



**MEETING NOTES
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
APRIL 9, 2025
6:00 PM
SUPERIOR COMMUNITY CENTER
1500 COALTON ROAD**

This meeting will be held in person and online. Members of the public may [participate in the meeting via Zoom](#) or [view the meeting on YouTube](#) (closed captioning available). The recording of the meeting will be made available after the meeting on [YouTube](#) and at [SuperiorColorado.gov](#)

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:00pm
2. **Preliminary Matters**
 - a. **Roll Call (6pm)**

Present: Kara Neuse (Chair), Rita Trainor (Vice Chair), Joann Maneri, Amber Greves, Todd Gleeson, Tracey Bain, Michael McDonnell, Jeff Wade and Cristi Verbeck. The members present constituted a quorum.

Absent: None

Staff Present: Leslie Clark (PROS Director), Phary Om (Ranger/Staff Liaison)

Town Council Liaison present: Mike Foster
 - b. **Agenda Approval (6:01):** The chair asked for any corrections or additions to the Agenda. None being offered, the agenda was approved by consensus.
 - c. **Public Comment (6:02):** No members of the public made public comment, either personally or virtually.
3. **OSAC Discussion Items**
 - a. **Staff Updates [Leslie/Phary] (6:02) Leslie:** The First Avenue pedestrian bridge was installed on Tuesday and trail connections on both sides still need to be installed. Fiber is coming to town and workers will be accessing open space throughout Town to complete trenching up along homeowners' fence lines. The project on McCaslin is a water main project that will hopefully be complete by the end of May. The goats have moved on to another project and the town is re-bidding for vendors for summer goat grazing. Leslie and Phary met with residents Boulder County to discuss a prairie dog barrier to discourage an open space colony from dispersing north toward the homes. This will potentially be a Youth Corps summer project. The CDOT parking lot at Coyote Ridge Open Space is coming along and a next step will be to determine what signage to place there. Tracey asked about whether had been any discussion of replacing vegetation/trees along the Coal Creek corridor following the extensive removal of habitat that occurred. We met with Boulder County on the P-dog fence, residents were not there.
(6:11) Phary: Upcoming programs include the Owl Prowl this Friday, 4/11 from 7:15pm-8:15pm and Nature Journaling will be 4/19 from 10am-noon at Oerman Roche Trailhead. Arbor Day events will occur on Saturday, 4/26, from 10am-noon at Purple Park. A kids' fishing clinic will be held on 5/4, 9am-noon (ages 16-17 need a fishing license and adults could assist) at Purple Park in Pond 5 (Pitkin and Rock Creek Pkwy) in conjunction with CPW. Two volunteer projects related to pollinators will be held in conjunction with Friends of Coal Creek on 5/10 and 5/13 from 10am-1:30pm at Purple Park. 55 pounds of trash were picked up along Coal Creek in Original Town by the Wildlife Encouragement Team!

