

LARIMER COUNTY OPEN LANDS ADVISORY BOARD

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

MINUTES

Date: July 23, 2020

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Webinar

Contact: Please contact Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend

Members		Staff		Guests
Bob Hewson	x	Daylan Figgs	x	
David Marvin	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Gale Bernhardt	x	Zac Wiebe	x	
Jason Brothers	x	Charlie Johnson	x	
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Justin Core	x	
Linda Stanley	x	Chris Fleming	x	
Mark DeGregorio	x	*Thomas Donnelly	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Peter Kelly	x			
Rick Brent	x			
Sherri Valentine	x			
Tom Shoemaker	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:02 p.m.
 - a. Daylan introduced new board member, Gale Bernhardt.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Dave moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Linda seconded, motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resources events for this month: larimer.org/naturalresources.
- b. To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board updates, go to apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Open Lands Advisory Board” box.
- c. Kyger Trail connection complete from Windsor to River Bluffs Open Space and the Poudre Trail. – Zac Wiebe
 - i. Zac explained this is the first segment of trail constructed as part of the GOCO funded Poudre River Grant.
- d. The Small Grants for Community Partnering Program is accepting applications for the 2021 grant cycle now through 5:00 p.m. on September 11, 2020. A grant webinar will be available to interested applicants on August 5th and will cover how the program works, any changes and updates, application tips, etc. – Zac
 - i. We will be asking for subcommittee members next month to help review applications. As part of our updated process, there will be no site visits, rather we’ll request and review photos.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. 2019 Annual Report – Daylan
 - i. Daylan mentioned the format is different this year and said Jake and Korrie did a great job. The report includes visitation data, info on restoration projects, and a financial summary.
 - ii. Bob said he was impressed and showed his team at CYO. Sherri, K-Lynn, and Tom agreed.
- b. Electric motorized bike study update – Zac and Chris
 - i. Chris noted the lottery received 70 applicants, 30 participants were randomly selected and attended a mandatory meeting to review study parameters and receive their permits.
 - ii. Zac provided an update on the visitation study being developed in partnership with CSU that will run concurrent with the electric motorized bike study.
 - iii. Linda asked what outcomes will be measured as a result of the study. Meegan said based on rising popularity of e-bikes, DNR seeks to understand public perception of this new and motorized use on our system and where it might be appropriate regionally.
 - iv. K-Lynn asked about the ballot language regarding non-motorized use. Daylan noted that while the state defines e-bikes as non-motorized, local entities can regulate them separately. Meegan discussed the challenges of transportation vs. recreation use. It was noted most of our conservation easements call for non-motorized use as the allowable rights. Dave clarified the study only allows class I, 2-wheeled e-bikes.
 - v. Mark said medical and rescue data at Devil’s Backbone should be considered when discussing allowable use and risk activities on the trail. Chris said the addition of more technical and longer duration medical calls is a concern.

- vi. Tom said it would be helpful to clarify non-motorized use in the ballot and CE language from a legal perspective and commented on capacity issues related to increased use.
- vii. Gale asked if anyone in the group uses an e-bike and said they don't accelerate as expected.
- viii. Meegan said we've partnered with CSU who assisted with the 2017-2018 Visitor Use Study. The plan is to conduct a short-term study at Devil's Backbone this fall and a broader system survey next year to gauge general opinion of electric motorized bikes and the addition of new use to DNR sites. Survey questions will relate to capacity and crowding.
- ix. Rick said e-bikes allow him to participate in activities following his knee replacement.
- x. Bob asked Chris if she's received calls related to the initial use of the study, Chris affirmed and said the department is collecting public comment.
- xi. Linda said it's good DNR views e-bikes as a complex issue and expressed concern that e-bike use allows visitors to reach remote areas and disrupt natural values/wildlife.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. ACTION ITEMS

a. Board Election of Officers

- i. Nancy Wallace re-elected as chair, Dave Marvin re-elected as vice chair, both unanimously.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: August 27, 2020 via Zoom Webinar. Daylan said OLAB should plan to meet via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest. Dave moved to enter Executive Session, Pete seconded, motion passed unanimously at 5:49 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – 6:36 p.m.