



## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2014

City Council Chambers, 500 E. Third Street, Loveland, CO 80537

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Ted Mioduski, Darren Pape.

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

**The public meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.**

#### Discussion Items:

**1. Direction and Vision for Loveland Open Lands Program.** OLAC Chair Gale Bernhardt identified current Open Lands priorities as property acquisition for open space, trails, viewsheds, and wildlife habitat. Properties are currently evaluated on their natural resource values (using the 2008 *Natural Areas Sites* report), connectivity to other protected open lands, size, price and other relevant factors. Council members were supportive of Open Lands' acquisitions and priorities to date, as well as partnerships with other entities. Unique opportunities outside the GMA should be considered, with the county or other municipalities as partners, if the property provides public access and connectivity to other protected lands. Council members also supported the continuation of the Loveland Open Lands Advisory Commission to advise City Council and focus on Loveland's interests, but also encouraged joint meetings with other municipalities' open lands boards. The acquisition and due diligence process for each property can vary depending on many variables. Partnerships within the City should also be considered, for example with Transportation for trails and regional connectivity.

**2. Larimer County Open Space Tax Renewal.** The Help Preserve Open Space tax will expire in 2018. The Board of County Commissioners will consider a referendum for an extension of the tax on the November ballot. Staff described the two tax scenarios included in the agenda packet – the existing split between Larimer County and the municipalities (42% and 58%, respectively), and the proposed split (50/50), supported by the county citizens' committee based on county Open Lands' financial needs. The Loveland Open Lands Advisory Commission unanimously supports the existing splits. Council members did not support changing the percentages to a 50/50 split and agreed with OLAC. The proposed change would affect Loveland's ability to acquire and maintain open lands. Council members were also in favor of continued collaboration with the county and other municipalities, as well as Loveland's continued representation on the county Open Lands Advisory Board.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 pm.