



MINUTES

City of Aspen, Open Space and Trails Board Meeting
Held on September 16, 2021
5:00pm

City OST Board Members Present: Julie Hardman, Adam McCurdy, Anne Mullins, Dan Perl

City Staff Members Present: John Spiess, Matt Kuhn, Michael Tunte, Austin Weiss, Brian Long

Adoption of the Agenda: Matt requested that the reauthorization topic be deleted. Dan made a motion to approve the agenda; Julie seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Public Comments, for topics not on the agenda: None.

Approval of the Minutes: Julie made a motion to approve the minutes; Dan seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Staff Comments:

Mike: Herron Park: Parks contracted Earthscape to fabricate playground elements and shared pictures; the in-house crew is underway with site construction. The grand opening is expected to take place at the end of October.

Matt: Pride of Aspen: it is on the ballot; Matt provided a letter from the City Attorney regarding Board members' involvement with this ballot item. **Half-cent sales tax:** guests will present on this during today's meeting; the plan is to continue with a 2022 timeframe. The Board will discuss this at the October meeting; staff will discuss this with City Council on Nov 9th. **Cozy Point Ranch:** staff have been addressing water and water rights questions, the Farm Collaborative's building application is progressing, and bridge inspections were completed.

New Business:

Lake Ave. Bike-pedway Living Lab Update: Matt explained Parks' partnership with Engineering and introduced Pete Rice and Carly McGowan. Carly presented on the Lake Avenue Bike-pedway for which staff seeks the Board's formal support. Carly mentioned a 2017 update to the bike-pedway master plan in which the Lake Avenue segment was identified as a missing link and described the living Lab (in place June-October 2021). Community outreach events, Aspen Community Voice surveys and stakeholder meetings were conducted; there were 966 engagements. Overall feedback was positive; people expressed feeling safer. Negative feedback



included concerns about lack of enforcement and confusion about the route. The route has been slightly reconfigured and Council will consider this proposed bike-pedway this month.

A discussion followed in which Dan asked about routing and Carly explained rationales based on master plan direction, community feedback and PABST decisions. Anne asked about making signage clearer; green stanchion signage will be made clearer around turns in the bike-pedway. Adam commented that Hopkins Ave. looks and feels like a bike-pedway in contrast to the Hallam and Lake bike-pedways which have heavier traffic; he asked about enhancing education and enforcement. Pete said public comments reflect similar concerns and next steps include enhanced education and enforcement following approval of the Bike-pedway. Anne mentioned street width as a factor in the look/feel of bike-pedways, noting such differences in Hallam, Lake and Hopkins Avenues. Pete said ongoing monitoring will continue to identify improvements. Dan asked about stop sign placements in the bike-pedways; Pete explained placement rationales, including safety considerations for cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles. Brian added that Aspen's stop-as-yield laws help make 4-way stops in bike-pedways work.

Adam moved that the OST Board supports the proposed Lake Avenue Bike-pedway in the proposed configuration. Anne seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Sky Mountain Park Management Plan: Jessie Young, Carly Klein and Dale Will of Pitkin County Open Space presented the draft plan to gather Board comments. Dale reviewed history and the City's role, including Jeff Woods' efforts and the City's \$1M contribution. Carly reviewed the management plan, highlighting accomplishments to date. Trail use is being monitored with recent increased recreation activity. A visitor survey was conducted in May and June; visitors (primarily mountain bikers) value the park's scenic beauty, variety of trails, and protection of habitat. Additional themes included directional trails, safety and signage, and trail connectivity.

Proposed regulation/policy changes include closing the park from dusk to dawn and requiring equestrian hay to be certified weed-free. The special use application process will be formalized, and special events will be limited on various parcels of the park. Dan asked about the dusk-dawn policy; this protects wildlife when recreation pressure increases. Anne asked about memorials; the general policy applies.

New natural resource management actions include providing protection for a fen and conducting a forest health study. New recreation management actions include monitoring capacity and safety, constructing separate directional routes for Airline Trail, making Deadline a bike only trail, and constructing an airport observation area. The Board discussed location and safety for the observation area.



Dan asked about any plans for additional trail connections; only Ditchline-Cozyline is being explored. Anne asked how cost of action items is divided among partner organizations. Most costs are borne by Pitkin County Open Space; certain maintenance costs are shared by partners. Anne asked if the airport would partner on the observation area; Pitkin County Open Space would bear this cost. Adam asked about wildlife habitat concerns related to the new parallel Airline Trail; the alignment will be as close as possible to minimize impacts. Adam commented that recreational capacity monitoring is important.

The presentation highlighted education and outreach plans, stewardship actions, and an agriculture management action which better defines the Cozy Point Ranch lease. Adam asked whether the survey could overrepresent mountain bikers as a user group. Cameras and strava data confirm that the majority of users are mountain bikers; at the same time, Pitkin County Open Space does not intend for the park to be a mountain bike only destination. The draft plan will be released for public review tomorrow. Pitkin County Open Space would like a formal letter of support for the plan within the next month.

Old Business: N/A

Board Comments:

Julie: None.

Adam: Kudos to Parks for current project work.

Anne: Happy to be serving on this Board.

Dan: Likes improvements to the bike route through the public school campus. He asked about the Maroon Creek Multi-Use Trail; John said consultant proposals are due Thursday; the Board will be involved with this project going forward.

Pursuant to C.R.S.4-6-402 (4)(a) The purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real, personal, or other property interest; except that no executive session shall be held for the purpose of concealing the fact that a member of the local public body has a personal interest in such purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale; (4)(e) Determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations; developing strategy for negotiations; and instructing negotiators.

The specific item of discussion involves the following:

Potential Open Space Acquisitions in the Aspen area

Executive Session: Anne moved to enter executive session; Dan seconded and the vote was unanimous.



Adam moved to exit executive session; Julie seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Next Meeting Date(s): Regular meeting October 21, 2021.

Adjourned: Adam made a motion to adjourn; Dan seconded and the vote was unanimous.

