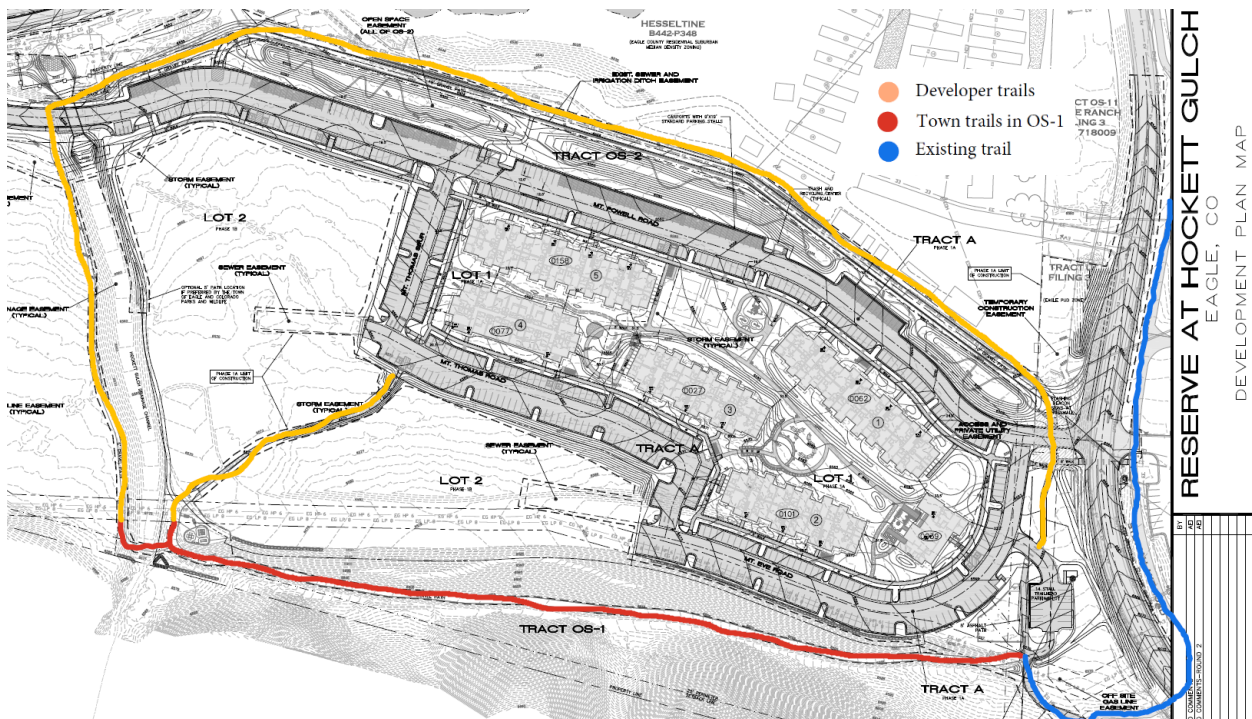
The Town will be responsible for open space maintenance, such as noxious weed control.

Through the development process, the open space parcel and trail are not subject to any seasonal use restrictions. As there are no requirements for seasonal use restrictions from the development process, establishing use restrictions requires the Town Council to pass legislation enacting the change.

Per the Town of Eagle Code, establishing seasonal use restrictions requires the Council to pass a resolution.

Trails

The development includes different types of trails to meet several recreation objectives. First, there is a 10-foot gravel path that traverses the southern end of the development, located mainly within the Town owned OS-1 parcel. At least two 5-foot gravel paths will connect the western end of the 10-foot path with other areas of the development. The north side of the development, in OS-2, will also have a 10-foot gravel path. Most of these trails make up a perimeter loop around the development. There will also be paths and sidewalks within the development.



