

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

Date: November 27, 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	x	Ken Brink	x	2 members of the public
Chris Klaas	x	Gary Buffington	x	James Bishop (BOR)
Deborah Shulman	x	Dan Rieves	x	
Kathy Maher	x	Mark Caughlan		
Mark De Gregorio	x	*Stephen Johnson	x	
Michael Robinson	x	Cindy Kirby	x	
Robert Harris	x	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Russell Fruits	x			
Stephanie Hansen	x			
Ruthie Rollins	x			
Steve Ambrose	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:33 p.m.
 - a. Introduced James Bishop (representing Bureau of Reclamation) and Cindy Kirby (Senior Ranger in Carter Lake district).
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
 - a. 7.a.3. will be presented by Gary and 7.a.5. will be discussed by Russell, Chris and Rob. Deborah will present information in 10.
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Rob moves to approve last meeting minutes, Chris seconds, motion passed unanimously.
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. The department is wrapping up its open spaces passport program this year. The deadline to submit a completed passport is Dec. 1. We're ending the program because we've seen a steady decline in returned passports since the program launched in 2016 and we want to go out on a high note by encouraging people to finish their passport this year. More info is available at www.larimer.org/passport – Gary
 - d. Boat ramp hours being cut back for season – Ken
6. UPDATES & REPORTS
- a. Park District updates and reports – Dan
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
- a. Fee Study – Staff
 - 1) Summary of process and input from 3 community public meetings – Gary
 - a. Quotes requested, worked with financial consultant (Harvey Economics – HE), convened Fee Study Committee from PAB and OLAB members, met with BOCC, media blitz, public input shared, HE's Fee Study and recommendations completed, comprehensive Fee Study spreadsheet completed, low income annual Bison Pass developed, discussed Fee Study at 6 Advisory Board meetings with public access, met twice with OLAC to discuss DBB, 3 public open houses conducted, recommendations made by Fee Study Committee, continuing meetings and discussion with advisory boards and BOCC in November. Open houses were advertised on/by LC & LCDNR websites, in local newspapers, public service announcements, and 3 Denver TV channels.
 - 2) Review of use levels for DBB/HTMOS – Gary
 - a. Results of visitor/vehicle counters indicate DBB is equally if not more intensively used than HTMOS. Rob noted that turnover at DBB is likely higher than HTMOS.
 - 3) Review of financial spreadsheet – Gary
 - a. Generated by Lori Smith and David Marvin, consolidated spreadsheet highlighting revenues & expenses, projected surplus/shortage (with and without proposed fee increases and at both 50% and 65% of Sales Tax revenue) and Sales Tax revenue available each year for maintenance & development (using the 50% dedicated and the 15% flex options). Spreadsheet is Open Lands only with Open Lands taking 100% of the

tax. Overall, the spreadsheet shows that fees and regular fee increases play a vital role in financial sustainability as clear shortages are forecast beyond a short period of time.

- b. Extension of Sales Tax Resolution from 2019-2043 graph discussed: 50% to be used for improvement, management, maintenance and administration of open spaces, natural areas, wildlife habitats, parks and trails; 35% to be used for acquiring interest and protecting open spaces, natural areas, wildlife habitat, parks and trails AND restoring and enhancing native plant and animal communities and other habitat related restoration; and 15% to be used for acquiring interest and protecting open spaces, natural areas, wildlife habitat, parks and trails AND restoring and enhancing native plant and animal communities and other habitat related restoration OR improvement, management, maintenance and administration of open spaces, natural areas, wildlife habitats, parks and trails AND/OR improvements of Carter Lake, Horsetooth Reservoir, Flatiron Reservoir and Pinewood Reservoir. The County's share increases from 42% to 50%.
 - c. How the flex 15% will be spent has not been decided yet. The spreadsheet combines operating expenses and capital improvement and that percentage will fluctuate yearly.
 - d. Will review fee structure regularly moving forward.
- 4) Staff proposal – future budget review – Ken
- a. 3-step Proposed Financial Sustainability Process outlined: 1) Fee recommendations for 2019, 2) Sustainable financial plan by 2020, 3) First report to BOCC would be in 2021. It was noted that DBB is statistically equal in use to HTMOS based on vehicle counts, funds generated on BOR properties have to remain on those properties, decisions about building standards (50-year standard or residential standard) will be made later on, suggestion for reporting to BOCC every 3rd year. Goals should be reasonable and appropriate. Operating costs rise over time.
- 5) Fee Subcommittee recommendation 2019 fee – Dave/Gerry
- a. Copy of recommendations distributed. Differences between Subcommittee recommendations and HE recommendations are as follows: DBBOS permit \$6 instead of HE proposed \$9, LC Annual Resident Vehicle permit \$90 instead of HE proposed \$95, and LC Annual Resident Combo permit \$185 instead of \$190. Daily goes to \$9, no increase for Senior and Disabled passes. Implementation of Bison Pass for low income visitors is fully supported by Subcommittee (modeled after City of Loveland's program). Discussion of proposed Bison Pass. Discussion of proposed differential pricing for camping: 30% increase for all camping from 2018 price, then weekend and holiday pricing during

peak season would be additional. 70% of campers are non-residents.
Flexibility to define shoulder season and holidays.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Parks Advisory Board fee recommendation
 - i. Mark motions to recommend the proposed fee schedule to the BOCC with clarifications as discussed, Rob seconds, motion passed unanimously.
- b. 3-step Process recommendation
 - i. Chris motions to recommend the 3-step Financial Sustainability Process be presented to BOCC, Mike seconds, motion passed unanimously.

9. U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE

- a. James invited board on abbreviated tour of the Colorado Big Thompson (Loveland Museum, top of Flatiron penstocks), will discuss further following the first of the year.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- a. Deb discussed ongoing crowding issues relating to the home based paddle board rental Satanka Cove. Board action would have to address impact to Larimer County property. Schedule meeting in January/February to discuss details, can write letter if necessary.
- b. Commissioner Johnson expressed his appreciation for Gary Buffington's exemplary service as Director.

11. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 12/11/2018 at Natural Resources Administrative Offices (AO), 1800 S. County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537

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

13. ADJOURN – 7:32 p.m.