



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

NOVEMBER 18, 2015 – 5:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Chilson Recreation Center – Cherry Room

700 E. Fourth Street, Loveland, CO 80537

5:00 pm Northern Colorado Regional Open Space Meeting:

5:00-5:30 pm Dinner and Networking

5:30-7:45 pm Regional Boards Group Meeting, Presentations, Breakout Sessions

8:00 pm City of Loveland Open Lands Advisory Commission Meeting:

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes (October 14, 2015)

City Council Liaison Report – Hugh McKean

Larimer Co. Open Lands Advisory Bd Rpt – Kerri Rollins/Hugh McKean [OLAB Agenda/Minutes](#)

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Open Lands Projects Report (*attached*)
2. Property Acquisition Updates (*verbal*)

Executive Session

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

Reminders/Events:

Nov. 19 – [PEEPs \(Pre-School Environmental Education\)](#), 9:30 & 11am at River's Edge (or Library)
"Yip, Yap & Yowl with Clan Coyote"

Nov. 21 – [Guided Natural Area Bird Walk](#), 8-10 am at River's Edge Natural Area

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: December 9, 2015

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2015

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

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Staff Present: Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg.

Guest: Jim Tolstrup, Executive Director, High Plains Environmental Center

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

Public Comment: Kathy Hartman, 945 E. 6th Street, Loveland, commented that the River's Edge grand opening was a great event and she was glad to see many volunteers involved.

Approval of September 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Ross Livingston made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Darren Pape seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

City Council Liaison Report: Hugh McKean reported that Council approved the 2016 budget.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. The Laramie Foothills Bison Reintroduction event will take place on Nov. 1 at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area. Information will be forwarded to commission members.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Third Quarter Financial Report. The financial report included line items for 2015 acquisitions from Fund 202 – Open Lands sales tax (Nicholson, Boedecker West, Wenninger, Black and the Fort Collins partnership project) and from the Open Lands CEF fund (Mineral and Swisher). During the budget process, the reserve account was adjusted to a flat \$3M, rather than 15% annual revenues. Flood reimbursements are expected to be approximately \$540,000, primarily for River's Edge. Purchased services will likely come in lower than expected, largely due to the change in scope for the Morey restoration project. Approximately \$6.8M is allocated for acquisitions, development projects and operations in 2015 and 2016, leaving a cash balance of \$2.3M unappropriated.

2. Open Lands Projects Report:

River's Edge Natural Area. Feedback on the grand opening was positive and the site is being used regularly by the public for fishing, walking, jogging, wildlife viewing etc. Commission members reported that several people have inquired about using kayaks and canoes on the ponds. Water access was identified in the P&R Master Plan as a highly desired public use. A 6-month review of management of the site could address issues such as boating, water access, dogs, etc. Catch and release fishing regulations also need to be emphasized to maintain the quality fishery. Additional trees are planned

and Darren Pape mentioned that Ketterer's Nursery may have some trees available. A watering trailer was recently ordered to facilitate irrigation of new plantings.

Quick-Win Projects. The contract for four quick-win projects was awarded to Mountain Constructors for small gravel parking areas and soft-surface trails at Old St. Louis and King's Crossing, and trails at Oxbow and Morey. Trail reconstruction at Morey is planned over the winter, following flood repairs at Mariana Butte Golf Course. A loop trail at Mariana Butte is being constructed in partnership with the local volunteer trail-building group Colorado Addicted Trail-builders Society (C.A.T.S.). Over 1,000 LF of trail has been cut in and the social trail was moved from private/HOA property to city land. Signage, including site rules and maps, will be installed at each site.

High Plains Environmental Center. The High Plains Open Space Agreement was established in 2006 to set aside funds generated by Millennium development for open space acquisition and conservation easements. The current balance is approximately \$400K and could be a potential source of funding for the E. 1st Street property acquisition, which is a possible hub for access to the river and partnership with the adjacent Boys & Girls Club, New Vision School, and Timberlane Farm. The High Plains Fund could also be a source of funding for a new environmental center at High Plains, with a nature center, living lab, and visitor center. Three issues need to be considered: 1) the current agreement designates the High Plains funds for acquisitions; 2) use of the funds for a building at High Plains would require a change in the agreement; and 3) possible future partnership opportunities with High Plains could include programming, facilities, etc. These topics will be discussed at a joint meeting with OLAC/HPEC tentatively planned for January 2016, to assess how we can complement each other's efforts.

GOCO Open Space Site Tour. Staff hosted a site tour of the 78-acre west Loveland property near Morey Wildlife Reserve for GOCO staff and board members on Oct. 2. GOCO staff indicated that they received \$4.3M in requests for the \$5M open space cycle. Loveland requested \$500,000 for this acquisition. Feedback from GOCO has been positive and the Open Space Committee will meet on Nov. 17 to make recommendations to the Board, who will announce final decisions at their Dec. 12 meeting.

GOCO Inspire Grant. GOCO awarded the Larimer County Inspire application a \$50,000 Tier 2 grant for an 18-month planning effort to determine how best to connect kids to nature.

Guided Bird Walks on Natural Areas. A volunteer-led guided bird walk was held on Oct. 3, starting at Mehaffey Park and following the Recreation Trail and Loudon Ditch Trail through Meadowbrook Natural Area. A total of 19 species were recorded, including a great-horned owl which was the highlight of the walk. A few guided bird walks may be offered this winter to look for and identify waterfowl at River's Edge or Meadowbrook ponds, and monthly bird walks will be planned beginning in the spring.

