



## 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

OCTOBER 12, 2016 – 5:30 PM

#### REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, Suite 200

500 E. Third Street, Loveland, CO 80537

[www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands](http://www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands)

**Notice of Meeting Posted**

**Call to Order**

**Public Comment**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** September 14, 2016

**City Council Liaison Report – Hugh McKean**

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

#### **5:30-6:30 pm Discussion/Action:**

1. Big Thompson River East Property Reviews (2) *(to be presented at meeting)*
2. Proposed Lease Agreement – Wild Natural Area *(attached)*
3. Proposed Barnes Ditch Fish Passage Project – Oxbow Natural Area *(attached)*

#### **6:30-7:30 pm Reports/Correspondence:**

4. Property Acquisition Updates *(verbal)*
5. Open Lands Projects Report *(attached)*
6. Trail Updates *(attached)*

#### **Executive Session – Discussion of Open Lands Acquisition Priorities**

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

#### **News/Reminders/Events:**

News Items – [Fishing Line Recycling](#), [20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration](#), [Mariana Butte Trail](#)

October 15 – [Guided Bird Walk & Nature Exploration at Morey Wildlife Reserve](#) – 8:30 am

October 19 – Open Lands Volunteer Appreciation Event – Chilson Center – 5:45 pm

October 20 – [PEEPs “Marsh Monarchs” \(Great Blue Heron\) at River's Edge](#) – 9:30 & 11:00 am

October 22 – [CSI - Critter Scene Investigation at Morey Wildlife Reserve](#) – 11am- 1pm

#### **Commission Member Discussion Topics**

#### **Adjournment**

**Next Meeting:** November 9, 2016 – Northern Colorado Regional Open Space Meeting

**NOTE Special Time/Location:** 5:00 pm at Horsetooth Area Info. Center, [4200 W CR 38 E](#)



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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2016

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

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

**Commissioners Absent:** Jean Whittaker, Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

**Staff Present:** Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Jonathan Huey, Michele Van Hare.

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

**Approval of August 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes:** Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ross Livingston made a correction to the minutes to show Kerri Rollins as present at the meeting. Ross seconded the motion with this correction. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**City Council Liaison Report.** Hugh McKean reported on the following items: 1) Council approved six new positions in the Police Department, including civilian positions to support new officers. 2) Contractors are getting firmed up for the South Catalyst project (now known as the Foundry).

#### Reports/Correspondence

**1. Open Lands and Trails Operational Update 2016.** Staff presented a summary of operations and maintenance projects and accomplishments over the past year, including opening 5 sites for public access, acquiring 5 new properties, managing numerous leases and easements, planning for numerous properties and trails, and significantly increasing public outreach, educational programming and participation by visitors and volunteers.

**2. COSA Conference Report.** Bill Zawacki, Ross Livingston and 6 staff members attended the annual Colorado Open Space Alliance conference in Estes Park on September 12-14 and found the sessions, field trips and networking very valuable and informative.

**3. Property Acquisition Updates.** The Ward Trust property successfully closed on August 26. The Namaqua West property is under contract to close December 10. City Council will consider a supplemental appropriation request on October 4 for this acquisition. The property was listed at \$3.2M and the contract price is \$2.88M.

**4. Open Lands Projects Report.** The new Mineral Trail at River's Edge has been completed and opened for access from Carlisle. The new parking lot at the former Swisher property is out to bid for fall construction. Old St. Louis is the featured Site of the Month for September, with a guided bird walk and guided history and moonlight walk scheduled. The Mariana Butte HOA has agreed to allow access from the neighborhood to connect with the MB Butte Trail system. CATS volunteers will work with the HOA to plan and construct the trail connection this fall. A GOCO Open Space grant was submitted for the Ryans Gulch acquisition for \$1,250,000. A tour for GOCO Board and staff is scheduled for Oct. 10 and awards will be announced on December 8.

**5. Trails Update.** Testing and surveying is underway for the Long View Trail at Sunset Vista, for planned spring-summer 2018 construction. Designs for the Front Range Trail include a detached trail/sidewalk along the west side of CR 11C. Fall construction is planned. Recreation Trail Section 10B (Namaqua Rd. to Hwy 34 underpass) is also scheduled for fall construction, with opening planned for spring 2017. Section 10A (Wilson to Namaqua) is scheduled to start design in spring 2017 with construction in fall 2017. The Round Mountain Trail will be closed when the full closure of US 34 begins on October 17 for reconstruction.