- b. **National Trails Day Planning (6:27):** National Trails Day is scheduled for June 7th at Coalton Trailhead, 9am-noon. Some vendors did not respond to Phary by the deadline so there are some latecomers. There are 9 confirmed vendors currently. HawkQuest was already booked, so Phary is looking for alternatives for a raptor vendor. There will be reptiles and goats present.
- c. **Trails/Open Space Requests to Boulder County (6:33):** Town staff has not been updated on Boulder County's deadline for submission. Michael asked about how OSAC might obtain input/technical assistance from Boulder County regarding specific trail alignment or redesigns for Coyote Ridge Open Space. There is some budget money allocated for implementing recommendations set forth in the Coyote Ridge Master Plan. This item will be continued on the OSAC agenda in May.
- d. **Migratory Bird Day Planning (6:41):** This event will be held on May 17th at Purple Park, 9am-noon. There are 15 vendors confirmed. Environment of the Americas is the entity presenting the certification to the Town. Signs (2) may be placed with Tree City signs.
- e. **Open Space Management Plan (6:47):** The consultants have made progress on the public survey and it is almost ready. The goal is to open the survey around Arbor Day and keep it open through National Trails Day so it can be promoted through these events. Leslie has been helping with categorizing properties and describing their ecological makeup to assist with the definitions used in the plan. There has been discussion around how to integrate some of OSAC's reference documents and position papers. One of the consultants has some preliminary mapping of wetlands within the Town.
- f. **Open Space Classifications Feedback for Town's Comprehensive Plan (6:55):** Town staff indicated that currently, from a land use perspective, open space is referred to as "Parks and Open Space" in the Comprehensive Plan. OSAC will link to the Comprehensive Plan in some capacity with respect to more specific definitions.
- g. **Naming Trails (7:01):** During the March meeting, OSAC discussed the idea of naming trails throughout the Town. There are wayfinding signs and some trails that are named. The group further discussed some potential processes for embarking on this. For example, it would be beneficial to determine if there are patterns, themes, historical connections, or nature-related perspectives.
- h. **Town Council Meeting Issues (7:09):** OSAC's annual dinner with Town Council is 4/14 at 6pm. The team will keep this on the agenda for after the dinner is held.
- i. **Rodenticides Campaign Plan/Policy Recommendation (7:11):** Tracey shared that there are a number of upcoming mentions and articles around rodenticides that will be appearing in the PROS newsletter, Superior Sentinel, and standalone social media posts. Leslie spoke with the Town's pest vendor about alternatives to rodenticides, and the vendor is researching the costs for birth control products to place in the black boxes. In the meantime, the black boxes that service town property will remain, but the vendor is sticking them with "no poisonous bait" and replacing rodenticide bait with sticky pads. The alternative is looking at population control versus killing the animals. Trapping cannot feasibly be completed on the scale it sometimes needs to be around Town. Tracey wrote a second article for the Friends of Coal Creek blog that is a follow-up article to the first one and that references OSAC's and WET's work with the Town. For black boxes on commercial properties, OSAC could possibly work with the Chamber to communicate with property management companies.
- j. **Floating Islands for Ducks and Geese, volunteer only project? (7:22):** Joann mentioned a contact via the Wildlife Encouragement Team who is willing to build islands as habitat for geese and ducks during breeding season. Town Staff would be open to a proposal and further discussion with OSAC.
- k. **OSAC Roundtable (7:28):** Joann: Thanked Phary for the equipment provided to the Wildlife Encouragement Team for the trash cleanup along Coal Creek. Rita noted that she and Todd are working on updating the trail continuity documents. They will come back to OSAC with recommendations and suggestions for the budget process. Cristi/ Michael: briefly spoke about

the topic of fundraising for the Marshall Fire remembrance memorial. Mike Foster: There will be proclamations for Arbor Day and Migratory Bird Day on the 4/14 Town Council agenda. At the same meeting, Town Council will be considering the issuance of bonds to complete capital projects related to Rock Creek Pkwy, pools, etc. There will be public meetings about the pools, including on 4/16.

1. **Reminders (7:39):**

3.1.1 **Dinner with Town Council Topics-** OSAC's annual dinner with Town Council is 4/14 at 6pm, Town Hall. The team discussed topics for the agenda, including mission and focus as a committee/OSAC priorities, needed resources, staff support, support for initiatives, land acquisition and Town 15 zoning, retention of dead trees for habitat and commitment to exploring restoration along Coal Creek.

3.1.2 **Arbor Day Event-** Discussed earlier in the agenda.

3.1.3 **Migratory Bird Day-** Discussed earlier in the agenda.

4. **Standing Updates (7:58):**

a. **Rocky Mountain Greenway (Rocky Flats)-** None

b. **Raptor Program-** None

c. **Wildlife Monitoring Program-** Tracey shared a video of a bobcat family from a wildlife monitoring volunteer. More minks are being sighted near Hodgson-Harris Reservoir, and they are hunting prairie dogs. Joann spotted a muskrat or mink today at Bowe's Pond. The wildlife camera may need to be moved.

d. **Wildfire Update-** Cristi shared that there was a communication from Rock Creek HOA around promoting mulch, which is a known fire hazard.

e. **Prairie Dog Plan Update-** Amber shared that the Army has not yet decided about whether Pueblo Chemical Depot will be receiving relocated prairie dogs this year as part of the black-footed ferret reintroduction program. Amber also raised concerns about new burrows and prairie dog dispersal along McCaslin past the Coalton Trailhead, as mowing has eliminated the visual barrier that previously discouraged dispersal in this direction. Amber asked about potential options for restoring a visual barrier.

f. **Habitat Preservation Update-** None

g. **Grant Asks-** Leslie shared a document from the Town's Grants Administrator regarding grant resources, information, and considerations.

h. **Migratory Bird Day Activity -** A possible activity could be matching the name to the bird.

i. **Communications Update (for Kevin Colon) -** The trail etiquette communications will continue.

5. **Adjourn:** The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:12.