

AGENDA
Open Space and Trails Advisory Board Meeting
Bijou Conference Room – 6934 S. Lima Street, Suite A, Centennial, CO 80112
Microsoft Teams Meeting ID: 283 227 520 237 Passcode: J87rML
Meeting Dial-in Number: 719-569-5048 Conference ID: 144 887 020#
April 22, 2024
5:30-8 p.m.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Items of Interest from the Public

Upcoming Events

Meeting Summary – February 26, 2024 (A)

Meeting Summary – April 1, 2024 (A)

General Discussion/ Staff Reports

- 2024 Grant Cycle Update (I)

Managers' Report and Sales Tax Update (I)

Board Member Comments

Adjournment (A)

Executive Session – Pursuant to C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4)(a)

(A) Action Item (I) Information

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Upcoming Events

- April 23: Recognition of Open Spaces 20th Anniversary – Proclamation will be issued during BOCC Business Meeting at Admin @ 9:30 a.m.
- May 11: 17 Mile House Open House – Discover Our History: Cherry Creek Valley
- May 18-19: Chalk Lines & Vines
- June 8: 17 Mile House Open House – Wool Spinning
- June 22 & 29: Pictures on the Plains
- June 25: Recognition of Parks and Recreation Month – Proclamation will be issued during BOCC Business Meeting at Admin @ 9:30 a.m.
- June 26: Bike to Work Day
- July 25-28: Arapahoe County Fair
- [CSU Extension events](#) added regularly (see link for details), including:
 - April 20: Native Plants for Birds and Pollinators
 - April 23: Understand Your Protein Needs
 - April 25: Food Preservation | Kimchi
 - April 27: Container Gardening
 - April 30: Composting
 - May 1: The Buzz on Bees
 - May 2: A Colorado Update on Emerald Ash Borer
 - May 9: Native Plant Master Wildflower Walk
 - May 15: Food Preservation | Yogurt
 - June 6: Food Preservation | Ginger ale



**Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB)
Meeting Summary – February 26, 2024**

Call to Order

Russell Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attendance

OSTAB members: Russell Stewart, Dala Giffin, Amie Hulet (via Teams), Jack Swartz (5:45 p.m.), and Mike Mojica

Staff: Gini Pingnot, Kathy Smith (via Teams), Glen Poole, Roger Harvey, Michele Frishman, Sandra Bottoms (via Teams), Brenda Lucero, Lizzie Mayer, John Christofferson, and Andrew Markiewicz

Guests: Josh Phillips, High Line Canal Conservancy

Items of Interest from the Public

None

Gini Pingnot Introduction

Meeting Summary from December 4, 2023

Dala Giffin moved to approve the December 4, 2023, meeting summary as presented. The motion was seconded and passed (4-0).

General Discussion

Funding for High Line Canal Underpass at Yale Ave

Ray Winn presented information on the High Line Canal Underpass at Yale Ave. to obtain a recommendation from OSTAB to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) to approve funding for the construction. The construction cost estimate is \$16.9M for the underpass construction. Open Space staff does not feel that an underpass is a good financially feasible option given the fiscal impact of \$16.9M especially when the at grade crossing increases safety for \$16M less. Therefore, Open Space staff is committed to contributing \$526,000 (previously approved in 2014) for the crossing and Denver is responsible for the rest of the funding through their bond initiative and TIP application.

Mike Mojica moved to recommend to the BoCC approval of the proposed \$526,000.00 from OS Acquisition and Development Fund for the ACOS contribution to Denver for construction of the HLC underpass at Yale Ave. The motion was seconded and passed (5-0).

Update on High Line Canal Natural Resource Management

Glen Poole presented information about Open Space Operations working alongside the High Line Canal Conservancy and a team from the Canal Collaborative to select a consultant who will develop a Natural

Resource Management Plan (NRM Plan) for the High Line Canal. The NRM Plan will serve to guide future management and stewardship of the property across several counties.

Update on Pilot Grant Program for High Line Canal Projects

Michele Frishman presented information about the streamlined grant application for this program to provide a simpler process for proposing and evaluating projects.

Managers' Report and Sales Tax Update

Kathy Smith presented the managers' report.