**6. Sign Request.** Open Lands received a request to post a real estate development sign on the Namaqua Skyline property along US 34 near Rossum Drive. Commission members were opposed to the proposal.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.



## **OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM:**           **2**

**MEETING DATE:**       October 12, 2016

**DESCRIPTION:**       Proposed Lease Agreement – Wild Natural Area

**STAFF PRESENTER:**   Marilyn Hilgenberg

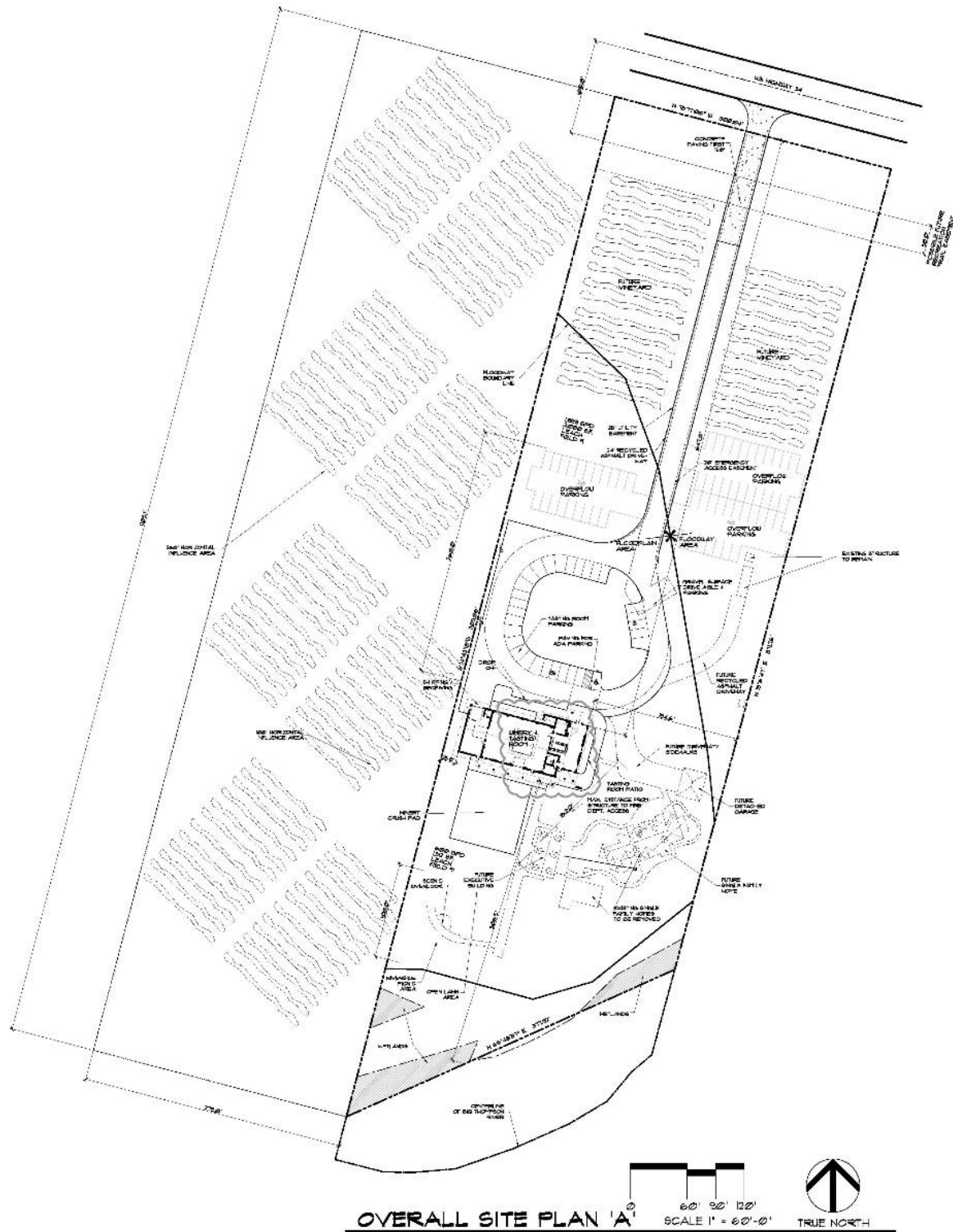
### **SUMMARY:**

The Sweetheart City Winery has asked the City of Loveland if it would consider entering into a lease agreement on approximately 7 acres of the Wild Natural Area. The Winery would like to grow grapes on the land and believes that the vineyard will be an aesthetically pleasing amenity to Loveland and the winery and compatible with the City's Natural Area.