3. Property Acquisition Updates. The Fort Collins partnership property closed on September 30. Fort Collins will manage the property with a tenant farmer. The Swisher property cleanup should be complete by November 1. The property will be managed as part of River's Edge.

Discussion/Action Items:

4. Ryan's Gulch Property Review. Staff and the Trust for Public Land have been working with the owner of the 188-acre property south of CR 16 to complete an appraisal for a fee-simple purchase. Larimer County and Berthoud are interested in partnering on this key separator property that provides a connection for the regional Front Range Trail, protects an active golden eagle nest, and connects three existing conservation easements. The project is also a good fit for GOCO's upcoming new Protect and Connect Initiatives for large-scale projects. The acquisition includes 6 shares each of Southside

Reservoir, Ditch and Extension. A single-family home would also be acquired and management of all assets would be included in a comprehensive master plan for the site. Ross Livingston made a motion to recommend that staff proceed with acquisition NA-01-BE as described. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. East First Street Property. A local developer has offered this property to the city as a potential park and open lands site. The parcel would require significant infrastructure costs for residential development and offers potential partnership opportunities with the Boys & Girls Club, New Vision School, Timberlane Farm, and High Plains Environmental Center. The acquisition includes $\frac{3}{4}$ share of Chubbuck Ditch (30 inches) of Chubbuck Ditch water, which may be usable for farming the upper portion of the property. A small pond resulting from gravel mining may require augmentation. Staff will continue to investigate the water rights and requirements associated with the property. Andy Hawbaker made a motion to recommend that staff proceed with acquisition NA-15-PF as described. Gale Bernhardt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. This property acquisition meets the criteria and intent of the High Plains Open Space Fund. Jean Whittaker made a motion recommending that Open Lands apply for funding from the High Plains Open Space Fund and plan to meet with HPEC to discuss future partnership opportunities. Andy Hawbaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 1

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2015

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

Wenninger/Black Property Naming. Names are being solicited from the public for the recent Wenninger/Black acquisition. Public notice of the naming contest will include an article in the December City Update utility bill insert, Open City Hall, Facebook, and an online web form. The Reporter-Herald will also be contacted to help spread the word. Names will be accepted until January 4 and presented at the January OLAC meeting for selection. Fencing, gates and signage will be installed to identify property boundaries.

River's Edge Natural Area. Site use continues to be high with nice fall weather. Signs and kiosks are being installed throughout the property. Newly seeded areas are doing well thanks to fall precipitation. Volunteer trail hosts continue to monitor use and educate the public about the site, with online reporting to staff. The Swisher property cleanup is complete and the final environmental inspection revealed no issues. The site will be graded to remove the berm along First Street and access through the area will be planned to connect with existing trails.

Ward Trust Property. The Ward Trust acquisition will be recommended for full funding (\$500,000) at the GOCO Open Space committee meeting on November 17. Grants will be awarded by the Board at their Dec. 12 meeting. TPL has secured an option agreement with the owners and will transfer the option agreement to the city, for closing by the end of 2016. Larimer County Open Lands has also committed a partnership for \$250,000.

Sunset Vista. The draft IGA with Fort Collins and Larimer County for the Long View Trail project is being finalized. Environmental and cultural surveys are underway, and a conceptual master plan for the site will be presented to OLAC in early 2016 for review.

Conservation Easement Monitoring. All conservation easements held and co-held by the City have been monitored for the 2015 season. No significant violations were observed, but notable weed populations were documented on several sites, similar to many sites this year due to excessive precipitation and previous flooding.

Morey Restoration. Staff is working with AloTerra to utilize CPW and CWCB grants for the ecological restoration of the previous pond area at Morey, including wetland and riparian habitats.

Environmental Education and Public Outreach. About 40 pre-schoolers attended the October PEEPs program (“Scare-crows and Crow Crows”) at River’s Edge. Scare-crows made during the programs were displayed at the Halloween Festival at the Museum. The Open Lands booth at the festival was popular, where EE volunteers hosted a “touch table” of hides and skulls and distributed many PEEPs flyers, Open Lands and trail maps, and other information. Six new interpretive panels for River’s Edge are in final production and should be installed in the next week. Trail Hosts and EE volunteers will be provided with notes allowing them to use the signs for "teachable moments" while on the trails. Five new Trail Hosts were trained in November. A volunteer appreciation lunch will be held on Friday, November 20th in the Erion Room at the Library. All OLAC members are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided, please RSVP to Michele. Staff recently met with Laura Armstrong, Director of the Heart-J Center for Experiential Learning at Sylvan Dale Ranch, to explore opportunities for collaboration in outdoor programming, such as bringing the Viestenz-Smith Wildlife Program to their site. We are also considering collaborations with High Plains Environmental Center and Larimer County Natural Resources to provide a variety of complementary options for student learning in our shared districts.

Raptor Ridge and Hollander CE Amendments. Legacy Land Trust, now a partner with Colorado Open Lands, is working on a CE Amendment for Lazy J/Raptor Ridge Parcel 1 that will allow for a change in location of the building envelope and the allowance for paving of a driveway to the new residence. City legal staff will review the Amendment before it is signed and recorded. Similar language will be used for the CE Amendment request in process for the Hopkins/Hollander CE. Mr. Hollander has requested a change in the building envelope. Both of these requests were recommended for approval at the August OLAC meeting.