

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. 6th 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. 57th & 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.