

**MINUTES
OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS BOARD
REGULAR SESSION
August 1, 2024
530 East Main Street
Aspen, CO 81611**

OSTB Present:

Graeme Means Dist. 1	Howie Mallory Dist. 2, Chair	Amy Barrow Dist. 3 Not Present	Michael Kinsley Dist. 4	Wayne Ives Dist. 5
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Staff Present: Gary Tennenbaum, Kim Arensdorf, Jessie Young, Carly O’Connell, Liza Mitchell, Paul Holsinger, Drew Walters, Ted O’Brien, Janet Urquhart, Dale Will, Rich Englehart

Howie Mallory called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Michael Kinsley motioned for the OSTB to approve the 07/11/2024 OSTB Regular and Executive Session Draft Minutes. Graeme Means seconded. Motion passed (3-0).

Wayne Ives entered at 9:05 a.m.

Open Space and Trails Board Retreat Discussion

Gary Tennenbaum stated that OST staff was directed to come up with a list of potential OSTB retreat topics. The result of the staff poll identified one new topic of increasing public concern, that being climate resilience. To date, OST has not focused on the broad question of how the program should address climate issues, but instead have focused on specific projects like electrifying our remodeled buildings, ensuring our fleet of vehicles is moving towards EV’s and offsetting energy use with solar. Tennenbaum explained that the County is working on a larger Climate Action Plan development this year. An overall policy directing future operations will be beneficial for staff to evaluate any future project, similar to the Biodiversity Policy.

Michael Kinsley suggested conducting a granular look at climate action within the County, inviting each staff member to contribute insights for the Climate Action Plan. Additionally, for staff to provide a list of strategic projects, measuring the benefits vs cost.

Graeme Means referenced the Biodiversity Policy which has significantly helped guide decisions within the program. He noted that a Climate Action Policy could have the same benefit.

Wayne Ives stated that climate action is a timely and important topic. He expressed interest in having a retreat type meeting regarding Snowmass Falls Ranch. Tennenbaum recommended waiting until the Forest Service have provided a proposal regarding the property. Dale Will

explained that staff has been inventorying conservation values including habitat and connectivity of Snowmass Falls Ranch. He suggested providing the Board with a baseline report on the various studies and wait to discuss until after the Forest Services proposal. Graeme commented that Snowmass Falls Ranch is in analysis phase, and that the Climate Action Policy is a more appropriate and timelier topic for a retreat.

Howie Mallory suggested including capacity and use limits for the retreat topic. Tennenbaum explained that staff is still in working progress from the previous OSTB retreat discussing that topic. He noted that significant work has been done on the Roaring Fork Outdoor Coalition plan creation. From there the Board will then determine what projects to move forward with in the future, he said.

Graeme requested that staff keep the board updated on the County Climate Action Plan effort, in order to help coordinate OST's plan. Tennenbaum commented that staff can provide that information to the Board.

Tennenbaum suggested hosting the retreat early next year, potentially in February.

BOARD AND STAFF COMMENTS

Graeme applauded the support from Ted O'Brien and other OST staff for work with the Hunter Creek Preservation group.

Mallory commended the success on the Brush Creek vegetation restoration, mentioned in an article in the Aspen Times.

Tennenbaum provided an update on a land use application for a property near Aspen Village. He stated that the County will not approve the current application based on their initial requests. Carly O'Connell added that currently there is no OSTB comment requests for the plan.

ADJOURN

The OSTB meeting of August 1, 2024 adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Approved:



Howie Mallory, Chair
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails Board

Attest:



Kim Arensdorf
Pitkin County Open Space & Trails
Administrative Specialist