

Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday July 12, 2012
6:00 pm, Rescheduled Regular Meeting
7:00 pm, Special Joint Meeting
with Louisville Open Space Advisory Board
BOTH MEETINGS TAKE PLACE AT:
Louisville Library, 941 Spruce Street, Louisville, CO 80027

Draft Minutes

Call to Order / Roll Call

Those in attendance were Josh Abram, Dave Belin, Bob Spillman, Lynn Riedel, Allison Hamm, Jeff Moline, Open Space Superintendent, and Monte Stevenson, Director of Parks, Open Space & Golf.

Items from the Public

There were no items from the public.

Approval of Minutes

Josh Abram made a motion *to approve the June 2012 minutes*. Bob Spillman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Reports

Parks, Open Space & Golf Director, Monte Stevenson, reported that the city is working on a public notification for the removal of prairie dogs along Powerline Trail West (west of Caria Drive). Staff would like to make recommendations for revisions to the existing prairie dog management policy at the August meeting.

City Council is looking to get two members from each city committee or board to a meeting on August 9 from 6:30-9:30pm at the Lafayette Library. The purpose of the meeting is to help the committees get to know one another and to encourage lateral communications. Josh Abram will attend. Chairman Belin will check with Erin to see if she is available to attend. Members briefly discussed topics to share as well as the Parks, Open Space and Trails Map and the Legacy Tax Renewal handout.

A special meeting on July 16 at 5:30pm will be held between City Council and the Boulder County Commissioners.

The Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan grant award was finalized on June 16, 2012. Staff will begin strategic planning soon.

Topics for Discussion

Dave Belin briefed members on a meeting he and Monte Stevenson had with Doug Short, Public Works Director, regarding trail connectivity with city streets. A multi-departmental team is the best way to move forward with connectivity. Mr. Short was agreeable to the safety and improvement concerns brought forward by LOSAC.

The fixing of the ballot language for the Legacy Tax Renewal will go before City Council sometime in August and/or early September. The council suggested the tax be renamed Legacy Open Space Tax. Dave Belin will contact Councilor Kracha regarding the forming of a PAC.

Members discussed the by-laws template provided by the city clerk. Members will review the by-laws and further discuss and suggested revisions at the August meeting.

Jeff Moline provided a review of education and outreach events in July. A bug talk will be held at the Outdoor Classroom on July 14.

Member Updates

There were no member updates.

Planning Updates and Review

There were no planning updates.

Next Agenda

Items for the August agenda will include a review of the by-laws.

Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Josh Abram made a motion to adjourn. Bob Spillman seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Joint Meeting with Louisville Open Space Advisory Board

Roll was called. Those in attendance from Louisville were Chairperson Thomas Davinroy, Michael Schantz, Laura Scott Denton, Linda Smith, City Councilmember Emily Jasiak, and Open Space Coordinator, Ember Brugnill. Those in attendance from Lafayette were Josh Abram, Chairperson Dave Belin, Erin Frazier, Bob Spillman, Lynn Riedel, Allison Hamm, Jeff Moline, Open Space Superintendent, and Monte Stevenson, Director of Parks, Open Space & Golf.

A motion was made by Linda Smith to approve the evening's agenda as is. Michael Schantz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ember Brugnill provided a staff update. She reported that a connection with a teacher at Louisville Elementary has been made to conduct some water sampling. Ember also reported a trail closure which occurred at Warembourg Open Space in Louisville due to reports of aggressive coyotes. Work has begun on the Colorado Tech Center trail. Staff has begun work on the Hecla Lake Management Plan. Bird survey work has been completed at Davidson-Mesa Open Space. The kick-off meeting has been held for the Davidson-Mesa to Harper Lake Underpass project. Last month's education included the 'Touch a Truck' program, a presentation at the Louisville Recreation Center, and the kick-off of a geocache program.

Louisville board updates were provided. The geocache program has begun. The fishing lake in Louisville is full. A large number of dragonflies in the area have been reported.

