



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2017

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

Commissioners Present: Ross Livingston, Rick Brent, Bill Zawacki, Andy Hawbaker, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Kerri Rollins (LC OLAB Liaison), Don Overcash (City Council Liaison).

Commissioners Absent: Jean Whittaker, Nathan Thompson, Gale Bernhardt.

Staff Present: Brian Hayes, Marilyn Hilgenberg, Kelly Smith, Shanen Weber.

The public meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

Approval of June 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Tabled until a quorum of members is present.

Approval of August 9, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Rick Brent made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Bill Zawacki seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

City Council Liaison Report. Don Overcash reported that it is budget season and the Council has been working hard to balance resources.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri Rollins reported on the following items: 1) There will not be a Larimer County Open Land Advisory Board meeting in September; 2) The water deal on Malchow Farm has been completed and it involved extensive analysis and research. All of the background information regarding this unique water transaction can be found on the Larimer County Natural Resources web pages. Tours of the Malchow farm will begin in October; 3) The County is hiring a consultant to assist with a new Database application called Locate to manage all data related to properties, easements, etc.; 4) The Colorado Open Space Alliance (COSA) annual conference is being held next week in Breckenridge; 5) Larimer County & Fort Collins have a closing scheduled on a very significant property in the Horsetooth Mountain area preserving 1,000 acres.

Regional Open Lands Meeting. The Commission discussed the planned November 8th Regional Meeting date and potential topics of Regional Trails and Connecting communities, or Project Outdoors and engaging youth in the outdoors. The Commission supported both of these theme ideas.

Discussion/Action:

1. Sunset Vista Natural Area Concept Review & Historical Structure Recommendation.

Kelly Smith, Parks and Recreation Planner, provided the Commission with an update on Loveland's Management Plan process for Sunset Vista. The Commission was provided with an updated concept plan which incorporated the two original design concepts into a final design concept. The Commission reviewed the historical analysis, site resources, trails, land uses and schedules. There was also discussion about the missing trail link from Sunset Vista east through Copper Ridge and the intense requirements of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad for easements and crossings. Staff will now start the process of formalizing the draft management plan for the site.

2. Prairie Ridge Natural Area Initial Concept Review. Staff reviewed this 785-acre open lands site purchased in 2000. Loveland manages this property but it is jointly-owned by Loveland and Fort Collins, and Larimer County and Colorado Open Lands co-hold a conservation easement on the site to protect conservation values. Loveland has been receiving pressure to provide public access on Prairie Ridge in the way of a trail system and trailhead similar to Fort Collins' Coyote Ridge. Goals for this site include protection of natural resources, public access, and retaining agricultural heritage. A public meeting has been scheduled for September 25th to present this initial concept plan to the community and solicit feedback. Loveland is applying for two trail grants (GOCO & CPW) this fall to help fund this new trail and promote regional connectivity. Loveland has submitted a request to Fort Collins to connect to the Coyote Ridge Trail system but has not yet come to agreement on the location and details of that regional connection. Commission members feel it is critical to make the connection to either the Coyote Ridge or Larimer County's Rimrock Trail system.

Reports/Correspondence:

3. Property Acquisition Updates. Obsorn property is scheduled to close September 19th providing river access and a trail corridor off of Boise Avenue. Parkside Addition open space land/trail corridor on the north shore of Boedecker Lake is under contract. Before the closing will occur, the City needs a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment completed, a ditch crossing easement with the Buckingham Reservoir Company and the land requires a minor sub-division by the City Planning Department to create the open lands as its own outlot.

4. Open Lands Projects Report.

Busy Summer Maintenance. It has been a very busy summer for staff with trails, trash, weed management and mowing. **River's Edge Sink Hole.** There is a sink hole at River's Edge near the recreation trail that has been caused by the failure of a drainage pipe. Staff is working with the ditch company and their engineer to address the issue. **Updated Trails and Bikeways Maps.** The City's Trails and Bikeways map has been updated and is available for public distribution. **Ward Trust Natural Area Demo of Structures.** Old structures on the Ward Trust open lands property are being removed following City environmental requirements.

5. Trail Updates.

Front Range Trail. Construction of the Front Range Trail is progressing well with a planned completion of early October. A tentative October 18th Ribbon Cutting is being scheduled.

Long View Corridor Trail. The bid process is underway for the construction of the Long View Trail system. Larimer County will be managing the construction and grant administration for the project. Construction should begin late November and run through September 2018.

Rossum Drive Connection to the Recreation Trail. Construction of a new concrete trail connection from Rossum Drive to the Recreation Trail system near Namaqua Avenue is underway and should be completed by year-end.

Commission Member Discussion Topics. No additional topics.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.