



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2015

Chilson Recreation/Senior Center, 700 E. Fourth St., Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Rick Brent, Gale Bernhardt, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki.

Commissioners Absent: Darren Pape, Nathan Thompson, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison), Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Staff Present: Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Michele Van Hare.

The public meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm.

Approval of October 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Jim Roode seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Commission members participated in the Annual Northern Colorado Regional Open Space Meeting prior to the commission meeting. Highlight reports from each agency were presented, and breakout session topics included collaboration, communication, and 20th anniversary open space celebration ideas.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Open Lands Projects Report.

Wenninger/Black Property. A public naming contest will be held to name this new natural area. Fencing, gates and signage will be installed to identify property boundaries.

River's Edge Natural Area. Signs and kiosks are being installed throughout the property. Volunteer trail hosts continue to monitor use and educate the public about the site. The Swisher property cleanup is complete and the final environmental inspection revealed no issues. The site will be graded and access will be planned to connect with existing trails.

Ward Trust Property. The Ward Trust acquisition will be recommended for full funding (\$500,000) at the GOCO Open Space committee meeting on November 17. The GOCO Board will make final decisions at their Dec. 12 meeting. Closing is planned for late 2016.

Sunset Vista. Environmental and cultural surveys are underway for the Long View Trail.

Conservation Easement Monitoring. All conservation easements have been monitored for 2015. Notable weed populations were documented on several sites, similar to many areas this year resulting from excessive precipitation and previous flooding.

Morey Restoration. Planning for the ecological restoration of the previous pond area includes wetland and riparian habitats.

Environmental Education and Public Outreach. Staff and volunteers have been busy with PEEPs programs, the Halloween Festival at the Museum, and planning, collaborating, recruiting and training. Six new interpretive panels will be installed at River's Edge this fall, providing information about wildlife, habitats, flooding, and history of the site.

2. Acquisitions Update. A purchase and sale agreement for the Ryan's Gulch property has been completed. Larimer County and Berthoud have committed to partnering, and a GOCO large-scale open space grant will be pursued. Staff continues to research the Pfeiff property acquisition, discussing water issues with city and state officials and acquisition options with the owner.

Executive Session:

The regular session was suspended and Executive Session convened at 8:10 pm. The Executive Session ended and regular session reconvened at 9:05 pm.

Reminders/Events:

Nov. 19 – PEEPs, 9:30 & 11 am at Loveland Library, “*Yip, Yap & Yowl with Clan Coyote*”

Nov. 20 – Volunteer Appreciation Lunch, 11 am at Loveland Library

Nov. 21 – Guided Natural Area Bird Walk, 8-10 am at River's Edge Natural Area

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.