Discussion Items

The Louisville Chairman discussed the rubric and map used by their board to rank potential acquisitions. Partnerships for future open space acquisitions were discussed. Area UU (Louisville)/Area 8 (Lafayette) has the potential to serve as a buffer for the Coal Creek Trail. Members discussed the values of the top-ranked, identified properties. An area between Indian Peaks Filing 17 and Steel Ranch was identified as a space residents of Steel Ranch would like to see widened as a buffer.

The discussion of trail connectivity between the cities included information on a) the trails in the North End subdivision around Hecla Lake; b) Powerline Trail West; Coal Creek and Rock Creek trails connection; c) Coal Creek Rock Creek Regional Trail - Eastern Link which is on Two Creeks Open Space Complex; d) Flagg Park Trailhead improvements; e) Indian Peaks Filing 17; f) future possible Teller Farm connections; and, g) Coal Creek Trail underpass at 120th Street. Other route areas discussed were at Highline-Davidson Ditch, between Hecla Lake and Harney Lastoka Open Space, from the Louisville Sports Complex and downtown Louisville, and near Highway 36 and the Louisville water treatment plant. Staff works with Boulder County Transportation relating to regional trail connections.

Members discussed strategies for and results from addressing social trails. Over the past year, after determining key single track social trails to be closed based on safety and environmental impacts, Lafayette closed a number of social trails by using signage, replanting in the worn area, and diverting users along Coal Creek Trail. Jeff Moline expressed that the strategy was fairly successful.

Funding and tax renewal efforts were discussed. Louisville is experiencing some opposition to the effort by a group who supports social trail use. A political action committee will likely be formed in Lafayette to help support the renewal effort. Both committees agree that education about the value of the open space programs is important. Erin Frazier reflected that the City of Lafayette has highly prioritized the open space program and is appreciative of that. Louisville members cited that future expenditures are more likely to be for improved management as fewer valuable parcels are available for acquisition. Both committees highly value areas that provide for trail connectivity.

Some economic benefits of trails and open space that the City of Lafayette has experienced include businesses locating in the area, marketing of the city and subdivisions, healthy opportunities for employees of businesses located near trails, and lot premiums for homes abutting trails and open space.

Louisville recently completed a new, comprehensive master plan using GreenPlay, LLC as a consultant. Ms. Brugnill suggested that the document could be more user-friendly. Citizens in Louisville requested more way-finding resources such as underpass signage and directional maps. Lafayette recently received Great Outdoors Colorado grant funding to update and combine a parks, recreation, open space, and trails master plan.

Education and outreach activities in both communities are successful in bringing awareness and excitement to the open space programs. Louisville's open space coordinator holds two or three events each month and advertises in the Louisville rec guide which must be setup three months in advance, and also advertizes on trails with flyers two weeks in advance, on Facebook, and on the city website. About 150

volunteers participate in various Louisville programs. Lafayette has two annual volunteer events as well as a number of education and outreach events throughout the year. Mr. Moline coordinates a number of events in coordination with Lafayette city-wide events. Other avenues to explore include presenting to library and recreation youth programs.

Members discussed challenges and successes in management practices. Lafayette has experienced great success at Thomas Open Space with the organic farm and permanent facility for a farm stand. Social trails are an ongoing challenge for both communities. Dogs off-leash on open space and along trails is a constant issue in Lafayette. In Louisville at Davidson-Mesa Open Space, the City is successful in keeping dogs on-leash on the trail and off-leash in the “off-leash” area although this area is suffering from overuse. Mr. Stevenson referenced a Boulder County survey which revealed that the highest number of conflicts on trails involves dogs, both leashed and unleashed. Enforcement in both communities is in shortage, and staff from both cities has heard requests from citizens for increased enforcement. Controlled burns were also discussed. Lafayette conducted a prescribed burn at Greenlee Wildlife Preserve to control cattails earlier this year. 10 foot firebreaks are made, where possible, in Lafayette at the request of the fire department. Louisville would like to contract out prescriptive burns to be utilized as a management practice. Weed control along ditches that do not run through designated open space or parks is a challenge faced by staff in Lafayette. Ms. Riedel reminded the committees that the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan provides input regarding regional connections. The state engineer requires the dam at Waneka Lake to be clear of trees and sucker growth.

Adjourn Joint Meeting

The meeting was adjourned.