



## 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](http://www.cityofloveland.org)

### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

MARCH 11, 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**

**Introduction of New Parks & Recreation Director, Elizabeth Anderson**

**Public Comment**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes (February 11, 2015 and November 12, 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](http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm)

#### **Reports/Correspondence:**

1. Environmental Education/Volunteer Program Presentation – Michele Van Hare
2. Property Acquisition Updates
3. Open Lands Projects Report
4. Urban Land Institute Resiliency Panel Meeting – April 2 (*Rialto Theater Center*)
5. Boards & Commissions Summit Report – Darren Pape, Jim Roode
6. Spring Waterway Cleanup – April 18 (*Morey Wildlife Reserve*)
7. City Council Study Session – April 28 (*Big Thompson Recreation & Conservation Assessment*)

#### **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:** April 8, 2015

Wi-Fi: COLGuest Access Code: *accesswifi*

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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2015

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

**Commissioners Present:** Gale Bernhardt, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Bill Zawacki, Jean Whittaker, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

**Commissioners Absent:** Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker.

**Staff Present:** Rick Anderson, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Alan Krcmarik, Debbie Eley.

**The public meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.**

**New Member Introductions:** Jean Whittaker was appointed by City Council as a regular member on February 3, 2015, for a term effective until December 31, 2018.

**Approval of January 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Ross Livingston made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim Roode seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Approval of November 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Tabled until a quorum is present.

**Public Comment:** Two members of the public were present (Kathy Hartman, Gary Long). Kathy Hartman commented on the successful Open Space Sales Tax campaign and the tax extension passing with 82% approval, indicating a continuing demand for open space services. Citizens are interested in open lands properties, such as Boedecker Lake, Morey restoration, River's Edge reconstruction, and a possible northern extension of Meadowbrook.

**City Council Liaison Report.** Hugh McKean reported that several development projects in northwest Loveland are planned but waiting for market conditions to improve.

**Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report.** Hugh McKean reported that OLAB considered a partnership request in Wyoming at their January meeting. Kerri Rollins explained that the property is a continuation of the Mountains-to-Plains Project, which includes Red Mountain OS and Soapstone NA (Fort Collins). The 640-acre property is a Nature Conservancy-City of Cheyenne partnership just across the Wyoming border from Red Mountain OS. Larimer County OLAB recommended a \$75K partnership. The property will provide an opportunity to improve riparian conditions on the Sand Creek headwaters in Wyoming, reintroduce green-back cutthroat trout, and support a genetically pure bison herd.

### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

**1. Capital Expansion Fees (CEFs) Update.** Adam Orens from BBC Research & Consulting updated the commission on the proposed Capital Expansion Fees and requested OLAC's recommendation/opinion on the Open Lands CEF. The revised CEFs were calculated using a plan-based methodology, utilizing the 2014 Parks & Recreation Master Plan to calculate CEFs for Open Lands, Parks, Trails, and Recreation. The proposed OL CEF fees are \$815 per single-family unit and \$669 per multi-family unit,

compared to the existing fees of \$884 and \$615, respectively. The commission expressed concern regarding the assumption of future development, operations and maintenance costs (new calculation assumes 34% of revenues for these costs). Also, the 5-year recommended interval for recalculating CEFs may not be sufficient to capture fluctuations in land values and development costs. The commission was also interested in having the existing OL CEF, using the current buy-in methodology, updated with the new assumptions. The commission also expressed concern that utilizing existing Open Space Tax balances and future revenues to pay for growth. Gale Bernhardt made a motion requesting that staff prepare a memo for OLAC review outlining these concerns to City Council. Ross Livingston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**2. Open Lands Financial Report.** A 2014 year-end financial report was provided, including account balances, and revenues and expenditures for 2014 (actual) and 2015 (budgeted).

**3. Property Review Update – Big Thompson River Property (Nicholson).** Staff provided an update on the acquisition of the Nicholson properties, including a contract to purchase Tract U and a non-revocable option to close on Tract T by 2020. Also, a lien has been deleted from the title commitment. Gale Bernhardt made a motion to recommend that staff proceed with a Purchase and Sale Agreement on Tract U and an Option Agreement on Tract T. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:**

#### **4. Open Lands Projects Report:**

**River's Edge Natural Area Reconstruction.** Bids for construction of permanent repairs are due on 2/12. Staff is working with FEMA to resolve some questions about the proposed Hazard Mitigation.

**Big Thompson Canyon Recreation and Conservation Assessment.** A public open house meeting is scheduled for 2/12, for input on recreation and conservation opportunities in proposed "areas of interest." A project update for OLAC and a study session with City Council are planned for April.

**Mineral Addition.** The HOA voted to approve the sale of a 7-acre parcel to the City, as an addition to River's Edge Natural Area. The contract will be contingent on approval of a boundary line adjustment.

**Sunset Vista Natural Area.** Residents Jim & Pat Horner were recognized for their submission of the name *Sunset Vista*. Staff is working with Larimer County and Fort Collins to submit a \$1M GOCO grant request for the Long View Trail and improvements.

**Morey Wildlife Reserve.** A contract with Anderson Consulting Engineers will provide design to the 75% level, with construction funding to be secured through grants and/or 2016 budget approvals. Concepts include a secondary channel for flood attenuation, wetland enhancement and a cottonwood gallery supported by intermittent flooding. The recently acquired 7-acre Ward parcel could provide parking and trail access to Morey.

