



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: July 10, 2018

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC), 4200 W. County Road 38E, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Contact: Please contact Emmy at ellisoea@co.larimer.co.us or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests	
Brian Rasch		Dan Rieves	x		
Chris Klaas	x	Gary Buffington	x		
Deborah Shulman	x	Ken Brink	x		
Mark DeGregorio		Mark Caughlan	x		
Michael Robinson	x	*Stephen Johnson			
Robert Harris		Steve Gibson	x		
Russell Fruits		Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x		
Stephanie Hansen	x				
Steve Ambrose	x				
Kathy Maher	x				

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:32 p.m.
 - a. New board member Kathy Maher introduced and welcomed.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Mike Robinson moves to approve, Kathy Maher seconds, motion passes.

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. A new 2-mile section of the Limber Pine Trail opened Saturday, June 9 at Hermit Park Open Space. The new section of trail is open to hiking, biking and horseback riding. The newly opened trail runs from the Limber Pine Trail's junction with the Kruger Rock Trail to Hermit's Hollow Campground. The full article can be found here: <https://www.larimer.org/spotlights/2018/06/11/new-section-trail-open-hermit-park-open-space>
- d. Larimer County gives Loveland land to improve trail access between Old St. Louis Natural Area and residential neighborhoods. The full article can be found here: http://www.reporterherald.com/news/loveland-local-news/ci_31928051/larimer-county-gives-loveland-land-improve-trail-access

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Park District updates and reports – Dan/Mark
 - i. Dan – very busy, operational issues with high visitation particularly with trash collection, recent fire restrictions, staff doing great. South Shore parking lot already full, figured out a better traffic management for high volume of parked vehicles. This year is on track to overwhelm previous years' visitation numbers, may have dip in numbers in south part of county due to Carter Lake level dropping.
 - ii. Member question about adherence to fire restrictions. It was noted that adherence to level 1's are good because infrastructure is built for compliance. Visitors tend to be informed and cooperative. Unintended fires are pursued.
 - iii. Member question about issues with bears. It was noted that there have been a lot of bears in diverse locations this year. Have photographic evidence of multiple bears, broad daylight, more brazen. Have a bear plan but hard to be there right when bears are as people tend to call after bears have left.
 - iv. Member question about bear awareness/education. It was noted that materials are distributed, there is a bear talk when campers check in, and bear boxes have been installed at Hermit. Food storage/cooler visitor education during the day, enforcement at night. Visitors occasionally don't report bear interactions for fear of the bear being shot, rangers working to educate visitors.
 - v. Brief discussion of the regular, extensive parking issues resulting from high visitation and the urgency of parking-related projects.
 - vi. Member update about experiences during recent, eye-opening ride-along in the Horsetooth Reservoir area.
 - vii. Mark – extremely busy, contributing factors include growth along Front Range and a lack of water in the state, figuring how to be better prepared. Parking is a



huge issue, spilling into roadways, working on parking control signage, taking staff time away from safety related tasks. Fire restrictions set just before the 4th of July, fires allowed in campsites with permanent fire structures, no fireworks in the county, day use areas were closed for the holiday, case by case/site by site. Water levels will be dropping at Carter and HT, 64-year average for HT Res is approx. where we start high water level every year, elevation is 5416 feet, at 5415.5 right now, gives more swim beach, better parking.

- viii. Member question about whether more water will be received later on. It was noted that water levels are discussed frequently with BOR and a meeting is set with them in the next couple days to discuss that.
 - ix. Member question about how water levels affect visitation. It was noted that that they no longer affect visitation as it is busy all the time now, same thing with fire bans.
 - x. Brief discussion of how having water in the reservoirs impacts the budget.
 - xi. Member question regarding traffic study for possible north end parking and its potential safety issues for cyclists. It was noted that those roads could be identified as areas of concern for Engineering and Road & Bridge. Also, there will be a mandatory site plan and consultation with Road & Bridge. Process is similar to private operations.
- b. Information about rescue related items – Steve
- i. Large percentage of Ranger calls are medical and rescue related, increased visitation translates to increased rescues. Rangers tend to be 1st on scene and the gear being presented was acquired to increase safety while assisting with medical/rescue calls. Low-angle rescue equipment presented includes a litter and the big wheel for the litter, HT Mtn. has majority of low-angle rescue calls but see some in Big T River.
 - ii. Working with Poudre Fire Authority (PFA) and Larimer County Emergency Services (ES) for certifications. Aside from the litter and big wheel, other acquired gear includes helmets, harnesses, full medical kits, ropes and rope bags, air splints, and climbing gear. Purchased that equipment for each district with leftover FEMA money.
 - iii. Member question about why dogs get carried out. It was noted that they get dehydrated on hot days without water, usually large sized or overweight dogs.
 - iv. Members handled the equipment.
 - v. Member question about training and certification. It was noted that some training is ongoing, go off of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), goal is to have everyone somewhere between the Awareness level and the Operational level as there is not exactly a certification. ES folks are certified as rescue crews, so Rangers don't need that, they just want to be safe. Coordinating with other agencies depends on exact location and situation requirements, varying between PFA, ES, Larimer County Search & Rescue (LSCAR), and other agencies.

