



Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday January 7, 2021
6:00 pm, Regular Meeting

(Draft Minutes)

This meeting was conducted remotely by electronic means to protect public health and safety due to the Colorado Executive Order D2020-017 to provide for the health and safety of all persons.

Technical difficulties with Zoom delayed the 6pm start. The meeting was eventually called to order at 6:53 pm. Those in attendance: Dave Belin, Chair; Lynn Riedel, Vice Chair; Joe Smith (Planning Commission Liaison); Allison Hamm; Luke Arrington; Tim Shafer; Katie Christiansen; Rob Burdine (Open Space Superintendent & Staff Liaison). Monte Stevenson (Parks, Rec. and Open Space Director), Ben Mazal (Asst. Director), Fritz Sprague (City Administrator), Jana Easley (Planning Manager), and Jeff Brasel (Planning and Building Director) attended the discussion of the Medtronics planning review.

Items from the Public

Karen Norback commented on the Medtronics plan under consideration. She mentioned that LOSAC normally reviews and comments on development sketch plans before the Planning Commission (PC), but in this case the PC saw the sketch plan first without LOSAC input. Karen gave background on the company's mission statement and stated that their mission did not align with the proposal to fulfill 50% of the required Public Land Dedication (PLD) through provision of private recreational amenities for company employees. She urged LOSAC to advocate for cash-in-lieu from Medtronics [to meet the required PLD], to benefit the entire community by funding public parks and open space.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Lynn Riedel to approve the November 2020 minutes. Alison commented on the public art proposal item. Dave Belin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Planning Review

Jeff Brasel gave a presentation that provided background on the Medtronics PLD proposal and the staff recommendations. In addition to City staff members, a team of staff representing Medtronics were present to answer questions (Christine Yarborough, Architect; and Molly Carson, Owner of Ryan Companies).

LOSAC discussed the Medtronics PLD proposal. A motion was made by Dave Belin to recommend to City Council that Medtronics pay 100% cash in lieu for the entire required PLD. Alison seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Included in the discussion was the potential option for up to a 20% reduction in the cash-in-lieu for the 50% of the PLD that Medtronics proposed meeting with private recreational amenities for employees. The potential option was not included in the motion that passed, but staff will mention LOSAC's discussion of the option when the development and PLD proposal is discussed by City Council.

Topics for Discussion

104th Street Trail Connector Project

Staff will be taking an Interagency Governmental Agreement (IGA) to Council for this project including Louisville (agency lead), Lafayette, and Boulder County. The project is primarily funded by a State Transportation Improvement Program grant for \$475,000. Partner agencies will be billed (up to \$330,000) for construction and design costs remaining after the grant is used. Lafayette's portion, \$40,000 for design, has been funded in the City's 2021 budget.

Wildlife Plan

The sequencing of the Wildlife Plan and other plans will be discussed soon by City Manager. Rob will keep LOSAC informed about the project timing and funding. LOSAC members have contributed editing recommendations for the draft Request for Proposals (RFP). The decision was made for a LOSAC sub-committee (Lynn, Tim, Rob) to discuss further edits and bring those back to LOSAC.

Property Leases

Three Leaf Farm Pasture Lease - The lease ends in March and Rob is confirming that LOSAC agrees with renewing the 3-year lease. The tenant has contributed educational programs and managed the pasture well. The pasture has been reduced in size due to an expanding wetland. LOSAC agrees with staff on renewing the lease.

Lowes/Waneka Dr yland Lease - A current City/County agricultural lessee is interested in leasing. The lease will likely mimic BCPOS leases. Lafayette is sole owner and will gain all lease revenue. Lynn will share City of Boulder OSMP's Agricultural Stewardship Plan template with Rob. Tim will share a BCPOS operation plan example and cautions that equipment storage should be well-defined (there is opportunity to store some equipment at the farmstead). Tim asks how wildlife habitat management is considered in Lafayette agricultural leases. Katie mentions the Thomas Farm/Isabelle farm practices as a good model. Luke suggests considering compatibility with future use of the Waneka farmstead as the lease is developed. Tim asks about grazing plans for the Lowes/Waneka property and suggests using prescriptive grazing only in Powers Marsh due to Harrier and other bird nesting habitat.

Staff Report

Outreach and Education contract The City has renewed Martin's contract and he will be involved in Waneka Farm planning. He will manage volunteers, conduct 20 programs, and continue programming at The Shack. Lafayette birds will continue as the signature event for the education program. Environmental literacy programs in schools and with other audiences will be ongoing, coordinating with the Energy Sustainability Advisory Committee on some programs. Martin will work with the new natural resource staff member on education programming when they are hired.

Outdoor Classroom Close to putting the project out for bid. The project will likely be phased and may need to cut back on some features because costs continue to increase. Rob will review the plans and update LOSAC in February.

Nature Kids Internship Had to go online with interns in December due to COVID restrictions and that was challenging. Will be going back outdoors in January and working on paths between some of the sheds at the Waneka Farm (e.g., chicken shed).

Waneka Centennial Farm Rob expresses concerns about how to approach maintenance of buildings. Lynn and others suggest the possibility of pursuing historic designation and

coordinating with the Historic Preservation Board and the Historical Society. Rob is having asbestos and lead testing done. A new leach field is needed. Lynn mentions LOSAC and public input for the development of future themes and uses. Rob confirms LOSAC involvement in the months ahead.

PDAWG update Rob will be recommending to Council the continuation of the Group for two more years. The Group is interested in completing objectives such as developing education materials and mapping of colonies and would like to continue relocation oversight. The Group last met in November 2020. Rob proposes a new LOSAC representative if the resolution to continue the PDAWG is approved by Council.

Member Updates

Katie has been working with Martin at the Shack. Solar panels were added that will cover all energy needs, part of Martin's objective to link with LESAC goals. She mentions a recent Daily Camera letter to the editor by Dave Sutherland promoting the Shack and praising the educational displays.

Lynn adds that Dave Sutherland also posted the letter on the Nature-Net list serve and is a newly retired City of Boulder environmental educator.

Joe points out interest by the Medtronics development in including public art and suggests that the Public Arts Commission could consider proposing public art at one of the Medtronic sites.

One site is a prominent corner on highway 287 that might be a location for the public art proposal presented by the Arts Commission to LOSAC in November.

Next Agenda

Feb 4, 2021 is the next LOSAC meeting. Potential topics include:

- Waneka Centennial Farm discussion
- Outdoor Classroom

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dave Belin to adjourn. Luke Arrington seconded the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Chairperson _____ Date _____

Asst. to the Director _____ Date _____