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were discussed.

Adjournment

Russell Stewart moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed (5-0).



**Arapahoe County Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB)
Special Teams Meeting Summary – April 1, 2024**

Call to Order

Russell Stewart called the on-line Teams meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Attendance

OSTAB members: Russell Stewart, Dala Giffin, Amie Hulet, Jack Swartz, and Mike Mojica

Staff: Gini Pingnot, Michele Frishman, Glen Poole, Roger Harvey, Raymond Winn, Josh Garcia, Sandra Bottoms, Brenda Lucero, John Christofferson, and Andrew Markiewicz

Guests: Josh Phillips, High Line Canal Conservancy

General Discussion

Funding for High Line Canal Natural Resource Management Plan

Open Space Operations, the High Line Canal Conservancy (Conservancy), and a small team of Canal Collaborative members have selected Biohabitats and Dig Studio to facilitate and develop a Natural Resource Management Plan (NRM Plan) for the High Line Canal. The NRM Plan will serve to guide future management and stewardship of the entire property. The Open Space Manager, Glen Poole, along with Conservancy staff presented a joint project request for \$162,000 to assist in funding the NRM Plan. The total cost for the NRM Plan is expected to be \$355,000, Arapahoe County's \$162,000 share represents 45% of the total cost of the NRM Plan.

Dala Giffin moved that OSTAB recommend to the BoCC approval of \$162,000 from the \$4 million Highline Canal Working Group pledge within the Open Space Acquisition and Development Fund to support the High Line Canal Natural Resource Management Plan. The motion was seconded and passed (5-0).

Funding Increase for Kiowa Creek Open Space Construction

Raymond Winn and Roger Harvey presented information about the Kiowa Creek Open Space project to obtain a recommendation from OSTAB to the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) to approve the allocation to expend \$7.5M from the Open Spaces Acquisitions and Development Fund for the construction of the Kiowa Creek Open Space Park and the Bennett Regional Trail Bridge.

Jack Swartz moved to recommend to the BoCC approval of the proposed \$7,500,000.00 from OS Acquisition and Development Fund for the construction of the Kiowa Creek Open Space Park and the Bennett Regional Trail bridge crossing. The motion was seconded and passed (5-0).

Board Member Comments

Board member comments were discussed.

Adjournment

Russell Stewart moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:43 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed (5-0).

2024 Open Space Grants - Applications Received

Applicant	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project Cost	Project Name
Standard Grants				
Arapahoe/Trails Park and Recreation District	\$459,500	\$196,000	\$655,500	Ridge Park Improvements
Arapahoe/Trails Park and Recreation District	\$450,500	\$186,000	\$636,500	Tall Grass Park Improvements
Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation District	\$500,000	\$168,000	\$668,000	Orchard Park Activities
City of Cherry Hills Village	\$241,089	\$90,000	\$331,089	Quincy Farm Pond Habitat Improvements
City of Englewood	\$600,000	\$522,577	\$1,122,577	Bates Logan Park Renovation Phase III
City of Glendale	\$600,000	\$329,000	\$929,000	Glendale Park Phase III
City of Sheridan	\$600,000	\$200,000	\$800,000	Bear Creek Trail Widening
South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$600,000	\$648,000	\$1,248,000	Cherry Knolls Park Improvements
South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$600,000	\$1,935,000	\$2,535,000	Cornerstone Park Improvements Phase I (Construction)
Willow Trace Metropolitan District	\$213,562	\$71,187	\$284,749	Willow Trace Trail
Total Standard Grant Requests	\$4,864,651	\$4,345,764	\$9,210,415	
Small Grants				
Town of Bennett	\$90,000	\$10,000	\$100,000	Park and Open Space Video Surveillance
Strasburg Metropolitan Park & Recreation District	\$66,769	\$7,419	\$74,188	Five Acre Park Playground Phase II
Total Small Grant Requests	\$156,769	\$17,419	\$174,188	
Planning Grants				
Town of Bennett	\$50,000	\$5,500	\$55,500	Construction Documents for Future Park Phase III
City of Greenwood Village	\$148,500	\$16,500	\$165,000	Carson Park Pavilion and Restroom Design
City of Littleton	\$135,000	\$15,000	\$150,000	Littleton Community Trail Extension
City of Littleton	\$135,000	\$15,000	\$150,000	Santa Fe Drive Regional Trail Connection
City of Sheridan	\$150,000	\$120,000	\$270,000	Bear Creek Trailhead Development Project
South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$150,000	\$17,500	\$167,500	Cornerstone Park Improvements Phase II (Design)
Total Planning Grant Requests	\$768,500	\$189,500	\$958,000	
Total Requests	\$5,789,920	\$4,552,683	\$10,342,603	
Allocated Funding	\$5,500,000			