Find attached a site plan that demonstrates how the winery's conceptual layout incorporates additional vineyards on the Wild Natural Area. The Winery estimates they would like to lease 7 acres. They have designed their plan to incorporate good traffic patterns for wildlife. The alignment of the grape plots will be laid out to provide the best sun exposure. The Winery does not anticipate planting any vines for 2-3 years until they test the grape varieties in conjunction with Colorado State University. Until that time, the land would be well maintained with natural grasses.

Staff would like to discuss the compatibility of this lease request with the management of the Wild Natural Area.

**COMMISSION ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Discussion and Lease Recommendation





**Photo to Demonstrate How Vineyard Might Look Visually:**





## **OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**AGENDA ITEM:**           **3**

**MEETING DATE:**       October 12, 2016

**DESCRIPTION:**       Proposed Barnes Ditch Fish Passage Project – Oxbow Natural Area

**STAFF PRESENTER:**   Marilyn Hilgenberg

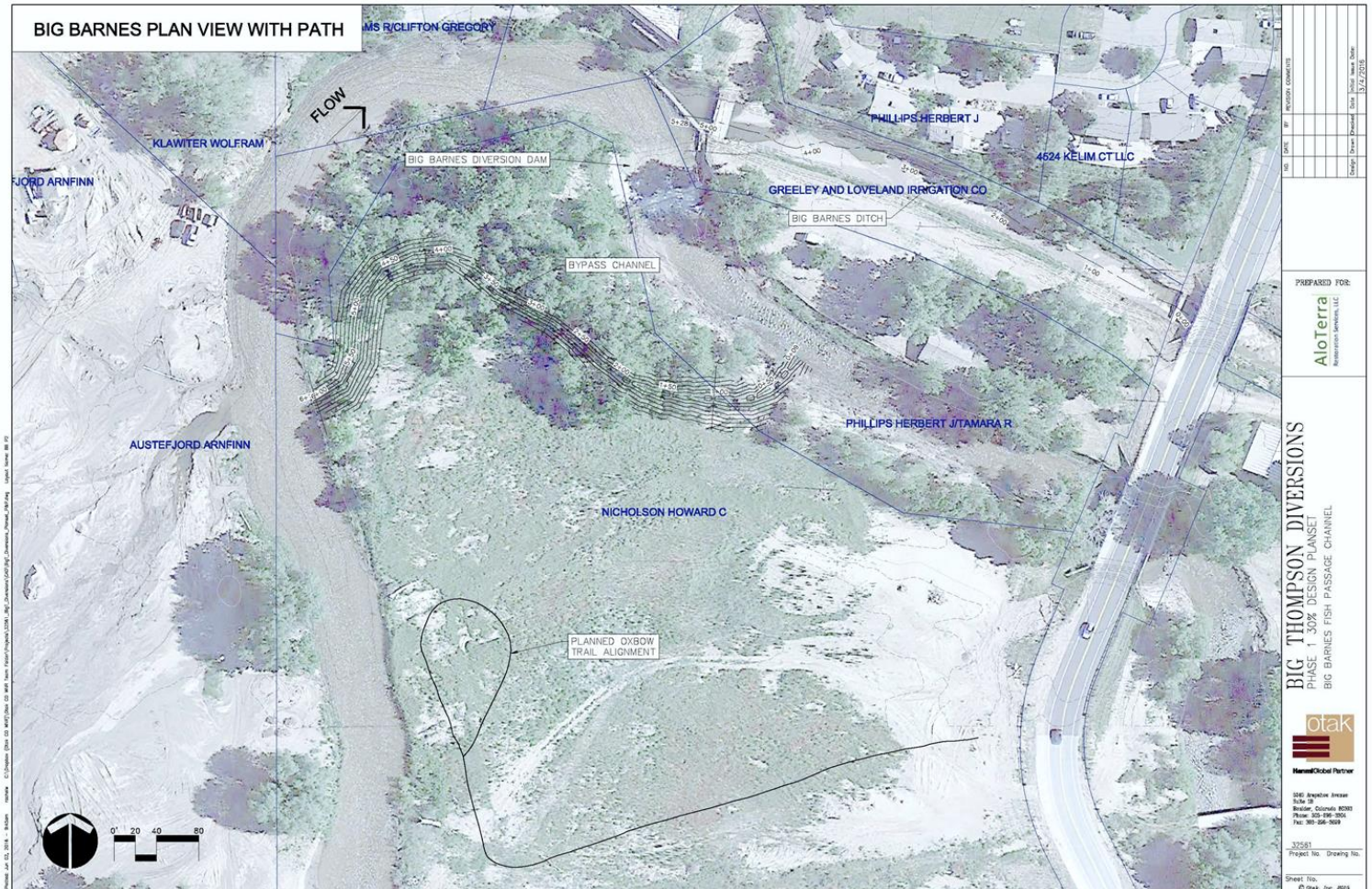
### **SUMMARY:**

The City has been approached about the potential for a fish passage improvement project at the Barnes Ditch diversion structure on the north side of Oxbow Natural Area. The US Fish & Wildlife Service helped fund a study to prioritize fish passage projects along the Big Thompson River through Loveland, with the Barnes Ditch project identified as one of the most feasible and valuable improvements. The proposed alignment for a secondary high flow channel through Oxbow Natural Area shown on the attached 30% design would allow fish to bypass the ditch diversion structure and move up- and downstream, improving genetic and species diversity along the river.

Staff would like to discuss the compatibility of the proposed fish passage project with the management of Oxbow Natural Area.

**COMMISSION ACTION RECOMMENDED:** Discussion and Recommendation









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### LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

