



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

JANUARY 14, 2015 – 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

New Member Introductions – Nathan Thompson, Jean Whittaker

Approval of Meeting Minutes (November 12, 2014)

City Council Liaison Report – Hugh McKean

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

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

Discussion/Action Items:

1. Capital Expansion Fees (CEFs) Update
2. Election of Officers – Chair and Vice Chair
3. Boards & Commissions Annual Summit – February 19, 2015 (*agenda attached*)
 - a. Goals and Accomplishments (*draft attached*)
 - b. Select two OLAC members to attend
4. Property Naming – 57th & Taft Property
5. Property Review – Big Thompson River Properties (2)

Reports/Correspondence:

6. Open Lands Projects Report

Executive Session (*if necessary*)

(24-6-402(4)(a) C.R.S.) For information or discussion of the purchase or acquisition of real property

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Meeting Date: February 11, 2015

Wi-Fi: COLGuest Access Code: *accesswifi*

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2014

Lake Estes Room, Larimer County Courthouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Ross Livingston, Jim Roode.

Commissioners Absent: Andy Hawbaker, Darren Pape, Ted Mioduski, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Staff Present: Rick Anderson, Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

The public meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.

Public Comment: None present.

Approval of October 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lori Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. Commission Input on City's Comprehensive Plan Update – *Create Loveland*. The City's new Comprehensive Plan, *Create Loveland*, is currently under development (www.createloveland.com). The commission reviewed a list of opportunities and selected the top 4 priorities that are germane to OLAC's mission and suggested one additional opportunity. The top 5 priorities for OLAC were:

1. Protect the Big Thompson River ecological and floodplain corridor
2. Promote regional connections to surrounding parks and open space
3. Provide recreational access to open lands and natural areas where appropriate
4. Promote conservation of natural areas and wildlife corridors within the City and between neighboring communities
5. Promote opportunities to acquire and enhance open space property adjacent to parks and provide connectivity with parks

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

2. Open Lands Projects Report.

Property Acquisitions. Staff continues to research several properties for potential acquisition and public access opportunities, including sites that were recently visited with OLAC.

Big Thompson Recreation and Conservation Assessment. This project is in the data collection phase, with active participation by Loveland, Larimer County and the Big Thompson Restoration Coalition.

River's Edge Natural Area. Plans for reconstruction are well underway, including floodplain modeling and hazard mitigation for protection from future flood events. Spring 2015 construction is planned. Jim Roode reported that a 19½" largemouth bass was caught (and released) at River's Edge in July, garnering a Colorado Master Angler Award for the fisherman, Tom Garland.

GOCO Open Space Grants. Staff has been in contact with GOCO regarding the spring open space grant cycle. The deadline is in March and may be worth pursuing in order to stretch the city's ability to fund other acquisitions.

Property Naming – 57th & Taft Property. The deadline to submit name suggestions is November 15.

COMMISSION MEMBER DISCUSSION TOPICS:

1. Rick Brent commented that City Council made a decision to support Sprouts, approving a loan of \$250K from each City CEF, to be repaid in 10 years with 3% interest (\$2.2M total).
2. Gale Bernhardt reported that the City Manager is working with the consultant on the Parks & Recreation Director hiring. Presentations by a short list of candidates are planned for December 11 and 12.
3. Rick Brent suggested several ideas to get the public and particularly kids more aware of open lands and involved in stewardship of properties: a webcam on known active nest sites, interpretive signage, and environmental education at various sites.
4. Staff reminded members that OLAC recruitment is underway and the application deadline is November 14.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 3

MEETING DATE: January 14, 2015

DESCRIPTION: 2015 Boards & Commissions Summit – February 19

SUMMARY:

The Annual Boards & Commissions Summit will be held on Thursday, February 19 from 5-9 pm at the Rialto Theater Center. Two OLAC representatives are invited to attend.

Agenda:

- 5:00 - 5:45pm Social Hour
- 5:45 - 6:45pm Buffet Dinner
- 6:45 - 7:00pm Mayor's Welcome – Cecil Gutierrez
- 2015 Goals – Bill Cahill, City Manager
- 7:00 - 8:00pm Presentations of 2014 Accomplishments:
 - Affordable Housing Commission
 - Citizens' Finance Advisory Commission
 - Cultural Services Board
 - Golf Advisory Board
 - Parks & Recreation Commission
 - Police Citizen Advisory Board
- 8:10 - 8:50pm Comprehensive Plan Presentation/Activity
- 8:50 - 9:00pm Mayor's Closing Remarks

The following 2014 accomplishments and 2015 goals are presented for OLAC discussion and inclusion in the program for the Boards & Commissions Summit.

