

Larimer County Open Lands 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: May 24, 2018

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: City Council Chambers, Civic Center Municipal Building, 500 E. 3rd St., Loveland, CO.

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

Members		Staff		Guests
Carl Sorrentino	x	Alex Castino	x	
David Marvin		Charlie Johnson	x	
Gerry Horak	x	Gary Buffington	x	
Jason Brothers	x	Lori Smith	x	
Jeff Hindman	x	Todd Blomstrom		
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Marilyn Hilgenberg	x	Chris Fleming	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	*Thomas Donnelly		
Peter Kelly		Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Sherri Valentine	x			
Suzan Fritchel	x			
Ken Zornes	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:14 p.m.
 - a. Introduction of new board member Ken Zornes, representing Estes Park.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW – Charlie adding things to end of info items

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Carl Sorrentino moves to approve minutes with amendment showing Sherri's attendance, Sherri Valentine seconds, motion passed.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resource events for this month: See <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- b. To sign up for Open Lands Advisory Board minutes, go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click 'Subscribe,' and then check the 'Open Lands Advisory Board' box.
- c. Larimer County Department of Natural Resources has released its 2017 Annual Report, a reporting commitment to Larimer County citizens through the Help Preserve Open Spaces sales tax. The 12-page report celebrates the department achieving the 50,000-acre milestone for land conservation in Larimer County. More information and the full report can be found here: <https://www.larimer.org/spotlights/2018/05/10/2017-annual-report-celebrates-milestone-land-conservation> – Gary
- d. Hermit Park is famous! The Wall Street Journal ran a travel story by Kathryn O'Shea-Evans called "An Insiders' Guide to the National Parks" on April 12, 2018 in which a few locals were asked for "advice on treading wisely in and around four of the country's busiest national parks." Estee Rivera Murdock, the Executive Director at Rocky Mountain Conservancy, listed Kruger Rock Trail as a favorite, saying: "There's a beautiful area just outside Estes Park called Hermit Park Open Space. I did Hermit's 4-mile round-trip Kruger Rock hike with my 6 year old. It's switchback-y and meanders, with views of the park's peaks and Estes Valley." Full article here: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/an-insiders-guide-to-the-national-parks-1523547586> – Gary
- e. Calling all Board Members! Jenn Almstead is seeking three members to join the subcommittee for the 2018 Small Grants for Community Partnering program. If you haven't participated before, please consider joining! It's a great way to get out in the community and see exciting and innovative projects that connect and educate people to the land in Larimer County. Thanks for your consideration – Gary
 - i. Gerry, K-Lynn and Sherri volunteered.
- f. The March Sales Tax Distribution Report is still using the old stats as the Department of Revenue is still working on the new stats – Lori
- g. Phase II (eastern plains geographic area) of the Larimer County comprehensive plan has kicked off and is anticipated to be a year-long process. Presentation on the plan from the Larimer County Planning Department will be set up for a future Board meeting – Meegan
 - i. Matt Lafferty from Larimer County Planning Department will be attending June meeting to give update and answer questions.
- h. The Trail Crew is rerouting the last 600' of HT Rock Trail (just before the rock itself). The current alignment has sections <45 degree inclines and 20' wide due to erosion/trail widening. Weeds staff will be assisting with subsequent restoration on the closed portions (see photo) – Meegan
- i. During a bill signing tour, Governor Hickenlooper visited the Long View Trail on May 18 to help highlight the importance of trail connections in Colorado – Meegan

- j. Alex Castino has been awarded the Larimer County 2018 Innovation Award Grand Prize of \$3,000 for her work on an agriculture-to-municipal water-sharing project. More information can be found at: <https://www.larimer.org/spotlights/2018/05/25/larimer-county-celebrates-2018-innovation-awards>. Congratulations Alex!
- k. The Horsetooth Foothills Conservation Project won a 2018 Colorado Lottery Starburst Award. More information can be found at: <https://www.coloradolottery.com/news/detail/colorado-lottery-2018-starburst-award-winners-announced/570/>