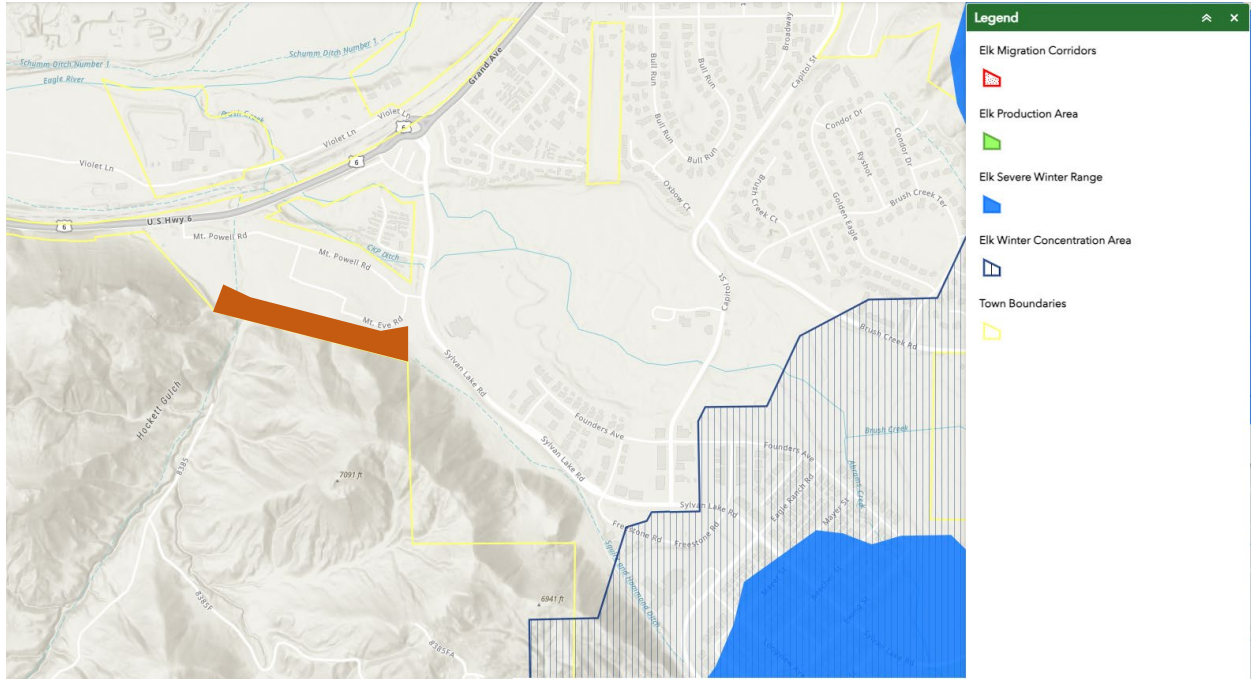
Map 3: Location of trails and proposed trails within the Hockett Gulch PUD. The red trail is a 10-foot gravel path within the OS-1 parcel owned and managed by the Town. The yellow trails connect to other areas in the development and form the north perimeter trail. The yellow trails are (will be) owned and managed by the developer/HOA. The blue trails are existing paved paths in the Town's network.

Phase 1b and Phase 2 (Lot 2) of the development are still active land use files with the Town. Some trails and their locations are subject to change in those phases.

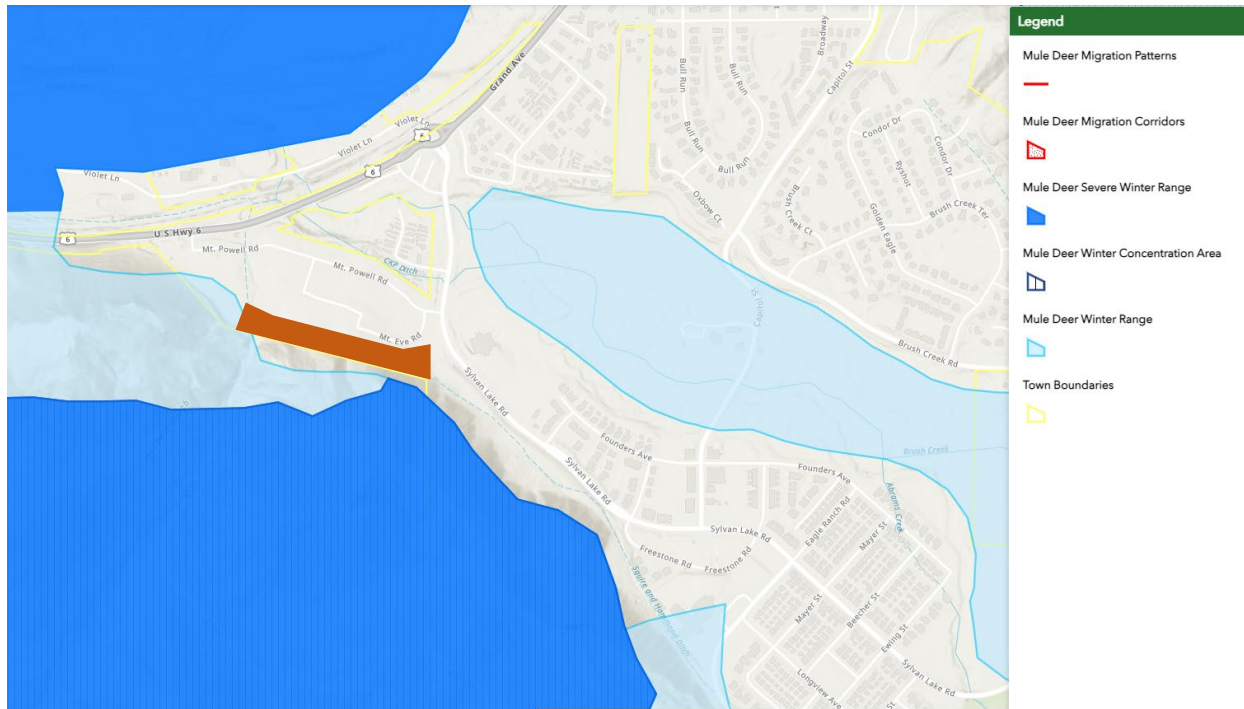
ANALYSIS: [The 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan](#) includes the following language regarding seasonal closures:

