

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: June 28, 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	Matt Lafferty (Larimer County)
David Marvin	x	Charlie Johnson	x	Brian Hayes (City of Loveland)
Gerry Horak	x	Gary Buffington	x	
Jason Brothers	x	Ken Brink		
Jeff Hindman		Todd Blomstrom		
K-Lynn Cameron	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Marilyn Hilgenberg		Steve Gibson	x	
Nancy Wallace	x	*Thomas Donnelly		
Peter Kelly	x	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Sherri Valentine	x	Jeanette Aldridge (minutes)	x	
Suzan Fritchel	x			
Ken Zornes	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:07 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
 - a. Gary adding 7c for Fee Study discussion

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

- a. Suzan Fritchel moves to approve minutes, Nancy Wallace 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 gives Loveland land to improve trail access between Old St. Louis Natural Area and residential neighborhoods. The full article can be accessed here: http://www.reporterherald.com/news/loveland-local-news/ci_31928051/larimer-county-gives-loveland-land-improve-trail-access – Charlie
 - i. Properties being granted to Loveland to make trail connection, City of Loveland has approved to accept, will be sending to LC Commissioners for approval soon, fee simple, another partnership with Loveland.
- d. Update on Restoration and Stewardship Specialist position – Meegan
 - i. Announcement closed on Monday, 56 applicants, interviews expected mid-July with a projected start date in August.
- e. Update on Open Lands Program Manager position – Gary
 - i. Still in process with HR, hoping to make an announcement next week. Thank you to K-Lynn and Pete for their help in the interview process.
- f. Statistics on the number of Larimer County vs. Non-Larimer County campers – Gary

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

- i. Considering increasing fees for non-Larimer County campers, will be investigated in Fee Study. Member comment that fees should go up for everyone, not just non-Larimer County folks. It was noted that all fees will likely be increasing once Fee Study is complete and will likely tie to an external trigger (such as Consumer Price Index) for review. Maintenance costs increasing.
- ii. Member comment that in private sector, pricing would never be lower than expenses, would be relative to demand. It was noted that there will be a need to address lower income impacts.
- iii. Short discussion of discounts for Larimer County residents, county taxes paid and tax on goods paid by non-Larimer County residents.
- iv. Member question about correlation between camping and day use (county vs. non-county). It was noted that that information is difficult to capture. Can get info for annual passes, not day use. May be able to work with the Iron Ranger company to get more day use information.



- v. Member question about what other Colorado counties do to address providing expected services when handling a diminishing General Fund. It was noted that Natural Resources currently uses 2% General Fund and could do a service proposal for 5% flat.
- vi. Member question about whether or not LC has existing policies for Fee goals. It was noted that there are not and that will be addressed during the Fee Study. Will also be getting recommendations, costs per visitor, comparisons with adjacent cities, etc. Fort Collins is doing similar project as our Visitor Use Study and will be comparing with them.
- vii. Parks and Open Spaces came in 1st this year in Larimer County Citizen Study/Survey, will be discussed further at a later date.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Open Space District Reports – Steve
 - i. Seasonal ranger swearing-in ceremony was a success, increased visitation at Red Mtn. in one month by 8k, numbers coming from Visitor Use Study. Ranger Excellence School went well, 78 participants from across nation, growing in popularity. Big Thompson road open, day use areas open, Forks Park paved.
 - ii. Member question about whether fees are charged for RES. It was noted that the fee is \$200 per person for one week of training/certifications. Instructors are given annual passes.
- b. Larimer County Comprehensive Master Plan – Eastern Plains – Matt Lafferty
 - i. Larimer County Master Plan adopted in 1997, hasn't been updated in 20 years, every 5 years is best. County Managers Office did 2013 Strategic Plan, work on long range planning. Finished Mountain Resilience Plan (Phase 1) last December and was adopted by BOCC. Will do character plans in the future for assisting different communities (5-10 pages identifying needs) instead of single, overarching plan for all. Now in 2nd phase of project which is the Plains area and the plan is at end of 'Foundation' phase. Invitation to boards to attend events and meetings, public engagement options, will start meeting with community in July. Plan audit discussion. Phase 3 will be drafting and adopting plan. Can check updates at: <https://larimercompplan.com/>.
 - ii. Member question about time frame. It was noted that it is a 2.5 year process.
 - iii. Member comment that the plan is not just land use and building but is also fires and other subcategories. It was noted that it includes multiple parts of a community such as economy, health & social issues, housing, infrastructure, watersheds, natural resources, etc.
 - iv. Member comment that Laporte should be a community that is focused on because it is an urban area being run by a rural jurisdiction and depends on County Commissioners and gets complaints about level of services provided. It was noted that a plan has been created for the community and community members are participating in outreach.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. 1995 Sales Tax Initiative Expended presentation – Gary
 - i. Brief review of Sales Tax Initiative dollars spent from 1996 through 2019.
- b. CIP update – Gary
 - i. New box in far right-hand side for ‘Will Additional Sales Tax be Expended?’ Should be changed to ‘Is this project eligible for LTM funds?’ Intended to prompt board level discussion of where development and LTM dollars would come from when acquiring property.
 - ii. Member comment that with the new 2019 tax, 50% is designated for LTM and development, so if you spend acquisition dollars on a property, then it becomes eligible for the LTM and development dollars. If you specifically want to use Open Space money for acquisition of a Parks property, then a discussion is needed about where LTM and development funds will come from.
 - iii. Member question about what level of dollars will be needed and from what sources will they be gotten in the future. It was noted that Lori will be working on forecasting and will be bringing that information to the boards soon.
 - iv. Member comment about needing a high level of awareness when purchasing a property for where money will come from for LTM and development.
 - v. Member question about mechanisms for modification of CIP in the future. It was noted that it will be updated every year. Some things will have to roll to the next year, unforeseen opportunities will come up. Very dynamic plan with a purpose of setting projects up concretely.
- c. Fee Study discussion – Gary
 - i. Consultant on board, selected a Denver contractor (Harvey Economics), kickoff meeting is next week, asking for 2 volunteers each from OLAB and PAB to serve on subcommittee, Gerry and Dave volunteer. Will finish in September.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Recommendation to approve 2019-2023 CIP – Gary
 - i. Gerry Horak moves to recommend the approval of the 2019-2023 CIP to the County Commissioners with the understanding that future years’ changes will occur and will have justification and explanation. Sherri Valentine seconds.
 - ii. Discussion included member comment about how the board will likely find this to be a good process that will not be constraining and will help the commissioners with visible expenditures and will engage the public.
 - iii. Member comment that it will create comfort and better visibility with strategic spending.
 - iv. Motion passed with no opposition.

9. OTHER BUSINESS – none

10. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: July 26, 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, personal or other property interest. Nancy Wallace moves to enter Executive Session at 6:18pm, Sherri Valentine seconds, motion passed.

12. ADJOURN – 6:51pm