



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

FEBRUARY 8, 2017 – 5:30 PM
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. Third Street, Loveland, CO 80537
www.CityofLoveland.org/OpenLands

Notice of Meeting Posted

Call to Order

Public Comment

Approval of Meeting Minutes: January 11, 2017

City Council Liaison Report

[Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board](#) Liaison Report

5:45-6:30 pm Discussion/Action Items:

1. Election of Vice Chair
2. 2017 Division Work Plan

6:30-7:15 pm Reports/Correspondence:

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

Executive Session (*if necessary*)

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

News/Reminders/Events:

February 16 – [PEEPs "Who's Hooting?" \(Owls\) at Loveland Library](#) – 9:30 & 11:00 am

February 18 – [Guided Bird Walk](#) at River's Edge Natural Area – 9:00-10:30 am

Commission Member Discussion Topics

Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: March 8, 2017

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2017
Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. Third St., Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Jean Whittaker, Rick Brent (via teleconference), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison)(via teleconference).

Commissioners Absent: Andy Hawbaker, Bill Zawacki, Leah Johnson (Interim City Council Liaison).

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

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

Approval of October 12, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darren Pape seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of November 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Jean Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim Roode seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously

Public Comment: None.

City Council Liaison Report. Leah Johnson has been appointed Interim City Council Liaison to the Open Lands Advisory Commission, until the April 11 election to fill the vacant Ward III seat.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri reported on the following OLAB items: 1) the year-long 20th anniversary celebration wrapped up with tours and the successful passport program; 2) the Land Trust Alliance annual conference is in Denver and will include a tour of Malchow Farm; 3) county staff will participate in a joint tour to look at possible trail connections from Prairie Ridge to Coyote Ridge/Rimrock OS, with Loveland and Ft Collins staff; 4) staff is looking into installing a webcam at the Devil's Backbone OS parking lot, similar to Horsetooth Mtn. Ross asked about next steps and followup on the brainstorming sessions on working farms. Kerri noted that the information will be used for Malchow Farm management planning. Larimer County is forging relationships with CSU Cooperative Extension and the Building Farmers and Ranchers program through Thompson School District.

Discussion/Action:

1. Larimer Co. OLAB Representation. Kerri Rollins provided the 1995 and 2014 ballot language regarding representation on the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board. The 1995 language states that OLAB will include an elected official or appointee from Ft Collins, Loveland, Berthoud and Estes Pk. The 2014 language, which goes into effect in 2019, gives the Board of County Commissioners authority to appoint OLAB members, based on “geographic representation substantially in proportion to population and sales tax generation.” Marilyn Hilgenberg has been appointed temporary liaison to OLAB for Loveland. The commission was in favor of staff representation on OLAB.

2. Election of Officers. Jim Roode nominated Ross Livingston as 2017 Chair of the Open Lands Advisory Commission. Jean Whittaker seconded the motion and the commission voted unanimously in favor. The election of Vice Chair was postponed until February when more members may be present.

3. Boards & Commissions Summit and 2016 OLAC Accomplishments and 2017 Goals.

Jean Whittaker and Jim Roode volunteered to represent OLAC at the annual B&C Summit on March 9 and present a short 2016 update on Open Lands with maps and photos and highlighting the outcomes of conservation, connectivity, funding sources, and awards/recognition.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Property Acquisition Updates.

- The Namaqua West property is still under contract. An adverse possession and prescriptive easement claim was filed by a neighbor on the parcel north of the river. A survey will be completed so the remainder of the property can be purchased separately. Both sides of the river are valuable to acquire due to river frontage, historical significance, habitat values, contiguity, and trail connections.
- Boise Ave. property acquisitions are still in process, with boundary line adjustments to acquire the riverfront portions and trail connections. Staff is also working with the Waste Water Treatment Plant on access easements through their property where the corridor narrows.
- Staff is drafting a lease agreement for Sweetheart City Winery's use of a portion of the Wild Property, under the terms discussed previously. CO Parks & Wildlife approved the plan with the exception that wildlife damage can't be claimed for compensation, if electric fencing is used.