P2 – Seasonal Wildlife Closures: With seasonal wildlife closures, work to balance consistency, changing habitat needs of wildlife, and winter recreation opportunities. All recreational opportunities in mapped wintering range and/or other environmentally vulnerable areas will be considered for seasonal wildlife closures. Dates will be determined in partnership with CPW, BLM, and any other applicable land managers.

Below are the mapped winter ranges and areas for elk and mule deer near the Hockett Gulch PUD.



Map 4: Mapped winter range and areas for elk. The dark orange polygon illustrates the approximate OS-1 parcel boundary.



Map 4: Mapped winter range and areas for mule deer. The dark orange polygon illustrates the approximate OS-1 parcel boundary.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) emphasizes that wildlife range polygons are not definitive, and ranges may extend into surrounding areas beyond the polygons.

The OS-1 Hockett Gulch parcel is located in or near the mapped winter range for mule deer. Although the property is not identified as a mapped winter range for elk, elk have been seen using it in past winters. The development will likely alter how elk and deer use and migrate through this area.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) recommends that this property be subject to the Town’s seasonal closure period of December 1 – April 15 annually. CPW says this parcel will help provide an important buffer between the development and adjacent property subject to existing seasonal use restrictions for winter range protections and undeveloped private property. It will also be a good educational opportunity for new residents to learn about and understand the importance of seasonal protection of winter range and responsible recreation. Last, CPW believes that the closure of this property will provide consistency with other closures of open space in the Eagle area.

Some considerations against enacting a seasonal closure include that it is a very small property located directly adjacent to high-density development. Enforcement and managing this closure could be challenging for the gains of a small closure area.

COMMUNITY/ STAKEHOLDER INPUT: Input from the community has not yet been collected, and this meeting will be the first opportunity to collect input.

Staff reached out to the Pike Apartments staff to alert them and the residents that the OSRAC will be discussing this issue.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife recommends that this property be subject to a seasonal closure.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: Enacting the closure will require purchasing signage and materials, opening and closing gates annually, and time focusing on enforcement/education with residents.

Staff expects the two gates and signage to cost around \$400-\$500.

The proposed ranger position would be beneficial for education and enforcement responsibilities.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: [The 2022 Open Space and Trails Master Plan](#) includes the following language regarding seasonal closures:

P2 – Seasonal Wildlife Closures: With seasonal wildlife closures, work to balance consistency, changing habitat needs of wildlife, and winter recreation opportunities. All recreational opportunities in mapped wintering range and/or other environmentally vulnerable areas will be considered for seasonal wildlife closures. Dates will be determined in partnership with CPW, BLM, and any other applicable land managers.

RECOMMEND ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: Approve or Deny: Motion to recommend that the Eagle Town Council enact seasonal use restrictions from December 1 – April 15 for all users on parcel OS-1 of the Reserve at Hockett Gulch Development to protect wintering big game.