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Open Space District Reports – Steve/Chris
 - i. Onboarding staff, very busy. Just finished another successful Ranger Excellence School last week, had 76-78 rangers in attendance, some from Washington and Ohio, growing in popularity. Working out issues with vehicle counters. Bear boxes being installed at Hermit’s Hollow. Bids for Hermit Park trail system project came in, awarded to contractor on Monday, construction should start in 3-4 weeks. Horsetooth Reservoir campsites and cabins are now at capacity through September – all campsites, all cabins, booked every day. Other areas are very full but not yet at capacity.
 - ii. Swearing in ceremony for new rangers yesterday was well attended, sets professional tone for season, 30 seasonal park rangers hired this season.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Continued discussion of 2018-2023 CIP – Gary
 - i. Not a lot of changes. Color boxes at top, one box will be added to indicate whether or not Sales Tax funding is used for land acquisitions, intent is to enable qualifying properties purchased with Sales Tax monies to access LTM funding for management/development purposes. Will be worked out with Accounting.
- b. Departmental fee study update – Gary
 - i. Looking at costs of permits and passes. Considering charging fees at some Open Spaces to gain revenue and offset some Sales Tax expenditures. Hermit Park as established example. Phase II will look at future projections using the new Sales Tax through 2043.
 - ii. Member question about whether the fee study will discover the percentage of permits purchased by Larimer County residents vs. non-residents. It was noted that that information could be included as a survey and that the last time it was checked, 60% were non-residents, particularly in reservoir areas, open spaces could be different.
 - iii. Member question about whether the County currently makes that differentiation. It was noted that only the annual passes make that designation.
 - iv. Member question about whether the reservation company can generate a report noting the difference. It was noted that Larimer County would check on

that, specifically for campground use as requested by member. Will also check on charging resident vs. non-resident fees for camping.

- v. Member comment about the importance of including partners on fee discussions. It was noted that Larimer County fully intends to include partners in those discussions and that Devil's Backbone was just used as an example at last meeting.
 - vi. Member question about public outreach for the fee study. It was noted that public outreach would happen both at the OLAB board meeting where public is welcome and there will also be a public hearing with the County Commissioners. Both will be publicly advertised.
 - vii. Fees are already charged at several open spaces (ex. Horsetooth Mountain, Hermit Park, Ramsay-Shockey).
- c. 1995 Sales Tax Initiative Expended presentation – Gary
- i. Projection through 2019. \$94,827,000. Audit should reflect similar numbers. 71% Acquiring Interest, Protecting and Improving Open Space, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Habitat & Trails; 23% Cost of Operating, Maintaining and Administering of Open Spaces; 5% Improving Existing Regional Parks including Carter, Horsetooth, Flatirion and Pinewood; and 1% Cost of Operating, Maintaining and Administering of Regional Parks. Breakdown of the 5% figure from 1998 to 2019 including the CIP totals \$4,350,000. Breakdown of the 1% figure from 2013 to 2018 totals \$1,147,000.
- d. Organizational Chart update – Gary
- i. Will send comments back to Todd.
 - ii. Member comment that the 'Department of Natural Resources' title could have a tagline identifying Open Lands, Trails, Parks, etc. in order to emphasize the importance of the Open Space Sales Tax. It was noted that 'Open Space' is an important term and is on all signs and in ballot language.
 - iii. Member comment that the website highlights Open Space well.
 - iv. The Organizational Chart is an internal document and will likely not need further discussion or review from the board.

8. ACTION ITEMS – none

9. OTHER BUSINESS – none

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: June 28, 2018 at City Council Chambers, Civic Center Municipal Building, 500 E. 3rd St., Loveland, CO.

11. 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. Suzan Fritchel moves to enter Executive Session, Jeff Hindman seconds, motion passed at 6:12 p.m.

12. ADJOURN – 6:49 p.m.

Included in PDF:

- Agenda
- Info Item photo
- Sales Tax Revenue Distribution Report
- Open Space Operations District Reports
- CIP 2018-2023
- Acquisition & Development sheet

Attached Separately:

- Minutes of last meeting
- News articles
- Executive Session materials

This meeting will be recorded and archived according to law. Votes require a quorum.
Public can view agenda and minutes at:

http://legacy.larimer.org/boards/minutes/openlands_advisory_board.cfm

