



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2015

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

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Andy Hawbaker, Nathan Thompson, Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Staff Present: Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Janet Meisel-Burns, Michele Van Hare.

Guests: Zac Wiebe (Larimer County Natural Resources), Jana McKenzie (Logan Simpson Design).

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

Approval of March 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Gale Bernhardt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment: None present.

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported on several Council items. 1) Council is considering general fund budget impacts of a food sales tax revenue reduction. 2) A lawsuit may be brought against the city regarding the legality of using dedicated sales tax fund revenues for an economic incentive to a private company. 3) A new Municipal Court Judge, Geri Joneson, will be sworn in on May 12. 4) The Rocky Mtn. Ctr. for Innovation and Technology now contains five active companies. 5) All requested budget rollovers were approved by Council.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Zac Wiebe reported on several county items: 1) County and city staff are reviewing priority areas for the Big Thompson Recreation and Conservation Plan, reviewing draft chapters and meeting with the Technical Advisory Committee for input. The second public meeting will be held in May and a site tour will be scheduled for OLAC and OLAB members. 2) The new county Open Lands Master Plan is nearly complete.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park Flood Restoration. Janet Meisel-Burns and Jana McKenzie presented the status of the design process, including inventory and site analysis, and two concept plans for review and discussion. Both concepts include the majority of park facilities on the north side of the river, with two options for parking on the south side, along with bridges, trails, fishing access, and picnic areas. The project schedule includes a public meeting on April 15 and a City Council study session on April 28. The Master Plan should be completed in May, with construction documents this summer, and construction beginning in spring 2016 at the earliest.

2. 2015 Trails Update. Janet Meisel-Burns provided an update on the recreation trail, including several missing links. The Madison Avenue underpass/bridge project is underway, with an expected opening by Memorial Day. Staff is working with Power on placing a trail easement over a power

easement between Rossum Drive and Wilson Ave. Replacement of the Wilson Avenue bridge damaged during the flood will require a longer bridge span due to flood damage. FEMA is reviewing the project and construction is expected in fall/winter 2015-2016. FEMA is also reviewing the damaged trail section between Taft and Wilson, and a damaged waterline that needs to be repaired prior to trail reconstruction.

3. Property Acquisition Updates. Brian Hayes reported on several potential acquisitions:

- A partnership request is likely from Fort Collins Natural Areas, for a property in the separator area. The 2015 Open Lands budget includes \$200K for partnerships. The *Plan for the Region between Fort Collins and Loveland* (1995) indicates this area as rural residential. Staff will meet with Fort Collins to discuss.
- Acquisition of the Nicholson Tract U property closed on April 7, with a non-revocable option to purchase Tract T within 5 years.
- An administrative boundary line adjustment will be processed to create a legal lot for acquisition of the 7-acre Mineral Addition property.
- The city submitted a purchase offer on the Boedecker Lake property.

4. Open Lands Projects Report.

- River's Edge Natural Area construction is scheduled to begin April 13. Most of the site will remain open for pedestrian access during construction. Updates are posted online.
- The 2014 Open Lands Annual Report was distributed and is also available online.

Reminders:

Spring Waterway Cleanup – April 18th from 9 am – noon (*Morey Wildlife Reserve*)

City Council Study Session – May 26th (*Big Thompson Recreation & Conservation Assessment*)

Commission Member Discussion Topics:

1. Jim Roode noted that the Loveland Fishing Club has \$1,000-2,000 in funds available for a possible project.

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