

San Miguel County Open Space Commission
Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 25th, 2024, 4:00 PM

Attendance:

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

OSC Members Absent: Roger Wickham

SMC Staff Liaisons Present: Janet Kask, Greg Pollio, [Starr Jamison](#), Rich Hamilton

Call to Order: 4:04 p.m. by Chairperson Susie St. Onge

Approval of 2/26/24 Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve, Joanna Kanow
seconded by Yvette Henson. Unanimously approved.

Meeting Minutes

- 2/26/24 Minutes approved

Summary

Story Walk at the Down Valley Park

- Melissa Friedman and Gloria Chaveina from the Wilkinson Public Library presented their proposal for a story walk at the Down Valley Park
- The success of the storywalk has led to new storywalks in the Town of Telluride and Town of Mountain Village
- The process for approval for these two storywalks were very similar to the process that will be pursued for the Down Valley Park
- The library updates the stories every month and the Towns help with installation and maintenance of the panels
 - 11-12 panels were discussed for the Down Valley Park
- Each page has a QR code with will dictate the story in Spanish and English
 - Cell service is needed for QR reading. Service is spotty at the DVP.

Gunnison Sage Grouse

- [Starr Jamison](#) attended the Recovery Implementation Strategy Meeting with USFWS
- BIL Grant funding and budget was discussed
- RESTORE Grant
 - 46 new Zeedyk structures
 - Tamarisk Removal
 - Repairing damaged structures from grazing

Slick Rock Mining

- Starr Jamison spoke about the special application permit for mining that needs to be acquired from the county
- The details of wildlife habitats, biodiversity and groundwater mitigation on their permit was discussed
- The land use code prevented a moratorium on mining for this application
 - The code encourages mining on the west end right now
- The opportunity for comment on the application was due March 12th and none had been received from the open space commission to the planning department
 - The OSC agreed to expedite their letter to the Planning Department
- Concern was expressed by Angela Dye over transportation logistics to the test pads
- Mason Osgood of Sheep Mountain Alliance encouraged everyone to attend or comment for the upcoming Planning Department meeting
- Makayla Gordon recommended that the commission research modern mining practices and the changes in technology
 - She spoke about the west end districts that depend on and benefit from mining financially
- The decision making process was discussed of receiving comments and weighing them against the land use code before bringing them to the BOCC with recommendation

Down Valley Connector Trail Public Comment Update

- Two nights of public meeting, there was lower turnout than the first round of meetings
- Details of the feasibility study findings were presented to local residents including trail alignments, surface type, phasing of segments and ADA accessibility
- The cost of the trail was presented to the County Commissioners and that grant funding would need to be pursued
- Greg Pollio reported that the meetings were generally constructive with feedback coming from the community about specific concerns
 - Some feedback was on safety concerns, utilizing the north side of 145 and specific locations of retaining walls

Open Space Commission 2024 Work Plan

- Presented the work plan to the county commissioners the previous week
- It was well received by the BOCC
- [Janet Kask](#) thanked the all volunteer OSC for their work on getting this document finished

San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway Update

- The OSC expressed their preference to prioritize upkeep of historic markers, signage updates, keeping the roadway clean, noise ordinances, speed enforcement, and promoting sustainable tourism.

Colorado Water Conservation Board

- Lastly Janet Kask shared updates about the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) grant and plans to expand the county's Payment for Ecosystem Services program in 2024. Future meetings were confirmed for April 22 at 4 PM.

Meeting adjourned: 6:11 PM

Wilkinson Public Library Storywalk Proposal
Down Valley Park, Placerville, CO

Introduction

We would like to expand the reach of our Storywalks, fostering literacy engagement among Placerville families, San Miguel County residents, and visiting tourists.

Objectives/Goals

1. Encourage community members to embrace the outdoors while enhancing literacy skills in English and Spanish.
2. Promote family outdoor activities, contributing to overall health and well-being.
3. Cultivate a deeper connection to nature conservation through the Storywalk experience.

Target Audience:

Families, tourists, Placerville and San Miguel County residents.

Features:

- 11 permanent Storywalk Panels around the pond.
- Available 7 days a week 24 hours a day.

Timeline:

- 2024: research cost and compile proposal for approval.
- Apply for grants to assist with the initial investment.
- Pending approval, implement in Spring 2025 when ground conditions improve for post installation.

Cost:

- 11 Panels: \$8,525.00
- Installation: Library or county staff will handle installation.
- Books: Monthly installation by library staff.

Risks and Mitigation:

- Vandalizing identified as the primary risk; periodic door replacements required due to weathering.
- Access to the story during winter months will require snow removal.
- Cleaning requires mild dish soap with a microfiber towel.

Evaluation and Success Metrics:

- Guest registry comments
- QR code statistics

Conclusion:

The existing storywalks in Mountain Village and Telluride demonstrate Wilkinson Public Library's commitment to promoting literacy, environmentalism, health, exercise, and overall well-being in our rural region.

Appendix: 10 photos of the Telluride Storywalk complete with measured distances between panels, from river, and the beaver pond.

Town of Telluride StoryWalk Measurements
(Measurements are approximate).



Panel #1 to River: 25'
Panel #1 to Panel #2: 75'



Panel #2 to River: 25'
Panel #2 to #3: 90'



Panel #3 to River: 15.5'



Panel #4 to River: 14'



Panel #6 to Wetland: 28'



Panel #7 to Wetland West: 12.5'
Panel #7 to Wetland South: 16

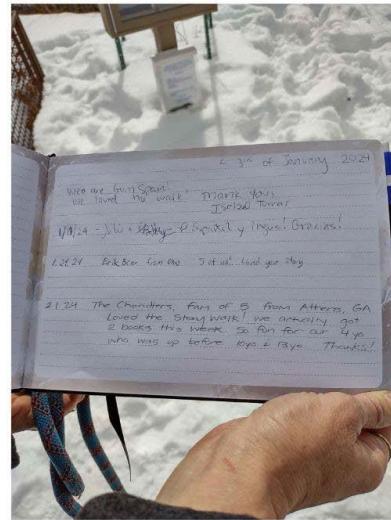


Panel #'s 8,9,10 to Wetland: On edge of trail bordering surrounding wetland.
Panel #9 to #10: 45'





Panel #11 behind panel is river



Storywalk Guest Registry Comments

We love our Storywalks® and envision a successful partnership
with San Miguel County!