

# ESTES VALLEY TRAILS COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 10, 2013  
6:00 P.M.

Downstairs Meeting Room  
Estes Park 18-Hole Golf Course Clubhouse  
1480 Golf Course Road  
Estes Park, CO 80517

---

**IN ATTENDANCE:** *Voting Members:* Danny Basch, Hal Dalzell, Ed Hayek, Gary Matthews, Lisa Plaut, Amy Plummer, Dick Putney, Dave Shirk. *Non-voting Members:* Ron Duell (*EVRPD Board Liaison*), Skyler Rorabaugh (*EVRPD Executive Director*), Janet Carabell (*EVRPD Administrative Assistant*).

**ABSENT:** Ken TeSelle (excused absence)

**GUESTS:** Pam Appel, Joyce Hamblin, Erica Goad

---

Prior notice of this meeting was given by posting a Notice at the Town of Estes Park's Municipal Building, the Estes Park Public Library, Estes Valley Recreation and Park District's Administration Office, the Larimer County Clerk's Office in Estes Park, the Boulder County Courthouse in Boulder.

*Trails Committee President, Gary Matthews, called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.*

### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Moved by Dick Putney, seconded by Hal Dalzell, to approve the January 13, 2014 Trails Committee meeting minutes, as amended.

Ayes – 8. Motion carried unanimously.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

A financial report dated February 28, 2014, was prepared by EVRPD's Accountant and presented to the committee. The Trails Fund balance as of February 28, 2014, is \$549,086.

Moved by Dave Shirk, seconded by Ed Hayek, to approve the February 28, 2014, Treasurer's report, as presented.

Ayes – 8. Motion carried unanimously.

### ESTES PARK WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTATION FOR MATTHEWS REESER BIRD SANCTUARY REPAIRS – JOYCE HAMBLIN AND PAM APPEL

Pam Appel and Joyce Hamblin presented information about the Estes Park Woman's Club and a \$2,000 check from the Woman's Club to help re-vegetate the Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary at Lake Estes that was damaged by the September 2013 flood. Pam Appel serves as the club's president. She noted that the Woman's Club is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year in Estes Park and supports four main entities --

Estes Valley Schools, Estes Valley Library District, Town of Estes Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park. The Club's fiscal year begins in September and the Club decided to focus their 2014 efforts on flood recovery. Joyce Hamblin stated that "Skyler Rorabaugh and his crew are easy to work with." The Woman's Club asked that EVRPD place a plaque in the bird sanctuary in recognition of the club's donation. Mr. Rorabaugh agreed to this request and thanked the Woman's Club for their generous donation.

#### **ESTES VALLEY CYCLING COALITION – ERICA GOAD**

Erica Goad, Estes Valley Cycling Coalition (EVCC) representative, presented information about this new local organization, whose mission is to promote safe cycling in the Estes Valley. There has been great interest in the group, with each meeting attendance numbering 40-50 people. EVCC plans to host cycling events, advocate for cyclists, offer workshops, and promote bike trail connectivity. The group is in the process of applying for a "bike friendly" designation from the league of American Bicyclists. Ms. Goad stated that this designation will take some work to achieve in the Estes Valley.

Trails Committee president, Gary Matthews, encouraged the group to keep communicating with the Trails Committee. It was mentioned that an EVCC liaison to the committee may be a possibility in the future. Mr. Rorabaugh encouraged EVCC to inform Gregg Farmer, EVRPD Recreation Manager, of future events. Amy Plummer stated that Trails Committee members may be able to rebuild bike trails such as the H Bar G trail. Dave Shirk added that EVCC may want to provide input into the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan.

#### **COMPREHENSIVE TRAILS PLAN UPDATE**

EVRPD received a \$35,000 GOCO grant award for a Comprehensive Trails Master Plan in December 2013. EVRPD will revisit this project in the fall of 2014. Patsy McEntee, from the recreational trails division of the National Park Service, has offered to help with the project by coordinating public forums, etc.

#### **ESTES VALLEY COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER UPDATE**

The project has received a name change name *from* Community Wellness Recreation Center *to* Estes Valley Community Recreation Center. Survey results are posted on EVRPD's Web site for both the mail-in and online surveys. An open house will be held on March 19, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the Estes Park Golf Course Clubhouse, to introduce a preliminary conceptual design and program plan for the proposed Estes Valley Community Recreation Center. This will be the last opportunity for public comment before the final conceptual design and feasibility study are completed.

