



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 13, 2014

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

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Lori Bell, Jim Roode, Ted Mioduski, Darren Pape.

Staff Present: Brian Hayes, Keven Aggers, Debbie Eley.

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

Approval of June 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zawacki seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Approval of July 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes: Bill Zawacki made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Andy Hawbaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

1. Presentation on Board & Commission Roles & Responsibilities – Bill Cahill. This item was postponed until the September meeting.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

2. Open Space Sales Tax Update. On July 16, the Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board (OLAB) held a special meeting to make a recommendation to the Larimer Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) regarding the Help Preserve Open Spaces tax extension. OLAB recommended (7-1) Scenario 2 (extension of the tax for 25 years, with a 50-50 split between the county and cities). On July 29, the Larimer BOCC approved (3-0) a ballot measure for the November 4 election.

3. Property Acquisition Updates. Staff updated the commission on the status of several property acquisitions currently being pursued. The 87-acre property at Taft Ave. and 57th Street closed on August 8.

4. Open Lands Projects Report.

River's Edge Natural Area. River's Edge opened for temporary public access on July 4. Public use of the site has been as expected, with access for fishing, belly boats, and trail use. For the permanent repairs, Ayres and Associates have been contracted to complete the scour analysis and engineering work for the parking lot redesign, at a cost of \$73,000. The new design is expected to be completed by year-end.

Devil's Backbone Open Space Management Plan Update. Staff described the county's plan for updating the Devil's Backbone Management Plan, to include expansion of the existing trailhead/ parking lot and a new trail bypass through Hidden Valley, to accommodate increased recreation demand. Larimer County staff will present the proposed plan to date at the October meeting. Information is also available online (<http://larimer.org/devilsbackboneplan/>).

Big Thompson Canyon Recreation and Conservation Assessment. Loveland is partnering with Larimer County on this project and has committed up to \$20,000 towards the development of a canyon plan. Proposals were due August 7.

GOCO Strategic Plan "Listening Tour." Great Outdoors Colorado is soliciting public comment to help guide their priorities for the next 5-10 years. Comments are due by the end of August and can be submitted online at: <http://gocolistens.org/bp/we-need-your-help>.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan . The *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* was adopted by City Council on July 15. Copies of the final plan were distributed to OLAC members.

Colorado Open Space Alliance Annual Meeting. The 2014 COSA conference will be held at the Vail Marriot on September 15-17. Information and registration are available online: <http://www.coloradoopenspace.org/>.

Natural Areas Manager Position. Initial interviews for the position of Natural Areas Manager will take place on August 15 and 18. Candidates will meet with two interview panels, including a technical team and a "big-picture" team. The City Manager will also meet with each candidate, and staff will take each on a short tour of open lands properties.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.