

## 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:** June 12, 2018

**Time:** 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Natural Resources Administrative Offices (AO), 1800 S. County Rd. 31, Loveland, CO 80537

**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	
Chris Klaas	x	Gary Buffington	x	
Deborah Shulman		*Stephen Johnson		
Frank Gillespie		Ken Brink	x	
Mark DeGregorio	x	Mark Caughlan	x	
Michael Robinson	x	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Nick Clark	x	Lori Smith	x	
Robert Harris	x			
Russell Fruits	x			
Stephanie Hansen	x			
Steve Ambrose				

**x = present**

\*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:35 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
  - a. Rob Harris moves to approve last meeting minutes, Brian Rasch seconds, motion passed.

## 5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resource events for this month: See <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- b. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes, go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click 'Subscribe,' and then check the 'Parks Advisory Board' box.
- c. Information about training related to human/wildlife interactions – Ken
  - i. Policy and training, working with CPW, will show policy to PAB for reference. In July, presentation related to Search & Rescue operations.
  - ii. Bear hazing policy discussion, consulted 2 Area Wildlife Managers and the NE Regional Manager in creating the policy. Staff training and issuance of equipment has been accomplished. Policy is 1<sup>st</sup> in Colorado, approved by the Director a few months ago.
  - iii. Training at range, least force necessary concept, policy embraces that. Hazing 1<sup>st</sup> with loud sound, 2<sup>nd</sup> with bear spray, 3<sup>rd</sup> with non-lethal rubber slugs. Policy on actively dangerous/aggressive bears is to euthanize in close cooperation with CPW.
  - iv. Member question about paintballing bears for identification. It was noted that that was not a practice Larimer County is aware of.
  - v. ½ day class at RES, CPW folks did great job, wildlife approach, wildlife research, little luck relocating bears, negative reinforcement is best. Presentation and policy will go to COSA conference with 4-hour training. Agency cooperation is important.
  - vi. Member question about how different agencies are handling the human/bear interaction situation in relation to what Larimer County is doing. It was noted that that topic will be discussed at the upcoming conference in September. Focusing on prevention, education, signage and food storage in an effort to keep bears and humans safe. Researcher in Durango found that there are numerous black bears in the city. In drought years, those bears gravitate toward cities to seek food.
- d. Response to previous inquiry re: how much of the Parks Master Plan will be completed based on the staff recommended five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) – Lori
  - Projected cost to implement the Parks Master Plan: \$18,038,049
  - 2018-2023 CIP Parks Master Plan projects: \$5,970,980
  - Approximately 33% (or 1/3<sup>rd</sup>) of the Parks Master Plan projects will be completed in the next 5 years (6 years counting 2018).
  - Funding proposal as of now:
    - Sales Tax 48%
    - Lottery 44%
    - Parks Fund 7%
    - Other sources 1%

- i. Member comment that if 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the projects are being done within ½ of the life of the Master Plan, we are behind schedule. It was noted that it is possible to catch up if grants are approved or other funding sources come through.
  - ii. Brief discussion on funding, still working on projections for Sales Tax.
- e. Statistics on the number of Larimer County vs. Non-Larimer County campers – Gary

	2015 Nights	%	2016 Nights	%	2017 Nights	%	Total Nights	%
<b>Larimer County</b>	11,539	27%	12,674	27%	13,240	26%	37,453	27%
<b>Non-Larimer County</b>	31,606	73%	34,975	73%	36,939	74%	103,520	73%
<b>Grand Total</b>	43,145	100%	47,649	100%	50,179	100%	140,973	100%

- i. Member question regarding how those statistics compare with the annual/daily passes. It was noted that the annuals can be tracked but the daily passes can't be tracked and the annual pass information will be provided at next meeting.
- ii. It was noted that an estimate just based on educated feel is 60/40 resident/non-resident for daily permits.
- iii. Discussion of forthcoming fee study, day pass fee hasn't been raised for 8 or 9 years. Will have further discussion regarding the study.