**Environmental Education Program.** Current EE offerings include *PEEPs* pre-school programs starting this month, spring *Urban Wilderness* programs at Namaqua Park for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade school groups, and *Big Thompson River Ecology* public programs for families and adults in April and May.

**5. Spring Waterway Cleanup – April 18 (Morey Wildlife Reserve).** OLAC has "adopted" Morey Wildlife Reserve as part of the City's Adopt-a-Waterway program. Commission members are asked to participate in the annual waterway cleanup if possible.

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



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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](http://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 – 57<sup>th</sup> & 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.



## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM: 3**

**MEETING DATE:** March 11, 2015

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Projects Report

### **SUMMARY:**

**River's Edge Natural Area Reconstruction.** City Council approved the contract with Territory Unlimited for construction of permanent repairs for \$696,918. Work is expected to begin in April. FEMA has agreed to an Improved Project status, resulting in a capped amount of funding for reimbursable expenses (\$920,000), including design and temporary repairs. Funding for repairs will also come from CIRSA (insurance) and a GOCO flood recovery grant.

**Big Thompson Recreation and Conservation Assessment.** The first public meeting was attended by about 70 people, who provided valuable input and feedback about the potential "areas of interest." Staff continues to work with Larimer County, the consultant, and the Technical Advisory Committee to refine these potential conservation and recreation areas and opportunities. An update will be provided at the April OLAC meeting and a study session with City Council is scheduled for April 28.

**Sunset Vista Natural Area.** The GOCO Paths to Parks grant request was submitted for \$1M to build the Long View Corridor Trail, including trail sections by Loveland, Fort Collins, and Larimer County, as well as a trailhead at Sunset Vista and intersection improvements to connect to both cities' trail systems. A CDOT Transportation Alternatives Project grant in the amount of \$1M has already been approved for the project. A new (temporary) site identification sign will be installed on Taft Ave. as weather allows in the next few weeks.

**Commission Action Recommended:** Informational.



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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

#### AGENDA ITEM: 4

**MEETING DATE:** March 11, 2015

**DESCRIPTION:** Urban Land Institute Resiliency Panel Meeting – April 2

#### SUMMARY:

After the flood of 2013, Loveland co-sponsored a panel from the Urban Land Use Institute to make post-flood assessments and provide land use recommendations intended to provide objective advice that will promote the responsible use of land to enhance the environment. The panel, comprised of nine experts in land use, development, finance, design and community engagement, spent five days in a series of site tours, stakeholder interviews and discussions with the communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, and Loveland.

Recognizing that damage from a flood and other disasters is a fact of life, the panel developed a comprehensive list of recommendations and solutions intended to create a regional vision to build resilience and increase the region (and Loveland's) capacity to deal with disruptions such as floods.

Recommendations to build resilience are intended to serve as a guide to best address issues dealing with the region's ability to recover from natural disasters in both the near and long term. The report suggests three ways to increase resilience: *building*, *financing* and *leading* resilience. Of the three, building resilience has the greatest nexus relative to the implementation of open lands goals in the future.

Building Resilience, summary of recommendations:

- Regional vision and coordination on the river land use, infrastructure and housing
- Aggressive floodplain management
- Designing with nature, not against it
- Resilient water infrastructure
- Use of engineered and natural systems

Some of the specific land use suggestions and recommendations from the report include:

- Create a regional vision through planning efforts for development along the Big Thompson River and to facilitate interactions among stakeholders. That vision plan can help prioritize land uses, acquisitions and easements, and work to integrate the river into the green infrastructure for resilience and coordinate funding strategies for implementation efforts.
- Undertake strategic land acquisition for river enhancement where appropriate. Strategic acquisition of property or development rights (easements) from willing sellers would expand the natural water corridors to better mimic their predeveloped footprint. These areas should generally be prioritized for natural uses (rather than developed parks) with smaller footprints that could include trails, fishing access, or dog parks.
- Allow rivers to act as rivers by acquiring floodplain land, providing reasonable space for flood lands and the ability for rivers to move within their floodplains, to restore the ecological function to the river as a community amenity.

The ULI 2014 report of findings is available online here: [www.cityofloveland.org/ulireport](http://www.cityofloveland.org/ulireport).

The Open Lands Advisory Commission has been identified as a citizen board that is instrumental in the discussion about regional resiliency. All commission members are invited to attend the Urban Land Institute's Resiliency Panel Follow-Up Meeting on April 2 from 4:00-5:30 pm at the Rialto Theater Center.





# SPRING WATERWAY CLEAN-UP EVENT



## WHEN

**April 18th, 2015**  
**9am - Noon**

## CHECK-IN LOCATIONS

Centennial Park  
Civic Center  
World Beverage  
High Plains Environmental Center

## TO REGISTER:

VISIT THE CITY'S VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION PAGE  
[WWW.CITYOFLOVELAND.ORG/VOLUNTEEREVENTS](http://WWW.CITYOFLOVELAND.ORG/VOLUNTEEREVENTS)

OR CALL 970-962-2555  
EMAIL: [STORMWATER@CITYOFLOVELAND.ORG](mailto:STORMWATER@CITYOFLOVELAND.ORG)

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## NOTE:

PARTICIPANTS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 13-18 NOT ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ADULT MUST BRING A PRE-SIGNED LIABILITY FORM. CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 6-12 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

**Please dress appropriately:**  
wear old clothes, work gloves, hats, work boots/shoes (waders if possible).  
**Please bring small tools,**  
shovels, rakes, etc.

GARBAGE BAGS, WATER AND SOME HAND TOOLS WILL BE PROVIDED.

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