



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2015

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

Commissioners Present: Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Nathan Thompson, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Gale Bernhardt, Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Staff Present: Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Janet Meisel-Burns, Scott Sinn.

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

The public meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

Approval of May 13, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Jim Roode made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Darren Pape seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment: Hildy Reiser, 844 Ptarmigan Circle, recommended that the Open Lands Advisory Commission consider property at the NW and NE corners of Monroe Ave and 37th St to be acquired for conservation purposes.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Zac Wiebe gave an update on county activities: 1) NoCo Get Outdoors Day is Saturday, June 13th at Fort Collins' City Park; 2) GOCO announced a new Inspire Initiative to connect youth with nature and Larimer County will be reaching out to other entities including Loveland regarding a possible joint proposal; 3) The 2015 Larimer County Open Lands Master Plan has been adopted; 4) The 2015 COSA (Colorado Open Space Alliance) annual conference will be held in Snowmass in mid-September, and OLAC members are invited to attend; 5) An assessment of historic structures on open space is underway, including the gypsum mill at Devil's Backbone, to determine eligibility for designation.

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported that Council reviewed the 2016 Capital Budget Plan at their June 9 study session.

Discussion/Action Items:

1. Viestenz-Smith Mountain Park Master Plan Update. Janet Meisel-Burns and Jana McKenzie presented a revised concept plan for the restoration of Viestenz-Smith Park, based on public comments received at an open house and via online survey. A second public meeting will be held on June 29 to present the preferred master plan. The revised design combines elements of the two concepts originally presented, and implementation will depend on phasing and funding. Priorities will be to provide parking and a bridge to the north side, where most amenities will be located, including fishing access, picnic tables/shelters, and trails.

Reports/Correspondence:

2. Naming of Properties along Big Thompson River. Staff updated the commission on the process of naming properties in the Big Thompson River corridor that have been acquired in recent years and are not yet named. Four properties will be named in accordance with the Natural Areas Naming Policy. Public outreach will include a media release, website campaign, online form and solicitation at public events and locations. Submitted names will be presented to the commission for selection.

3. Property Acquisition Updates. Staff provided an update on upcoming property closings. The Nicholson property closed in April. A closing on the 26-acre Boedecker property is scheduled for June 15. Closing on the 7-acre Mineral Addition property as an addition to River's Edge is scheduled for July 15. Several other properties are also under negotiation.

4. Open Lands Projects Report.

River's Edge Natural Area. The Spring Waterway Cleanup was successful and staff has increased attention to trash cleanup around the ponds. Significant spring precipitation has affected construction progress, with a September completion date now likely. A sign plan is being developed by park/open land planners, including a main informational kiosk near the parking lot, as well as other small kiosks, and directional, regulatory, and interpretive signage. Larimer County Conservation Corps crews will help with several projects as part of a GOCO flood recovery grant.

Morey Wildlife Reserve. The Spring Waterway Cleanup event was also very productive at this site, with 30 cubic yards of flood debris removed. A temporary opening is planned for this summer, with restoration of the crusher fine trail and access road planned for fall. Plans for wetland enhancement, and trail access from a new parking lot on Ward Trust property are also being developed.

Sunset Vista Natural Area. A structural assessment of farmstead buildings will be completed in June. Planning for the trail and trailhead projects, as part of the overall master plan, will begin this summer.

Big Thompson Natural Area. This site just east of S. Lincoln Ave. was also included in the Spring Waterway Cleanup, with flood material and other debris removed. The fence project is complete and a new sign has been installed.

Executive Session:

Bill Zawacki made a motion to suspend the regular open session and convene an Executive Session. Ross Livingston seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Executive Session convened at 7:18 pm. At 8:29 pm, Executive Session ended and the regular session reconvened.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.