



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

Regular Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2016

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

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

Commissioners Absent: Gale Bernhardt, Hugh McKean (City Council Liaison).

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

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

Public Comment:

1. Kathy Hartman, 945 E. 6th St., recently spoke with Dr. Jason LaBelle, CSU Archaeologist, who mentioned he would like to visit Namaqua Skyline Natural Area and provided a copy of a paper from a 1987 archaeological survey of the Dakota Ridge area.

Approval of June 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Jean Whittaker made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Rick Brent seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously as written.

Larimer County Open Lands Advisory Board Report. Kerri Rollins reported on the following items: 1) The county closed on the Malchow Farm August 8 for \$8.4M. Berthoud partnered with \$100,000 and a GOCO grant will also be submitted. The property is 211 acres and includes 240 CBT shares and Handy Ditch water, together valued at ~\$7M. 2) Loveland and Larimer County staff toured Loveland Open Lands on June 29, looking at new acquisitions and plans for the future. They were impressed by Loveland's many recent accomplishments. 3) The 20th Anniversary Passport to Parks program has been popular, with 15 completed passports turned in. 4) Volunteers are assisting with night sky monitoring in remote county open spaces. 5) The Parks Master Plan process kicked off recently, including reservoir parks and the Ranch/ Fairgrounds complex. 6) Greenback cutthroat trout were reintroduced in Sand Creek, after all non-native trout were removed. 7) A NOCO Trail app will be launched this fall in partnership with Fort Collins Natural Areas and GIS departments.

Reports/Correspondence

1. Property Acquisition Updates. The Ward Trust property is scheduled to close on August 26 and will include a \$250,000 partnership from Larimer County and a \$500,000 GOCO grant. Larimer County will hold the required conservation easement. The acquisition will include Cedar Valley Drive to the west end of the property. The road could be used for a future trail, connecting through the Ward Trust property to a county ROW to the south through the Broken Triangle subdivision. The Home Supply Ditch may also provide a trail connection to the south to Boedecker Reservoir.

2. Open Lands Projects Report. The summer season was busy with new sites opening, volunteer stewardship projects and guided walks/programs. Additional trail opportunities and connections are being explored throughout the open lands system. A new quick reference guide has been developed to show sites open to the public along with amenities and uses at each site. Jean Whittaker commended

staff on the additional promotion of open lands, including the Reporter-Herald newspaper, city website, Facebook and new kiosks.

3. Trails Update. The Long View Trail at Sunset Vista is scheduled for construction in 2017, with opening in 2018. Fort Collins had some design changes due to wetland crossings that have affected the schedule. The Front Range Trail will be bid in late fall. Recreation Trail Section 10B (Namaqua Rd. to Hwy 34 underpass) will be bid in September. The bridge from Viestenz-Smith will be used for crossing the Barnes Ditch. Section 10A (Wilson to Namaqua) is being surveyed and easements are being finalized with landowners.

Discussion/Action:

4. West Big Thompson River Property Final Review. A purchase and sale contract for this 55-acre property has been signed by the seller and the City for \$2,880,000 with closing scheduled for December. The contract requires a recommendation from OLAC and approval and appropriation by City Council, scheduled for October. An appraisal will also be completed to determine a value based on the "highest and best use." The property includes a 15-acre annexed parcel as well as a house, mobile home and barns, some of which could be sold off if not needed. The county will be rebuilding the Namaqua bridge, providing room for a trail underpass and possible trail connections. A management plan will be developed to determine property uses, possibly including agricultural operations such as a native plant nursery using the property's water rights, historical interpretation, river/riparian habitat restoration, trails, etc. The pump delivering water to the property from the river was damaged during the flood, and the acquisition will include a new mobile pump and PVC pipe to deliver the water. The seller will stay and manage the property including farming the ag land for 2 years under the contract. Rick Brent commented that the south parcel is appropriate for development. Rick Brent made a motion that OLAC recommend the city's purchase of this property and development of a management plan to determine possible uses once acquired. Jim Roode seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive Session. The regular session was suspended and Executive Session convened at 6:49 pm. Executive Session was adjourned at 8:15 pm and the regular session reconvened.

Adjournment: The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.