- vi. Member question about responsibility/authority. It was noted that jurisdictionally, it's the Sheriff's Office (SO) legal responsibility and therefore ES, but they don't always have the necessary resources so PFA will step in to assist.
- vii. Carter Lake is cut in half – south half is Berthoud, north half is Loveland. Land based is Loveland, water based is whoever is closest.
- viii. Member question about communication with the patient. It was noted that the initial communication tends to identify patient's location using few pieces of information. Yelling can be useful in certain situations. As first ones on scene, goal is to stabilize patient and notify appropriate agencies to get resources employed.
- ix. Member question about what level of EMS is required for full-time rangers. It was noted that the minimum is 1st Responder and a lot of them are EMT's. Very high level of training in this region.
- x. All buildings have AED's. With FEMA money, able to get new AED's that are compatible with all ambulances so that equipment can stay with the patient.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Campground naming conversation – Dan
 - i. Re-naming Biglandia campground as it is now considered too obscure. Sent request to DNR staff for suggestions, remaining are to be narrowed down by board tonight. General highlights of the campground include a nice view of the night sky and is a bit secluded.
 - 1. Round 1 selections: Starlight, Night Sky, Clearview, Night View, Cottonwood Meadow, Rock Shelter, Skyview, Stargazer, Bearpaw, East Valley and Lykins.
 - 2. Round 2 selections: Stargazer (7 votes), Starlight (6 votes), Cottonwood Meadow (5 votes), Bearpaw (3 votes), and Skyview (3 votes).
 - ii. Round 2 selections will go to Gary for final decision.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Recommendation to approve 2019-2023 CIP
 - i. Extra box added at top, far right side for determining Long Term Management (LTM). 18 has been approved, 19-23 awaiting approval, will roll projects into 19 if necessary, 23 is light in case things need pushed back.
 - ii. Member question about possibility of moving things up for windfall. It was noted that yes, things can be moved up in the case of windfalls and grants, etc.
 - iii. Member question about what Admin. Connectivity is from the CIP. It was noted that the goal is to move the fiber from towers (which are prone to wind related problems) to underground in order to improve the internet function for staff at the Administrative Offices (AO). Possible partners in BOR and Northern Water. AO building expansion could buy 10 more years in that location, fiber would bolster that.

- iv. Steve Ambrose moves to approve the 2019-2023 CIP, Deborah Shulman seconds, motion passed.

9. US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE (no staff attending)

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- a. Member inquiry about Visioning Events related to Phase 2 of the Larimer County Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that the Visioning flyer was sent via email to the 3 boards and the two dates were Thursday, July 19th in Fort Collins and Thursday, July 26th in Berthoud, both from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Members can volunteer to participate in the stakeholder group – Steve and Stephanie expressed interest and were directed to let Gary know once they decided.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Gary Buffington

- a. On 2nd year of Visitor Study, will have information this fall, will use the information in many ways. Also doing a Fee Study with Harvey Economics out of Denver consulting.
- b. Member question about whether Gary had enough volunteers for that discussion. It was noted that Chris, Rob and Russell volunteered.
- c. Goal is to finish in September, starting 2019 with new passes, hearing with BOCC. Haven't increased fees for many years, consultant will assist with economic side, could connect to Consumer Price Index for trigger so fees are looked at every three years or so. Give visitors great projects, they understand the fee increases.
- d. Member question about having county residents vote on the issue. It was noted that LC already has the Open Space Sales Tax, can match BOR 50/50, have GOCO grants, etc.
- e. Visitor Study will finish this fall, Fee Study will finish in September or October.
- f. The August meeting may be cancelled. October will focus on updates related to the fee study.

12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 8/14/2018 at Natural Resources Administrative Offices (AO), 1800 S. County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537

13. 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 or person property interest.

14. ADJOURN – 7:21 p.m.