



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

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

MARCH 12, 2014, 5:30 PM

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Suite 200
500 E. Third Street, Loveland, CO 80537

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes (January 8, 2014 and February 12, 2014)

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

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update
2. Priority-based Budgeting Meeting Report
3. Boards & Commissions Summit Report
4. Open Lands Projects Report
5. Open Lands Financial Report
6. Spring Waterway Clean-up – Saturday, April 19th at 9:00 am – Morey Wildlife Reserve

Commission Member Discussion Topics

7. (Executive Session) Open Lands Properties Discussion

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: April 9, 2014

Wi-Fi: COLGuest Access Code: *accesswifi*

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 8, 2014

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. Third Street, Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Ross Livingston, Ted Mioduski, Darren Pape, Bill Zawacki, Jim Roode (alternate), Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Andy Hawbaker.

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

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

Approval of the July 10, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zawacki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of the November 13, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes: Bill Zawacki made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lori Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

City Council Liaison Report: Hugh McKean showed a video of power poles being installed by helicopter in the Cedar Cove area of the Big Thompson Canyon, and a brief presentation on the history of the water pipeline from Idylwilde Dam to Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report: Kerri Rollins reported on several items: 1) The county continues to discuss the open space tax renewal, including projections and needs, and pros and cons of several scenarios. The tax renewal is anticipated to be on the 2014 ballot. 2) The county has contracted with Logan Simpson Design to update its Open Lands Master Plan. The process is expected to take about 6 months and will incorporate input from each municipality. 3) The county will be pursuing a GOCO Flood Recovery grant for a conservation and recreation assessment of the Big Thompson Canyon. The City of Loveland will be asked to be a project partner.

New Members: Interviews were held on January 7 for two vacancies on the commission. Rick Brent will be recommended for reappointment and Jim Roode will be recommended for appointment as a regular member. Appointments by City Council are scheduled for the 2/4/14 meeting.

Discussion/Action:

1. Boards & Commissions Summit. The City's annual Boards and Commissions Summit will be held on February 27. Two members from each board and commission are invited to attend. The following OLAC goals and accomplishments were presented for review and discussion. 2013 Accomplishments:

1) Develop River's Edge Natural Area for public access; 2) Acquisition of the Ward Trust Property adjacent to Morey Wildlife Reserve; and 3) Regional Open Space Study completion. 2014 Goals: 1) Reconstruct River's Edge Natural Area and open for public access; 2) Update Morey Wildlife Reserve Management Plan; 3) Update the 2003 *Open Lands Plan* as a component of the *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*; and 4) Acquire property with connectivity to existing open lands. OLAC is scheduled to present their 2013 accomplishments at the summit. Jim Roode and Andy Hawbaker will attend to represent OLAC.

Commission members requested a list of prioritized properties for the February meeting, that fit the feedback received from the Regional Study and Parks & Rec Master Plan surveys. There are unique opportunities for partnerships and collaboration that should be pursued now, based on available properties and post-flood conditions. If properties that OLAC has recommended for preservation are not pursued, OLAC would like to know why. Members also requested information regarding the budget impact of the flood on Open Lands.

Reports/Correspondence:

2. Regional Study – *Our Lands-Our Future* Final Report. The final report was published in November and is available online: <http://larimer.org/naturalresources/regionalstudy>. Executive Summaries were distributed; full reports are available for checkout from staff. The Economic Benefits section may be helpful for justifying Parks, Trails, and Open Lands CEFs to City Council. Staff has been working with the Parks & Recreation Master Plan committee to determine which components to incorporate into the Master Plan update. Staff has utilized the study's GIS mapping tool to develop maps identifying open lands opportunities in urban and foothills areas, for the Needs Assessment and Key Findings sections of the Master Plan. The Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects awarded *Our Lands-Our Future* the Land Stewardship Award, which recognizes projects that exemplify stewardship of the landscape and its sustainability.

