

**CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MAY 9, 2012
PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

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

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Bill Zawacki.

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

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

Approval of the March 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: The revised minutes were presented for approval. Kathy Hartman submitted an additional revision to the minutes, regarding Discussion/Action Item #3: Small Grants Presentation. Andy Hawbaker made a motion to approve the minutes with both revisions. Ted Mioduski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the April 11, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Kathy Hartman made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lori Bell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Mike Perry, President of the Loveland Historical Society, presented a letter on behalf of the Society regarding the historic farm structures on the HP/Agilent Open Space property. Mr. Perry noted that, although the structures are located in the floodplain and floodway, if they were to be designated as a state or national historic site, grant funding from the state could be available to conduct an assessment on the buildings. Mr. Perry requested an additional 30 days to submit a proposal for the site. Staff and OLAC agreed that the proposal could be submitted on July 1.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Plug in to Nature Presentation. Rob Novak, Larimer County Open Lands, presented the findings from this GOCO-funded pilot study about connections, barriers, and opportunities for increasing participation of youth and families in nature-oriented activities in Larimer County. Loveland participated in the study, providing GIS data and information about environmental/outdoor education programming and facilities currently available. Larimer County will provide Loveland with the results of the study from Loveland participants.

2. HP/Agilent Open Space Design Update. Staff will meet with AECOM on May 10 to begin the design process based on the Preferred Plan. Public comment on the plan was favorable and no major changes are anticipated. A fish survey by Colorado Parks and Wildlife is scheduled for June 4 and a Fish Management Plan will be developed based on the survey results. The fish survey will include species numbers and diversity, as well as various environmental conditions. In consultation with CPW, it has been determined that dogs off-leash/ swimming would be incompatible with the intended goals and proposed uses of the site, including enhancement of the site's natural features and wildlife habitat, and access for fishing and wildlife viewing. CPW will announce the Fishing is Fun grant awards in June.

3. Natural Areas Projects Report (*addition to agenda*). Staff gave an update on projects currently being worked on, including property acquisition/management, grants, and studies.

4. Open Lands Capital Report 2013-2017 (*addition to agenda*). Staff distributed a capital report showing projected Open Lands capital costs for 2013-2017. Operational costs have been low thus far, but management and maintenance costs will increase significantly as more properties are acquired and opened to the public. Commission members requested a copy of the adopted 2012 Open Lands budget; staff will forward.

5. Larimer County Long Term Maintenance Discussion (*addition to agenda*). Councilor McKean presented ideas and discussions from recent County Open Lands Board meetings regarding the use of sales tax funds. Two different philosophies exist towards spending open lands sales tax funding: 1) acquire as much land as possible, then ask voters to renew the tax to pay for maintenance of properties, or 2) acquire only what can be maintained using available funds. There was general commission agreement of Loveland's current practice which is option 2 – acquire only what can be maintained through available funds and take advantage of opportunities, but reserve operation and maintenance funds for properties acquired.

Commission Members' Discussion Topics:

1. Kathy Hartman distributed several articles and editorials of interest.
2. Kathy Hartman also suggested that agenda packet distribution be "paperless" and electronic only.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.