#### **FLOOD RECOVERY UPDATE**

Skyler Rorabaugh, EVRPD Executive Director, updated the committee on EVRPD's flood recovery efforts. Fish Creek road corridor and trail repairs will be a joint effort between EVRPD, Larimer County, Town of Estes Park, and the Upper Thompson Sanitation District (UTSD). EVRPD applied for a GOCO grant that includes potential funding to offset our FEMA match, funding for a new trail segment that would connect to the Homer Rouse Trail, and funding for Homer Rouse Trail FEMA match. GOCO grant awards will be announced in a few weeks. Staff met with Cheley Camp representatives to discuss the trail, temporary storage of materials, the Homer Rouse Trail, and easements. The project will take at least 12 to 14 months, weather-dependent. Volunteers of Colorado will help with \$5,000 in grant funds and with trail and habitat labor crews.

Repairing the two golf courses and the Lake Estes Trail remain high priorities. EVRPD is partnering with Volunteers of Colorado, the Estes Park Woman's Club, the Estes Park Birders Club, and the Town of Estes Park Tree Board to re-vegetate and restore the Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary on May 10, with May 31 set as an alternate date in case of inclement weather. EVRPD's CPW grant application should be decided soon. This grant was submitted in November 2013, and asked for additional funds to repair the Lake Estes Trail washout section and the Homer Rouse Trail. There are several areas around the trail that need rip-rap, fill, topsoil, and native seed and wildflower mix. Fisherman's Nook parking area also needs to be repaired. A grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado will also be used for re-vegetation, rock carbon-dating, and interpretative signage. Gary Matthews mentioned that the pond in the bird

sanctuary may not support the same vegetation around it as it did before the September 2013 flood. Braided wire will be added to the bottom of bird sanctuary fencing to help keep elk out of re-vegetated areas.

Kim Slininger is helping with Fish Creek and Homer Rouse trail repairs and coordinating a Trail Training Academy, in conjunction with trail experts from Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) and other agencies, which EVRPD will host on April 15, 16, and 17. The goal is to create a trails design and repair plan, as well as to train trail repair "experts" that will help with actual trail repair work. Kim has been working to obtain easements along the Fish Creek corridor. Cheley Camp is interested in developing a second trail access to the Homer Rouse trail that would cut across the western end of the Cheley ranch and then hook-up with the existing trail. Larimer County Youth Corps will help rebuild the lower portions of the Homer Rouse Trail in June. Repairs to the top portion of the trail will be done by EVRPD staff. Lois Smith (Baldpate Inn), RMNP, and Ken Curry (property owner along the trail) will all be working in areas along the Homer Rouse Trail, which presents the opportunity for collaboration. A local citizen who uses the trail donated \$2,000 for trail repairs.

Repairing the two golf courses and the Lake Estes Trail continue to be high priorities for EVRPD. It is hoped that the Homer Rouse and Lake Estes trails will be repaired by late spring. A \$35,190 grant from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado will be used for re-vegetation, rock carbon-dating, and interpretative signage in this area.

FEMA will not fund repairs to Otie's Trail, due to lack of trail easements. If the EPMC/AWC project proceeds, they may use the trail and help with repairs.

#### **LAKE ESTES TRAIL FITNESS EQUIPMENT UPDATE**

EVRPD hopes to revisit this in Fall 2014.

#### **COMFORT INN REDEVELOPMENT – LAKE FRONT STREET SIDEWALK - DAVE SHIRK**

Dave Shirk presented information about the Comfort Inn's redevelopment plans, which include the Town laying sidewalk along the east side of Lake Front Street (about half-way down Lake Front toward Lake Estes). Mr. Shirk noted that the Town of Estes Park may ask the Trails Committee to consider building part of the sidewalk to connect to the Lake Estes Trail. It was suggested that the committee send a letter of support to the Town.

#### **MATTHEWS REESER BIRD SANCTUARY**

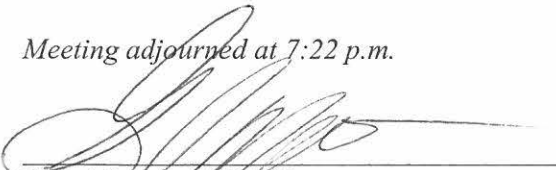
A re-vegetation day is scheduled for May 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. EVRPD is partnering with Volunteers of Colorado, the Estes Park Woman's Club, the Estes Park Birders Club, and the Town of Estes Park Tree Board to re-vegetate and restore the Matthews-Reeser Bird Sanctuary. May 31 has been set as an alternate date in case of inclement weather. Gary Matthews asked if Kim Slininger can serve or knows of someone who can serve on the Technical Advisory Group (TAC) for the Fish Creek Trail. Mr. Rorabaugh will check on this and report back.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Dick Putney commended Mr. Rorabaugh for all of his great work on flood recovery efforts.

The next Trails Committee meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2014 – 6 p.m. – in the Downstairs Meeting Room of the Estes Park 18-Hole Golf Course Clubhouse (1480 Golf Course Road in Estes Park).

*Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Matthews, President

*July 14, 2014*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Recorded by Janet Carabell*