3. Open Lands Projects Report. Staff reported on the following items:

Status of flood recovery on Open Lands properties. Staff continues to research insurance coverage at River's Edge, with assistance from Risk Management staff and the City Attorney's Office. The Loveland Fishing Club submitted a Colorado Parks & Wildlife grant on behalf of the City for River's Edge. The request included reconstruction of three belly boat access points, wetland restoration efforts, and interpretive signage for the site. At Morey Wildlife Reserve, Anderson Consulting Engineers have been contracted to provide short-term (Phase 1) and long-term (Phase 2) solutions for the site and adjacent Mariana Butte Golf Course. Phase 1 (underway) consists of dredging the river channel 3-5 feet deep along the golf course to accommodate spring run-off. Phase 2 (scope and timeline TBD) will consist of long-term restoration scenarios for flood protection and re-establishment of public access to the site. At Namaqua Natural Area (and Namaqua Park), the Environmental Education Program will offer an Urban Wilderness Program to local schools this spring, in place of the Wildlife Program previously offered at Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park. Temporary, portable learning stations will enable the program to be utilized at other sites. Volunteers are eager to help with Environmental Education programs again. The EE Coordinator also managed a project to rescue approximately 70,000 honeybees from the barn at Swartz Farmstead, with assistance from the Northern Colorado Beekeepers Association.

Great Outdoors Colorado Grant Application. GOCO is offering a Flood Recovery Initiative this spring, allocating up to \$5M for flood-related expenses to address park, trail and open space damage. Loveland plans to apply for funding to help rebuild trails at River's Edge, the recreation trail from Wilson to Taft, and the trail underpass at Hwy 287.

Swartz Farmstead Demolition. The demolition bid has been awarded to All Demolition Excavating. Cost will be \$50-60K, depending on any hazardous waste removal required. Large cottonwood trees in the farmstead area will be protected as much as feasible during demolition.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update. Staff has been refining the Needs Assessment and Key Findings portions of the Master Plan and creating maps of opportunity areas. A special OLAC meeting with MIG will be held in February to discuss the Key Findings.

Update on Priority Properties. Staff gave a verbal update on several properties under consideration near River's Edge Natural Area and Morey Wildlife Reserve.

Commission Member Discussion Topics:

1. Bill Zawacki noted that he was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Big Thompson Conservation District. The Little Thompson River Restoration Coalition will hold a public meeting on 1/18, to begin to develop an exigency plan and management plan for recovery of the Little Thompson River.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2014

Group Publishing, 1515 Cascade Ave, Loveland, CO 80538

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Ted Mioduski, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Bill Zawacki.

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

The public meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Discussion of Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The City's consultant, MIG, led a discussion on Open Lands policies, guidelines and priorities.

Discussion/Action:

1. Election of Officers. Rick Brent nominated Gale Bernhardt as Chair. Andy Hawbaker seconded the nomination and the motion carried. Darren Pape was nominated as Vice Chair. Rick Brent seconded the nomination and the motion carried.

Reports/Correspondence:

2. Open Lands Projects Report. Staff reported on the following items:

GOCO Flood Recovery Grants

Loveland applied for \$250K in flood recovery funding for River's Edge and Recreation Trail projects. CIRSA (insurance) and FEMA may cover some River's Edge amenities (trails and pond access points). Volunteer projects with Larimer County Youth Conservation Corps and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado are components of the grant. The city also partnered with Larimer County on a grant for a Big Thompson Recreation and Conservation Study. Other partners include the Big Thompson River Restoration Coalition (BTRRC) and US Forest Service. Grant awards will be announced April 3.

Flood Recovery Projects

Morey/Mariana Butte Golf Course. The river has been dredged along the golf course, dropping water levels in the river ~2 feet. Fill has been hauled to River's Edge and Brose. The Morey "pond" area will be seeded with winter wheat by Larimer County Weed District and Parks staff to help stabilize the soils.

River's Edge. The Water Department's waterline project will be completed by early April. Fill will then be placed in scour areas, and reconstruction of trails and pond access points will follow. The parking lot may be redesigned in its current location or relocated. The redesign of Railroad Avenue is underway, with improved access to the Fire Training Grounds and other floodplain improvements.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 1

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2014

DESCRIPTION: Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

SUMMARY:

The meetings with our consultant, MIG, during February were successful and provided valuable information to assist us as we move into the Implementation component of the Master Plan process.

MIG and department staff updated the project schedule as follows:

Draft Plan due from MIG	March 18, 2014
Staff Review of Draft to MIG	April 4, 2014
Discussion with OLAC	April 9, 2014
Master Plan Open House	April 29, 2014
Study Session with City Council (MIG)	May 13, 2014
Presentation to Planning Commission (MIG)	June 9, 2014
City Council Approval	July 1, 2014 (<i>tentative</i>)

After the February meeting, a short questionnaire was distributed to commission members. A summary of the responses is attached. MIG is currently formulating a draft plan for staff review by mid-March and discussion with the P&R boards and commissions and the public during April meetings.

Open Lands Advisory Commission Recommended Action: Informational.

