

## Larimer County Parks 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

Scheduled times are subject to change.

**Date:** December 12, 2017

**Time:** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room.

**Contact:** Please contact Emmy at [ellisoea@co.larimer.co.us](mailto:ellisoea@co.larimer.co.us) or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Brian Rasch	X	Dan Rieves	X	Pat McCusker
Chris Klaas		Gary Buffington	X	Thanh Matthews
Deborah Shulman	X	*Stephen Johnson		
Frank Gillespie	X	Ken Brink	X	
Mark De Gregorio	X	Mark Caughlan	X	
Michael Robinson	X	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	X	
Nick Clark				
Robert Harris	X			
Russell Fruits	X			
Stephanie Hansen				
Steve Ambrose				

x = present

\*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS
  - a. Thanh Matthews and Emmy Ellison introduced.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Russell Fruits moves to accept minutes. Deb Shulman seconds. Motion passed.

## 5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resource Events for this month: See website <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- b. 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.
- c. The Colorado Front Range Trail – Loveland to Fort Collins Connection opened to the public on Nov. 14. This 2-mile, multi-use, paved trail is the first to connect Loveland to Fort Collins' extensive paved trail networks. An opening ceremony was held on Nov. 14 with staff and elected officials. Request from board for pictures of the trail.

## 6. UPDATES & REPORTS:

- a. Park District updates and reports
  - i. Dan Rieves, Carter Lake District Manager
    - 1. Carter Lake South Shore Campground renovation is nearing completion and looks great. Park furniture, some trail connections and minor aesthetic details remain. One yard hydrant stolen. The campground will remain closed until early April for finishes and is currently active on the reservation system and filling quickly. Trailhead is closed.
    - 2. New ranger Brittan Kuhlman doing well in field training.
    - 3. Closing everything down for winter. Chimney Hollow has a lot of pre-construction activity and increased traffic.
    - 4. Pumping water to Carter in the next couple of weeks.
    - 5. Carter Lake paddleboard rental concession question from member. It was noted that there will be applications from displaced vendors at Horsetooth. Same concession (What's SUP) has been running things at Carter for several years, things may change with new concessionaire at Horsetooth.
  - ii. Member question about lawsuit against Bureau of Reclamation - Pat McCusker addressed.
  - iii. Mark Caughlan, Horsetooth District Manager
    - 1. Arson at Duncan's ridge was result of a fallen smoke bomb being used for photographic effect; small fire was put out and was not malicious. Charges are being filed.
    - 2. Two people summonsed for graffiti at Rotary Park. Two volunteer projects this year to repaint. Have cameras and ranger presence there to combat the ongoing problem.
    - 3. Pleasant Valley Trail closed Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> for hazard tree removal.
    - 4. ANS Boat Inspections stopped first week of December for the year. Primary use from end of Oct. to late spring is fishing. The fishery has been doing great, slight decline in walleye catch, will be speaking with CPW biologist in January.

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.

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5. Roof is being repaired, working on backside now. In 2-3 weeks sheeting will be done. Slowly moving out of basement back into offices.
  6. Red Mountain District ranger staff moving out of Fossil Creek into HAIC.
  7. One ranger training and one graduating from Police Academy. Devin Neumann's last day was Wednesday, he will come back seasonally in 2018.
  8. Working on special events/permits.
  9. Nice weather allowing Maintenance to get caught up on projects. Rangers getting caught up on training.
  10. Visitor count study still underway.
  11. Officially hired new contractor for paddle boards (What's SUP). 5 year contract, mandatory minimums on hours of operation and equipment. Estimate \$150-200,000 per year, county gets 10% of gross. No way to track actual numbers of paddleboard usage alone.
  12. Member question about individual at Satanka Cove renting paddleboards out. It was noted that it is an ongoing challenge. They were granted permission by the Planning Department as a Home Occupation Business and are not in compliance.
  13. Discussion of safety equipment – PFD's and whistles have to be on every concession vessel, not necessarily worn for paddleboards. All rentals have them.
  14. Member question about roof repairs. It was noted that the problem occurred at original installation and money was held back to repair it in the fall when visitation was slower.
- iv. Member question about Special Events costs. Costs explained.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. Budget items and capital development plan update – Gary Buffington
  - i. Capital Improvement Plan is 5 year program for \$50,000 or more in capital improvements – all projects on handout have been conceptually approved by agency staff and county leadership and are planned for 2018. It is a dynamic plan and will be flexible, particularly in the first year.
  - ii. Both boards will look at these for comments, prices won't be accurate until projects are estimated and bid out.
  - iii. Administrative connectivity project should be about half of the amount listed.
  - iv. Member question about project prioritization. It was noted that all projects on the list are approved and planners started with projects that were non-controversial and had already been worked through in the Master Plan. Board members did have input and a chance to add comments during the master plan process.
  - v. Carter Lake points – most projects on plan are not flashy. Design work, paving lots, dust control.
  - vi. Horsetooth points – plan to include replacing old buildings, maintenance of current infrastructure, boat ramps, long term maintenance, congestion issues and larger lots. Utilizing grants for projects: paving and Satanka archery range.

