

San Miguel County Open Space Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 23rd, 2025, 4:00 PM

Attendance:

OSC Members Present: Susie St. Onge, Joanna Kanow, Jason Merritt, Sefra Maples
Yvette Henson, Laura Kudo, Angela Dye

OSC Members Absent:

SMC Staff Liaison Present: Janet Kask

Call to Order: 4:09 p.m. by Chairperson Susie St. Onge

Approval of 5/19/25 Meeting Minutes: Not Approved, needs review

Seconded by:

Perimeter Trail

- Members of the Parks & Open Space Department as well as members of the Open Space Commission, Telluride Mountain Club, homeowners and representatives from the Idorado Legacy HOA met to discuss the proposed perimeter trail project
- US Forest service, the Town of Telluride and Idorado were invited to attend, but did not
- Homeowners and HOA representatives expressed concerns about the perimeter trail
 - Trail Users seeing their homes
 - Having to look at people hiking the trail
 - Elk Migration
 - Erosion
 - Parking
- The first mile of the trail was hiked by the attendees, as well alignments were sent
- The homeowners requested that another meeting be held in the future to see the view from their property
 - The OSC agreed that they should give them a specific timeline for this meeting and not draw it out
- The homeowners are upset at the increase in visitors to the Bridal Veil area and do not want to draw more traffic to the area
- Amongst all the homeowners they submitted 27 letters in opposition to the trail

Forest Health talk and hike

- Dr. Jason Siebold and the Wilkinson Public Library will be hosting a talk and hike on the forest health in the Bear Creek Region

- He has been conducting seed collection and Beetle monitoring in the area, and is projecting the data out to surrounding areas

Breckenridge Trail Extension

- The Cruise Ranch has been sold to the Magnum group who put up gates to block Penelope's Trail which runs through their property
- Parks & Open Space has been meeting with the Aldesoro HOC and the Telluride Mountain Club to create a trail extension around the property.
- Construction is slated to start in August of this year
- The OSC posed questions about historical use of trails and if there are protections for these trails if they cross private property
- Angela Dye had concerns of making the trail longer or losing and gaining elevation in the new trail alignment

Pheromone Pack Distribution 2025

- Another successful year of P-pack efforts, starting with a county press release
- The County increased the distribution to 650 p-packs, which all were distributed
- More private landowner participation this year

Budget Items

- Road & Bridge has in the past and this time helped with cleanup, as well as the Town of Telluride
- The county does not set aside funds for mudslides, but we were able to contribute to the funding from our General Fund
- An outside contractor was hired to do debris cleanup on the Idarado Legacy Trail, which work has been completed
- Immogene pass is still closed due to the slide higher up on the hillside
- The ToT is heading up a separate project to increase the water flow capacity of Royer Gulch around infrastructure

Mill Creek Park

- An RFP was prepared for soil prep and grading
 - We had some interest early on but received no bids
 - Contractors are booked out over a year
- We will be looking to find a contractor who can blend the north portion to the south grade and remove the ledge running through the middle of the park
- We did order more picnic tables and they are out in the park now
- Our strategy will be to piecemeal the project in phases, because of the contractor unavailability
- Angela suggested that we get SuperBloom to recommend an order to piecemeal the project
- Janet has prepared a new survey for the community on the development of Mill Creek Park

Galloping Goose Park

- An RFP was issued for the overall conceptual design of the GGPark
 - 3 bids were received and we are evaluating them now
- The Galloping Goose train will not be returning
 - The track and viewing staircase were removed
- The picnic tables were relocated to the gravel bed
- The concrete path through the park will be part of the redesign
- The original plan of Fruen historic shed moving to the park will no longer be part of the design

20th Anniversary of Down Valley Park

- This September is the 20th anniversary of the DVP
- We are still coming up with a plan for the celebration and will discuss more next meeting
- We are looking for volunteers to assist

Noxious Weed Management

- USFS recently signed a 5 year agreement with the County to provide noxious weed management services to various sites
- We have entered into year 1 already
- USFS agreed to pay \$10,000 per year for 5 years
- Susie discussed the topic of herbicides vs natural remedies. Sawpit has transitioned to natural methods, using Bee Happy Farms as their contractor
- The idea of Julie coming to discuss these methods next meeting was discussed
- Yvette Henson brought up the point that natural methods are not always viable at a large scale like covering the whole county
- Laura Kudo discussed doing a proof of concept on a small scale like 1 park or trail

Visitor Information Services Workshop

- A full inventory of signage is needed for the San Juan Skyway
- Creating guidelines around the number of meetings and attendance factors
- The maintenance and funding of restrooms is an immediate concern

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.
Next County OSC meeting - Mon., 7/28/25 at 4:00 p.m.