

BOULDER CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION – DECEMBER 8, 2009
Boulder Reservoir Master Plan

Minute 44:40-46:37: Lisa on Council

Um, my comments on the, uh, vision statement is it's got the priorities right I'm really happy to see those, um, priorities, um, as we continue in time, um, our sources of clean water are going to become more and more important and it's really important that we safeguard, uh, this and the associated natural resources. At the same time it's ok to have recreation but I like that the priorities are set right by the PRAB.

With respect to, um, the goals I agree with the goals but I also agree with Crystal's comments with regard to the transportation connections especially alternative modes and, um, and I was actually gonna bring this up a little bit later in our discussion with respect to the, uh, the um canal (um, what's it called?) the feeder canal I was gonna say the cutter canal, the feeder canal, but um, and it would be nice...so I, I don't want to I, I'll bring up those comments later but I'm not willing at this point to abandon going to Lyons so, um, I think we need to be, be looking at that and that's really important and I think a, a strong bicycle, um, connection out there is, is critical I mean I ride that and have ridden that for 30 years and I don't think it's really changed (giggle) all that much and it would be nice to see it improved and you know that's a great activity for um, ah youth and, and well people of all ages but it's something for youth that they can do that's relatively safe and not a lot of traffic and they can get there in a healthy way, so.

Minute 47:40-48:30: KC on Council

Um, I don't know if this rises to the level of a goal but I'm gonna throw it out there, um, on planning board the Res came up a couple times and um I think that folks that showed up most often were people that lived in the vicinity and were worried about, um, traffic impacts and noise impacts so maybe it's a goal you guys give it thought about whether, sort of, sensitivity or awareness or cooperation with, um, nearby residents...that may not be a goal of the Res but, um, so feel free to exclude it if you think that doesn't make sense but I thought maybe there needs to be some recognition of our responsibility to respond to neighborhood concerns.

Minute 1:20:35-1:21:39: Matt on Council

This probably goes way back to the goals, already, um, you know, one, one thing I'm not sure about and it's really, I don't, maybe it's implicit in the goals or the vision statement, but it's, you know who are we trying to serve here are we trying to keep this in some sense relatively small serving the citizens of boulder or are we trying to make it more regional in scope serving everybody who might want to come and, I mean the parking question kind of made me think about this, and, and encouraging more and larger events and, and making it a big deal and it seems to me that, that would have some, answering that question would have some affect on answering some of these other questions, and I don't know, I don't know what our goal is but it doesn't seem to be really directly, um, approached in the document here and I don't know, I don't know if we can be everything at once, um, I mean at the moment we seem to try to just accept everybody who wants to come maybe that's ok but, you know if we expand parking we're gonna become more of a regional attraction is that what we want.

Minute 1:21:39 and through the end of this meeting

Mayor: Ok, so with that last, last a point, um, so, Bev you wanted to talk to us a little bit about the Lyons to Boulder Trail.

Bev (Boulder Planner, Res Project Manager): Yeah, I'll just um cover that briefly here. So we'd like your input on the next steps for the Lyons to Boulder trail development, so, um, as most of you know it's a conceptual trail that would connect the town of Lyons up here on the top of this map to the city's trail system, um, in the Coot Lake area north of Boulder Reservoir, um, along, um, conceptually along most of the Feeder Canal, um, which is kind of (map #12 pointed it out on the map) um, the, the preferred alternative for the southern most portion of the trail on city land has been south of Niwot here along the feeder canal and then connecting up, um, with the Coot Lake System and then with the trailhead at Tom Watson Park over across 63rd street, um, so, and this has been a key component of the Boulder Valley and Boulder County's comprehensive plan for many years, um, the, the county and the city have been working with Northern um since the late 1990s to plan the trail system and in 2000, in the year 2000 a set of guidelines were developed by Northern for the trail design if it was to happen in the canal right of way, um, in 2006 city council approved a community and environmental assessment of the potential impacts on water quality and wildlife along the canal route and the county began the next phase of designing the trail, um, earlier this year however Northern rescinded those guidelines, um, for trail development and then the county suspended the planning for it. So given the current status of the, the county's planning effort we'd like to get your input, um, on the next steps that the city should take relative to the um the Boulder Reservoir Master Plan process, um, in your memo we've outlined three directions that we could take. The first option would be to basically plan for the segment on the trail that affects city property from Niwot down to Tom Watson park, um, this would mean that we'd include it in the master plan the trail connection from somewhere along the canal through the coot lake system to Tom Watson park. Option 2 which we've suggested would be the staff recommendation would involve a little more evaluation of that trail in that location and include more assessment of the feasibility of it, the costs, management implications and, um, also get input on this location for the trail from the public and then Option 3 would basically we table it, we wouldn't address it in the Reservoir Master Plan but just wait for the county to take up the project again. So that's the brief overview and um, we'd like some input from council on that.

