



**Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee
February APPROVED Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2021
2:00 PM
ONLINE MEETING
Public Meeting Room / Eagle Town Hall
200 Broadway
Eagle, CO**

*This agenda and the meetings can be viewed at www.Townofeagle.org.
*The public is invited to comment at the end of each agenda item**

MEETING ACCESS PUBLIC WIFI - TOEG – townofeagle2019

This will be a Zoom Meeting; the link can be found here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83472864496>
Meeting ID: 834 7286 4496

CALL TO ORDER

**Call to order at 2:02 p.m.
Absent: None**

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Motion to approve the January minutes by Wescoatt second by Bailey. Motion passes unanimously.

DISCUSSION

(10 min) Eagle County Wildlife Roundtable Action Plan - adoption strategy discussion

- The Wildlife Roundtable has been meeting since the beginning of 2020 with the goal of convening diverse stakeholders to address impacts to wildlife in the County.
- The Roundtable has been working on an action plan throughout the past year. It is intended to be a guiding document for decision-makers and developed with broad support.
- In January 2021, the action plan was presented to the BOCC for adoption. It was well received by the BOCC, but they would like to see the municipalities weigh in and support the plan as well.
- Lieberman told the Committee that he is working with the Towns of Avon and Vail to identify a strategy for the plan to be presented to the councils and adopted. IE: are we looking for a resolution, an acknowledgment, or a different option?
- Lieberman thought it would be best for the OSRAC to consider the plan and provide a formal recommendation on how Council should proceed.
- Committee suggestions included addressing methods to be more inclusive, including the Hispanic community. One method could be by engaging Eagle Valley Outdoor Movement and Leadership Council.

- The Wildlife Roundtable meetings have temporarily been put on hold. Lieberman will be attending the next meeting and will bring back additional information for the Committee to consider.
- Lieberman is advocating for the Wildlife Roundtable to present to the OSRAC and Town Council.

(15 min) Brian Wodrich introduction – New CPW District Ranger – Seasonal trail closures

- Brian Wodrich has been with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (“CPW”) for over 15 years in the Eagle area.
- With Wescoatt retiring, Wodrich has taken over the municipalities of Eagle and Gypsum.
- Wodrich said he is aware of wildlife closures violations from citizen reports and tracks in the snow.
- Wodrich said enforcement is tricky, as he would have to catch someone in the act.
- Technology can help, he has used timestamped game cameras to ticket violations.
- Wodrich said education is the most important component and he was appreciative of the new TOE closure signage and wildlife ambassador volunteers.
- During the winter, Wodrich said there are also active mountain lions around the Town of Eagle. Obeying the winter closures is also a safety concern as lions are usually near the elk and deer.
- Wodrich said that dogs off-leash and people violating the 3rd loop closures have been big concerns on the Haymaker trail this year.

(15min) Haymaker Trailhead discussion

- Bartnik presented the timeline for the Pool and Ice complex master plan, including improvements at the Haymaker trailhead.
- Bartnik said the timing for infrastructure development is dependent on funding. Mountain rec is actively raising funds for this capital project and will also put a measure on the ballot in November.
- Phase 1 of the project will likely include most of the trailhead improvements.
- Mountain Rec will be polling in April to assess the community’s appetite for these projects. The ballot initiative will be informed through this polling process.
- After funding is secured, Bartnik thought the planning and design work would take 6 – 12 months.
- Bartnik thought 2023 -2024 would be a realistic goal for the completion of phase 1.
- Lieberman and Committee members thought there would be a need for updated trailhead infrastructure before the completion of phase 1.
- The Committee discussed creative temporary options for restrooms, changing shelters and other needed facilities at the trailhead. The TOE would be responsible for securing funding to construct any temporary improvements.
- Lieberman and Gosiorowski said the \$150k General Fund transfer to the Open Space Preservation Fund could be a good capital source for these temporary needs. Facilities could be repurposed once the permanent infrastructure is in place.
- Gosiorowski thought a motion would be ideal to show that the Committee has prioritized the use of these funds at the Haymaker Trailhead.

Motion to explore improved temporary infrastructure at the Haymaker Trailhead, with the General Fund transfer to Open Space, before the completion of the Mountain Rec master plan, by Seager second by Owens. Motion passes unanimously.

(20 min) 2021 Open Space budget presentation and discussion

- Lieberman said that the TOE Conservation Trust Fund is funded from Colorado state lottery proceeds. The only line item from this fund for 2021 is for the Open Space and Trails Master plan.
- The Open Space Preservation Fund is mostly funded through the TOE lodging tax, with support from grants. The Committee agreed that this funding source would not be sustainable for the future needs of the program.

- Council approved a \$150K transfer to the Open Space Fund from the General Fund in 2021 to help bolster the Open Space program.
- Most of the operating expenditures and capital projects are financed through the Open Space fund.
- The major 2021 project priorities included: property appraisals, noxious weed treatments, trail and open space maintenance, surveying services (NEPA), the Haymaker II trail, the Abrams Creek OS project, and providing power for the new BMX start gate.

(10 min) TOE Open Space spring work plan discussion

- Ernest, Halsey, and Brian are going to work on this list and present some ideas at the next Committee meeting.

(10 min) Brush Creek Ranch Management Plan- TOE comments – Ridgway parcel

- In July 2020, Eagle County Open Space (“ECOS”) acquired the Ridgway parcel, an inholding of the Brush Creek Valley Ranch Open Space properties.
- The TOE gave \$10,000 for the acquisition of this property in addition to providing funding for the other parcels that make up the ranch.
- ECOS is requesting stakeholder input and comments on their proposed uses for the new parcel and the overall management plan.
- The public comment phase will ideally occur in March after stakeholder input is received.
- Stakeholder input was requested by 2/5/2021. Lieberman provided comments to ECOS supporting:
 - o The expansion and continuation of sustainable agriculture on the property.
 - o Sustainable recreational access to the river corridor.
 - o Seasonal wildlife closures, and any needed improvements to wildlife habitat and the river corridor.
 - o Contemplation of the paved community trail through the property.
- Committee members expressed the desire to see fishing regulated along the stretch of Brush Creek in the property. There was concern that the new stretch of available water could quickly be overrun.
- Committee members also expressed support for ECOS to include the proposed paved community trail in the management plan.

(5 min) Future agenda items/ new business

1. Town of Eagle Open Space Master Plan
 - RFP to be sent out soon. Information from Lieberman in future meetings.
2. Corky’s appraisal
 - This project is currently on hold.

Motion to ADJOURN at 3:42 pm by Seager, second by Owens. Motion passes unanimously.