**AGENDA ITEM: 5**

**MEETING DATE:** October 12, 2016

**DESCRIPTION:** Open Lands Project Report

#### **SUMMARY:**

**River's Edge Natural Area** – The bid for the construction of a parking lot at the former Swisher property was completed. CCI was awarded the bid and will begin work in the next few weeks. The parking area will provide an additional 26 parking spaces, more handicapped access and connectivity to the trails.

**High Plains Environmental Center** – The High Plains Environmental Center has completed its final plan approvals through the City for the construction of their new environmental center. Construction will begin this fall with an early 2017 completion planned. The City was a funding partner in the new building and will continue to partner with HPEC on programming, natural resource planning, and development of Loveland's Open Land Areas.

**Ryan's Gulch II** – Contractors are working on the house that was purchased as part of the Ryan's Gulch II open lands purchase, to repair the structure for use. The house will be leased later this fall through a property management company to generate funds until the Master Plan is completed and the site is developed for public access.

**Youth Waterfowl Experience at East 1<sup>st</sup> Street Open Lands** – Colorado Parks and Wildlife held a special youth waterfowl hunting experience on the new East 1<sup>st</sup> Street Open Land property on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**CSU Engineering Project on the Big Thompson River** – City staff are working with CSU senior civil engineering students to develop designs and plans to improve the river channel and flow of the Big Thompson River through the Namaqua West open land property under contract. The students will assess existing conditions, develop and evaluate alternatives, provide recommendations, and present their findings to the City at the end of the year-long project.

**Namaqua Skyline Natural Area** – Staff has developed a few conceptual trail options for the property in order to focus archeological surveys and resource inventories for the site. CPW will provide wildlife data and CSU archaeologists will survey historic/ prehistoric resources this fall to help inform the management plan.

**Environmental Education/Volunteer Program** – The fall environmental education season is progressing well with recruitment and training of new and returning volunteers. Five local schools are participating in program days for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes to visit River's Edge in September and October. September 24 Trail Host training was successful, with five new volunteers trained and certified. Special programs in September included "Bugling Beasties" (Elk) for the preschool program at Fairgrounds Park, a guided bird walk and a history & moonlight walk at Old St. Louis Natural Area.