Minute 1:24:43 Lisa on Council

Well I really like Option 2, the I, I think the city I don't know how you want to start this discussion but I really think you know the long term, um, vision of this city and, you know in our, in our boulder um valley comprehensive plan has been this feeder canal, it, or, or some kind of a route to Lyons off of US-36 and I think, um, in conjunction also with, um, the front range bicycle trail that people are trying to bring up from the south I think it's important that we maintain that vision and so, from my perspective I would like, um, the powers that be to look at the alternative routes, I don't have a preferred route at this point but I'd like to look at the alternative routes and see how do we get from Boulder Reservoir up to Lyons and do it in the best way that we can, um, that's environmentally sensitive but also is achievable.

Minute 1:25:51 Suzy on Council

Well maybe it's just a clarification, um, I understood Option 2 as being part of the Reservoir Master Plan process and not a full evaluation all the way to Lyons although one would love that, so I want to just be sure, am I reading Option 2 right that you're looking at the trail alignments around, that would be related to the Reservoir but not going, going beyond that, so that we would put in place if that were the decision those pieces and then the rest would have to come with some other stakeholders and, and in the future.

Lisa on Council

And, and if I could just jump in here my comments were so that, the infrastructure that we put at Boulder Reservoir hooks into something that eventually goes...

Suzy on Council

And I appreciate that I just want to make sure that we're clear about the boundaries of what we're doing here.

Minutes 1:26:45 Crystal on Council

I'm ok with Option 2 but, but this is what I'd like to see, and, I'd like to see what when our staff whether it's parks and recreation staff working with Northern or water resources working with Northern that when they, that we have a city strategy for working with Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. Boulder County is the largest contributor to their budget via our mill levys that are on every one of our property taxes, and we, um, as a constituent group we should be able to go to them and say we would like you to address the multiple, um, multiple issues that are surrounding your operation of, of your facility, they will ask us to participate in a number of things like the carter lake pipeline couldn't happen, I know its on hold right now but couldn't happen without the feds but without boulder being a partner and we've poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into planning studies and different, um, phases of that and Ned you can correct me if I've got that wrong but we've poured major dollars into it and at some point we need to say to Northern that we are a major contributor and a major partner and a lot of projects would not be able to go forward unless, I mean if Boulder revolted, so I just think we need to make that statement figure out a really nice way to say it to them (some laughter) but continue to make it at these meetings and, and, you know our constituents come to us and tell us all the time what they want us to do and they say that we're taxpayers etc, etc, at some point, we need step up and stand up for ourselves a little bit more in Northern I know it's a challenge but I'd like to see a city wide strategy and how we can leverage our money to meet some of our other goals, leverage our money we give to Northern, and when I say ours I mean all of ours.

Mayor

But I think, but Crystal in terms of the question at hand there is supporting [Option] 2 and I, but I think that you're also hearing this sort of, the obvious, the 500, 900 pound guerilla in the corner is, you know, is there some way to influence this decision and maybe a WIP [Weekly Information Packet] or something that could give us some more information, speak to the idea of some sort of city strategy or, um, not sure if everybody is there but I think most of us are and maybe we need to have a, not a 5 [vote?] or whatever, but I do think that, um, it is the question that you have to come to when you read the little short piece on the feeder canal. Any other comments? So, ah, is it fair to assume that 2 is the – I see 2? Ok, great. So 2 it is and thank you very much amazing amount of work and I think the idea is that we hold on to these notebooks and that they'll, they'll come in handy in the next year as we work through the Boulder Reservoir, um, Master Plan process.

BREAK BEFORE NEXT SUBJECT OF STUDY SESSION.

During break, woman not identifiable, the Mayor?

....But I think the notion of a strategy with the county would be great.

End of this meeting 1:31:06 – second meeting is on the rest of the recording.

Note that this meeting occurred about six weeks before a member of the Northern Board of Directors was called to a meeting with the Mayor of Boulder to discuss Boulder's continued interest in the Lyons to Boulder trail alignment on Northern's canal.