

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: August 27, 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 | 3 members of the public |
| 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 | Tim Meyer | X | |
| Mark DeGregorio | x | Casey Cisneros | x | |
| Nancy Wallace | x | Chris Fleming | x | |
| Peter Kelly | x | Jenn Almstead | x | |
| Rick Brent | x | *Thomas Donnelly | | |
| Sherri Valentine | x | Sidney Michl (minutes) | x | |
| Tom Shoemaker | x | | | |

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:02 p.m.
 - a. Introduced staff and board members to guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. 3 community members provided public comment and expressed concern for increased visitation at County parks and open spaces.

3. AGENDA REVIEW
 - a. Improvements recently made to the springs and entry sign at Eagle’s Nest Open Space will be discussed at the next meeting.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Rick moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Bob 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. Estes Valley Open Space & Recreation Plan – [draft available online](#) – Zac
 - i. Zac said the plan will help Estes focus on conservation and development. The Land Trust consultants offered to give a presentation of the plan to OLAB.
- d. Daylan responded to questions from public comment and gave an update on the Department's Strategic Plan. The process slowed due to COVID; key meetings are scheduled for September. The update to the Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Management Plan was also delayed due to COVID and inability to hold open houses/gather public input. Meegan added we've begun the inventory and planning process and the management plan intends to address findings from the 2017-2018 Visitor Use Study.
 - i. Bob asked if DNR presents info about big picture county-wide trail development and management. Meegan said we have the data and some of it is included as tidbits in quarterly/annual reports.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Quarterly report (April-June) – Daylan
 - i. Daylan highlighted a few stories:
 1. Reopening of Glade Park
 2. 2020 Starburst Award recipient for the Poudre River Restoration and Resilience Project at River Bluffs Open Space
 3. Kyger Trail connection to Windsor's regional trail system
 4. COVID financial summary: sales tax revenue is slightly up, day use has increased 20-30% YTD and boat launches increased 50-70% YTD. Camping revenue has caught up from the 4-week closure and staggered restart. Visitation is beginning to level out.
 - ii. Gale asked about sales tax projections, Daylan said we didn't meet our projected growth in sales tax but the budget is fine due to cash reserves. It was noted sales tax is reviewed annually vs. quarterly with the board and DNR's Financial Services Manager, Lori Smith, gives a budget presentation at the beginning of the year.
 - iii. Daylan recognized Ranger Brendan Unitt and Nancy asked to pass sentiments to staff. Chris said public outpouring of support has been overwhelming.

- b. Requesting members to assist with the 2021 Small Grants for Community Partnering subcommittee – Jenn
 - i. The deadline for the 2021 grant cycle is September 11th. Jenn gave an overview of the Small Grants for Community Partnering program and asked for 3 subcommittee members to assist in ranking applications. Jason, Tom, and Dave volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.
 - ii. Daylan mentioned concerns were expressed about conflicts of interest and encouraged board members to recuse themselves of conflict when appropriate.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Chimney Hollow Open Space Waterline and Fiber Easements Final Review
 - i. Tim gave an overview of the waterline and fiber easements at Chimney Hollow Open Space. Linda asked if DNR receives compensation for pipeline easements such as these, Tim said no because of language in the existing IGA with Northern Water that allows for reciprocal easements. Bob asked if we anticipate legal fees, it was noted thorough analysis was performed to avoid any issues by the county attorney. Dave asked if there are standards in place to evaluate disturbance, Tim mentioned a clause in the easement requires USBR to comply with County standards for habitat restoration. Tom asked about the size of the pipeline, Tim said the trench will be at least 5 ft. wide and 12 ft. deep in a pre-disturbed location.
 - ii. Bob moved to recommend to the BOCC approval of the Chimney Hollow waterline and fiber easements, Rick seconded, motion passed unanimously.
- b. Hawk Canyon Ranch Fee Acquisition Final Review
 - i. Justin presented the final review for the Hawk Canyon Ranch fee acquisition. Nancy asked about access to the southern 69-ac parcel. Justin said it is accessed from Red Mountain Open Space via CR23. Meegan clarified that while the full purchase price is \$3.5M, the GOCO grant applies \$450k and the City of Fort Collins is a 35% partner, leaving LC's portion at \$1.89M. Charlie recognized Justin's contribution to the project. Dave asked if the management plan will match Red Mountain Open Space, Justin affirmed.
 - ii. Linda moved to recommend to the BOCC that LC purchase the Hawk Canyon Ranch, K-Lynn seconded, motion passed unanimously.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: September 24, 2020 via Zoom Webinar

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. K-Lynn moved to enter Executive Session, Linda seconded, motion passed unanimously at

12. ADJOURN – 6:34 p.m.

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.
Public can view agenda and minutes at:
<https://www.larimer.org/boards/open-lands-advisory-board/minutes>

