

CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Steve McMillan, Ted Mioduski, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Jim Roode (alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Lori Bell, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki.

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

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

Public Comment: Ross Livingston has been recommended for OLAC appointment. City Council will appoint new board and commission members at their January 15 meeting.

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

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported that the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board discussed the donation of the Roberts Ranch at their January 3 meeting. Hugh requested that staff provide additional information regarding operating costs and management options prior to voting on the donation.

Discussion/Action:

1. Election of Officers. Steve McMillan nominated Rick Brent for Chair, who declined the nomination based on having served two terms. Rick Brent nominated Gale Bernhardt for Chair. The nomination was seconded by Andy Hawbaker. Gale Bernhardt was elected Chair. Steve McMillan nominated Lori Bell for Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Andy Hawbaker. Lori Bell was elected Vice Chair.

2. River's Edge Natural Area Update. The Site Development Plan was resubmitted to Planning on 1/9. Required design changes included stormwater treatment facilities and the location of the restroom outside the floodplain/floodway. The Swartz Farmstead structural analysis has been completed and staff will discuss with the City Manager. Staff is in the process of submitting the Jayhawker property for annexation and zoning to PP-Public Park. The City's IGA with Larimer County recommends the annexation of enclaves, so the property between Jayhawker and River's Edge will be added to the annexation application by the Planning Department. The City has received a GOCO grant for \$18,715 to fund the Larimer County Youth Corps for 3 weeks to assist with fence construction at River's Edge.

3. Longview-Midway CE (Coulson) Project. The conservation easement appraisal has been completed. Staff distributed information regarding three options presented to the Coulsons, including the purchase of a conservation easement or purchasing all or a portion of

the fee simple property. The commission chose not to pursue acquisition of a conservation easement or the fee simple property, based on other open lands priorities at this time.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Centerra Environmental Fees – Update. The transfer of \$32K back to the High Plains Foundation will be presented for approval by City Council on 1/15. The Centerra Open Space Fees will be collected until 2041, with a total projected amount of \$382K at full buildout. The City can request these funds for Open Lands acquisitions within the GMA.

5. Natural Areas Projects Report. Updates were provided on several possible property acquisitions and current projects.

6. Annual Boards & Commissions Summit – March 14, 2013. The 2013 Boards and Commissions Summit will be held at the Wapiti Grill at Mariana Butte Golf Course Clubhouse. Gale Bernhardt and Ross Livingston volunteered to represent OLAC at the Summit.

OLAC's major accomplishments in 2012 included:

1. *Design and develop the River's Edge Natural Area property.* A Master Plan for the property was developed with numerous opportunities for public input. Planned amenities include trails, picnic shelters, a boardwalk, fishing access, a parking lot, restrooms, and connectivity to the Recreation Trail and Jayhawker Ponds. Significant wetland creation and enhancement are also planned along the shorelines of the three ponds. The Site Development Plan was submitted to the Planning Department in November and the construction project was sent out to bid in December.
2. *Participate in the Larimer County Regional Open Space Study.* Loveland has been actively involved in the Larimer County Regional Open Space Study, also known as *Our Lands – Our Future*. The project includes public surveys and outreach, analysis of open space acquisition and management costs, and a Geographic Information System (GIS) model to be available online. The study will be completed in 2013 and results will be useful for the update of Loveland's 2003 *Open Lands Plan*.

The 2013 OLAC Goals are:

1. *Continue to develop River's Edge Natural Area and open for public access.*
2. *Acquire property with connectivity to existing open lands that would address fragmentation of wildlife habitat and link public access areas, including properties that meet the priorities and criteria set forth in the Open Lands Plan (2003) and Natural Areas Sites (2008).*
3. *Develop a Marketing/Public Awareness Plan for Open Lands, including signage, publications, etc. to promote stewardship of open lands.*
4. *Develop Management Plans for 1-2 existing Open Lands properties to open for public access.*

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.