



**Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee
MINUTES**

August 27, 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:

Heather Williams
James Krug
Jenn Archuleta
Paula Fitzgerald
Steven Meyrich
Trace Baker
Ann Obenchain
Scott Miller -- **Excused**

Staff:

Eric Lane
Jeff Moline
Renata Frye
Vivienne Jannatpour
Nik Brockman
Sarah Andrews
Sarah Heerhartz
John Queen
Kevin Grady
Raquel Robles

Approval of the June 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

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

VOTE: **AYES:** Williams, Krug, Fitzgerald, Baker, Obenchain; **ABSTAIN:** Jenn Archuleta; **EXCUSED:** Scott Miller

Presentations

Niwot Ditch Diversion Project

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER: Sarah Heerhartz, Planner II, Jeff Moline, Planning Manager

Left Hand Outdoor Challenge 2019-2020 Season

ACTION REQUESTED: None, Information item only

PRESENTER: Sarah Andrews (Caribou Ranch Resident Ranger), John Queen (Hall Ranch Resident Ranger), Kevin Grady (Heil Ranch Resident Ranger), Avery Scheuch (LHOC Mentor), & Raquel Robles (Resource Management Admin Tech)

Director's Update

Before we get into the “fun” stuff, I want to address the vandalism and destruction of public property that happened last week. As you may know from the newspaper, someone entered two separate open space properties last week and vandalized our vehicles and equipment related to prairie dog removal and management. We are cooperating with the Boulder County Sheriff's Office and intend to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law.

We can only assume this was intended as a protest to the county's prairie dog management operations, but there is no way to know. That's unfortunate because the county's prairie dog policy was extensively researched and developed through a public process incorporating community input. The policy is designed to protect and support prairie dogs as an important keystone species of the prairie as well as control populations when necessary to support agricultural operations. BCPOS carries out the community's desire to balance support for both functioning grassland ecosystems and productive irrigated agriculture.

And as a simple reminder to everyone, we accept all public input on the Prairie Dog Habitat Element of the Grasslands & Shrubland Management Policy throughout the year and at an annual stakeholder meeting held each winter. Information about the policy and these meetings is posted at boco.org/PrairieDogs.”

Also, in the not “fun” category, Kira Pasquesi has resigned from POSAC because her residence changed to a place outside the county, which disqualifies her from service. The Board of County Commissioners is now reviewing candidates (23 applicants) and I believe they will be interviewing several very soon. I hope to have a new member first join you for the September or October POSAC hearings.

In the FUN department:

Before the public meeting commenced, someone asked about the Betasso Resident Ranger position. I'm pleased to inform you that we've selected Juan Ocampo for the position. Specifically, we announced this position as a bilingual ranger, and we look forward to all of the new opportunities that having a bilingual park ranger on our team will bring. Juan was part of our team in 2019 as a seasonal park ranger and moved to Westminster in the fall as a full-time ranger at Stanley Lake. Juan gained a tremendous amount of experience at Stanley Lake working with a very diverse group of visitors in an urban setting. Juan has also been working with Cal-Wood Education Center developing a recreation guide for Spanish-speaking families that outlines the types of outdoor experiences, parks, and trails that are available along the Front Range. I'm very pleased that we've taken advantage of a vacancy in our ranger group to add this capacity, as I think we'll be better able to serve the Latinx community and enhance our cultural responsiveness and inclusion practices.

In July, Mad Agriculture and Blake Cooper held the first of three field tours for the GE tenants and they looked at grain grown organically by Dave Asbury on the north side of Longmont and another set of grain trials that Dan Lisco has grown on the south-west side of Longmont.

Last week, we acquired eight shares of the Goodhue Ditch which is a priority ditch for the Ag Resources Division.

This summer, we started initial construction of the Toll Trail near Nederland. Our Project Management & Design, Trails, and Forestry staff have been working together to get things going. We'll be hiring a contractor to help construct the trail in 2021 and perhaps 2022 depending on speed of progress.

The Reservoirs Project which you toured last month is now substantially complete, which is a big milestone in any construction process. Around the corner, we've begun construction on the Reach 3 Phase 2 project. This project will serve many needs including protecting water diversion infrastructure that provides some of Longmont's water supply, creating a fish passage for native fish, preserving Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat, and (my favorite) removing invasive trees!

Because of COVID-19 and the importance of adhering to public health safety standards, we postponed the 2020 Land Conservation Award ceremony until next spring. And while I think I announced the winners at a previous POSAC meeting, it surely doesn't hurt to recognize the award winners again:

Land Conservation Award to **Paul Lev-Ary** for a donation of land to expand the Anne U. White trailhead.

Environmental Stewardship Award to **Diane and Lowell Dodge** for implementing an ecological enhancement plan on their 40-acre property.

Volunteer Awards will be presented to **Rob Alexander** for outstanding contribution as a member of the Extension Advisory Board, a volunteer for 4-H, and contributor to numerous Extension workshops and events; and **Gedeon LaFarge** for outstanding contribution as member of the Volunteer Ranger Corps and service as an Outdoor Challenge teen mentor.

And finally, this is a YouTube video about POS working with Northern Water on an elk crossing on their Feeder Canal. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JKxVPaMXmU&feature=youtu.be>

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:53 p.m.