



## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Civic Center • 500 East Third Street, Suite 200 • Loveland, Colorado 80537  
(970) 962-2727 • FAX (970) 962-2903 • TDD (970) 962-2620  
[www.cityofloveland.org](http://www.cityofloveland.org)

### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

July 10, 2013

#### SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

#### **RIVER'S EDGE NATURAL AREA**

**960 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Loveland, CO 80537**

#### Notice of Meeting Posted

#### River's Edge Site Tour at 5:30 pm

#### Call to Order (following tour)

#### Public Comment

#### Approval of April 10, 2013 Meeting Minutes

#### Approval of June 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes

#### City Council Liaison – Hugh McKean

#### Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison – Hugh McKean

OLAB Agenda/Minutes online: [http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands\\_advisory\\_board.cfm](http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm)

#### Reports/Correspondence:

1. Parks & Rec Master Plan Update
2. Open Lands Projects Report

#### Commission Member Discussion Topics

#### Adjournment

**Next Regular Meeting Date:** August 14, 2013

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## CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2013  
Parks & Recreation Conference Room

**Commissioners Present:** Gale Bernhardt, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Steve McMillan, Darren Pape, Jim Roode (alternate), Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

**Commissioners Absent:** Lori Bell, Rick Brent, Ted Mioduski, Bill Zawacki.

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

**The public meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.**

**Approval of the March 13, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Darren Pape made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Andy Hawbaker seconded the motion. Gale Bernhardt made the following addition to the minutes regarding Item 2 – River's Edge Natural Area Update: *"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."* The motion was revised by Darren Pape to include this addition, and was seconded by Andy Hawbaker. The motion passed unanimously with this addition.

**Council Liaison Report:** Hugh McKean noted that his term on the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board will expire in June. Gale Bernhardt made a motion to recommend that City Council reappoint Hugh to the OLAB. Ross Livingston seconded and the motion carried. Gale will send a letter to staff for a City Council agenda item. Hugh also reported on several items: 1) City Council approved spending \$150,000 annually on an "accelerator" to help entrepreneurs manufacture products at the Rocky Mountain Center for Innovation and Technology (former Agilent campus); 2) Planning staff presented a proposal to City Council for a Loveland-Johnstown annexation/GMA revision, which Council requested that staff work with Johnstown planning staff to revise; and 3) the Roberts Ranch landowner withdrew the offer to donate her property to Larimer County Open Lands.

### **Reports/Correspondence:**

**1. Open Lands Priority Areas.** Staff presented a map, table, and graph of current Open Lands priorities, discussing each property's location, size, type, estimated acquisition cost, and current negotiation status in detail. Commission members asked questions and provided feedback on current priorities for staff to consider.

**2. Big Thompson River West Upland Property Review.** This 4.65-acre property would provide an area for a small trailhead parking lot, wetland/upland buffer, trail, and boardwalk to access the Morey Wildlife Reserve. The acquisition would also include 50 units of CBT

water. Gale Bernhardt made a motion to recommend that staff pursue acquisition of this property and CBT units, and pursue the possibility of an option for future acquisition of the remaining parcel, for future consideration by OLAC. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it carried.

### **Reports/Correspondence:**

**3. Larimer County Regional Open Space Study.** Staff distributed 5 graphs comparing Loveland responses to overall (Larimer County-wide) responses on several key questions from the first survey. Staff has reviewed possible acquisitions to satisfy Loveland residents' desire for neighborhood natural areas. Some areas may be protected during the development review process. Commission members also suggested a small grants program as a possible mechanism to enhance existing neighborhood open space sites.

**4. River's Edge Natural Area Update.** The construction project broke ground on April 8. Staff is working with the contractor and designer on details including the road, restrooms, bridge, etc. The cost estimate for renovation of the Swartz Homestead structures for public use was approximately \$511,000 (assuming Code variances are granted by the City for the historic structures). Steve McMillan made a motion to propose that the commission write a letter to the Parks & Recreation Dept. Director recommending that no additional staff time or Open Lands funds be spent on renovation of the Swartz Homestead structures. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it carried. Gale Bernhardt will forward a letter to this effect.