## 6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Park District updates and reports – Dan/Mark
  - i. Mark – busy year, on track for higher use and lower water, fire ban could be possible if rain and cooler weather doesn't happen soon. Took Jake from BOR out on boat, very busy in campgrounds, could add 100 sites and still be full. Trying to keep up with maintenance projects, facilities built for moderate use not the extreme use they are getting. Cabins rented twice as much as campsites, need to build for projected use levels. Water clarity meeting recently, still looking at operational plan for moving water through system, water levels look ok but could change overnight, quota is set by Northern Water annually, set at 80% this year, looks good for now. Researching dock system at Steamboat for handling high wind/water fluctuations as HT plans new docks. Max finished FTO on Sunday, hiring full-time ranger, 3 applicants being tested, academy in mid-August in Fort Collins, Front Range Community College rated as top junior college academy in state. A long term seasonal is putting himself through academy. Memorial Day weekend was crazy busy, great experience for new rangers. Catch a Special Thrill (CAST) for Kids event at HT on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 26 individuals. Groups from Brazil and Switzerland. Weekday use is recommended for avoiding capacity issues.
  - ii. Member question about compliant fire rings in campgrounds. It was noted that yes, each site has a compliant fire ring.
  - iii. Dan – call volume is extreme, Memorial Day weekend was crazy. Carter Lake dropping right now, will drop another 11 vertical feet by end of June, will drop

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

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[http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks\\_advisory\\_board.cfm](http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/parks_advisory_board.cfm)



27 feet in July and August, if pump isn't activated by first part of July then a boat ramp will be lost by Labor Day. New South Shore campground is full. Working on new name for Biglandia, will go through naming process, bring to board. Working on elevations, data sets and utilities for Biglandia, applying for GOCO grant for campground.

- iv. Member question about capacity issues at HT, seeing vehicles parked at general store lot. It was noted that as long as campsite rules are not being violated, there are no issues.
  - v. In general, the gate closures due to ANS requirements have been well received. Very few requests for refunds.
  - vi. Ken discussed business trip to southern Colorado for examining other federal agencies ANS procedures, policies and facilities. Pueblo physically locks gates, has 1-hour later hours of operation.
  - vii. 2 boats have been stopped with zebra mussels since Saturday, both from Lake Powell, both boats had dead mussels.
- b. Update on Rotary Park vandalism – Mark
- i. Hardened gates up at Rotary, physically closed at night, takes 30-45 minutes to close all gates, worth the lessened problems. Set up communication unit with cameras near gate, since installing it 2.5 weeks ago there have been zero graffiti incidents.

## 7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. 1995 Sales Tax Initiative Expended presentation – Gary
  - i. Next month will be asking board to make recommendation for approval of 5-year CIP. Every year there will be opportunities to make adjustments, will be able to make changes for 19 and 20.
  - ii. Slideshow, 1996 to 2019 figures showing Larimer County met the initiative requirement. Acquiring Interest, Protecting and Improving Open Space, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Habitat and Trails is 71%; Cost of Operating, Maintaining and Administering of Open Spaces is 23%; Improving Existing Regional Parks including Carter, Horsetooth, Flatiron and Pinewood is 5%; Cost of Operating, Maintaining and Administering of Regional Parks is 1%. Grand total for time frame is \$94,827,000. Total for Improving Existing Parks category is \$4,350,000 and total for Operating/Maintaining Parks category is \$1,147,000. 26,000 acres done by Larimer County alone, 50,000 acres done with partners, over the last 20 years.
- b. Fort Collins meeting venue – Ken
  - i. Proposal to move the bi-weekly northern location (traditionally at the Larimer County Courthouse) for monthly PAB meetings to Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC). Board supported the move effective immediately, next meeting will be at HAIC.
- c. Final CIP – Gary

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- i. Will be asking for board recommendation next month before taking to Commissioners. One change is the addition of a box at top right 'Will Additional Sales Tax be Expended?'
- ii. County Attorney looking at new sales tax, Lori working on projections into the future. Possible to go back to voters and request maintenance piece. Area growth is projected to be high, needs will be increased in land acquisitions, recreational areas and maintenance. Funding from lottery will decrease, competition for GOCO funds will increase, fees will need to increase.
- iii. Comment that boards could not commit or negate funds for future Commissioners, may be inappropriate if not illegal to make funding decisions for future officials.
- iv. Need to come up with the percentage needed for maintenance at Parks.
- v. Member question regarding how much the last sales tax will generate. The percentage gives leeway in a changing budget cycle. It was noted that Lori is working on those projections. Average annual increase in sales tax since 1996 has been 5.2%, some years are higher or lower.

8. ACTION ITEMS – none

9. U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE – none

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – none

11. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 7/10/2018 at Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC), 4200 W. County Rd. 38E, Fort Collins, CO 80526

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

13. ADJOURN – 7:13 p.m.