MANAGERS' REPORT

April 2024

GRANTS AND ACQUISITIONS

2024 Grant Opportunities

- 2024 grant proposals were due April 12. Staff will provide an update at the April OSTAB meeting.
- \$5.5 million is available in three categories:
 - \$4 million for Standard Grants (\$150,001 to \$600,000, 25% match)
 - Up to \$750,000 for Small Grants (\$1,000 to \$150,000, 10% match)
 - Up to \$750,000 for Planning Grants (\$1,000 to \$150,000, 10% match)
- Evaluator site visits are scheduled for May 29 and May 30

Closed Projects

- Cherry Creek Vista Park & Recreation District – Peakview Park Renovation (2021 standard grant)
- Town of Bennett – Bennett Regional Park and Open Space Fishing Pond (2020 standard grant)
- City of Greenwood Village – High Line Canal Crossing Improvements on Orchard Road West of University Boulevard (joint project)

Acquisitions

- In addition to our ongoing work on an acquisition of portions of the High Line Canal, staff is exploring other potential acquisitions including portions of the Lowry Ranch property and a small area of land for a section of the Triple Creek Trail in Aurora. We will return to OSTAB with future updates.

PLANNING

Dove Valley Regional Park - Construction

- Construction for park improvements started in March 2023.
- Currently 80% complete.
- Opened west Parking Lot and west fields to users.
- New completion date with weather days is June 20, 2024.
- Major items remaining: pumphouse, irrigation pumps, water taps and landscape.
- BIKE PARK – separate contractor for bike park is at 90% Design, construction of finalized bike elements has started – now at 60% complete. Construction completion date is July 2024.

High Plains Trail Pedestrian Bridge over Parker Road

- Bridge is Complete and open for users to top – bridge deck will remain fenced and closed.
- Design & Construction for remaining trail segments 2,3, & 4 within the Prairie Point development are underway – design is at 90%.
- First construction document submittal to City of Aurora for approvals in Feb. 2024, re-submitted in March.
- Next Steps: Aurora design approval, easement acquisition, bid advertising, contractor selection, & construction. Estimated construction start early 2025.

17 Mile House Farm Park Improvements

- Parker Rd. and future Aurora Pkwy. intersection design and construction: Working with CDOT, City of Aurora, and Kings Point Developer to make intersection improvements on Parker Rd. and future Aurora Pkwy, creating a 4-way signalized intersection.
- IGA with Oakwood homes/new metro District has been executed to continue the joint construction.
- OSTAB recommendation of funding approval for intersection by BoCC was done in Nov. 2023.
- CDOT issued County Notice to Proceed Jan. 2024 we have 3 years to complete work.
- OS waiting for Prairie Pt. Developer to decide when they are ready to start east side of Intersection construction: possibly in 2025.

Kiowa Creek (North) Open Space Master Plan Project

- Stream Landscape Architects (LA) were selected for design development, Location & Extent Plan and construction documents.
- Stream LA has started: process will take approximately 9 -12 months, construction will follow.
- We are approaching 60% construction documents with first L&E submittal occurred- have received comments.
- Working on grants for funding assistance: CPW Archery Range Grant, GOCO and State Trails Grant.

New 4 Square Mile Park: Arcadia Park

- A new residential community comprised of approximately 345 rental apartment units and 168 two-story for-sale paired-homes at the former Potter's House Church site at 9495 E. Florida Ave., on a 32-acre site.
- Open Spaces requested land dedication for a park instead of Cash in Lieu.
- Final concept has been created. Construction Document Design is underway.
- Final funding has been approved.
- Construction has started. Tentative property transfer date is July 2024.
- Fall 2024 tentative start date slated for construction of park.

