



## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2014

Lake Estes Room, Larimer County Courthouse, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

**Commissioners Present:** Lori Bell, Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Ross Livingston, Jim Roode.

**Commissioners Absent:** Andy Hawbaker, Darren Pape, Ted Mioduski, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

**Staff Present:** Rick Anderson, Brian Hayes, Debbie Eley.

**The public meeting was called to order at 7:40 pm.**

**Public Comment:** None present.

**Approval of October 8, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Lori Bell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

**1. Commission Input on City's Comprehensive Plan Update – *Create Loveland*.** The City's new Comprehensive Plan, *Create Loveland*, is currently under development ([www.createloveland.com](http://www.createloveland.com)). The commission reviewed a list of opportunities and selected the top 4 priorities that are germane to OLAC's mission and suggested one additional opportunity. The top 5 priorities for OLAC were:

1. Protect the Big Thompson River ecological and floodplain corridor
2. Promote regional connections to surrounding parks and open space
3. Provide recreational access to open lands and natural areas where appropriate
4. Promote conservation of natural areas and wildlife corridors within the City and between neighboring communities
5. Promote opportunities to acquire and enhance open space property adjacent to parks and provide connectivity with parks

#### REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

##### **2. Open Lands Projects Report.**

Property Acquisitions. Staff continues to research several properties for potential acquisition and public access opportunities, including sites that were recently visited with OLAC.

Big Thompson Recreation and Conservation Assessment. This project is in the data collection phase, with active participation by Loveland, Larimer County and the Big Thompson Restoration Coalition.

River's Edge Natural Area. Plans for reconstruction are well underway, including floodplain modeling and hazard mitigation for protection from future flood events. Spring 2015 construction is planned. Jim Roode reported that a 19½" largemouth bass was caught (and released) at River's Edge in July, garnering a Colorado Master Angler Award for the fisherman, Tom Garland.

GOCO Open Space Grants. Staff has been in contact with GOCO regarding the spring open space grant cycle. The deadline is in March and may be worth pursuing in order to stretch the city's ability to fund other acquisitions.

Property Naming – 57<sup>th</sup> & Taft Property. The deadline to submit name suggestions is November 15.

**COMMISSION MEMBER DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

1. Rick Brent commented that City Council made a decision to support Sprouts, approving a loan of \$250K from each City CEF, to be repaid in 10 years with 3% interest (\$2.2M total).
2. Gale Bernhardt reported that the City Manager is working with the consultant on the Parks & Recreation Director hiring. Presentations by a short list of candidates are planned for December 11 and 12.
3. Rick Brent suggested several ideas to get the public and particularly kids more aware of open lands and involved in stewardship of properties: a webcam on known active nest sites, interpretive signage, and environmental education at various sites.
4. Staff reminded members that OLAC recruitment is underway and the application deadline is November 14.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.