



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2016

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

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

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Darren Pape.

Staff Present: Elizabeth Anderson, Debbie Eley, Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg.

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

Public Comment: Kathy Hartman, 945 E. 6th St., provided an update on recent bird activity on open lands and other areas. Kathy also inquired about OLAC's review of the "acquisition matrix."

Approval of March 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Gale Bernhardt made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Nate Thompson seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri Rollins reported on the following items: 1) Volunteers are helping to build the new Hidden Valley trail at Devil's Backbone, which is about ¾ complete; 2) the county's closing on Malchow Farm in S. Berthoud is scheduled for April 14th; 3) the GOCO Inspire RFP is posted, for a planning effort to engage the community to get youth outdoors; 4) the county was invited to apply for a GOCO Protect Initiative grant for a 2,700-acre foothills project west of Fort Collins and Loveland with 4 transactions/landowners; 5) the county is working with the Nature Conservancy on the CDPHE cleanup of tires at the Roberts Ranch with a \$1M grant; 6) the Dept. of Natural Resources will secure a low-interest (0.2%) interdepartmental loan from Solid Waste with an 8-year payback.

City Council Liaison Report. Hugh McKean reported on the following items: 1) City Council saw the final draft of the updated Comprehensive Plan (*Create Loveland*) on 4/12. This is an advisory, guiding document that informs other plans, such as the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, Capital Plan, etc. Council will review and vote on the Comp Plan at a future meeting; 2) the Youth Advisory Commission presented a request for an ordinance to treat vaporizers like cigarettes; 3) Hugh is a candidate for CO House District 51; 4) plans for the Hwy 34 rebuild will be presented to Council soon; 5) CDOT is seeking grants to add a 3rd lane to I-25 between Hwy 402 and Prospect Rd., and construction of a 3rd lane up the Berthoud hill is scheduled to begin this spring.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Property Acquisition Updates. Brian reported that the 79-acre Pfeiff property on E. 1st St. is under contract to close on 4/29. The 8-ac Nicholson Tract T property east of Oxbow NA will close on 5/20. The 12-ac Mihelich property east of Namaqua Skyline is scheduled to close on 5/31. The 78-ac Ward Trust property west of Morey Wildlife Reserve may close as early as August. This is an option contract through the Trust for Public Land. The county will present an initial review to OLAB soon for their partnership. GOCO funds will also be used at closing.

2. Open Lands Projects Report. “Quick-win” trails are complete at Morey, Oxbow, Kings Crossing and Old St. Louis. Parking lots at Kings Crossing and Old St. Louis are also finished. Sites will officially open once sign kiosks are installed and rules posted, anticipated in May. The Morey pond restoration project is underway. This is a \$75K project funded by several grants, with the City’s share about \$17K. Arbor Day will be celebrated with tree plantings at River’s Edge and Mehaffey Park, including several cottonwoods from Ketterer’s. Also at River’s Edge, a volunteer planting project for native milkweed is planned for May 7, in coordination with the *Site of the Month* event. The Swisher property has been graded and plans for a small parking area will be reviewed by the city’s Development Review Team. Additional parking, including ADA spaces, is desired in this area for close public access to ponds. The culvert has been installed over the Ryan Gulch for pedestrian access from Carlisle. Fencing, trails and signage will be completed in-house as much as possible to keep costs down. Environmental Education programs are in full swing, with school field trips, guided bird walks, planting projects, and *Site of the Month* on May 7 and *Dog Day Afternoon* on May 14. A trail update was provided for several segments in various phases of planning, design and construction.

Discussion/Action:

3. Proposed 2017 Open Lands & Trails Budget Process. The Open Lands budget includes properties slated for acquisition, equipment purchases and \$2M in rollovers from 2015 to be used for the Pfeiff and Nicholson acquisitions. The 2016 budget includes \$8.4M in expenditures for capital purchases, resulting in a balance of \$3.3M for the start of 2017. The Trails budget includes two funding sources, Colorado Lottery (Conservation Trust) funds and the Trails CEF. The Trails budget does not address underpasses at roads and railroads. The department may ask for underpasses to be included in the pedestrian plan or in a possible sales tax for streets, a recreation center and other items that aren’t funded other ways. Thompson R2-J School District may have a \$350M mill levy override and bond issue on an upcoming ballot and Larimer County may have a mental health sales tax ballot issue. Council will consider all issues before placing a sales tax item on the 2017 ballot. CORE budgets include the operational cost of new acquisitions based on an average cost per acre by property type.

Executive Session. The regular session was suspended and Executive Session convened at 7:08 pm. Executive Session was adjourned at 7:45 pm and the regular session reconvened.

Reminders:

1. PEEPs preschool programs are scheduled for April 21 at Namaqua Park.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.