Bijou Basin – Master Plan, Natural Resources Study.

- Wenk and Associates was selected as main contractor for Master Plan and studies.
- Kickoff meeting has started.
- Natural resource, agriculture, and cultural studies underway.
- Community outreach plan is being drafted.
- First public outreach tentatively planned for table at County Fair.

Richmil Ranch – Phase II Parking Lot Expansion.

- Partnership with County Public Works to design, bid and construct an expansion to Richmil Parking lot.
- Reason – Parking lot was designed and built undersized for current Equestrian use the park is experiencing. There is no current accommodation for horse trailers.
- At 90% construction document design. Location & Extent Plan amendment taking place.
- Cost estimate being drafted, funding approvals are next: OSTAB in June followed by Board of County Commissioners.

Countywide Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan implementation: S. Holly St. and E. Yale Ave. Multimodal improvement project & Santa Fe Improvements.

- Identified in 2017 Master Plan: bike and pedestrian improvements along Yale Ave. to connect existing bike lanes in Denver to Cherry Creek Trail and High Line Canal Trail and Bible Park.
- City of Denver leading High Line Canal crossing underpass of Yale Ave. in partnership with County for roadway improvements and inclusion of new side-path along Yale for bikes and pedestrians.
 - Update: construction documents are at 30%.
 - Public Meeting was held to update the public on the underpass progress.
 - Tentative Schedule: Design through 2024, Contractor starting construction 2025 and opening 2026.
 - 2014-2015 Funding approvals for Yale/Holly Highline Canal crossing improvements for \$500,000 are now going to be re-approved by OS: OSTAB approved funding on Feb. 26, BoCC approval will follow.
- Other multi- modal projects being scoped and investigated:
 - HAWK crossing signal for Quebec Street and High Line Canal.
 - Peoria missing sidewalk connection: west side of Peoria from Arapahoe Rd to Easter Ave.
 - Parker Road Trail on east side of Parker Road through Foxfield – to Broncos Parkway.
 - Inverness Drive East bike lanes.
 - Parker Road Multi- Modal Safety Improvement Study – Parker Road from Mississippi to Havana.

Bike to Work Day

- June 26.
- Open Spaces will have 1 station at Arapahoe Road Trailhead at Cherry Creek Trail and help fund a 2nd station in Littleton along S. Platte River Trail.

OPERATIONS

Open Space, Parks & Trails Operations

- Operations / Maintenance
 - Ongoing interviews and hiring process for Open Space Technician positions and the new Forestry / Horticulture Specialist position.
 - Final snow removal operations on properties and demobilization of winter plowing equipment for the season.
 - Initiated intergovernmental research and program needs development process to support possible Ranger Program development in the future.
 - Picnic shelter rental program for 2024 went live in early April.
 - Vehicle and equipment ordering for the 2024 season and to support new staff.
- Projects
 - Sand Lily Park demolition contractor demolition process half complete, new fencing/access gates will be installed on the perimeter of the property.
 - Kiowa Creek Open Space Development: review 30% design for site development and proposed interpretive / wayfinding signage. Easement for Town of Bennett drainage improvements at Kiowa Bennett Road executed.
 - Richmil Ranch Open Spaces, phase II parking lot expansion, 60% design drawings complete and project cost estimating is finalizing.
 - High Line Canal Transition Project: Completing site tours of High Line Canal with Public Works staff, selection of Natural Resource Management Plan consultant complete and contract awarded, Stormwater Technical Advisory Committee working on a Storm Water Management Plan.
 - Dove Valley Regional Park Phase 1: Ongoing weekly project meetings and site inspections. City of Aurora staff initiating IGA review with City Council for future programming partnership.
- 17 Mile House
 - Finalize 2024 Open House events with support from CSU Extension.
 - Open House events began for the 2024 season, ongoing social media marketing.
 - Annual building fire monitoring system inspections and testing.
 - Complete historic collection review and inventory.

