

CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 13, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Ross Livingston, Steve McMillan, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki, Jim Roode (alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ted Mioduski, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Staff Present: Rob Burdine, Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

The public meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Public Comment: Franci Wunderlich commented that, as a realtor, she is interested in Open Space because it affects property values and draws people to the area to relocate.

Approval of the January 9, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes: Tabled until a quorum is present.

Approval of the November 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Tabled until a quorum is present.

Discussion/Action:

1. Open Lands Marketing Plan Presentation (Draft). Ross Livingston presented a draft Open Lands Marketing Plan and requested input from the commission. Ross utilized the survey results from *Our Lands-Our Future* to develop the plan. He noted that lack of public awareness about open lands was a key finding that Loveland should focus on. Commission members discussed and recommended the following steps to increase open lands awareness: 1) develop a Facebook page and update with information, events, news, etc.; 2) submit articles about open lands for the City Update included with all monthly City utility bills; 3) explore an option to “opt-in” to the open lands email list on the Natural Areas website; 4) use QR codes on publications, kiosks, etc. to direct users to the website and updated information; 5) staff to add website address to e-mail signatures. Ross indicated that the plan will continue to evolve over time and become more robust with additional input.

Reports/Correspondence:

2. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study (*Our Lands – Our Future*). OLAC members were invited to attend an Advisory Committee meeting on 2/20/13 to provide feedback on the draft interactive GIS model and 2nd public survey. The 3rd regional outreach event is scheduled for March 6. The invitation will be forwarded to the commission.

3. River’s Edge Natural Area Update. Staff displayed a new aerial photo-based map of the property, showing the location of the access road, parking lot, trails, core area and other

amenities. Award of the construction contract is scheduled for City Council on 2/19/13. Staff is developing a maintenance and operations plan for the site. The Historic Preservation Commission is investigating renovation costs for the Swartz Homestead. A concept plan was presented, showing possible uses of the area should the structures be removed. The annexation and zoning application for the Jayhawker Ponds property has been submitted to Planning for review. Enclaves will be pursued for annexation, per the City's IGA with Larimer County.

4. Open Lands Financial Report. A Year-end 2012 Financial Report was distributed with the agenda, showing fund balances, revenues and expenditures.

5. Natural Areas Projects Report.

a. Rossum Drive Property. A contract to purchase this west Big Thompson River property is being drafted by staff and the City Attorney's Office. The contract will state that the City will purchase Tract U in 2013 and Tract T in 5 years. This property could connect Rossum Drive to the Recreation Trail along the Barnes Ditch.

b. Larimer County and Fort Collins Ranger Assistance Program. Rob Burdine and Michele Van Hare will audit the Larimer County/City of Fort Collins volunteer ranger training program, to apply the concepts to Loveland's existing Trail Host Program and possibly participate next year.

c. Parks & Open Lands Planner. Interviews are underway for this position, which will support both Parks and Open Lands with Development Review as well as design work on current and potential acquisitions, trail connections, development cost estimates, and site management and master plans.

Commission Member Discussion Topics: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.