

**CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MARCH 14, 2012
PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Kathy Hartman, Andy Hawbaker, Steve McMillan, Ted Mioduski, Darren Pape, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Bill Zawacki, Jim Roode (alternate).

Staff Present: Brian Hayes, Gary Havener, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Debbie Eley.

The public meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Approval of the February 8, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Lori Bell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None present.

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported that the owners of the former Agilent property will proceed without the ACE project and are working on developing the property as the Rocky Mountain Center for Innovation and Technology.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison Report. Hugh McKean forwarded the Larimer County OLAB agenda and minutes to OLAC members via email.

Discussion/Action:

1. HP/Agilent Open Space Design Update. Staff presented a slideshow of the public process completed to date. Approximately 50 public comment forms have been received and OLAC, staff and other stakeholders have provided input. The initial emphasis has been on the natural features of the property and appropriate public access to these features. Based on conceptual designs and information available, the commission favored allowing fishing and non-motorized boating, minimizing trails encircling all ponds if possible, and allowing dogs on leash only. The Historic Preservation Commission and Loveland Historical Society can develop a plan for renovating/reusing the historic buildings at the farmstead, with the understanding that Open Lands sees possible need/use of only the barn, silo and equipment shed for open space uses. AECOM will design the Master Plan to include all aspects of the property, which may be developed in phases, depending on funding.

2. Natural Areas Projects Report. Staff will be submitting a grant for \$3.7M for the Big Thompson River Open Space and Trails Project for the GOCO River Corridors Initiative. The proposal includes the Recreation Trail connection in west Loveland, development of the HP/Agilent Open Space site for public access, and acquisition of 8 open space properties along the Big Thompson River to increase connectivity for wildlife habitat and future public access.

3. Small Grants Presentation. Kathy Hartman researched other Front Range open space grant programs. Each of these programs was deemed very beneficial to the recipients and to the Open Lands program involved. They provide outreach into the community and for a small amount of money provide a very large return in community goodwill and marketing of the programs. They do involve staff and/or volunteer time often concentrated in a short time. Kathy stated that at this time she could not recommend starting a small grants program due to current staff levels and commitments. Many of the commissioners expressed an interest in finding a way to develop this program in Loveland. The item was tabled until staff has time to consider.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Boards & Commissions Summit Report. Lori Bell and Darren Pape attended the annual summit and found it entertaining and educational.

Commission Members' Discussion Topics: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.