**5. Open Lands Projects Report.** Staff has identified several action items to help improve marketing and public awareness during 2013: website updates, *City Update* articles, property naming and identification signage, and *Leisure Times* advertising. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update RFP was sent to five experienced firms, with proposals due April 22. An Open Lands component will be included. Information and results from the Regional Open Space Study and "Plug In to Nature" study will be used. OLAC will have several opportunities to provide input during the development of the Master Plan Update.

**6. Annual Spring Waterway Cleanup.** April 20<sup>th</sup>, 9 am-12 noon (*Loveland Civic Center*). The Morey property is currently in very good condition and does not require cleanup, due to staff and volunteer Trail Hosts being good stewards of the property. An Arbor Day planting is also planned for April 20 at River's Edge, to create a buffer along the south property line.

**Commission Member Discussion Topics:** None.

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

## **CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Regular Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2013

Parks & Recreation Conference Room

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki.

**Staff Present:** Rob Burdine, Gary Havener, Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

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

**Public Comment:** Kathy Hartman, 945 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, commented that she was disappointed to hear that a demolition permit had been submitted for the Swartz Farmstead structures.

**Approval of the May 8, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lori Bell seconded and the motion carried.

**Approval of the April 10, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:** Tabled until a quorum is present.

**Council Liaison Report:** Hugh McKean reported that Council approved a \$500M capital plan for the next 10 years. Hugh also reported that Larimer County is pursuing acquisition of several properties identified as priorities in 2012.

### **Discussion/Action:**

- 1. Open Lands Proposed 2014 Budget.** The proposed 2014 budget was distributed with the agenda. Staff noted that the correct number of FTEs in 2013 is 3.5 FTEs. Staff distributed the 10-year Capital Plan with details on proposed acquisitions, development projects, and projected operational expenditures. Staff also distributed the packet provided to City Council in preparation for the joint elected officials' meeting on May 23, summarizing Open Lands accomplishments from 1996-2012 and goals for 2013 and beyond.
- 2. 57<sup>th</sup> & Taft Property Initial Review.** Staff distributed the Initial Review and Property Evaluation for the 86-acre parcel, as a possible Regional Trail connection and initial wetland banking site. Fort Collins and Larimer County plan to construct an off-street Regional Trail south from Trilby Ave. along Taft Ave., to the north end of this property. A trail easement may be possible through this property to connect to the Regional Trail. A partnership with Fort Collins and Larimer County could help secure a GOCO grant for the trail project. Other uses could include wetland banking to recoup some acquisition costs. Commission members were in favor of pursuing a trail easement from the landowner, rather than acquisition of the entire property, at this time.
- 3. River's Edge Natural Area Update.** Rob provided photos and a verbal update on the construction status, including trails, fishing and access points, boardwalk caissons, and wetlands. Colorado Parks & Wildlife has placed a fish feeder on Dragonfly Pond, with an additional 600 trout.

Agilent may quit claim the northwest corner of their property for the trail from the Thompson R2-J building. Verbal approval has been received from Ryan Gulch Ditch Company to construct the bridge abutments for the ditch crossing. The enclave property owners have agreed to meet with Planning staff to discuss the annexation and rezoning of their property with Jayhawker Ponds. An update on the River's Edge project was published in the June *City Update* mailed with utility bills to City customers. Staff prepared a memo describing Open Lands' interests in the Swartz Farmstead area; Ross Livingston made a motion to approve the memo; Rick Brent seconded and the motion carried. Gale Bernhardt and Lori Bell will represent OLAC in meetings with the Historic Preservation Commission to work collaboratively on a solution for the future of the structures. Bill Cahill and John Fogle noted that no General Fund money would be available for rehabilitation of the buildings.