5. Open Lands Projects Report.

- River's Edge Natural Area – Construction of the new parking area is complete, with striping, signage and trail connections to be finished in the spring and opening planned at that time.
- GOCO Inspire Grant – Staff has been working on the Project Outdoors plan with partners, the Youth Advisory Council, Thompson School District staff, and the consultant. A Program Providers Retreat held in December was attended by 32 local environmental education providers representing 19 different organizations. A number of innovative ideas for partnerships and collaboration were contributed for possible inclusion in the plan. The public kickoff meeting for the Loveland project will be held on January 24 from 5-7 pm at the Boys & Girls Club. Families, students, and other interested citizens are invited to the open house, to help identify ways to connect youth and families to the outdoors. Stations will include opportunities for the public to learn about and provide input on potential places, programs, and pathways.
- Environmental Education/Volunteer Program – A representative from the Colorado Health Foundation attended a site visit in December, including a staff presentation, tour of River's Edge, and active participation by several enthusiastic volunteers. Grant awards will be announced this winter. PEEPs programs will continue year-round on third Thursdays, making use of library space during the winter. Winter bird walks will be re-evaluated after low attendance at the Dec. 3 guided walk.
- Property Naming – Ryan's Gulch, E. 1st Street – The public naming process for these two new properties acquired in 2016 will include outreach via social media, web announcements, e-notification, and a media release. Proposed names will be presented to the commission for review at a future meeting. The Namaqua Skyline property has also been proposed to be referred to as

Skyline Natural Area, to avoid confusion with Namaqua Natural Area, Namaqua Park and the new Namaqua West acquisition.

4. Trails Update.

- Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua to West US 34 underpass – The contract has been approved for JAGS construction and notice to proceed will be issued on November 7. All easements are now complete. The bridge from Viestenz-Smith Park will be used for the GLIC ditch crossing. The schedule is still tracking for the trail to open in the spring of 2017.
- Front Range Trail – Final construction plans were sent to Larimer County on November 3. Clearances for environmental are in progress and CDOT will complete their reviews and approve the project over the winter. The project is behind schedule due to issues with stormwater at the trail crossing at Trilby in Fort Collins. Advertising for bids is scheduled for March 2017. Construction should start in May and be completed in late August 2017.
- Long View Corridor Trail – Staff completed review of 30% plans and sent responses to the consultant. CDOT review of the 30% plans may be delayed due to additional changes proposed by Fort Collins. Loveland traffic staff asked for a wider shoulder adjacent to the proposed left turn lane on 57th Street. The consultant is preparing an updated cost estimate and will include this additional request. The updated schedule puts the project bidding in June 2017 for a construction start in the fall of 2017.
- Trail 10a – Wilson to Namaqua Avenue – Surveying and CAD files were completed in October and conceptual alignment is scheduled for November. Staff will meet with the landowner to discuss the easements and needs for this trail section. Funding has been appropriated in the 2017 budget for design and construction in 2017.
- Grant awards – A \$600,000 CDOT Transportation Alternative Program grant was awarded for design and construction of the Namaqua Trail Underpass at the crossing of Namaqua Avenue where trail segments 10a and 10b join. The project has also been recommended by GOCO staff for the remaining design/engineering costs and awards will be announced in December.
- Wilson Bridge and Taft/Wilson Trail – The project was bid in September and RMC Consultants was awarded the contract, with notice to proceed anticipated for the end of November, pending the approval of the FEMA scope changes and clearance for environmental work. The trail will be closed from Wilson to Taft for the duration of construction until April 2017. Stormwater staff will manage this project for the restoration of the bridge, trail and stormwater improvements.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.



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LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 5

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Open Lands Projects Report

SUMMARY:

Annual Report – As a condition of the Larimer County Open Space Sales Tax, Loveland prepares an Annual Report on its Open Lands Program. The 2016 Open Lands & Trails Annual Report will be distributed at the commission meeting and will be available on the Open Lands website.

Parks & Recreation Dept. Photo Contest – The 1st Annual Loveland Parks & Recreation Photo Contest will roll out on March 1. Amateur and professional photographers of all ages are invited to enter their best original images celebrating our community. The contest will include categories for each Parks & Rec division and will run until May 31. Commissions may be asked to help judge photos in pertinent categories. Cash prizes will be awarded for winners in each category. See www.cityofloveland.org/ParksRecreation/photocontest for details.

