

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: January 28, 2021

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		Justin Core	x	
Linda Stanley	x	Chris Fleming	x	
Mark DeGregorio	x	Jenn Almstead	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	*Jody Shadduck-McNally	x	
Peter Kelly	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Rick Brent	x			
Sherri Valentine	x			
Tom Shoemaker	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:01 p.m.
 - a. Welcome Commissioner Jody Shadduck-McNally.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Tom 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. Ken Brink, Visitor Services Division Manager, retired after 5 years with the county. Until filled, the position will be covered in the interim by rotation amongst existing Visitor Service Managers.
- d. The Steputis 884-acre conservation easement has been finalized and recorded. Discussed a potential site visit for board members. Meegan noted our nearly 20-year relationship with the Steputis family and their generosity working with the County on the partial donation. Charlie added this project was a partnership with GOCO, the City of Fort Collins, and a donation from the landowner.
- e. Big Thompson Canyon Loveland parcel exchange has been completed and recorded. Charlie provided an overview of the Big Thompson conservation and recreation efforts beginning with the 1976 flood. Meegan noted this exchange is one of several projects we are working on throughout the canyon to add parcels to existing county ownership.
- f. New Cache canal crossing agreement for the Poudre River Trail has been completed and recorded. Charlie provided an overview of the Poudre River priority area and the county’s portion of the remaining Poudre Trail to construct in 2022. Zac added this project has been a decades-long partnership with Greeley, Windsor, Timnath, Fort Collins, GOCO, and CPW and we have received two large grants to-date, including one pending, to match department funds.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. 2020 Quarter 4 Board Report
 - i. Daylan highlighted a few stories:
 1. Sky View Campground received \$475k in grant funding from GOCO. Construction for the group campground will begin this year.
 2. COVID response/restoration on Kruger Rock Trail.
 3. Additional YTD Operating Expenses category added to Financial Summary.
 - ii. Lori explained the board member request to add Parks, Open Lands, and Weed District operating expenses to the financial summary. Gale commented it’s important for the public to understand operating and maintenance costs. Dave suggested totaling the revenue and operating expenses. Lori clarified the operating expenses were selected from key indicators and are not representative of department-wide expenses. It was noted the title should be updated to reflect “key” or “major” operating expenses.
 - iii. Linda asked about the percentage change in personnel, Daylan said funds were allocated for FTE merit increases and seasonal cost-of-living wages. Staff were also added mid-season in response to higher visitation rates and to assist traffic control, ANS, permit sales, etc.

- iv. Gale asked when volunteer projects will resume. Daylan noted that we didn't cease volunteer projects in 2020, but modified them to be COVID-compliant. The department will proceed with caution and continue to follow public health guidelines in 2021. Our Education and Volunteer staff remain engaged with volunteers.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Presentation of 2021 Small Grants Award Recommendations

- i. Jenn provided an overview of the Small Grants for Community Partnering Program. Larimer County received 8 applications for the 2021 grant cycle with requests for up to \$3,000 per project. Jenn presented the 7 projects recommended for funding for a total of \$18,764, which include:
 - 1. Heart J. Center for Experimental Learning: Heart-J Adventure Trail at Sylvan Dale Ranch - \$3,000
 - 2. Sproutin' Up: CSA farm expansion - \$3,000
 - 3. Loveland Youth Gardeners: LYG site development - \$3,000
 - 4. Loveland Historic Society: Mariano Medina Cemetery site improvements - \$2,060
 - 5. Denver Museum of Nature and Science: Age and origin research of Larimer County's signature stone, the Lyon's Sandstone - \$2,977
 - 6. Georgetown Townhomes HOA: Georgetown Gardens - \$3,000
 - 7. Terry Shores HOA: ADA lake access project - \$1,727

8. ACTION ITEMS

a. Small Grants Awards Approval

- i. Jenn summarized the Small Grants for Community Partnering subcommittee is recommending to OLAB to approve the proposed 7 projects for funding for the 2021 grant cycle, totaling \$18,764. Bob moved to approve the projects as outlined by Jenn, Pete seconded, motion passed unanimously.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: February 25, 2021 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. Tom moved to enter Executive Session, Linda seconded, motion passed unanimously at 6:22 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – 6:44 p.m.