

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

8/8/2017, 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 Edgmon-Koons 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		Mark DeGregorio		Russell Fruits	X
Deborah Shulman	X	Nick Clark		Stephanie Hansen	X
Frank Gillespie	X	Rob Harris	X	Steve Ambrose	X
John Tipton		Ron Kainer		Steve Johnson, Commissioner	
Brian Rasch	X	Michael Robinson	X		

Staff in Attendance:

Gary Buffington	X	Ken Brink	X	Dan Rieves	X	Mark Caughlan	X
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Guests:

Tara Piper	X		
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1. REGULAR MEETING OPENING
2. INTRODUCE NEW BOARD MEMBERS: Brian Rasch & Michael Robinson
3. GENERAL INFORMATION:
 - a. Natural Resource Events for this month: See website <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
 - b. Housekeeping: Larimer County Boards & Commissions are going paperless. Please sign up online. (See attached) Printed versions of PAB Members' Contact Info are available. ([see attached](#)).
 - c. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm> put in your email and click 'subscribe', then check "Parks Advisory Board" box.
 - d. The trailhead at River Bluffs Open Space will be closed from July 21 to mid-September due to construction on County Road 32E. The Poudre River Trail will remain open, but access to the trailhead will be closed starting at the pedestrian bridge over the Poudre River.
 - e. The westernmost portion of the Pleasant Valley Trail in Bellvue is closed from July 24 to mid-August so Xcel Energy can install a new gas line in the area. This is the endpoint of the trail; people can use the trail until they reach this temporary closure.
 - f. Construction on the new Colorado Front Range Trail - Loveland to Fort Collins Connection started on June 22. The trail, which should open this September, will be the first paved trail linking the extensive paved trail systems of Loveland and Fort Collins.

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4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Ken:
 - i. Rock Solid at Work - Maintenance staff have begun using this physical training and tracking system. The program's main goal is to avoid work place injuries.
 - ii. Procuring Emergency Readiness Training and Equipment through a FEMA grant.
 - iii. NR's Uniform Policy has been updated.
 - iv. In early July a habituated bear with cubs entered Hermit Park campgrounds staying several hours. The bear was hazed in different manners but to little effect. The following day, she was found dead in the campground. It was noted that the State owns & manages animals, however, the County plays a role in providing for the safety of visitors. There are no formal policies at any agency regarding hazing of potentially dangerous wildlife. NR will be formulating one this fall.
 - v. Ranger program Analysis presentation by Ken (1-hour).
- b. Email coming soon from the Board of Commissioners for an all Advisory Board Orientation
- c. In Fall, will schedule a Parks 101 for new and existing board members to tour the facilities.
- d. Poudre River trail will be opening soon. An opening ceremony will be planned and PAB members invited.

5. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

- a. Dan Rieves
 - i. Carter Lake District Ranger II position has been filled. B Coleman will begin his Field Training Program by the end of October.
 - ii. ANS system is up and running at Pinewood lake. Only sealed vessels can go onto Pinewood.
 - iii. Funding for 2018 ANS has been identified.
 - iv. A new tree blight has been identified and trees in Eagle Campground have been affected. There will also be some tree work done in the Carter lake area clearing trees that are struggling.
 - v. Week long search in July for a missing person included ground search, a dive and sonar scanning of Pinewood.
 - vi. South Shore Campground project has accepted bids from Eggers Electric & Connell. Work will begin September 15, 2017
 - vii. Short Term Concessionaires have had a banner year. Inquiries for 2018 are already coming in.
 - viii. Carter lake Crossing in late July. 170 swimmers.
 - ix. Week day busy-ness can make it difficult to accomplish some maintenance projects such as mowing and site repairs.
- b. Mark Caughlan
 - i. Horsetooth Reservoir and campgrounds are full all week. Because of increased usage, seasonal staff will be in place through Labor Day.
 - ii. In response to the greater demand, new positions have been approved for the 2018 budget. Assistant Rangers are very helpful on the weekends.
 - iii. Continued concern over Home Occupation business near Satanka Bay. They have planning approval for training but it appears the business is also essentially renting paddle boards. The Satanka Bay Concessionaire has made a formal complaint to the Board of Commissioners. The number of paddle boarders in Satanka Bay has increased over the years.

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- iv. Devon Neuman will be leaving at the end of the year but has agreed to stay on as a temporary Ranger during the weekdays.
 - v. M. Feldman has been hired as a Ranger II for HT District. He began academy training on August 8.
 - vi. Blue Sky Trail fire on July 22nd. No structure damage. Lightening fire near south side of Carter Lake in Chimney Hollow on July 23rd.
 - vii. Leak in Soldier Canyon Dam which will require repairs beginning in October. Since Horsetooth's water level is typically lower at that time, there shouldn't be any effect on the reservoir's use.
 - viii. A member question regarding marijuana & drug use at the facilities lead to discussions of how the rangers deal with infractions. It was noted that marijuana use is still illegal in public places and that the rangers are "extremely diligent in regard to addressing impaired vehicle & vessel operation." Increased use of the county's parks by the transient population was also noted, particularly in Lion's Open Space.
6. US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE : Tara Piper
- a. Archeologist report for Environmental Compliance research completed on the Carter Lake South Shore Campground Project. No concerns were noted.
 - b. Likewise for the Carter lake tree thinning projects.
 - c. Northern Water is starting to do Pre-Construction activities in Chimney Hollow. Special Permits have been given to do Geotechnical drilling, test pits & blasting. Contractors need to give D Rieves 48 hour notice of entry into the sight. Drilling should begin August 11th. Pre-Construction work should take 1 year.
 - d. Flat iron Siphon work will go through mid-December. B of R office at Flat Iron will be closed on Fridays through October. Staff will still be available.
 - e. B of R is completing an RMP to prioritize budget and project needs.
 - f. September's meeting will provide for a final discussion of the RMP and LC Master Plan.
7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Gary Buffington
- a. Budget is nearly done. "We're healthy!"
 - b. Increased visitations has made for greater requests on the budget.
 - c. 2018 will see a change in the fee structure for park permits.
8. MEETING ADJOURN at 7:50pm

Next regular meeting [if needed]:

9/12/2017

Lake Loveland Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse Office Building, 200
W Oak, Fort Collins, CO

Public can view agenda and minutes at

http://larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm