

ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

ITEM DATE: 5/11/2019	ITEM TIME: 2:45 pm
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FROM:	ROAD & BRIDGE
TODAY'S DATE:	6/3/2019
AGENDA TITLE:	Consideration to allow property owners to install an unlocked gate on County Road 34 uphill from Spring Creek Park access trail.

CHECK ONE THAT APPLIES TO YOUR ITEM:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACTION ITEM	
<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	

I. DESCRIBE THE REQUEST OR ISSUE:

The property owners whose property abuts CR 34 are asking to be able to have the City of Steamboat Springs Parks and Rec department install an unlocked gate across CR 34 above the Spring Creek Park Access Trail with the intention of possible future vacation of the road from the gate north to the end of the County Road. The gate would be located in the area of the property owned by the City of Steamboat Springs and the Adjacent property owner.

II. RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Motion to approve and authorize the City of Steamboat Springs Parks and Rec Department to install a gate to remain unlocked approximately 350' north east of the Spring Creek Park Access Trail.

III. DESCRIBE FISCAL IMPACTS (VARIATION TO BUDGET):

PROPOSED REVENUE:	\$0
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE:	\$0
FUNDING SOURCE:	N/A

IV. IMPACTS OF A REGIONAL NATURE OR ON OTHER JURISDICTIONS (IDENTIFY ANY COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS ITEM):

None identified

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V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since the late 90's the City of Steamboat Springs and the surrounding property owners have been working to come up with solutions to be able to allow the public to enjoy the amenities of Spring Creek Park.

In recent years, user activity has increased in this area that is easily accessed from Steamboat Springs. This has also included an increase in trespassing onto private property when non-local users get lost trying to access certain trails in the area. One trail where trespassing is a regular occurrence is the "Ditch Trail." This is a trail that runs along an irrigation ditch that is outside of the county Right of Way and traverses over private property. In the past, the property owners whose property has contained the trail were okay with users on this trail. However, in the last three years the property owners have seen an increase of non-educated users getting lost and trespassing off of the County Road and Trail to find their way back to the Spring Creek Trail. This includes people walking off trail and bush whacking until they find a residence in the area to ask for directions back to the Spring Creek Trail.

In an effort to combat this, the City of Steamboat Springs has been in negotiations with the property owners to build an alternate "Ditch Trail" for hikers, bikers, runners, etc. They have worked closely with the property owners on a new trail alignment, wayfinding signage, and public education. In order to build this trail the City needs an easement across the private properties. In return, the property owners would like to have the City install a gate across the County Road to encourage users to use the new trail and to discourage users from accessing the old trail. The property owners are weighing the idea of vacating County Road 34 from its northern most reaches down to the gate. If the vacation of the road is to take place it will be handled by the vacation process in the Routt County Planning Department.

All public land in the Spring Creek Park area is accessed via the Spring Creek Trail off of County Road 34. County Road 34 is a minimal maintenance road and is not wide enough for two vehicles to safely pass each other in opposite directions. Only three residences are accessed off of County Road 34. Two are accessed near the City Park and one residence is accessed from the northern most part of the road.

VI. LEGAL ISSUES:

The County generally does not allow gates to be installed across County Roads. There are a few instances in the County where there are gates across County Roads. The intention of these gates is to restrict access to parts of those roads when the road is most vulnerable to the traveling public.

VII. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

None identified

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VIII. SUMMARY AND OTHER OPTIONS:

There is alignment between the City of Steamboat Springs and the property owners to create a new trail in the area to minimize trespassing on these properties via a trail easement. The property owners would like to see a gate installed across the County Road to deter the public from reaching the end of the road where there is no access to public lands and reduce trespassing onto and across their property.