

LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MARCH 10, 2010
PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Commissioners in Attendance:

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

Absent: Gale Bernhardt, Nancy Meredith.

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

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

Approval of the February 10, 2010 Commission Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Andy Hawbaker seconded the motion. John Lewis asked for clarification regarding *Discussion/Action Item #5, GOCO Grant*, about Legacy Land Trust (LLT) co-holding the Whiteside conservation easement. Brian Hayes explained that the High Plains Foundation grant would require the City to co-hold the CE with LLT, if that funding is used to help purchase the CE. The minutes were then approved unanimously as written.

Public Comment: Amy Allen, 3756 W CR 16, Loveland CO 80537, new owner of the Lazy J Bar S Ranch, property on which the City of Loveland purchased a conservation easement in 2001. Ms. Allen distributed copies of a letter and documentation showing that the conservation easement requires the City to pay one-half of the water assessments for water shares that are co-owned by the City and Lazy J Bar S Ranch. Staff will address the issue with Ms. Allen.

Council Liaison Report: Hugh McKean reported on two items: 1) Agilent is interested in selling some floodplain property to the city for open lands. An MOU between Agilent and the city is being negotiated; and 2) there may be some conservation easement possibilities along the Big Thompson River upstream of the Boyd Lake Ave. extension project. Hugh has been designated as the City of Loveland liaison to the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board.

Discussion/Action:

1. OLAC Study Session – Mission/Scope Clarification. Staff presented an outline of information to show maintenance funding available after 2018, costs per acre to maintain/improve different types of open lands properties, status of management plans, and allowed uses on specific parcels to determine possible costs of implementing management plans. The commission would also like background information about each property, funding source for each acquisition (e.g., trail, open lands, fee simple, conservation easement), and adjacent properties/uses. The information will be compiled for a future meeting.

2. Loveland Natural Areas Program PowerPoint. Staff presented the updated PowerPoint slideshow that Brian Hayes presented to the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board in February. Suggestions/changes included: 1) remove “parks” as a possible use of HPOS sales tax revenue (only Larimer County may use HPOS funds for parks); 2) include more photos (e.g., 2-3 of each property); 3) include definitions of conservation easement, fee simple, and partnership acquisitions; and 4) add a list of possible reasons for protecting open lands (e.g., wildlife habitat, scenic views). Commission members may present the slideshow at local club meetings, such as Rotary Club, Loveland Mountain Club, and Realtors’ Association, for outreach purposes.

3. 2009 Annual Report. The *Natural Areas Annual Report 2009* has been completed and distributed to the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board during the City of Loveland presentation at the February meeting. The report is available at the Parks and Recreation office and on the city website (<http://www.ci.loveland.co.us/parksrec/opennatural.htm>) and will be mailed to 300+ recipients on the Open Lands mailing list. John Lewis suggested that the Library also receive a copy.

4. Property Profile (examples). John Lewis suggested a simplified file for each property acquisition, including documents such as the conservation easement, to be available to the public or as a display copy. Staff explained that existing property files include all important documentation including signed contracts, easements, plans, maps, historical data, and correspondence. These files are available to the public. It was determined that a simplified duplicate file would not be necessary. Rick Brent suggested that the city notify developers of potential uses of adjacent open lands during the development stage when feasible.

Reports and Correspondence:

5. Whiteside Update. Staff is still discussing possible options to preserve the Whiteside property, concentrating on the Big Thompson River corridor for both preservation and access.

6. Environmental Education Program Report. Summary provided in agenda packet.

7. April 17, 2010 Annual Spring Waterway Clean-up. Commission members were encouraged to participate. It was suggested that the Lafarge Brose property could be adopted or added to the Stormwater Division’s potential list of cleanup sites for the annual cleanup.

8. Rick Brent asked about public access to the City-owned ridgeline east and south of Green Ridge Glade Reservoir. There is no public access to this area, to protect the water in the reservoir.

9. Brian Hayes distributed an update from CCLT on House Bill (HB-10-1197). Under the current proposal, the total state tax credits available for conservation easements would be reduced each year for the next few years in an effort to help balance the state budget.

10. Andy Hawbaker noted that the City of Fort Collins has invited students from Loveland schools to attend spring break programs at Bobcat Ridge Natural Area. Staff noted that Loveland’s Environmental Education Program at Viestenz-Smith is available to all surrounding communities, including Loveland, Berthoud, Windsor, and Fort Collins.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.