



## Parks & Open Space

### Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee MINUTES

June 25, 2020  
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by James Krug

#### Members:

Scott Miller  
Kira Pasquesi  
Heather Williams  
James Krug  
Jenn Archuleta  
Paula Fitzgerald  
Steven Meyrich  
Trace Baker  
Ann Obenchain

#### Staff:

Eric Lane  
Therese Glowacki  
Nik Brockman  
Vivienne Jannatpour  
Renata Frye  
Tina Burghardt  
Wesley Loetz

#### Approval of the May 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes

*ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval*

Approved with one correction: Remove Sue Anderson from attendance.

ACTION: Fitzgerald moved approval of item. Williams seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

#### Presentations

##### CMN-Kirch-2020 Town of Erie Taking

*ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC*

PRESENTER: Wesley C. Loetz, Land Officer

ACTION: Fitzgerald moved approval of item. Pasquesi seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

## **Hodgson-Harris Reservoir-2020 Town of Superior Taking**

*ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC*

PRESENTER: Wesley C. Loetz, Land Officer

ACTION: Baker moved approval of item. Archuleta seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

### **Resource Management Summary**

*ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only*

PRESENTER: Therese Glowacki, Manager

Mike Smith, 4596 Tally Ho Trail, Boulder. He spoke about the current conditions and problems at Twin Lakes. His written statement:

That's in the Red Fox Hills subdivision immediately south of the eastern Twin Lake, and I'd like to talk to you about Resource Management-actually Resource Neglect and MIS-management-at Twin Lakes Open Space.

If you open the Twin Lakes Open Space page on the Boulder County website, the very first sentence you see reads, quote, "This open space is a haven for wetland wildlife, a hidden gem in the heart of [the] Gunbarrel area."

Sadly, that hasn't been true for more than a decade, and things have gotten much worse over the past few years. I want to plead with you to reverse Resource Management's neglect and NON-management of this abused and damaged area.

On the front page (1A) of the Boulder Camera on Monday, June 8th, there was a large color photo of two women throwing sticks and balls into the West Lake for their dogs to chase.

Just beyond those women (out of the photo), there's a 3-foot high erosion cliff that extends for at least 30 meters along the NE corner of the lake where thousands of dogs have also gouged out "launching ramps" every few meters as they jump into the lake-and the exact same thing has happened on the S and SE banks, as well. The entire N bank-maybe 100 meters-has been ripped out to nothing more than exposed tree roots, and that edge of the lake itself has been completely beaten into churned mud by unleashed dogs chasing sticks, wildlife, and each other while their oblivious humans-also unleashed-do THEIR own thing up on the trail.

[When Gunbarrel Center was built over a decade ago, the City didn't hold the developer to his promise to include parks, trails, and playgrounds...and so the thousands of new residents quickly found a nifty substitute at Twin Lakes Open Space. Word quickly went around about this great place for people and dogs to hang out-with two breweries right across the streets. No surprise, the former "haven for wetland wildlife" was soon destroyed.]

I used to walk the Lakes several times each week. I seldom go there anymore because it's so depressing-the neglect and damage just breaks your heart. I DO remember watching an unleashed golden retriever charge into the West Lake at a heron that was trying to fish out in the middle. The heron flew off, and the dog tracked back through the mud to its owner, who thought the whole thing was quite funny. After all, that's what retrievers are built for, right?

Resource Management's neglect is responsible for a good part of this. I well recall a conversation with Therese Glowacki during the big fight over the "Twin Lakes parcels" about five years ago. She told me very bluntly that Parks & Open Space never wanted Twin Lakes in the first place, but they were forced to assume management because of the liability concerns of the ditch company. She said that if it had been up to her, Twin Lakes would NEVER have been added as Open Space.

Folks, we locals see the results of POS neglect and MIS-management at Twin Lakes every time we go over there. It's no longer a "haven for wetland wildlife"; it's been allowed to degenerate into nothing more than an abused, overcrowded dog park.

But it gets even worse. Twin Lakes Open Space has now also become dangerous-a violent crime scene in the making. Two recent examples make my case:

- 1) On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the wife of a Red Fox Hills senior-citizen neighbor posted on our subdivision's listserv, quote, "Be careful on Lake trails. Marty was walking around the East lake at the noon hour today and was shoved and verbally assaulted. It was a runner who seemed to be racing a companion around the lake. He just about ran Marty off the trail (with no mask and Marty was on the far-right side of the trail). He came around again and bumped Marty hard with his arm at which time Marty signaled him to slow down. The next time around he came at Marty head on shoving him hard and screaming profanities. Told him he was going to kick his ass. He ran off still screaming profanities and calling him names. Scary. We won't be walking over the noon hour."
- 2) On June 16<sup>th</sup>, someone posted to the Nextdoor Twin Lakes group, quote:

"Our friend...had a gun pulled on him today at 1:10pm at twin lakes by a biker who his dog Fiona chased and barked at for a bit while he was on the off leash side of the lakes...Please share with anyone else you know that walks there or is near there to be on the lookout. Try and take a video to share with police if you see him."

