



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Civic Center • 500 East Third Street, Suite 200 • Loveland, Colorado 80537
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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
JUNE 11, 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 (May 14, 2014)

City Council Liaison Report – Hugh McKean

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report – Hugh McKean/Kerri Rollins

OLAB Agenda/Minutes online: http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm

Discussion/Action Items:

1. Property Acquisition Updates (to be distributed at meeting)
2. River's Edge Natural Area – Interim opening planned for July 4th weekend
3. Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Open Lands Projects Report

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: July 9, 2014

Wi-Fi: COLGuest Access Code: *accesswif*

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – May 14, 2014

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

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

Commissioners Absent: Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

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

Guest: Rob Novak, Community Relations Specialist, Larimer County Dept. of Natural Resources.

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

Public Comment: Kathy Hartman, 945 E. 6th St., Loveland, stated that she spoke with Rob Burdine, former Open Lands Manager, regarding his resignation. She remarked that Mr. Burdine leaving his dream job for a lesser position with no notice says a lot about the commitment of this department to Open Lands. Perhaps a different department would better represent Open Lands' goals.

Approval of April 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes: The following correction to the minutes was made:

1) River's Edge Interim Redevelopment Plan, Schedule, Budget: "*Temporary access would be available from June 15 through December 2014.*" Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes with this correction. Bill Zawacki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Liaison Report: Rob Novak attended in Kerri Rollins' absence and reported on the following: 1) The update of the county Open Lands Master Plan kicked off with a public meeting on April 30. 2) The April OLAB meeting heard reports on a mule deer study in northern Larimer Co., proposed new recreation uses, and awards for community small grants. 3) The Board of County Commissioners and the county citizens committee continue to discuss the renewal of the Open Space sales tax, using the results of The Trust for Public Land's citizen polling. The BOCC is expected to make a decision on referring the issue to the November ballot in early June.

Discussion/Action Items:

1. Open Lands Division. Gary Havener noted that the position of Open Lands Manager will likely be filled. The three current priorities for Open Lands are: 1) land acquisition, 2) public access, and 3) public outreach/marketing. The Open Lands Manager would be the point person for these goals and the job description may not change. The Open Lands vision is contained in the Parks & Recreation Master Plan and *Our Lands, Our Future*, to share with City Council for discussion and reaction. Commission members stated that the manager position is critical to the program, to continue the

significant momentum already underway. Commission members also noted that the manager position is crucial for ensuring that Open Lands' needs are met, particularly if the department pursues a more integrated path. Various options for completing acquisition due diligence were discussed, including signing a contract subject to due diligence/appraisal/etc., to indicate the City's interest to the seller and to hold the property. Early review by OLAC minimizes time spent researching a property if the commission is not in favor of pursuing it. The commission requested monthly updates on potential property purchases and reasons for not pursuing those that are dropped. Members were all in favor of aggressively pursuing current opportunities. Rob Novak noted that the county's Natural Resources Dept. has several different divisions, each with a different funding source and manager, but extensive collaboration and resource sharing also takes place.

2. Open Lands Proposed 2015 Budget. The commission asked if maintenance costs are included in the budget. The 15% reserve is set aside for future operations and maintenance. The 10-year capital plan identifies funding needed for operations and maintenance of each acquisition.

3. Property Acquisition Updates. Staff reported on the status of 7 potential acquisitions.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Open Lands Projects Report:

River's Edge Natural Area. About 75 volunteers participated in Comcast Cares Day to help build the Ryan's Gulch trail from the Thompson School District parking lot to the south end of Sandpiper Pond. Parks & Open Lands crews provided significant preparation and support for the project. A mid-July opening of River's Edge is being planned. Crews will secure unsafe areas, clean up debris, fill in eroded areas, and clean up damaged/destroyed pond access points and wetland fencing.

Commission Member Discussion Topics:

1. Andy Hawbaker noted that his daughter attended the Namaqua EE program as a 4th grader at New Vision School. She thought the program was great, as did his wife, who volunteered as a parent helper.
2. Bill Zawacki noted that he is now the District Manager for the Little Thompson Water Conservation District and is working on the Little Thompson River Restoration Coalition Master Plan.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **2**

MEETING DATE: June 11, 2014

DESCRIPTION: River's Edge Natural Area Interim Opening

SUMMARY:

The interim opening of River's Edge is planned for July 4th weekend. Parking will be available at Centennial Park with walk-in access via the Rec Trail underpass at 1st Street. Work is underway to prepare the site. The new restrooms are expected to be open, as well as most trails, several pond access points, the fishing dock on Dragonfly Pond, and the bridge to Jayhawker Ponds. Temporary fencing has been installed around the core area (pavilions and boardwalk), which will remain closed. Damaged pond access points, wetlands, and other debris will be cleaned up for safety. Walk-in access will also be available via the new trail from the Thompson School District parking lot at 800 S. Taft Ave. Signage will include rules & regs, CPW fishing regulations, site information and maps. Amenities such as benches and picnic tables will be installed where possible.

Colorado Parks & Wildlife has been notified and asked to provide a fishing report for the ponds, to ensure a healthy fishery for the opening. The interim opening will be announced via media release, city website and social media. A small informal ceremony for OLAC and Council members could be planned for July 3 if commission members are interested. The Reporter-Herald newspaper would be invited to cover the event.

Commission Action Recommended: Informational.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: **4**

MEETING DATE: June 11, 2014

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

Environmental Education Program. The spring program wrapped up at the end of May at Namaqua Park, with 14 programs serving more than 800 students. The Urban Wilderness Program was well-received by students and teachers, and volunteers enjoyed teaching the new curriculum. Twenty volunteers and guests attended an appreciation picnic at Namaqua Park and received awards and gift certificates for their dedication to the EE program. The program will continue at Namaqua Park for the 2014-2015 school year, with plans to transfer the program to River's Edge in fall 2015. Loveland is also participating in National Get Outdoors Day NoCo on June 14 at City Park in Fort Collins. Michele Van Hare and several volunteers will lead interactive EE activities and present information about Loveland Open Lands. Approximately 1,200 attendees are expected. More information is available online: <http://www.larimer.org/getoutdoorsnoco/>

Honeybee Hive Project. The City is working with Colorado Bee Company from Loveland to locate several honeybee hives on Open Lands sites in a pilot program to support the local honeybee population. Hives will be placed at the Brose and Wild properties, with signage to identify their presence. An agreement is currently being reviewed by the City and CO Bee Co.

Long View Farm – CDOT Deed and Amendment to Covenants at Long View Farm. A Quit Claim Deed was signed by the City Manager to finalize the transfer of a small corner of Long View Farm to CDOT for Intersection Improvements at US Hwy 287 and State Hwy 392. An amendment to the Covenants protecting Long View Farm was also signed by the City Manager to correct a legal description error and to except out the parcel that is being transferred to CDOT.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update. The Final Plan will be presented to the Planning Commission on 6/9 and to City Council for adoption on 7/1. The plan is available online: <http://www.cityofloveland.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=19612>

Commission Action Recommended: Informational.