

CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
JULY 11, 2012
PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Kathy Hartman, Andy Hawbaker, Steve McMillan, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki, Jim Roode (alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Ted Mioduski, Hugh McKean.

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

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

Approval of the June 13, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Steve McMillan seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Rob Fenwick, Loveland resident, was present to observe the meeting.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Update. Kerri Rollins, Larimer County Open Lands Manager, gave an update on several items. 1) The *Regional Study Partnership* is underway, with funding from GOCO and all partner cities/towns receiving county open space funding. The study will include a gap analysis, financial stewardship analysis, funding needs analysis, economic analysis, public outreach component, mapping and “greenprinting.” 2) GOCO plans to establish a *Schools Initiative* to fund more greenspaces within existing communities; schools will need local government sponsors/partners to apply. 3) A statewide *Center of Excellence* has been established by the Colorado Coalition of Land Trusts and the Colorado Conservation Trust. Efforts will include a Due Diligence Guidance Document to strengthen conservation easement standards and policies, a Statewide Engagement Plan for public outreach, and a database for organizing all aspects of open lands management. 4) OLAB recently conducted a *prioritization exercise* for using \$2.5M in unallocated funds. The top 3 priorities were: 1. Horsetooth to Devil’s Backbone, 2. Poudre River, and 3. Big Thompson River.

Discussion/Action:

1. HP/Agilent Open Space

A. Design Schedule and Progress Update. AECOM announced it is closing their Fort Collins office and 3 of the principals will be opening a new office for Logan Simpson Design in Fort Collins. The design contract will be assigned to the new company for completion of the project without increased project or contract costs. The Site Development Plan application will be submitted in the fall, for a January construction start. Plans will be presented to OLAC for review at the 65% design level.

B. Site Naming Process. Staff contacted HP regarding the use of “HP” in the site name; HP did not give authorization due to possible confusion over ownership. Several additional names were suggested and considered. Kathy Hartman made a motion that the property formerly known as “HP/Agilent Open Space” be renamed “River’s Edge Natural Area.” Bill Zawacki seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

C. Farmstead Structures. The Loveland Historical Society drafted a proposal for the possible restoration and use of the historic farmstead structures. City Manager Bill Cahill has charged the Directors of Parks & Recreation, Development Services, Economic Development, and Cultural Services to develop a plan for the site by August 31, taking into consideration the feasibility, financial issues, possible railroad spur easement, etc. Future use by Open Lands will be considered a priority.

D. Fishing Is Fun Grant. The Colorado Division of Wildlife awarded a \$90K grant (\$100K requested) to provide fishing access at the site, including trails, a fishing pier and bank stabilization. Staff has notified the design consultant to ensure that these features are included.

Reports/Correspondence:

- 2. Open Lands Financial Report.** A mid-year financial report was provided, including revenues and expenditures from the Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax and Loveland Open Lands Capital Expansion Fees. Capital expenditures to date in 2012 include consultant fees for design and surveys. Funds budgeted for development of the River’s Edge site that are not spent in 2012 will roll forward into 2013.
- 3. Natural Areas Projects Report.** The Coulson Conservation Easement is underway, with the appraisal ordered and easement being drafted. The joint RFP to farm the separator properties has been posted by the City of Fort Collins, with partners City of Loveland and Larimer County.

Commission Members’ Discussion Topics:

1. Kathy Hartman requested an update on the applications for the new Natural Areas Manager position. About 70 applications were received and will be reviewed over the next few weeks. A process will then be determined for moving forward.
2. Kathy Hartman asked about the review of mineral rights on City Open Lands/Natural Areas properties. Staff replied that the review is underway and will continue as time allows.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.