



## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.