



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – March 9, 2016

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

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Kerri Rollins (Larimer County Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Nathan Thompson, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

Staff Present: Elizabeth Anderson, Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Janet Meisel-Burns, Jonathan Huey, Scott Sinn, Kelly Smith.

Guests: Jim Tolstrup, Denise Bretting, Kathy Hartman, Jim & Cheryl Seigrist.

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

Introduction of Jonathan Huey, Open Lands & Trails Crew Supervisor. Jonathan was previously at Cherry Creek State Park and brings valuable expertise and resources to the field crew.

Public Comment: Jim Mudge, 2500 Frances Drive, submitted a letter on behalf of the Lakeside Terrace HOA with regard to the proposed Waters Edge development.

Approval of February 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Jim Roode seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri Rollins reported on the following items: 1) Northern Water discussed the Alternative Transfer Mechanism (ATM) process for the county's agricultural acquisition in Berthoud; 2) the 2015 *State of the Resource* report has been released; and 3) the Devil's Backbone construction project is on schedule and the parking lot should reopen next weekend as planned.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. 2016 Trails Update. Janet Meisel-Burns, Senior Park Planner, introduced the rest of the Park Planning team, Scott Sinn and Kelly Smith, and provided a summary of 2015 projects and an update on current trail projects: 1) the North Front Range Trail is a partnership with Fort Collins and Larimer County, near Boyd Lake SP and CR 11C; 2) the Long View Trail at 57th & Taft is in the design phase with construction planned for fall/winter; 3) the flood recovery project – trail and pedestrian bridge at Wilson and Taft – is planned for fall/winter construction; 4) the Namaqua Ave. trail and bridge over the Barnes Ditch to the Hwy 34 underpass will be constructed in the fall after the ditch stops running; 5) acquisitions for the South Front Range Trail are being pursued; 6) intersection improvements at Boyd Lake Ave. & Hwy 34 will include a new sidewalk on the west side for connections to Centerra; and 7) Segment 12 to Centerra will be constructed by the developer.

2. Property Acquisition Updates (verbal). Brian Hayes provided an update on the status of several acquisitions. The Mihelich property adjacent to Namaqua Skyline is now under contract (pending OLAC approval), with a closing scheduled for May 31. The option to purchase the Nicholson Tract T parcel is being executed, with a contract being reviewed by both parties to close in 90 days. The owner

will retain use of the two structures for 18 months, to make arrangements for personal belongings. The Pfeiff property should be under contract within the week for a late April closing, with the Parks Division and High Plains Environmental Fund as partners.

3. Open Lands Project Report.

Quick Win Projects. The Morey trail reconstruction is nearing completion, the Oxbow trail has been completed and the Old St. Louis and King's Crossing trails and parking lots are nearly complete. Each site will have new entrance kiosks to match the style at River's Edge. The Morey "pond" restoration project is planned for April using a special National Emergency Grant Conservation Corps crew and stewardship volunteers and grant funding from CWCB.

Environmental Education. Many activities, classes, and other programs are planned to promote open lands this spring, including featured "Site of the Month" events that will incorporate guided walks, volunteer stewardship projects, and children's activities.

Legacy Land Trust/Colorado Open Lands Merger. Legacy Land Trust is planning to merge with Colorado Open Lands, to help fulfill its conservation mission and in response to northern Colorado growth and development.

4. Boards & Commissions Summit Report. Bill Zawacki and Ross Livingston represented OLAC at the annual summit, where several boards and commissions presented their goals & accomplishments.

5. The **2015 Open Lands Annual Report** was distributed.

Discussion/Action:

6. High Plains Environmental Center Funding Request. Marilyn Hilgenberg summarized the High Plains partnership request for \$400,000 from the City's Open Lands CEF fund towards the construction of a new environmental center at High Plains. In return, Open Lands will request \$200,000 from the High Plains Open Space Fund towards the Pfeiff property acquisition. The City Council appropriation of CEF funds is scheduled for April and groundbreaking is planned for June 21 with a 120-day construction schedule. The City and High Plains also plan to collaborate on environmental education, natural areas management, community farming, and native plant gardens and restoration throughout Loveland. Jim Tolstrup added that the HPEC is a resource for the entire community.

7. Final Property Reviews – Namaqua Skyline Additions. The Mihelich property is zoned Tourist along Hwy 34, and FA-1 Farming above the Loudon Ditch. The Olhausen property is zoned FA-1 Farming. Both properties would provide opportunities for trail loops and connections to adjacent sites. The Mihelich contract for \$226,000 is pending OLAC approval and was based on the zoning and recent sales including the Black property. Other adjacent inholding properties include Bruner and Monk. *Gale Bernhardt made a motion that staff pursue moving forward with the four properties under consideration adjacent to Namaqua Skyline. Jean Whittaker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.*

Executive Session. The regular session was suspended and Executive Session convened at 7:14 pm. Executive Session was adjourned at 7:32 pm and regular session reconvened.

Reminders:

1. PEEPs preschool programs are scheduled for March 17 at Namaqua Park.
2. A Guided Bird Walk will be held at River's Edge on March 19.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.