



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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CITY OF LOVELAND OPEN LANDS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Regular Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2018

Parks & Recreation Conference Room, 500 E. 3rd St., Loveland, CO 80537

Commissioners Present: Gale Bernhardt, Rick Brent, Andy Hawbaker, Mike Hinterberg, Ross Livingston, Darren Pape, Jim Roode, Jennifer Almstead (LC OLAB Representative.)

Commissioners Absent: Jean Whittaker, Bill Zawacki, Don Overcash (Council Liaison).

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

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

Approval of January 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Gale Bernhardt made a motion that the minutes be approved as written. Rick Brent seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment. None.

Reports/Correspondence:

1. North Front Range Metro. Planning Org. Non-motorized Corridors. Ryan Dusil, Transportation Planner for NFRMPO, discussed the plan for regional non-motorized paved corridors connecting 2 or more Northern Colorado communities that have been identified by the MPO. The MPO helps map and inventory trails, loans out trail counters, and helps facilitate grant opportunities and IGAs. An underpass for pedestrian/bike connection is a missing component of the I-25 improvement plan and Loveland, as a member of the NFRMPO Transportation Advisory Council, has requested for this to be considered for inclusion.

2. Big Thompson River Corridor Master Plan. Chris Carlson, Stormwater Engineer for the City, has been working on this master plan as a result of the flood, with a grant from the state and HUD. Wright Water Engineers and THK recently completed the final Big Thompson River Corridor Master Plan. The intent of the plan is to create a long-term vision for future improvements for the entire river corridor, regardless of landownership, in order to improve resiliency, restore the natural river function, recommend management and maintenance for the river corridor, and capitalize on the river for recreation, trails and tourism. The comprehensive plan is science-based and community driven. The plan lays out the vision for a resilient, connected corridor, with a goal to preserve ecological functions, improve the fishery and public access, and continue open lands acquisitions to continue to reduce flood hazard. The plan will be presented to boards and commissions, with the ultimate goal of adoption by City Council and the Board of County Commissioners. OLAC members requested additional time to review the plan before making a recommendation. The plan will be revisited at the March meeting for discussion and recommendation.

3. Open Lands and Trails Policy and Procedure Updates. Minor changes to Policy 18 - *Management and Stewardship Process and Plans* were presented, simplifying and updating the process for management and stewardship planning to reflect realistic and current procedures. Management plans will be combined by area where possible, such as the Big Thompson River Corridor

and Foothills natural areas. Mike Hinterberg made a motion to recommend approved of the revised Policy 18 - Management and Stewardship Process and Plans to the Open Lands and Trails Manager and the Director of Parks and Recreation. Rick Brent seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Boards & Commissions Appreciation Event. All commission members are invited to the annual boards and commissions appreciation event on March 8.

5. 2017 Annual Report. The 2017 Open Lands and Trails Annual Report was distributed.

6. Property Acquisition Updates. The East Big Thompson River property recently visited by OLAC closed under the primary contract to another buyer. Demolition projects are underway at several sites as needed. The agricultural lease for community separator properties will be bid out with Larimer County, including Prairie Ridge, Sunset Vista and Long View Farm.

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

- The Recreation Trail at River's Edge reopened Feb. 3 after the completion of the construction project to replace a failing pipe under the Recreation Trail.
- A project by the Loveland Fishing Club and Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff will help improve fish habitat at River's Edge Natural Area. Volunteers cabled more than 100 recycled trees and weighted them down to be used in Bass Pond as fish habitat. CPW staff will sink the bundles by boat when ice is off the pond.
- Volunteers assisting with seasonal monitoring of raptor nests on Loveland Open Lands attended a joint training with Larimer County and Fort Collins. Nest monitoring provides valuable information about the use, timing, species, and success of raptor nests, to inform management decisions and protect important habitat.
- Staff and volunteers are teaching students at Bill Reed Middle School about orienteering and map and compass navigation with funding from a Colorado Health Foundation grant.

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

- The Rossum Drive trail connection concrete work is complete. A new pedestrian crossing signal on Rossum is operational. This ¾-mile trail connection provides a new off-street link from Mariana Butte neighborhoods to the City's Recreation Trail System.
- Construction of the Long View Corridor Trail continues along Taft Ave./Shields St. from Loveland to Fort Collins. Rough grading of most of the trail alignment is completed, and bridge abutments are being excavated and poured.
- Loveland received a \$7,000 grant from the Northern Colorado MPO to place a permanent trail counter on the Recreation Trail at Fairgrounds Park. The counter will collect information on use of the trail by different types of users and time of day/season. A trail counter will also be installed on the Long View Trail just north of the intersection with the Recreation Trail at Sunset Vista. Accurate trail counts help inform management decisions, maintenance schedules, and future grant opportunities.

Commission Member Discussion Topics.

1. Jim Roode noted that Senate Bill 115 passed recently, increasing hunting and fishing license fees, for the first time in 15 years.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.