

CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

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

Commissioners Absent: Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

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

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

Presentation – River’s Edge Fishing Regulations: Ben Swigle, CO Parks & Wildlife.

Ben provided background information, survey data and analysis to support the fishing regulations approved by CPW for the River’s Edge ponds.

Approval of the February 13, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes: Lori Bell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darren Pape seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the January 9, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ted Mioduski seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the November 14, 2012 Commission Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zawacki seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study Update. The public meeting on March 8 was successful, with about 80 participants. The 2nd survey and online GIS mapping tool were introduced and are available online. The study is expected to be completed by May, including a more detailed mapping tool available for partners, costs of acquisition/management for open lands types, and community-specific survey data. The Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan update planned for 2013 will include Open Lands and will utilize data gathered for the regional study.

2. River’s Edge Natural Area Update. A pre-construction meeting with Taylor Kohrs is scheduled for March 20 to discuss the project schedule and required permits. Staff continues to work on easements with Thompson R2-J, Agilent, Ryan Gulch and Big Thompson ditch companies for access and ditch crossings. Staff met with Larimer County Youth Corps staff on-site to familiarize them with the property and the fencing project. Plantings will be

installed in the fall with truck watering planned for B&B trees and native seeding. The Planning Department is in the process of determining costs to renovate the Swartz Homestead structures. Rick Brent noted that during a joint meeting of OLAC and the Historic Preservation Commission on September 17, 2012, the City Manager indicated that the cost of the Swartz Homestead structural analysis would come from the City Manager's budget and not Open Lands funding. For reasons not shared with OLAC, funding was taken from the Open Lands budget. Staff submitted the Annexation and Zoning application for the Jayhawker property. Per an IGA with Larimer County, Current Planning will pursue annexation of the adjacent enclave between Jayhawker and River's Edge.

3. Natural Areas Projects Report.

- a. Rossum Drive: Contracts are nearly complete. A lien on the property will need to be addressed by the landowner prior to signing the contracts.
- b. Ranger Assistance Program. Larimer County and the City of Fort Collins trained 30 new volunteers to provide stewardship and education, promote policies and regulations on natural areas and open lands properties. Loveland staff will incorporate the training into the existing Trail Host Program. Members of the Loveland Fishing Club will be recruited for education regarding fishing regulations at River's Edge.
- c. Parks and Open Lands Planner. Bill Wildenberg has accepted the position and will start on April 16.
- d. Marketing Plan. Staff will submit an article about the River's Edge construction and grand opening for the June City Update. An Open Lands Facebook page will be developed for publicity, with news, photos, naming contests, documents.

4. Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup. April 20th, 9 am-12 noon (Morey Wildlife Reserve or other Big Thompson River sites).

Discussion/Action:

5. Open Lands Priority Areas Discussion. Staff presented a map of the existing open lands acquisitions, conservation easements, and partnerships in and around Loveland. Survey results from Our Lands-Our Future indicate a preference for regional trail corridors, ecologically sensitive lands, and lands within communities near neighborhoods and schools. Loveland-specific results show an equal balance on preservation and recreation as future open lands priorities. Commission members indicated a desire to be opportunistic in determining the most functional and cost-effective open lands acquisitions. Parcels outside the river corridor may be significant to underserved areas or populations. A range of experiences should be considered. The first priority would be inside the GMA/CIA and along the Big Thompson River corridor, but consider all possibilities.

6. Big Thompson Canyon Property Initial Review. Gale Bernhardt made a motion to suspend the open session and convene Executive Session for the following topic of discussion: Big Thompson Canyon Property Initial Review. Bill Zawacki seconded the

motion and it passed unanimously. Executive Session was convened at 7:50 pm. The Executive Session concluded at 8:27 pm and the open session was reconvened. Bill Zawacki made a motion to recommend that staff pursue negotiations on the Big Thompson Canyon property by requesting the asking price, scheduling a site visit for commission members, and ordering an appraisal. Ross Livingston seconded the motion. Members recommended that staff make the landowners aware that funds are limited and other properties are also priorities for Loveland. The motion passed unanimously.

Council Liaison Report: Hugh McKean reported that Council passed the Oil & Gas Regulations proposed allowing oil and gas drilling within the City limits, under state regulations or more stringent City regulations.

Commission Member Discussion Topics: None.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.