

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
JANUARY 12, 2011
PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners in Attendance:

Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Kathy Hartman, Andy Hawbaker, Joel Johnston, Steve McMillan, Bill Zawacki, Chris Bryand (alternate), Hugh McKean (Council Liaison).

Absent: John Lewis.

Staff Present: Brian Hayes, Gary Havener, Debbie Eley.

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

Approval of the November 10, 2010 Commission Meeting Minutes: Kathy Hartman made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Gale Bernhardt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None present.

Introduction of New Member: Chris Bryand has been approved by City Council as an alternate member of the Open Lands Advisory Commission.

Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported that he has not met with Larimer County regarding the sales tax issue. Brian Hayes has met several times with Larimer County and Fort Collins regarding a collaborative effort toward a county-wide open space study. A proposal could be presented to OLAC in the near future.

Discussion/Action:

1. Natural Areas Policies and Procedures. Staff distributed copies of Natural Areas Policies 1-18. Policies 1-10 have been reviewed by OLAC and used by staff over the past several years, Policies 11-16 were reviewed and recommended by the commission in 2010, and Policies 17 and 18 were developed as a result of recent commission meetings and decisions.

2. Review of 2010 OLAC Accomplishments, Outline 2011 OLAC Goals. The 2010 OLAC Goals and Accomplishments were included in the agenda packet. The following OLAC goals were outlined for 2011:

- Goal 1: Prepare cost estimates and schedules for the Wild Property based on the preliminary management plan scenarios, for comparison and discussion by OLAC.
- Goal 2: Schedule discussions with Larimer County and Fort Collins regarding a regional open space study and the sales tax renewal process. Meet at least once per year to exchange information and ideas, and discuss accomplishments and concerns.

- Goal 3: Focus on acquiring additional property with connectivity to existing open lands that would address fragmentation of wildlife habitat and link public access areas.
- Goal 4: Develop an outreach program which would include more information on the city website.
- Goal 5: Participate in the City process to review Capital Expansion Fees (CEF).

3. Election of Officers. Bill Zawacki nominated Rick Brent as Chair; Andy Hawbaker seconded. Kathy Hartman nominated John Lewis as Chair; Joel Johnston seconded. Rick Brent was elected Chair. Steve McMillan nominated Lori Bell as Vice Chair; Gale Bernhardt seconded. Lori declined the nomination. Rick Brent nominated Gale Bernhardt as Vice Chair; Lori Bell seconded. There were no other nominations. Gale Bernhardt was elected Vice Chair.

4. City Council Request – Volunteer for CEF Review Team. Steve McMillan volunteered to represent OLAC on the Capital Expansion Fee (CEF) Review Team. Steve will attend meetings and report back to the commission.

Reports and Correspondence:

5. Conservation Easement Certification. On December 13, 2010, the City of Loveland received certification from the State Division of Real Estate to hold conservation easements. Loveland's application received the highest rating ("strong response") on 25 of 26 criteria. The annual recertification fee will be \$3,010. The state tax credit program limits credits for conservation easement donations to \$26 million per year in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

6. Staff Reports.

- a. The High Plains Foundation collects an open lands fee on properties in the Centerra area, which can only be used for open space purposes by the City. Staff will meet with representatives from the High Plains Foundation and Legacy Land Trust to get an update on fund balances and investments.
- b. Approval of the Namaqua Hills Central Subdivision by the Planning Commission has been appealed to City Council. The Dakota Ridge Conservation Easement held by the City requires the developers of the Namaqua Hills Central and Dakota Ridge subdivisions to build and maintain a pedestrian trail through the conservation easement, and the trail must be accessible from a public street. The trail is not part of the city's trail system.

Commission Members' Discussion Topics: None.

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