ATTACHMENTS: More information about the Reserve at Hockett Gulch development can be found on the Town’s website under the Approved Land Use Files page at this link:

<https://www.townofeagle.org/707/Approved-Land-Use-Files>. On the landing page, scroll down to the Reserve at Hockett Gulch section.



To: Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC)

From: Brian Lieberman, Open Space and Trails Manager

Date: November 5, 2024

Agenda Item: OSRAC Committee New Member Evaluation Recommendation

REQUEST: Staff requests that the Committee consider how it would like to review new prospective Committee members when there is a vacancy on the Committee.

BACKGROUND: The Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee (OSRAC) Bylaws outline the process for appointing new Committee members when vacancies arise. Article 2 Section B includes the following language:

*“The Town Manager shall establish an application process for prospective Committee members, including public notice. The Town Manager shall then present a list of candidates to the Town Council from qualified applicants. The Town Council may interview some or all of the applicants and **may consider recommendations made by current Committee members.** The Town Council shall then vote on the appointment of members by written ballot, with such ballots being tallied by the Town Clerk, followed by a motion to appoint the highest vote-getters and a voice vote on that motion. The written ballots shall include the name of the person voting and shall be public records, as required by the Colorado Open Records Act, C.R.S. § 24-72-200.1, et seq.”*

For past vacancies, the Committee has reviewed the applications received and filled out a rubric ranking each member based on a set of criteria tied to the Bylaws and the Committee’s mission, vision, and goals.

There is currently a vacancy for an Alternate Committee member. In addition, four current members’ terms will end in December and those four seats are advertised. Existing members can reapply and may be reappointed for a second term.

Applications for all five seats will be accepted through Friday, November 22, 2024.

Staff requests that the Committee consider its past approach to reviewing vacant positions and consider whether any changes should be made before reviewing the current vacancies.

ANALYSIS: In early October, the Committee had a joint work session with the Town Council. The agenda included a review of the Committee’s responsibilities in recommending new members for OSRAC. More or less, the consensus from the Council was that it is up to the Committee and staff to determine how/if

OSRAC would like to review Committee applicants and make recommendations to the Town Council. The Town Council did mention that they appreciated the review of the applications.

The table below includes the criteria that the Committee has used to evaluate Committee applicants.

OSRAC New Member Evaluation Criteria	
<i>Applicants are ranked on a scale of 1-10 for the following criteria.</i>	
1.	The applicant demonstrates knowledge of local recreational opportunities and trails.
2.	The applicant demonstrates knowledge of local natural resources, such as wildlife, noxious weeds, vegetation, or restoration.
3.	The applicant shows an understanding of the importance of partnerships and collaboration as it relates to the Committee's mission and goals.
4.	The applicant demonstrates sufficient knowledge of the Eagle area to assist with Open Space and Trails planning.
5.	The applicant is knowledgeable of the challenges and opportunities facing the Open Space and Trails program in Eagle.
6.	The applicant seems to have an understanding of the responsibility of the OSRAC. The applicant has the capacity to be a productive member of the committee.
7.	The applicant would bring an important perspective to the committee that is currently missing, and/or the applicant has a valuable perspective that would be beneficial for the committee overall.

Staff seeks input from the Committee on the process and criteria for new member evaluations.

COMMUNITY INPUT: None.

BUDGET/ STAFF IMPACT: None.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT / STANDARDS ACHIEVED: The purpose of the Town of Eagle Open Space and Recreation Advisory Committee is to provide additional expertise to the Town Council and the Town Manager necessary to enhance and facilitate open space and recreation in the Town, and to act as a conduit between the Town, residents, relevant stakeholders, and the broader community to expand and improve the Town's internal and adjacent open space and recreation opportunities within the context of the Town's commitment to conservation, social, and environmental objectives.

Taking time to evaluate how new applicants are evaluated and recommended to the Town Council will enhance OSRAC's capacity to provide well-informed recommendations to the Council on issues that support the Open Space and Trails Master Plan, Management Plans, Eagle Comp plan, and other town goals and initiatives.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR PROPOSED MOTION: Staff requests that the Committee consider how it would like to review new prospective members when there is a vacancy and provide guidance to staff before reviewing the existing vacancy.

ATTACHMENTS: The OSRAC bylaws are on the Town's OSRAC website at this link:

<https://www.townofeagle.org/941/Open-Space-Recreation-Advisory-Committee>. A link to the Bylaws is located near the bottom of the webpage.