



## MINUTES

City of Aspen, Open Space and Trails Board Meeting  
Held on October 21, 2021  
5:00pm

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**City OST Board Members Present:** Julie Hardman, Ted Mahon, Howie Mallory, Dan Perl

**City Staff Members Present:** Jay Courtney, Micah Davis, Matt Kuhn, Brian Long, John Spiess

**Adoption of the Agenda:** A change was made to move old business before new business. Julie made a motion to approve the agenda; Howie seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**Public Comments, for topics not on the agenda:** Mike Maple mentioned the meeting's agenda was not on the website. He commented on several topics: ebike safety on trails (suggesting clear/additional signage, education of renters, and more enforcement; citing Ketchum, ID as a positive example), boulevard maintenance along the Cemetery Lane Trail (including tree replacement, trimming), his suggestion of renaming Tot Lot park Betty Marolt Park, developing a trail to connect Ditchline and Cozyline Trails at Sky Mountain Park, developing a loop trail around Red Butte. He thanked Parks staff for making Herron Park available for his niece's recent wedding.

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

**Staff Comments:**

**John:** The Maroon Creek Multi-Use Trail is on the consent agenda for November 9<sup>th</sup>; stakeholder engagement will begin after the new year. Simon Longacre's ranger position is now a full-time position. Grand opening of Herron Park will be October 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Old Business:** Consultant Rebecca Weiss presented the final John Denver Sanctuary and Rio Grande Park Interpretive Exhibits Package. Julie asked if the App will be free and how visitors will access it; the App is free and the web address (and likely also a QR code) will be on all key signs. Ted asked about other ways the App will be advertised; the App will also be highlighted on Parks' website and as such can be accessed by the public anywhere (not only on site). Howie asked about App maintenance; Parks will be able to independently update/change content through Storycrafter; this platform has tech support in addition to Parks' business services IT staff. Howie asked about longevity of signs; Parks will choose HPL or aluminum; both have a 10-



year warranty. Matt added that current cross-country map signs are aluminum and have held up well. Adam suggested tracking use to determine whether the App is receiving sufficient use for the cost; Matt explained that google analytics will be used to track use. Howie asked about budget for the project. Matt explained that this project is in the 2022 budget and that additional funding may come from Annie Denver and/or a spring supplemental. Rebecca explained that production and installation may be carried out in two phases.

Adam moved that the Board supports the Wayfinding and Interpretive elements for the John Denver Sanctuary and Rio Grande Park as proposed. Howie seconded and the vote was unanimous.

**New Business:** Brian led the Board through a discussion of potential revisions to municipal trail code (24.12 Aspen Trail System) to address changing dynamics on trails. Final code language will be presented at subsequent Board meetings. Brian Quinn and Carly Klein from Pitkin County were present. Matt expressed the general desire for alignment between City and County rules and management.

Brian gathered Board input on the following questions:

1- Should the City apply its trails rules on City trails that are outside City limits? The Board supported this.

2- Should the City allow ebikes on soft-surface trails? Issues of other powered devices such as e-skateboards and one-wheels were discussed. Howie asked how regulations will be communicated to users on the trails. Brian described pertinent signage and ebike rental shops' education efforts. Dan suggested a trial period to inform policy. Brian mentioned that this would be difficult to reverse. Matt added that a trial could be explored per Board consensus. Julie expressed hesitancy regarding ebikes on single track soft-surface trails. Ted commented that concerns center mainly around rental bike users, and that he doesn't support ebikes on soft-surface trails. Howie commented on speed management needs. Adam commented on accessibility values of ebikes. Dan added that it is important to get clarity on ebike concerns with evidence and data. Howie clarified which trails pertain to this question and expressed that speed is a concern for management and safety. The Board decided to revisit this topic.

3- Should the City continue allowing class 1, 2 and 3 ebikes on trails? The Board supported this. Mike Maple expressed he does not support this due to safety concerns.

4- Should the City allow other electric powered devices on hard surface trails as defined by power, size, and weight limitations? Current code does not allow these devices, except for low-powered scooters. A discussion of enforcement challenges and potential future device types followed. Ted expressed that managing behavior may be more important than regulating types of devices. Adam added that it will be important for Parks staff to be able to address behavior issues without further code revisions. Howie asked where such devices are currently allowed; Brian explained that police do not allow them on sidewalks or streets. Howie expressed that



these devices should be kept off streets and on paved trails instead. Dan asked if there have been user conflicts on trails; Brian explained that rangers have not noted conflicts on trails, but conflicts have occurred on the pedestrian mall. The Board supported this.

5- Should the City have requirements of rental companies including etiquette orientation training, helmet availability, and installation of bells? The Board supported this. Carly described County initiatives to address system-wide understanding of rules and trail types, and that the County desires coordinating with the City for seamlessness with this effort. Dan asked if this is applicable to code (yes) and whether such requirements currently exist (no).

6- Should the City require announcing before passing? The Board supported this.

7- Should the City have speed limits on trails? Adam asked how this would be enforced. Matt mentioned radar speed devices would be needed. Dan expressed that operating at a safe speed could be the best approach as changes in trail conditions dictate speed changes. The Board expressed support for this. Ted asked for examples from other communities. Mike Maple expressed support for this and suggested use of radar signs.

8- Should the City prohibit careless operating of ebikes/devices on trails? The Board supported this and would like trail incident data and ER/hospital data to help further inform this topic.

9- Should the City require use of lights on bikes/devices at night? The Board supported this.

10- Should the City have etiquette rules on the Nordic trail system? Dan asked which entity makes the rules; Matt clarified that this Board makes the rules and that trail use designations are established. Board supported this.

11- Should the City limit the number of dogs per guardian? The Board decided to follow up on this topic. Discussion included unintended consequences for dog walking services and increasing complexities as number of dogs per guardian increases.

The Board will circle back on soft surface single-track uses, dog walking, and speed limits. Code revisions will be taken to City Council in the spring.

**Board Comments:**

Julie: Asked about the trout in the pond by the Chamber of Commerce. Matt explained the fish stocking is new and he will follow up with more information.

Howie: Lighting on the post office trail is now complete.

**Next Meeting Date(s):** Regular meeting November 18, 2021.

**Executive Session:** N/A

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