



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Civic Center • 500 East Third Street, Suite 200 • Loveland, Colorado 80537
(970) 962-2727 • FAX (970) 962-2903 • TDD (970) 962-2620

www.cityofloveland.org

CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Special Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2017

Chilson Recreation-Senior Center, 700 E. 4th St., Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Andy Hawbaker (regional boards meeting), Ross Livingston, Jim Roode, Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Kerri Rollins (LC OLAB Liaison)(regional boards meeting).

Commissioners Absent: Rick Brent, Darren Pape, Nathan Thompson, Don Overcash (Council Liaison).

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

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

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

Approval of October 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes. Bill Zawacki made a motion that the minutes be approved as written. Jim Roode seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment. None.

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, included Larimer County Open Lands, were presented, and breakout session topics included various issues surrounding regional trails.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. Property Acquisition Updates. Brian provided an update on the Boedecker/Parkside property acquisition, on track to close this month. The acquisition will consist of approximately 17 acres (to be platted as Outlot A), including land along the Home Supply Ditch for a trail corridor, and the “peninsula” area west of the ditch.

2. Open Lands Projects Report. Staff provided the following project updates.

Properties/Facilities/Projects/Maintenance/Operations

- The annual waterway cleanup project took place on October 7 at the new 24-acre Ward Boise parcel purchased in 2017. Debris included numerous tires, car parts, and other large debris, totaling approximately 30 cubic yards of flood debris.
- A group of 30 employees from Bio-Life volunteered at Oxbow Natural Area on October 13 and removed more than 30 cubic yards of flood debris.
- The City is working with a local contractor to replace a failing pipe under the Recreation Trail at River’s Edge Natural Area which has cause a sink hole. Work will will require a temporary detour in the Recreation Trail through this section.

- Structures on the Ward West Open Lands property have been removed including an old residence and maintenance building. Demo work will be complete in November.
- Demolition of the old farm structures has been completed on the north side of the Loudon Ditch at Sunset Vista Natural Area. This property will host Loveland's connection to the Long View Regional Trail, natural areas and wetlands, interpretive signage, nature trails, and a trailhead with parking. Construction of the Long View Trail project will begin late fall 2017.

Partnerships and Planning

- Planning and Open Lands staff applied for 2 grants (CPW and GOCO) for the development of a trail system and trailhead at Prairie Ridge Natural Area. The project includes a 1-mile ADA-accessible trail segment, a 1.5-mile soft-surface trail, a restroom and a parking lot. Potential regional connections to adjacent open lands and trails will be developed later. Staff from Loveland, Fort Collins, Larimer County, and other agencies have been collaborating throughout the planning process to develop the Master Plan. More than 300 people responded to the on-line survey regarding this project.
- GOCO informed the Loveland Inspire Coalition that Project Outdoors was not funded for implementation. Staff will continue to work with partners and program providers to implement the vision of the plan to connect youth and families with the outdoors, creatively using other funding sources and partnerships.
- Volunteers from Pheasants Forever completed a pollinator project at Kings Crossing Natural Area. They tilled and supplemented the soil and seeded native species to improve habitat for pollinators.
- River Warriors, a Veteran's group, assisted the City with the annual Waterway Cleanup and were given a unique opportunity to fish the Big Thompson from the new Open Land property at Boise Avenue. The group uses outdoor activities as therapy for Veterans suffering from PTSD.

Programs/Environmental Education/Volunteer Program

- The fall school environmental education program has wrapped up for the season with new Kindergarten and middle school programs. Preschool environmental education programs (PEEPs) will continue through the fall and winter, providing an excellent opportunity for young children to be exposed to outdoor learning topics.
- High Water Mark Signs have been installed at River's Edge Natural Area, Fairgrounds Park, and the Recreation Trail near Wilson Ave. in collaboration with Public Works and FEMA to educate the public about the impacts of the 2013 Big Thompson Flood and river hydrology.

3. Trail Updates. Staff provided the following trail updates.

- A new connection to the City's Recreation Trail is under construction from Rossum Drive to the new W US 34 underpass and trail to Namaqua Rd. This trail will directly link Mariana Butte neighborhoods to the City's Recreation Trail System for the first time.
- Construction of the Long View Corridor Trail will commence in November. This joint trail project with Larimer County and City of Fort Collins will provide a safe, off-street trail connection from Sunset Vista Natural Area at 57th and Taft to Cathy Fromme Prairie in Fort Collins. Grant funding expires Summer of 2018 so trail work will begin in November.
- Construction of the Front Range Trail in east Loveland is nearing completion and a Ribbon Cutting is planned for November 14. This trail will provide a second off-street trail connection to Fort Collins.

- A license agreement approved between Greeley-Loveland Irrigation Company (GLIC) and the City allows for public use of the unpaved trail along the ditch road between Namaqua and Wilson Avenue. This temporary trail connection closes the missing gap in the City Recreation Trail loop until a permanent trail solution is secured.
- Staff attended the annual Colorado Parks & Recreation Association Conference and were awarded the Columbine Award for Innovation for our Trails and Open Lands Quick Win projects. These projects have provided new public access to 120 acres and more than 4.3 miles of new soft-surface trails. This is a 13% increase in acres open to public access and a 22% increase in soft-surface trails in Loveland.
- A new Police Department biking patrol can be seen out on the Recreation Trail. Parks & Recreation has been working on a number of enforcement issues with the Police Department on Parks, Open Lands & Trails and the presence of police patrol is a welcome addition.

Commission Member Discussion Topics.

1. Jim Roode made a request on behalf of Loveland Fishing Club to submit a Fishing is Fun grant through Colorado Parks & Wildlife to improve fishing access and fish habitat along the west shoreline of Bass Pond at River's Edge Natural Area. Club members will work with Open Lands and CPW staff to explore possibilities for habitat and access improvements.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.