### **Reports/Correspondence:**

**4. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update.** A Special OLAC Meeting with the Master Plan consultant will be held on Wednesday, June 19 from 5:00-6:30 pm, for the commission to provide input on the update from Open Lands' perspective.

### **5. Open Lands Projects Report.**

- a. The **Ward** property closing is planned for July. The status of Cedar Valley Drive will need to be determined prior to closing. The water (50 units of CBT water) will be transferred on June 28.
- b. The **Environmental Education Program** at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park had a successful spring, despite a number of cancellations due to snow and weather. Groups that were snowed out will be given first priority for fall scheduling. Additional benches will be installed at each station, to accommodate larger groups. Two programs for adults will be offered in the fall at Viestenz-Smith (September 18 and October 16). An environmental education program is being developed for River's Edge, providing a curriculum focused on wetlands and plains ecology.
- c. The **Big Thompson Canyon** property may not provide a regional trail connection to Bobcat Ridge Natural Area, due to lack of access across private property. Staff will meet with the US Forest Service on June 13 to discuss other possible options. Access to the property from Hwy 34 and Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park may be possible, without impacting Cedar Cove.

**Commission Member Discussion Topics:** None.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.



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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM: 1**

**MEETING DATE:** July 10, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** Parks & Rec Master Plan Update

**SUMMARY:**

Representatives from MIG were in town the week of June 17-20 completing park and facility tours, meeting with City Councilors, and members of the Golf Advisory Board, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Open Lands Advisory Commission.

MIG is in the process of completing the first phase of a three-phased approach. The first phase of information gathering, which included inspecting/benchmarking current conditions, park and facility evaluations, and follow up meetings with internal stakeholders that could not attend scheduled meetings with their respective commissions, will be completed in the early part of the summer. The second phase consisting of public outreach is also under way, including surveys and questionnaires, stakeholder meetings, and a needs analysis. Scheduled intercept events include Loveland Loves BBQ on the weekend of July 12-13, followed by the Cherry Pie Festival on July 20. Parks and Rec staff, along with staff from MIG, will be attending events to engage the public in various aspects of the Master Plan update. Surveys will be mailed out in early July, followed by a link to the survey on the City's website to be released in mid-July. The last phase of plan completion, including draft recommendations, capital and operating strategies, public review and ultimate City Council adoption, will be held in late December/early January. Staff will continue to keep the commission posted on meeting schedules and updates during the process.

**Commission Discussion/Action Recommended:** Informational.



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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### AGENDA ITEM: 2

**MEETING DATE:** July 10, 2013

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Projects Report

#### SUMMARY:

##### **Big Thompson River West Upland Property**

The City and the landowner have signed a contract for 50 units of CBT water and 4.4 acres of land. The water transfer was completed on July 1. The land contract is set to close on July 19. An application for a boundary line adjustment has been submitted to Larimer County and will be re-adjusted to include Cedar Valley Drive to secure access to the land acquired in the purchase. Staff is working with the City Manager's Office and holders of an access easement to Cedar Valley Drive to ensure that a permanent solution for access to the site will be achieved.

##### **57<sup>th</sup> and Taft Property**

Staff contacted the landowner of 57<sup>th</sup> and Taft to follow up on an OLAC request to consider a trail easement on the property providing the Right-of-Way needed to connect a regional trail link between Fort Collins and the current City of Loveland Recreation Trail. The landowner was receptive to reviewing a trail easement that did not segment the property in any way. Staff is developing two scenarios to present to the landowner for consideration, and will provide follow up to OLAC on those negotiations as they evolve.

##### **2012 Open Lands Annual Report**

Staff is in the process of preparing the 2012 Open Lands Annual Report. Topics include an update on the River's Edge project, Loveland's involvement in the *Our Lands - Our Future* Regional Study, financial analysis of the program, grants and partnerships, and Environmental Education from 2012 and into the future. It was a successful year with a majority of the focus on planning for the future of the Open Lands program.

**Commission Discussion/Action Recommended:** Informational.