



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2017

Mariana Butte Golf Course, 700 Clubhouse Drive, Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Ross Livingston, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Steve Olson (City Council Liaison), Jennifer Almstead (LC OLAB Liaison Alternate).

Commissioners Absent: Darren Pape, Nathan Thompson.

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

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

Approval of April 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jim Roode seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Jenn Almstead reported that the county's visitor use study is moving forward with surveys this summer.

City Council Liaison Report. Steve Olson has been appointed as City Council Liaison to the Open Lands Advisory Commission. However, Steve also serves on the Citizen's Finance Advisory Board, which meets at the same time as OLAC.

Discussion/Action:

1. Discussion of Mariana Butte Trail. A discussion with members of the Golf Advisory Board was held following a joint site visit to Mariana Butte Trail. Commission and board members discussed ways to improve communication, signage, and public access management strategies for the Mariana Butte Trail System, to incorporate into the trail analysis and signage plan.

2. 2018 Proposed Open Lands and Trails CORE Budgets. The proposed budgets for Open Lands and Trails were presented and will be submitted to the Budget Office in May. The base numbers are assigned based on the previous year and an automatic 3.5% increase is applied. Any other changes or additions must be justified. Open Lands Sales Tax revenues have been tracking higher than expected, but will decrease when the new ballot language takes effect at the end of 2018. Capital Expansion Fees are only used for capital projects, to address increased growth. Open Lands projects are identified from the 10-year capital plan. Additional operating costs are based on adding more than 800 acres to the Open Lands portfolio in the last two years, and the associated increases in maintenance costs. Other increases in operating costs address additional management and programming needs. Conservation Trust funds come from Lottery proceeds at about \$700-800K per year and are used to pay for Trail System capital projects and operations. A trail sign program is proposed for the Recreation Trail System, including wayfinding, directional and identification signage. Additional trail expenses also include the design of the Namaqua Ave. bridge and underpass.

3. Project Outdoors Prioritization. Staff developed a prioritization exercise for the options identified during the Project Outdoors planning process, for public input to rank potential components to include in the GOCO Inspire implementation grant. Commission members were asked for their input to help prioritize Places, Programs and Pathways to connect youth and families to the outdoors.

Reports/Correspondence:

4. Property Acquisition Updates. The 12-acre Ward river property east of Old St. Louis Natural Area is expected to close in June. The Osborn parcel east of Boise Ave. should also close in the next 30-60 days. A June closing is also anticipated for the remaining parcel at Namaqua West. The Parkside development at Boedecker Reservoir will be required to provide street crossings from the north through the development review planning process as well as a trail easement for a public trail. If agreements to use the Home Supply Ditch for trail connections to the east and west can be secured, the Parkside trail corridor could be purchased.

5. Open Lands Projects Report. The new parking area and trail access projects at River's Edge Natural Area is close to completion, and will provide additional access to Dragonfly and Jayhawker Ponds. Volunteers helped spread and tamp trail material during an Earth Day project, and completed several hundred feet of new trail. Volunteers from the Colorado Addicted Trailbuilders Society (CATS) continue to work on trails in the Mariana Butter area. Another volunteer project in May was a successful restoration planting day at Morey Wildlife Reserve, where 200 additional wetland plants were installed and protected. The contract with Square1 for the new Offero software has been approved and signed.

6. Trail Updates.

Trail Segment 10b – Namaqua Rd. to West US 34 Underpass – This new trail segment should be open in the next week.

Wilson Bridge and Taft/Wilson Trail – The railing at the new bridge needs to be installed, but the trail and bridge should be open by June 3 for the National Trails Day event and bridge ribbon-cutting.

Front Range Trail – Bid opening was on April 13 with 13 bidders. The lowest bid was not accepted due to CDOT qualifying criteria. The next lowest bidder, Zak Dirt, was approved with a bid price of \$1,252,890.00. The Loveland portion of work is \$311,827. An amendment to the existing IGA will be brought to City Council in early June to adjust the final reimbursement of funds to reflect our 25% contribution to the project. The contract will be signed in late May, with construction starting after Memorial Day.

Long View Corridor Trail – The CDOT review went well and only minor plan changes were required. Staff is coordinating with Xcel Energy to relocate the power lines on the south side of 57th Street and coordinating the bid schedule with the consultant in May. The schedule puts construction starting in the fall of 2017.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.