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- vii. Member question about how much blue sky was included in the master plan development based on community input. It was noted that where community input was applied within external restrictions and practical viability, it was. The public forums are of significant value.
- viii. Member question about cost estimates. It was noted that the costs listed were placeholders essentially, or best realistic guesses at the time. Costs will be adjusted. Does not mean the projects will be completed in 2018 – will primarily be planning and design in the first year.
- b. Update on the process to select the paddle board concession – Mark Caughlan
  - i. Officially hired new contractor for paddle boards (What’s SUP). 5 year contract, mandatory minimums on hours of operation and equipment. Estimate \$150-200,000 per year for gross business, county gets 10%. No way to track actual numbers of paddleboard usage for the lake specifically. Types of vessel use are estimated by staff.
- c. Brief update on Reservoir Parks Master Plan – Ken Brink
  - i. Joint meeting with planning commission went well. Specific questions being addressed. Final approval tomorrow evening.
  - ii. Issues responded to on 1<sup>st</sup> page of handout:
    1. Parking space totals.
    2. Parking and boating capacity – at capacity, parking lots are controlled. Horsetooth is less congested than other areas. We use Red Cross standards like other government entities in CO.
    3. Safety records and capacity – numbers can depend on the people hired, somewhat cyclical in nature. Our flat water lakes have an excellent boating safety record.
    4. Conflicting uses at Satanka – review of courtesy dock, on-the-water ‘paddle sport trail’ between Horsetooth ramp and Satanka Cove.
    5. Physical separation at Satanka – separation of parking for motorized/hand launch vessels.
    6. Modified/improved boat dock – storage of vessels at Inlet Bay Marina
    7. Discussed limits to boat slips at marina.
    8. Crash history and safety at Carter – sharp turn near old Carter Lake swim beach. Myth about sand near swim beach exit causing problems – no accidents have been reported at that exact location.
    9. Financial summary and use limitations – main sources of revenue are parks fees and lottery. Some park fees reserved for cushion due to uncontrollable incidents.
    10. Economic impacts – instead of paying for economic study, we opted to utilize information from previous plans, Planning Commission was satisfied with that approach.

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## 8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Carter Lake Marina contract adjustments (adding slips) – Dan Rives
  - i. Agreement with BOR has a max amount of on-water boat storage. For Carter Lake Marina, 120 slips and 80 moorings. Cannot be over 200 slip and mooring facilities, not a set percentage. Marina is requesting conversion of some existing moorings to slips. Adding 6 slips that were acquired from Carter Lake Sail Club. Would like to increase slips to 130 and decrease moorings to 70, remaining at the 200 total.
  - ii. Carter Lake Marina last year used 50 of the 80 slips. Comfortable reducing that number.
  - iii. Growing by a total of 25 slips, one current slip dockage was converted to electric and sold out. Waiting list is built up, feel that the new slip and dockage will be sold at 100%.
  - iv. Request #1 – extension of current courtesy dock, will make room for more rental boats. Will hear opposition, get recommendation, addendum to contract will be made by County Attorney’s office. Conversions save real estate, increase revenue, great customer service, more efficient.
  - v. Member question about impact. It was noted that the density should not change much, approaching threshold with slips and increases beyond the proposed one could start affecting parking negatively. Traffic flow should also not be too affected. Bigger concern originally was boat traffic in and out of No Wake area – cleans that area up.
  - vi. Request #2 – dry storage. Big parking lots at north end sit empty, current storage entity (primarily sailboats) want to phase out storage. Sail Club members inquired about using parking lots for dry storage starting next fall. Area is near North Pines parking lots and is closed in the winter, sometimes gated. Not a big impact outside of timing for getting boats out of lots and launched. Stragglers negotiate with County which works very well. Good communication. Larimer County gets percentage of revenue, Marina manages it by contract. One year trial option discussed. Start with 30 new and stay out of lower parking lot (already have 30 at original location, 60 total). Liability with concessionaire.
  - vii. Russell Fruits moves to accept the mooring to slip addendum and accept the change from 30 to 60 on dry storage with a one year trial period. Frank Gillespie seconds. Motion passed. Robert Harris abstained from the parking vote.

## 9. US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE: Pat McCusker

- a. CIP projects – met with Dan, Mark and Ken about Title 28 funding projects. Parking lot projects at marina lot at Carter, Horsetooth at South Bay, Camper Cabins. No funding currently but want to be ready just in case.
- b. Brought up ANS program – infrastructure could be effected if mussels do arrive, Pat is concerned about funding. Total cost for Colorado is 4.5 million for ANS program, BOR was \$360,000 of that. State has proposed legislation to develop a new vessel inspection sticker to be required to launch a boat in Colorado.
- c. The state is considering decontamination fees for boaters as well.

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- d. CBT Headwaters Partnership (State Forest Service, US Forest Service, Northern Water, BOR and Rocky Mountain NP) projects at Horsetooth – fuel reductions on west side at Lory State Park, protecting watershed. Forestry project for Carter Lake.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS: none

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Senior Leadership Team has set several goals this year:

- a. Visitor counts and surveys – should have good idea next year about numbers.
- b. Transparency – governance, decision making process, spreadsheets, structure.
- c. Office space and connectivity – expansion at Carter Lake facility and AO.
- d. Budget Process – better structure, Lori Smith is working on it.
- e. Fee Structure – figuring for next 5 years. Last pass cost raise was 8 or 9 years ago. Set the structure, get approved by commissioners for length of time.

12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 1/9/2018 at Larimer County Courthouse, 200 W. Oak St., Fort Collins, CO, 2nd Floor, Lake Loveland Room.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

14. ADJOURN: 7:57pm

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