

BOULDER RECREATION GROUP

July 13, 2016

Present: Sam Samson, Barb Reiter, Rhandi Rachlis, Theresa Gadaire, Ben Gotcher, Bill Dawson, Leah Lewis, Brud Smith, Tom Harrington, Leonard Wortman, Carolyn Lewis, Connie Grenz, Jim Heikes, Dee Anna

Minutes of last meeting went out May 23, 2016. Our first minutes will be resent with these minutes since several did not receive them. The contact list will also be resent.

Tom Harrington invited us all to attend the introduction gathering by the group hired to develop a Master Plan for Boulder. The meeting will be July 21, 2016 at the Town Hall 12:30-1:30. They are hoping to get a sense of how the whole area wants to develop. Tom Harrington approached BTAC about hiring this group, Mickey Zurcher wrote the grant to fund the study. The group expects to have a draft summary by September.

REPORT HIKING SUBGROUP:

Leah, Theresa and Carolyn met and identified hikes that could go on a map: 21 Gulch, cemetery at Elkhorn, Little Whitetail Park, Mud Springs up Dry Creek, Crow Ridge and Elkhorn Peak, Sugarloaf Mt., Haystack Mt., Nursery Creek up Muskrat, Wilson Creek Mt. Pisca over to Berries Meadows, Bear Gulch, Sheepshead, Mt, Cottonwood Lake, Rock Creek, Jack, Mt. Continental Divide Nez Perce, etc.

They will be gathering descriptive information -- distance to the trailheads, information about the condition of the road, the difficulty of the trail, length of time it could take, etc. They are hoping to have some condensed form of the information (brochure, map etc.) to give to visitors. They ask for anyone present to sign up to visit the trails, hike them and report back the statistics needed. Contact Leah, Carolyn or Theresa to get a speck sheet if you can help walk the trails and gather data.

Carolyn will call Melissa Morris and coordinate the county information with our needs.

At the present time bikers are using the old railroad grades. Connie brought an article about a new business in Helena. They rent bikes and give out maps of bike trails in the Helena area. You can get in touch with Gina Evans 406-593-0071 who created the Helena business.

Carolyn said the bike shelter at the fairgrounds is 99% done. The bike shelter folk are looking for a wooden round table.

FISHING

Bill, Brud, Ben and Josh met. They talked about the Boulder River. The Cattle Drive trail has good access. South of Cattle Drive there is access from bridges, but permission is needed for private land access.

A community pond was proposed. Their top priorities of locations are the gravel pit near Pallisters land, if Pallister's are amiable to the concept, or the city property. Tom suggested they might be able to get Brownville money to clean up the old sewage area on city property. They prefer a location close enough to Boulder for kids to have easy access. Other locations were discussed: McCarty Creek, Taylor Reservoir, Bernice, below Sugarloaf, etc.

MOTORIZED

Tom said the survey group is out and will finish by Labor Day weekend. A group named NOVAK is developing trails from Deer Lodge to Helena. They will have a draft or map. Tom said the ATV's are looking at the main arteries right now where all traffic is permitted. Brud mentioned that the EIS on Pipestone area got tabled so it is difficult to go forward without an overall plan.

The Deer Lodge travel management plan is stalled. Our biggest problem and real concern is enforcement of use so used public areas are not destroyed. Beaverhead has two rangers. Helena has seven. We have none.

Leonard said the ATV business is taking over and the commissioners are trying to use trail access to control and open up our area to a larger community for economic enhancement.

There was concern that the timing of promotions would bring in more than we can presently handle. It was agreed that enforcement is our baseline need.

Chasing money without proper preparation could destroy our quality of life and therefore our full economic potential. There are diverse communities of interest within the Boulder area. There are ATV enthusiasts, hiking enthusiasts, biking enthusiasts, horseback riding enthusiasts, bird watching enthusiasts, snowmobiling enthusiasts, cross country skiing enthusiasts, tubing enthusiasts, etc. Using common trails is not feasible so we are trying to determine how to separate the trail use yet allow everyone access to our public lands and waters.

The County presently is struggling to find funds for increase rescue needs. Increasing use without regulations and enforcement could increase our local government expenses in rescues. User fees are used in some areas. Boulder is not defining itself as only an ATV hub.

We were invited to attend the Deer Lodge Boulder landscape working group in Butte at the Archives Building July 21 1-2:30.

There is grant information on the Fish, wildlife and Parks website. Bill showed us lists of projects that had received funds for trail development, maintenance, etc. The grant applications are due from December-March. 80% comes from the government and 20% from matching funds.

We concluded that our diversity is our gift and priority, that all recreational interest are equal and need to be valued in a balanced way to protect our land, water and air. Carolyn, Rhandi, Bill and Dee will write a concise summary statement to represent the Boulder Recreation Committee in the Boulder Master Plan. It will be sent around to all Boulder Recreation Committee attendees to be refined, edited, etc. Conceptually our priority is the development of diverse, safe, sustainable recreation in the Boulder Area of Jefferson County.

Diverse includes all outdoor opportunities for recreation.

Safe is created by separate areas for non-compatible recreation uses.

Horseback riding, hiking, biking need separate trails from ATV's

Snowmobiling need separate trails from cross country skiing.

Sustainable means we create a system where wildlands are passed through and enjoyed and remain as wildlands.

Our next meeting will be August 17th 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall (or if not available another county building.) Submitted by Dee Anna