**20 Years of Help Preserve Open Spaces** – A celebration was held by the Larimer County Natural Resources Department on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at Horsetooth Reservoir to commemorate the 20 Year Anniversary of the Larimer County Help Preserve Open Spaces Tax.

**GOCO Inspire Grant** – Loveland is partnering with Larimer County, Fort Collins and the Boys & Girls Club on a youth-guided plan to encourage more youth and families to connect with nature. The Larimer County coalition received \$65,000 in planning grant funding, with implementation grants due in July 2017. The Loveland focus area will include the southeast quadrant of the city and include places, programs and pathways to get more youth outdoors.

**CWCB Grant with Larimer County Weed District** – The City of Loveland, in partnership with the Larimer County Weed District, was granted \$60K in grant funds for the removal and treatment of Russian olives, Siberian elm and tamarisk. The project will go out to bid with work to commence later this fall at Cottonwood Run North, Old St. Louis and Oxbow Natural Areas.

**Russian Olive Removal by students from Front Range Community College** – The City of Loveland is once again working with Jim Choun from Front Range Community College to remove and treat Russian olive trees in Loveland. Students started work in September and will work to remove Russian olives at the Ryan's Gulch II property both this fall and spring.

**Conservation Easement Monitoring** – Staff has been working with our partners on completing the required annual monitoring of conservation easements. Chimney Hollow, Morey, Namaqua, Sauer, Lazy J I & II, and Heron Lakes have been completed. The other six easement properties will be completed this fall.



## **LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

### **AGENDA ITEM: 6**

**MEETING DATE:** October 12, 2016

**DESCRIPTION:** Trails Update

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **Flood Recovery Projects:**

Wilson Bridge and Taft/Wilson Trail – The project was bid in September and bids opened on Sept. 29. Eight bids were received and the apparent lowest bid is within the engineers estimate. Supplemental funding was approved by City Council on October 4. RMC, Inc. is the apparent low bidder with a bid of \$928,517. The contract for construction will be presented to Council for the award on October 18. Notice to proceed for construction is anticipated for November 7. The trail will be closed from Wilson to Taft for the entire length of construction starting in early November until late May 2017, including the Wilson Ave. parking area. Stormwater staff will manage this project for the restoration of the bridge, trail and Stormwater improvements. Parks and Recreation will assist with construction observation as needed, and manage trail updates for the webpage and media releases. The final FEMA approval and the 404 permit are still needed prior to the notice to proceed with construction of the work.

#### **Recreation Trail Projects:**

Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua to West US 34 Underpass – Eight bids were received on Sept. 22, ranging in price from \$326,930 to a high of \$501,335. JAGS was the lowest bidder and the contract is routing for signatures and award. JAGS has completed other sections of trail work for the City and is also under contract with Public Works for City-wide sidewalk repairs. Bids came in below the engineers estimate by \$16,476 and staff is eager to start this construction project in mid-October. Staff will wrap up one minor easement issue at the bridge prior to construction. The bridge from Viestenz-Smith Park will be placed over the GLIC ditch for this trail. This is a cost savings of \$65,000. The schedule is still tracking for the trail to open in the spring of 2017.

Front Range Trail – Staff completed the draft realignment of the trail in September and will complete all final construction plans and details by mid-October. Clearances for environmental are in progress. Fort Collins Water approved the trail alignment and both fire hydrants will

remain. Larimer County engineering staff still hopes to move the project forward for fall construction, but they need to complete a Stormwater review before bidding. CDOT must also complete their reviews and approve the project prior to construction. Advertising for bids is now scheduled for November.

Long View Corridor Trail – The consultant completed 30% plans for review and staff is evaluating the alignment and profiles of the grades. FIR is scheduled for early November with CDOT. We are still working on the details for the trailhead and parking alignment. The preferred crossing at the 57<sup>th</sup> and Taft intersection has been analyzed to accommodate the safest travel route, from north to east, when crossing from the southwest corner of the intersection. The updated schedule now puts the project bidding in June 2017 for a construction start in the fall of 2017.

Grants – Staff submitted a GOCO grant application for the Trails Connect Initiative for the design and engineering of the Namaqua Avenue Trail Underpass in early September. Awards will be announced by the end of the year.