River's Edge Natural Area – The new parking area will be opened this spring when trail connections are installed and final striping and planting are completed. Limited snow and warmer days have allowed high public use of River's Edge this winter. Although use of the site is encouraged year-round, due to unpredictability and risk, ice skating and ice fishing are not permitted on City of Loveland Open Lands and Parks water bodies. All areas have been posted with signage indicating "Unsafe Ice".



Ryans Gulch II Property. The house acquired with the Ryans Gulch II property has been renovated and is available for lease through the city's property management company. All revenues will be returned to the open lands fund.

Environmental Education/Volunteer Program – Training for Educational volunteers begins March 20. Educational volunteers present short programs at River's Edge Natural Area learning stations for school field trips in spring and fall. Details about topics and programs are available on the Open Lands website: www.cityofloveland.org/openlands. Training for volunteer Trail Hosts will be May 20 and 21. This Signup Genius link includes all available

educational and trail host training dates: www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4EA8AD2EABF49-open. Please share with friends who may be interested. Staff is updating curriculum and materials for all EE programs for the spring season. The Bucks to Buses transportation scholarship program is open and funds are available for schools with high numbers of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Michele is available to present information about the Bucks for Buses program to any group that may be willing to support the scholarship. Several schools have registered for spring programs in April and May.

The February 16 PEEPs program will be “Whoo is that Hooting in My Backyard?” about Great Horned Owls. The January programs on river otters had 36 participants.

The next guided bird walk will be February 18, at River’s Edge with Ron Harden from Foothills Audubon.



LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM: 6

MEETING DATE: February 8, 2017

DESCRIPTION: Trail Updates

SUMMARY:

Recreation Trail Projects:

- Wilson Bridge and Taft/Wilson Trail – Work has proceeded quickly on the Wilson Bridge replacement, with the installation of the piers and abutments completed in January. The bridge is scheduled to be placed on February 15th, with a large crane bringing the 2 piece bridge in and installing it that day. The 404 permit was approved in early January and work on the stormwater avulsion is also progressing. The contractor has moved several car bodies and old metal parts on the south river bank which is being lowered to create a flood plain bench to help mitigate velocity and covey more flow within the channel during flood events. The City was notified of the FEMA scope change approval in late December for the Wilson Bridge. The trail will remain closed from Wilson to Taft for the entire length of construction until late April 2017, including the Wilson Avenue parking area. Stormwater staff is managing this project for the restoration of the bridge, trail and Stormwater improvements.
- Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua to W. US 34 Underpass – JAGS construction completed forming the bridge abutments and poured concrete in January. The old Viestenz-Smith bridge should be set in mid-February. Trail work is weather dependent and will continue in February and March. The schedule is still tracking for the trail to open in this spring.



Pouring the North Bridge abutment – trail segment 10b, south of W. US 34 underpass

- **Front Range Trail** – CDOT completed final office review in January. Minor plan corrections are almost completed. We anticipate advertising for the bid of construction in mid-February. Construction should start in May and be completed in late August 2017. Clearances for Utilities and final environmental review are in progress.
- **Long View Corridor Trail** – Staff completed their review of the 35% plans and the biological report. An updated cost estimate is in progress. A stakeholder team meeting was held in mid-January to discuss the project progress and schedule. The most recent schedule now puts the project bidding in June 2017 for a construction start in the fall of 2017.
- **Trail 10a – Wilson to Namaqua Avenue** – Minor trail alignment changes are in progress, which include the new Namaqua Ave. trail underpass location. Additional survey was completed in January for the underpass and connection to Wilson Avenue. Once the conceptual alignment is approved by the City, staff will meet with the landowner to discuss the final easements and needs for this trail section. Funding has been appropriated in the 2017 budget for design and construction.
- **Grant awards** – Staff will be presenting the GOCO Connect Initiative Planning Grant for \$97,000 to Council on February 6th for approval. This grant will fund 75% of the design of the Namaqua Avenue Trail Underpass. Staff will be bringing the TAP grant agreements to City Council for approval in March. The \$600,000 construction Transportation Alternative Program grant will provide almost one-half of the needed funds to construct the underpass in 2019. The Namaqua Avenue Trail Underpass will provide a safe grade-separated connection between trail segments 10a and 10b at Namaqua Avenue.