Major accomplishments in 2014 included:

1) Repaired and opened River's Edge Natural Area for public access

River's Edge opened for temporary public access on July 3, 2014, for fishing, trail use, and passive outdoor recreation. Re-design of flood-damaged amenities is underway, including the parking lot, picnic shelters, boardwalk, trails, pond access points and wetlands. The

plans incorporate floodplain modeling and hazard mitigation. Construction is planned for spring 2015, and the full site opening is anticipated in summer 2015.

2) Updated the 2003 *Open Lands Plan* as a component of the *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*

The Open Lands Plan was updated and incorporated into the 2014 *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*, which was adopted in July 2014. Results from the regional open space study *Our Lands Our Future* were included in the plan and the study's GIS mapping tool was used to help identify priorities for open lands preservation.

3) Acquisition of Open Lands at Taft Ave. and 57th Street

Loveland Open Lands preserved a scenic 87-acre parcel on the northeast quadrant of Taft Avenue and 57th Street in August 2014. The property connects existing open lands in the 3,500-acre "community separator" between Loveland and Fort Collins, to provide contiguous wildlife habitat and link public access areas via two trail connections, the Loveland Recreation Trail loop and a regional trail linking Loveland and Fort Collins. The \$1.5 million purchase price was funded primarily by Loveland's share of the voter-approved open space sales tax collected throughout Larimer County, and a \$200,000 contribution from Larimer County Open Lands.

Proposed 2015 Goals for Discussion:

- 1) Complete reconstruction of River's Edge Natural Area and fully open to the public.
- 2) Update the Management Plan for Morey Wildlife Reserve, incorporating flood recovery and mitigation measures, public access options, and the adjacent Ward Trust Property and other future acquisitions nearby.
- 3) Preserve property by fee simple or conservation easements to provide connectivity to existing open lands, addressing fragmentation of wildlife habitat and linking public access areas.
- 4) Maximize public benefit from the open space sales tax, capital expansion fees and general funds, as well as grant and partnership funding sources.
- 5) Provide land management, resource protection and public access on city open lands.
- 6) Brand and market Open Lands and add value to the community.

Commission Discussion/Action Recommended: Select two representatives to attend the summit. Review and discuss OLAC's 2014 Accomplishments and 2015 Goals.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 6

MEETING DATE: January 14, 2015

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

River's Edge Natural Area Reconstruction. The Site Development Plan and Construction Documents have been approved by the City's Development Review Team. The Invitation to Bid on the construction project will be posted on 1/15/15, with a mandatory pre-bid meeting for bidders on 1/29. Bids will be due on 2/12. Construction is still expected to begin in March, and some partial closures of the site will likely be necessary during construction.

Big Thompson Canyon Recreation and Conservation Assessment Plan. Data collection is complete and base maps have been created showing existing land ownership, pre- and post-flood conditions including recreation amenities, and potential land conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. Two meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee have been held, for input by staff from CO Parks & Wildlife, US Forest Service, CDOT, Loveland Parks, and Larimer County Planning and Engineering. A public meeting will be held in early February focusing on issue and opportunity identification. Stations will be set up for each river reach, where the open-house style discussion will solicit feedback regarding participant areas of interest in each reach. Meeting notification will include social media, email notification lists, recreation user group contacts, media releases, a project-specific website, poster distribution, radio, and City/County websites. Meeting details will be forwarded to the commission when available.

Environmental Education Program. Michele Van Hare, Env Ed/Volunteer Coordinator, continues to develop new public programming and will soon offer a Preschool Environmental Education Programs (PEEPs) for children ages 2-5 and their parents/caregivers. Beginning in February, PEEPs in the Parks will be offered every third Thursday of the month in various locations, including the Loveland Library, Namaqua Park, Fairgrounds Park, and River's Edge Natural Area. The programs will include hands-on activities, story reading, games, and crafts. Topics will focus on seasonal changes or a particular animal of Loveland parks and natural areas.

Commission Action Recommended: Informational.