

DRAFT MINUTES

PLAN JEFFCO BOARD – May 21, 2026

Approved 6/18/2026

HYBRID Meeting May 21, 2026 at Edcor, 195 S. Union Blvd. Lakewood, CO

Upcoming Events:

Next board meeting : June 18, 2026, on Zoom

See last page below for the complete schedule.

Open Space Advisory Committee: 3:20 p.m., June 4, 2026, *Open Space Advisory Committee Field Trip & Study Session Fehringer Ranch and Jefferson County Fairgrounds followed by a stakeholder presentation and feedback at the Green Mountain Conference Room.*

<https://cvcpl.us/Hu4qcma>

For past Meeting Videos and Documents: Scroll down to see Advisory Committee.

<https://www.jeffco.us/4528/Past-Meeting-Videos-and-Documents>

General meetings and agendas: <https://www.jeffco.us/4408/meetings-and-agendas>

2026: Regular OSAC meeting dates to be announced

Other meetings: NA

Members in attendance: Don Moore, Jean Tate, Michelle Poollet, Vicky Gits, Peter Morales, Cathi Schramm, Lydia Andrews-Jones

Secretary: Vicky Gits

1. Call Meeting to Order. Chair - Michelle. Time - 6:40 p.m.
2. **Visitor Introductions:** Aaron Roth attended as the newly named Director of Jeffco Parks and Open Space. He arrived before we started the meeting and told us he had a list of 40 people to meet and 12 municipalities to be visited. He reported he had breakfast with Tom Hoby and that Hoby had been hired as his consultant during the transition.
3. **Minutes** of April 2026 were approved.
4. **Additions** to Agenda – None
5. **Treasurer’s report** – See May 21 email from Jean Tate
6. **Discussion and Action Items** – The rest of the regular agenda was deleted in favor of talking to Roth who responded to various topics suggested by board members, as follows:
 - **Role of PLAN Jeffco** Peter Morales launched the conversation by emphasizing PLAN Jeffco’s spirit of cooperation not confrontation and offered the board’s services as a “brain trust” or sounding board on system issues. He said PLAN Jeffco was all about getting things done and not just another “complaint group.”

- **Preserving Critical Lands** Don Moore said the park system was created 50 years ago largely out of fear of losing iconic lands to development. But over time JCPOS has lost the passion it had for preserving critical lands, such as Chatfield Arboretum (now TrailMark at Chatfield with hundreds of homes) and many others. The recent Greenprint, for example, has little to say about acquisitions.
- **Background and experience.** Roth said his career in conservation was molded by growing up in a home adjacent to hundreds of acres of vacant land, then seeing townhomes developed on that land, and also by moving in 2000 to Boulder, where he learned what Boulder had done to preserve open space. He also oversaw real estate departments for parks in California and has been overseeing land acquisitions for the National Park Service for over 20 years. He said he is open to opportunities and has visited five or six acquisition targets since he took over as Director.
- **Economics of Open Space** The main obstacle to acquisition is money. With 220 employees, Parks and Open Space still needs to hire more people and create more office space for them. Income from tax revenue has been flat for a few years and land prices have gone from 10K to 20K per acre. The system has reached the point where existing facilities need to be rebuilt. Some holdings from yesteryear have not yet been improved, such as Douglas Mountain, Mount Glennon and the South Hogback. There is about \$7.5 million available for one more push. Jean mentioned the population growth in Jefferson County and wondered if land acquisition had kept up with that, suggesting that graphing these two growth rates would be beneficial. She also mentioned that improvements in various holdings were not as time sensitive as acquisition of additional undeveloped land, which is fast disappearing in Jefferson County, and Roth agreed.
- **Roth's Priorities When Money is Available:.** Forest health (wildfire mitigation), acquisition of additional undeveloped land, recapitalization of entire existing open space system, taking care of inherited historic buildings (Meyer Ranch House, Centennial House, Baerden Lodge and Alderfer Barn), and development of new parks are Roth's main goals in order of priority... Michelle suggested creating "Friends of" groups for support of and fundraising for structural assets.
- **Beaver Ranch Park** improvements and the discontinued **Trails Use Task Force** were briefly discussed.
- **Clear Creek Trail.** After the next mile of trail is completed, Roth said there is not enough money to complete the remaining five miles, and construction will be paused while JCPOS works on other priorities. The project so far is an "amazing accomplishment" and had been "done to a very high level," Roth said.

The following items were postponed until June meeting:

- a. Review of Upcoming Months and Projects – All
- b. Newsletter Review & Suggestions – All

6. Reports and Information Items

- a. Foam noted in Clear Creek – report on potential cause and action
- b. May OSAC Meeting Report – Vicky
- c. Website report – Michelle
- d. LGL Report – Michelle
- e. Proposal re Preservation Area Knowledge – Don
- f. Property Search — Don & Vicky
- g. Report on previous Action Items – All

7. Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.

PLAN Jeffco Meeting Schedule 2026

Meeting place for hybrid format: EdCor, 195 S. Union Blvd. #200; corner of Union and Cedar next to Firehouse Subs. Preferred parking is in front of the building and to the right. You are welcome to bring your dinner with you for the in-person meetings.

Date 2026		
Jan. 15	Zoom	Peter
Feb. 19	Hybrid@EdCor	Jean with Michelle backup
March 19	Zoom	Jean with Michelle backup
April 16	Zoom	Jean with Michelle backup
May 21	Hybrid @ EdCor	Michelle
June 18	Zoom	Cathi
July 16	Zoom	Cathi
August 20	Volunteer Picnic	Don
Sept. 17	Zoom	Don
Oct. 15	Zoom	Don
Nov. 19	Hybrid @ EdCor	Vicky
Dec. 17	TBD	Vicky
Jan. 21	TBD	Vicky