[<[https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/?post=151929840&cp=0&s=tpd&pinned\\_post=true&section=posts&ct=hi\\_qXh8QiLuUTCiwffJhKS1znKytKEK4ES657i0-SBXh6S0teu369PHOgVBMPe8x&ec=VxSJFbPbudqm3RmbqsRSldKGxZqCXtJSS-0vyqMERec%3D](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=151929840&cp=0&s=tpd&pinned_post=true&section=posts&ct=hi_qXh8QiLuUTCiwffJhKS1znKytKEK4ES657i0-SBXh6S0teu369PHOgVBMPe8x&ec=VxSJFbPbudqm3RmbqsRSldKGxZqCXtJSS-0vyqMERec%3D)>]

I urge you all to come out and see the damage for yourselves-it's really tragic! POS needs to step in, regain control, and fix that damage before it gets even worse.

And since most of your ranger personnel are not armed, I also urge you to get the Boulder County Sheriff's Department to begin patrols there, BEFORE it also becomes a violent crime scene.

### **POSAC Bylaws Update and Approval**

*ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC*

PRESENTER: Eric Lane, Director

ACTION: Miller moved approval of item. Archuleta seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Pasquesi, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Meyrich, Baker, Obenchain

### **Director's Update**

In the good news department:

- Great Outdoors Colorado has awarded the county a \$1,250,000 grant to support the acquisition of the Tucker property west of Nederland. This is the largest acquisition grant that the county has ever received from GOCO, and our first acquisition grant in 14 years. Sandy Duff led that effort.
- GOCO also awarded BCPOS a \$23,000 grant through CPW to fund ½ of the elk hunt coordinator, Jenny Dalton.

In the COVID-19 be damned department: the Cultural and Natural History volunteer training has gone virtual! During the lockdown, staff have transferred much of the volunteer training to on-line manuals and video tutorials.

Mad Ag has helped farmers plant several warm season trial crops, including white sorghum and buckwheat, five types of edible dry beans, and inter-seeding of clover into standing corn. We are planning

the first of three field days on July 6/7 but it will be restricted to just a small number of participants due to COVID-19.

With regard to the five-year demonstration project with CSU on carbon sequestration, the cropland demonstration at the Quicksilver property is in triticale for certified seed. It will be harvested in a couple of weeks and then go immediately into a clover cover crop to keep a living root in the soil as long as possible.

The Buildings and Historic Preservation team is completing exterior repairs and painting of the historic farmhouse at the Agricultural Heritage Center.

The Trails team has started building the Skills Loop at Heil 2 and they are replacing steps and improving the "wall section" at Walker Ranch.

Yesterday, Mary Jo Langstraat and Mel Stonebraker completed the closing on the remainder of the Canino-7M Ranch property south of Longmont. Also, in the same area, I wanted to let you know that the condemnation effort that you may know about on Panama Reservoir has been voluntarily withdrawn by the metro district in Weld County.

To improve and ensure public safety, the Department is increasing trailhead staffing, especially on weekends, by employing former Boulder County Youth Corps Team Leaders as Trailhead Ambassadors. These new staff are helping make the visitor experience better by addressing parking issues, encouraging visitors to wear masks (and providing ones if visitors forget), and directing them to less busy trailheads if a parking area is full. As the county, state, and federal experts all strongly advise or require the public to wear masks when entering both public facilities and private businesses or when social distancing isn't possible, rangers and ambassadors will be asking visitors to leave if they do not have a face covering with them. We wear masks to reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially when we know that a significant portion of the population can be asymptomatic carriers and contagious. Parks and open spaces should be places where everyone feels comfortable being, especially those in our community who are the most vulnerable. In alignment with county public health guidelines, we require visitors to have a face covering and to wear it at trailheads and at any time on our trails when social distancing cannot be maintained. While many people come to open space because they will be able to more easily maintain social distancing, unless you are on a regional trail or at a few places like the road at Rabbit Mountain, it is NOT possible to always maintain six feet distance from other users. Hence, the necessity of bringing a face covering for use when conditions warrant it.

## **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.