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE – OLAC RESPONSE SUMMARY

I. Top Priorities – 3 years

1. Acquisition. Drives everything else; use prioritized master plan; include flood opportunities.
2. Access & Development
3. Restoration
4. Programming

II. Top Priorities – 10 years

1. Acquisition
2. Access & Development / Restoration
3. Programming
4. Maintenance

III. Where to focus on acquisition

1. Big Thompson River corridor / access
2. Trail connectivity to a system of open lands throughout Loveland GMA
3. Unique opportunities or features outside GMA (may partner with Larimer County)
4. Trail connectivity outside GMA with Larimer County and Fort Collins
5. Underserved areas and populations

IV. Most important criteria to identify acquisition priorities

1. River corridor/wetlands/riparian areas, wildlife habitat, ecologically sensitive lands
2. Trail connectivity
3. Water access
4. Unique features

V. How to convince the public to approve/renew the County open lands tax

1. Do what the public has asked for: balance of recreation/access and preservation
2. Advertise success / showcase open lands areas (monthly) to encourage public use



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 4

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2014

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

Flood Update for Open Lands Properties

- I. River's Edge Natural Area
 - a. Insurance – Discussion continues with CIRSA (City insurance) and the contractor's insurance carrier regarding coverage for flood damage
 - b. Recovery
 - i. Fill material continues to be hauled into scoured areas
 - ii. Waterline lowering project is underway, completion expected by the end of April
- II. Morey Wildlife Reserve
 - a. Anderson Consulting Engineers continues to analyze floodplain modeling for preparation of a long-term design for Morey
 - b. An overflow channel north of Morey Pond has been re-established in anticipation of spring run-off, potentially breaching the river banks
 - c. Bids for debris removal were received on 3/7/14
- III. Namaqua Natural Area
 - a. Preparations for the spring Env. Ed. program continue to evolve, with installation of portable stations slated for the end of March
- IV. Brose
 - a. Scour areas are filled; field personnel will grade and seed before spring

Swartz Farmstead Demolition

Demolition has been completed, with all structures demolished and hauled offsite. Re-vegetation of the site will be folded into the River's Edge recovery project.

Open Lands Advisory Commission Recommended Action: Informational.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 5

MEETING DATE: March 12, 2014

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Financial Report

SUMMARY:

Year-end 2013 Financial Report:

FUND BALANCES (12/31/13)

Capital Account	\$9,193,860
Management & Maintenance Reserves	\$4,632,000
Capital Expansion Fees (CEF)	\$1,644,880

REVENUE

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>2013 Actual*</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>
County Sales Tax	\$1,874,670	\$1,700,000
Open Lands CEF	275,200	255,510
Misc. Revenue/Leases/Grants	192,972	303,000
Interest	(20,162)**	152,620
TOTAL	\$2,322,680	\$2,411,130

EXPENDITURES

<u>Account Description</u>	<u>2013 Actual*</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>
Personnel Services	\$313,006	\$360,900
Supplies	18,962	36,050
Purchased Services	44,272	94,380
Maintenance Reserve	281,200	255,000
Capital	2,614,090	2,095,000
Flood Recovery Supplemental		1,014,680
TOTAL	\$3,271,530	\$3,856,010

* Unaudited year-end figures

** City investments had a net loss in 2013

Open Lands Advisory Commission Recommended Action: Informational.



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US!**

To Register:

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Volunteer

Registration Page:
[www.cityofloveland.org/
volunteerevents](http://www.cityofloveland.org/volunteerevents)

Call: 970-962-2794

Email:

[Stormwater@
Cityofloveland.org](mailto:Stormwater@Cityofloveland.org)

Additional Information:

[www.cityofloveland.org/
waterwaycleanup](http://www.cityofloveland.org/waterwaycleanup)



or find us on
Facebook!

City of Loveland
Stormwater Engineering



Spring Waterway Flood Clean-Up Event

*Help us clean up some of the flood debris that has washed
up along the Big Thompson River in Loveland!*

Date: **Saturday April 19th, 2014**

Time: **9:00 am to 12:00 noon**

Location: **Multiple locations along the
Big Thompson River**



Scan this code with your smart phone to connect with
the City of Loveland Stormwater Engineering website!



Please dress appropriately: old clothes, work gloves, hats, work boots/shoes (waders, if possible). Garbage bags & water provided.

NOTE: Participants between the ages of 13-18 not accompanied by a parent or guardian must bring a pre-signed liability form. Children between the ages of 6-12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Children under the age of 6 may not participate in the waterway clean-up.