



## PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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### CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2015

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

**Commissioners Present:** Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Bill Zawacki, Jean Whittaker, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

**Staff Present:** Elizabeth Anderson, Rick Anderson, Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Michele Van Hare.

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

**Introduction of New Parks & Recreation Director, Elizabeth Anderson.** Elizabeth most recently served as Operations Manager for the Sacramento, CA Parks and Recreation Department. Previously, she was Parks and Recreation Director and Community Enrichment Services Director for the City of Flagstaff, AZ, from 2005 to 2013. From 2002 to 2004 she worked as the Parks and Recreation Director in Yuba City, CA and prior to that held other parks and recreation positions in Salinas and Ceres, CA. She is excited about all of the possibilities for the Open Lands program in Loveland.

**Approval of November 12, 2014 Meeting Minutes:** Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Gale Bernhardt seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Approval of February 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes:** Ross Livingston made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None present.

**City Council Liaison Report.** Hugh McKean reported that Council requested staff to pursue an interim solution for the Boise Avenue extension north to 37<sup>th</sup> St. Construction is expected to begin this summer. The final project will eventually include a roundabout at the intersection of Boise and 37<sup>th</sup> St.

**Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report.** Kerri Rollins reported on several OLAB items: 1) Larimer County is partnering with The Nature Conservancy (Wyoming) and City of Cheyenne on a 640-acre Mountains-to-Plains Project property just north of Red Mountain Open Space. 2) Larimer County is working with Fort Collins on a partnership with USDA, USFWS and CSU for a bison reintroduction project at Soapstone Prairie Natural Area. 3) The annual CO Open Space Alliance (COSA) conference will be held in Snowmass from September 14-16. 4) The CO Coalition of Land Trusts (CCLT) conference will be held in Denver next week, from March 16-18.

#### REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE:

**1. Environmental Education/Volunteer Program Presentation.** Michele Van Hare presented an update on the three tracks of Open Lands volunteer opportunities, including Environmental Education, Stewardship Projects, and the Trail Host Program.

**2. Property Acquisition Updates.** Brian Hayes reported on several acquisitions underway. The *Nicholson Property* (Tract U, west side of Rossum Drive) is under contract to close on April 7, with an option to purchase Tract T (east side) within 5 years. Acquisition of the 7-acre *Mineral Addition* parcel near Carlisle and Taft has been approved by the Quarry Lake HOA. The boundary line will be adjusted with a new plat and closing will likely occur in June. This property could provide a future trail connection to River's Edge. Staff has negotiated an agreement with the family on the *Probasco* property on S. Lincoln. A contract will be drafted. These three acquisitions total approximately \$600K of the 2014 Capital Budget of \$4.67M.

**3. Open Lands Projects Report.** Construction at *River's Edge* is expected to begin in April. Staff is currently in the process of ensuring compliance with NEPA requirements associated with FEMA funding. Public input on maps and documents available online for the *Big Thompson River Recreation and Conservation Assessment* will be accepted until March 31. A GOCO grant was submitted by partners Larimer County, Fort Collins and Loveland for \$1M to construct the 4.4-mile paved *Long View Corridor Trail* from 57<sup>th</sup> & Taft (Sunset Vista Natural Area) to Fort Collins' Cathy Fromme Prairie Natural Area between Harmony and Trilby Road. Anderson Engineering is under contract to design improvements at *Morey Wildlife Reserve* to help accommodate future flood events.

**4. Urban Land Institute Resiliency Panel Meeting** – April 2 (Rialto Theater Center). Commission members are invited to attend this meeting to discuss the possibilities to create a more resilient river corridor, including potential implementation through the Open Lands Program.

**5. Boards & Commissions Summit Report.** Commission members Darren Pape and Jim Roode attended the summit as representatives of OLAC. Several boards and commissions presented their annual goals and accomplishments, and City Manager Bill Cahill reported on the City's Mission, Vision, and plans for the future.

**6. Spring Waterway Cleanup** – April 18 (Morey Wildlife Reserve). OLAC has "adopted" the Morey property through Stormwater's Adopt-a-Waterway project, so members are encouraged to participate in the cleanup.

**7. City Council Study Session** – April 28 (Big Thompson Recreation & Conservation Assessment). This meeting is intended as an informational presentation on the project, and for Council to provide informal input and feedback.

#### **Commission Member Discussion Topics:**

1. Rick Brent inquired about the status of the Boedecker Lake property. Staff met with the City Manager and researched the city and county road requirements and costs associated with implementing public access, parking, and vehicle access, which could be prohibitive. Some limited walk-in public access may be most feasible for this open space conservation area.

2. Bill Zawacki asked about the 1<sup>st</sup> Street enclave property. A case has been filed in county court and a site visit was conducted by county zoning. A "discovery period" will be open until May and a public hearing will likely be held in August.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.