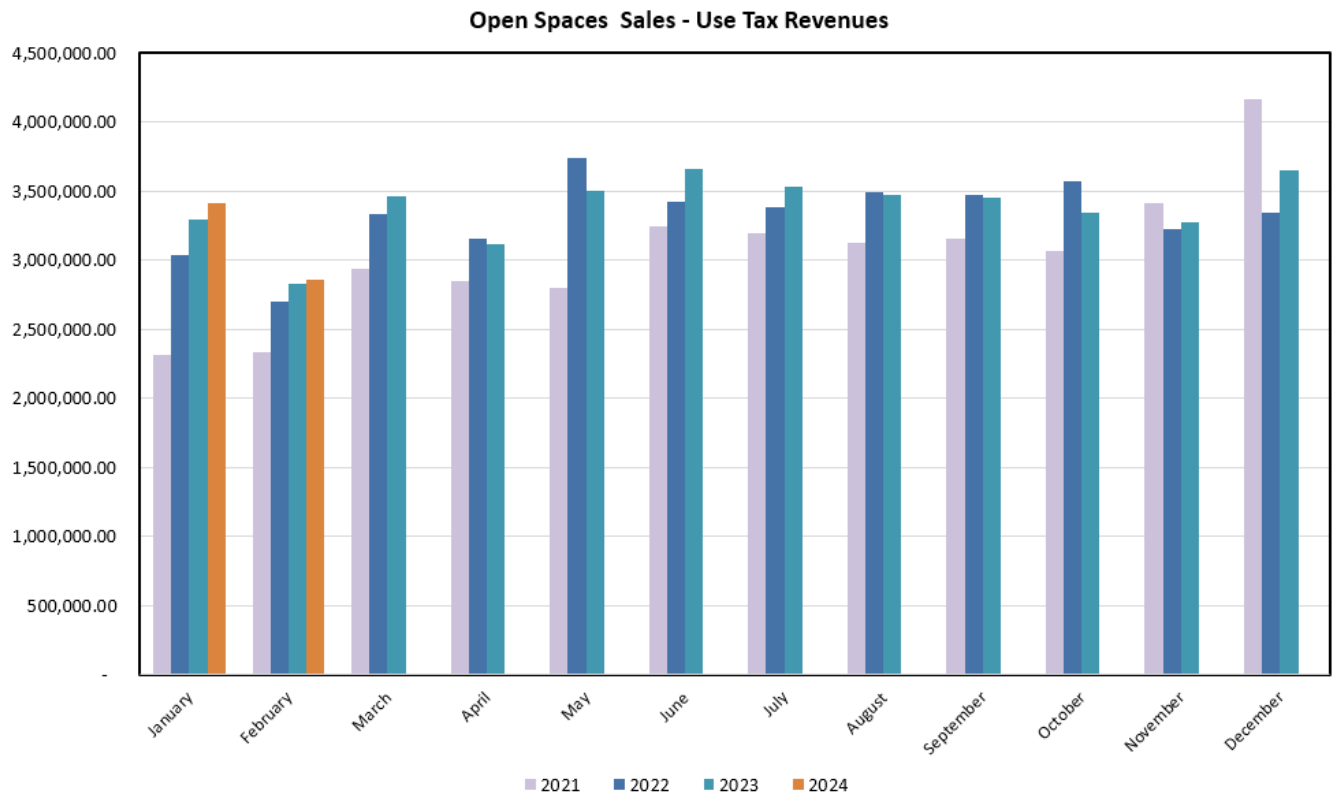
Fairgrounds Operations

- Event Center
 - 2024 County interdepartmental events and calendar bookings.
- Operations / Maintenance
 - Spring clean-up of grounds and exterior of Event Center. Arena grooming.
 - Research on deferred maintenance and building improvement needs. Budget development.
- Annual County Fair
 - Fair Core Team meetings, staff who complete most of the Fair planning.
 - Monthly Fair Planning Committee meetings, with CSU Extension staff.
 - Sponsorship program finalization and sponsor relations development.
- Community Events

- 2024 Community Events logistics planning, social media marketing, and sponsorship completion. First event Chalk Lines and Vines.

SALES AND USE TAX REVENUES

2023 Total Collected (Updated): \$40,581,448



Sales and use tax revenues are posted a few months after collection.