

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

6/13/2017, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Natural Resources Administration Office, 1800 S County Road 32, Loveland, CO

The mission of the Larimer County Parks and Open Lands Department 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.

Please email Rhonda, edgmonrc@co.larimer.co.us if you are unable to attend this meeting.

Votes require a quorum. Thank you!

PAB Members in Attendance:

Chris Klaas	X	Mark DeGregorio		Russell Fruits	X
Deborah Shulman		Nick Clark	X	Stephanie Hansen	
Frank Gillespie	X	Rob Harris	X	Steve Ambrose	
John Tipton	X	Ron Kainer	X	Steve Johnson, Commissioner	

Staff in Attendance:

Gary Buffington	X	Ken Brink	X	Mark Caughlan	X	Lori Smith	X
Dan Rieves	X	Rhonda Edgmon-Koons	X	Charlie Johnson			

Guests:

Tod Blomstrom	X		
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1. REGULAR MEETING OPENING
2. RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION of John Tipton & Ron Kainer
 - a. Gary B outlined Kainer's participation over the years and thanked Kainer for his efforts. A photograph of Kainer's choosing was given.
 - b. John Tipton also leaves the board but has already moved to Arkansas and was not present.
 - c. Rob Harris & Deborah Shulmann have also met their terms but will be re-appointed.
 - d. Interviews for 2 new members are to be held June 21st and appointments confirmed June 27th.
3. PARKS MASTER PLAN TALKING POINTS- Ken Brink brings the points he believes will be addressed in the public hearings regarding the Master Plan and elements within the plan of note. (5:03- 40:00)*
 - a. Horsetooth Area
 - i. Archery range at Horsetooth area was presented in 2007. It remains in the plan. There is concern with a nearby landowner for safety. The safety record of archery ranges is quite good. The cost of creating the range is significant so phase 2 development would be years down the road.
 - ii. A proposal for more parking below the north dam will also be an interesting issue. There is no other option for more parking in the area. There is a critical need to fully utilize available boating resources.
 - iii. No significant number of camping sites added to Horsetooth may be a concern. Community in the area doesn't want more sites but the community is very interested in more opportunity.

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- iv. There was a proposal to add a connector trail between Spring Canyon Dam and Fort Collins Open Space, however, after multiple visits and conversations, it's believed that the intersection is too congested already and the cost of construction would be prohibitive.
 - b. Carter
 - i. Big Thompson campground will become a Day Use area with additional parking on the opposite side of road. Anticipate some concern from neighbors about the change. Decided not to propose overnight use east of the road to mitigate concerns from residents. Trying to help improve the quality of swim beach options.
 - ii. Plan to move toward more Day Use Only areas rather than a blend of Day use and Camping to eliminate some of the concerns the blended sites create.
 - iii. Ongoing conversations with the Sail Club regarding business models, facility use, new sail club "club house", etc...
 - c. General Issues
 - i. Looking for opportunities to acquire land for intense recreation will certainly be in the plan.
 - ii. In 2018 will bring forward a Differential Pricing Strategy making incremental changes rather than a large change.
 - iii. Question by C Klaas regarding future purchasing, the reasons for acquisitions and the scope of recreation the county provides. Does the county pursue acquiring state lakes in the county? Does the county need to provide all types of activities for county residents?
 - iv. Ken Brink's response is reminder that each acquisition needs to be "additive" in regards to providing additional recreational opportunity. "What's our niche?" We have limited resources and we need to focus our resources where they will accomplish the most for the community.
 - v. C Klaas also started conversation regarding the relationship between open spaces and county lands. How are those distinctions outlined in the Master Plan?
4. PUBLIC COMMENT: Items not on the agenda - None
5. GENERAL INFORMATION: (40:40- 45:00)*
- a. ANS
 - i. Funding for ANS through Parks & Wildlife was submitted late in session. That measure was tabled. Backup funding was found to provide through 2018 possible 2019.
 - ii. Ranger Excellence School (RES) was held early in June. County limited commissioned rangers as well as out of county officers participated. Several rangers travelled from out of state to participate. This is a very unique program that supports many agencies.
 - iii. First of Bureau of Reclamation quarterly meetings held in the prior week. Hopeful that by improving communication between entities will improve what is given to the public.
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS: (45:00 – 52:30)*
- a. Presentation/Discussion of Department of Natural Resources 5-year Capital Improvement Plan by Gary Buffington and Todd Blomstrom. Budget questions addressed by Lori Smith. [See attached information.](#) (50:00)

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- b.
 - i. Capital Improvement program is a county wide procedure to outline capital improvement projects over the next 5 years. Larimer County's financial threshold for a project is \$50,000.
 - ii. Each department will identify its needs for 5 years organized by year of delivery.
 - iii. The Capital Improvement plan is fiscally constrained to what the department has resources to accomplish. It is not a wish list of projects.
 - iv. This helps the commissioners plan capital improvement projects, provides information and transparency for the public.
 - v. June 30th is deadline for the development stage. Next will be a review and put into the budget for approval. Review and revisal each year.
 - vi. Lori Smith (52:30 – 1:11:00)*
 - 1. Land Acquisitions need to be private so those categories are broad scope numbers.
 - 2. There are funds that are required to have reserves so they have a carry over each year.
 - 3. There will be a section for projects that land between the \$10-50,000 range.
 - 4. Pro-active funding for "maintenance" on specific buildings needs to be available.

7. ACTION ITEMS: None

8. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Park District updates and Parks Master plan Implementation Progress report by (1:12:45- 1:32:40)*
 - i. Dan Rieves, Carter lake District manager
 - 1. South Shore Campground renovation project is at the bidding stage.
 - 2. Maitlan Syphon project will limit ability to move water through the Carter lake area this summer. Flat Iron will be partially drained after July 15th. Construction August through November.
 - 3. ANS will begin at Pinewood Lake. This has not been done in the past due to low threat. Due to funding issues, different agencies are assisting with ANS funding and they have different expectations.
 - a. No onsite inspector at the lake so all boats must be previously checked and sealed. That seal will be clipped and dropped in a box by the boaters.
 - b. Due to no inspectors at Pinewood, if the boater wants a new seal, they must go to Carter or other nearby ANS station.
 - ii. Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager
 - 1. Visitations continue to increase. At 98% capacity most of the time.
 - 2. Second weekend in June the lake and the parking lots were at capacity so they were closed on both days for 3-5 hours.
 - 3. New rangers are settling in well. Considering adding weekday staff to accommodate large numbers.
 - 4. Home Occupation concessionaire up north continues to be a concern.
 - 5. Water Projects will affect the lake level late August on. By the end of September, all ramps are expected to be closed. Have requested the Marina to notify slip owners.
 - 6. HAIC displays are done and installed for the June 28th Grand Opening. Please make RSVP prior to June 20th.

9. US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE – Not present.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Buffington (1:33:00 – 1:34:50)*

- a. Budget is being developed for 2018. Horsetooth and Carter are increasing visitation the most so the needs at those two sites are highest.
- b. Todd Blomstrom and staff are having conversations regarding a change in the future fee structure. That will be developed more in the fall for a request in the 2018 budget.

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11. EXECUTIVE SESSION to BE HELD: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of any real or person property interest. (1:33:00)*
- a. Moved by R Harris
 - b. Seconded by C Klaas

12. MEETING ADJOURN

Next regular meeting [if needed]: 7/11/2017 Natural Resources Administration Office 1800 S. County Rd 31, Loveland, CO	Public can view agenda and minutes at http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm
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*[Minute Markers](#) refer to meeting recording.