

**CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 12, 2011
PARKS AND RECREATION CONFERENCE ROOM
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioners Present: Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Kathy Hartman, Andy Hawbaker, Steve McMillan, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Chris Bryand, Bill Zawacki.

Staff Present: Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

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

Approval of the September 14, 2011 Commission Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Lori Bell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None present.

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported that the City is negotiating with Cumberland and Western Resources LLC to purchase the Agilent site.

Discussion/Action:

1. Agilent /ACE Open Space Development Request for Proposal (RFP). The City received nine SOQ submittals for the Agilent Open Space Development. Five have been chosen to receive the full RFP. The RFP will be sent by late October and a site visit for the five firms will be scheduled in mid-November. Full proposals will be due November 30 and interviews will be held in early December. The final selection will be made by December 16. Stakeholder site visits are scheduled for October 18 and 19. A naming contest is being planned with a press release. Consensus of the commission was to delay the naming contest until the public process of the development plan, and use the current press release for an update about the property and the progress of the management plan.

2. GOCO River Corridors Initiative Concept Paper. Staff plans to submit a concept paper for this special opportunity GOCO grant, for the "Big Thompson River Project," to include development of the Agilent Open Space, acquisitions along the Big Thompson River, and a trail connection from the Hwy 34 underpass to Wilson Ave. On December 6, GOCO will announce which projects are selected to submit full proposals.

3. Joint Regional Meeting with Northern Colorado Open Lands Entities, November 9, 2011. A meeting is planned to discuss the possible GOCO grant to be received for the Larimer County Regional Open Space Study. All northern Colorado municipalities that receive Larimer County Open Space sales tax funding will be invited. Possible topics for the joint meeting include:

- Report on Regional Study – set stage for the process.
- Brief staff presentations from each agency, total time limited to 30-40 minutes. The topics to be addressed are: 3 Major Successes or Accomplishments; 3 Challenges; and 3 Current High Priorities or Focuses.

- Small group discussions at each table. Could have some specific questions for each table to discuss, perhaps anticipating the Regional Study.
- Brief report back to the group from each table – 2 minutes or less, likely only able to answer one question.

Kathy Hartman made a motion that OLAC recommend that the regional meeting be delayed until February or March 2012 to allow for the GOCO grant to be announced. Steve McMillan seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Natural Areas Manager Report.

The High Plains Foundation submitted a financial report of the Open Space Fund as requested by the City. Staff held a conference call with accountants from the City and High Plains to discuss the report. Staff will continue to investigate the report, possible discrepancies between accounts, and the building permits associated with the deposits. The City may apply to use some of these HPF funds as a partnership for the Big Thompson River project.

Kathy Hartman requested that staff notify OLAC when conservation easement monitoring visits are scheduled.

Commission Members' Discussion Topics:

Kathy Hartman suggested that Loveland implement a small grant program similar to Larimer County's to assist with projects in the community (e.g., HOAs, schools, gardens). Rick Brent asked Kathy to provide more information at a future meeting, including possibilities with the Thompson School District. Lori Bell added that the Cache La Poudre National Heritage Area provides grants to schools to cover transportation costs for field trips to the river. This type of small grant program could be used to help provide access to our open space properties.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.