



Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday April 1, 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.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Those in attendance: Dave Belin, Chair, Lynn Riedel, Vice Chair, Joe Smith, Planning Commission liaison, Josh Kuhn, Allison Hamm, Luke Arrington, Tim Shafer, Katie Christiansen, Rob Burdine, Open Space Superintendent, and Stephanie Walton, Mayor Pro-tem and City Council liaison.

Items from the Public

Karen Norback commented on the Waneka property purchase and provided the history of her work over the years toward preservation of Waneka property, including important wetlands and the previously named, Old Town Pond (now "Chuck's Pond"). She referenced the permanency of the Legacy Tax as a key factor in being able to purchase the properties and stated her appreciation to LOSAC and the City for the recent purchase of the Waneka and Lowes properties. Karen discussed planning for the future of these properties, including the Waneka Centennial Farm. She urges the City staff, LOSAC and the community to focus on the historical importance of the farmstead, and to collaborate with the Historic Preservation Board (HPB), Historical Society and Rebecca Schwendler before and as the planning process moves forward.

Vickey Uhland commented on the importance of the Waneka and Lowes land purchases. She stated that the Centennial Farm presented a unique opportunity to both honor the historical importance of the farmstead and offer a place for public activities. Vicky urged the City and LOSAC to work with HPB and the Historical Society and to enable a public-driven, grass roots effort to plan the future of the Waneka Centennial Farm and surrounding open space properties.

Rebecca Schwendler provided her background as a professional archeologist and past member and chair of HPB. Past recommendations from 1999 and 2008 surveys of the property were that the Waneka farm is significant historically - due to the family's importance to Lafayette, their innovative farming practices, and possibly to the farm buildings' architecture. **She explained** that there are 3 different levels of historic designation: local historic landmarking, listing in the State Register of Historic Properties, and listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Local historic landmarking would honor the Waneka family and provide opportunity for potential funding sources for maintaining the site. Rebecca urges the City staff and LOSAC to engage in working with multiple groups in Lafayette in planning for the future of this important site. She congratulated the City on the property purchase and thinks that the new properties offer a lot of opportunity for education, historical preservation, and outdoor public activity.

Doug Conarroe - The Waneka farmstead has exceptional historical value. Doug mentioned his history of knowing the Waneka family and preserving family buildings and other historic

structures in Lafayette for many years. HPB was formed when many farms were disappearing in Lafayette. We need to do what we can to preserve what was and is left. Adolf and Anna Waneka were the first settlers here - remnants of first farm are at the Centennial farm. The Centennial farm was purchased in 1883 and Chuck Waneka ran the farm for many decades. Doug would like to see the City assess what we have, research equipment that was used and potentially purchase similar items over time. An important aspect of the history of the site is the way they lived self-sufficiently. An Irvington farm structure is at Centennial farm - one of 2 buildings left associated with that farm. A scientific, historical survey should be done, along with interviews with Bill Waneka. Doug requests respectfully that the city pause and investigate what we have in the Centennial farm in terms of historical value and its importance to our community.

Approval of Minutes

Thanks to Josh for recording the March minutes. Dave recommended approving the minutes next month after suggested edits are incorporated.

Topics for Discussion

Boulder County Recommendations for Open Space & Trails

Draft staff report for discussion: **2021 Open Space and Trails Priority Requests to Boulder County**

PROS Plan Maps C, N, and P used as reference for discussion.

Rob introduced discussion of recommended properties for purchase. Rob provided LOSAC with the draft letter to the County with Lafayette's recommendations. All areas are unincorporated, because the County places those as a higher priority than properties within Lafayette limits.

Dave reminds that we are looking at parcels that the county could be interested in purchasing. He reiterates value of parcels with continuity with other open space. Lynn mentions property ranking process; recommends LOSAC familiarize with ranking criteria.

Rob mentions providing LOSAC with a budget update at a meeting soon.

(Refer to draft memo to BCPOS and to copy of PROS Plan map of ranked potential acquisition areas)

C - Three Leaf Farm area

E - Stephanie asks about oil and gas development potential, Rob says that city tries to buy mineral rights when possible.

Josh mentions minimum oil and gas setbacks from riparian areas in recent regulations.

Lynn - keep as ranked, important opportunity to preserve and buffer Coal Creek corridor.

Rob - will discuss relative importance of properties in County recommendations memo.

G - Rob states values - (see memo) unincorporated property island.

Stephanie asks whether infrastructure (underpass) would be appropriate for an open space purchase - Rob explained that underpass would be considered a trail and appropriate for open space.

Alison speaks for wildlife corridors to be enhanced in this area.

Katie speaks for high value of Greenlee Preserve area and value of buffering the area.

H - unincorporated - 4 different entities surround H - proposed by nearby residents as open space - wildlife value - adjacent open space lands (Louisville, BCPOS).

Stephanie speaks for the value of buffering the western edge of Lafayette and that Louisville could be interested in being a partner.

Alison feels that I is more critical.

I - large area with multiple owners - conservation easements and trail easements might be a successful approach. Would add to continuity of trails. Has a lot of topographic relief, relatively, for Lafayette.

M - north of Cross Ridge. Could allow connection to City of Boulder OSMP trails. Need discussions with Boulder and BCPOS. It is agricultural land. Dave asks about landowner interest - Rob says no information available.

N - Bullhead gulch continuity and potential trail corridor continuity. Good habitat and higher water table.

O - 3 landowners, agricultural use - if developed, land dedication could buffer and add to maintenance headquarters. Could serve as prairie dog habitat into the future. One part is an historical farm.

Rob opens to LOSAC general discussion:

Luke recommends G be elevated (1 or 2), move O up one or two spots.

Tim - agrees with C and E being top priorities

Josh asks about county process to select priorities among cities. Rob says opportunity to purchase is the most important factor and multiple partners can elevate priority. He agrees with current rankings in draft memo.

Joe adds the wildlife component of E - near current beaver activity.

Katie agrees with the current ranking of the top priorities. If changes made, advocates for moving O up due to possibility of providing expanded office space.

Tim - comments on O as prairie dog relocation site. Since surrounded by development and golf course, would that serve as a conflict free site? Rob says would need barriers.

Trail requests

Similar to E - trail connection BNSF trail to CCrk trail - or SBRd connection to the east.

104th St removed, second priority is connection to Teller Lake.

3rd priority - NW parkway (Broomfield) to 2 Creeks, prairie experience, Broomfield may be seeking potential grants

Tim comments on potential wildlife habitat and urges minimizing further fragmentation of the area (deer found there in past). County comp plan (BCCP) environmental element maps are a good reference. 4 different natural value layers in the Broomfield connector area. Rob agrees habitat protection should be a priority in this area.

Bullhead gulch

287 trail extension - Rob considers as potential future part of a regional trail to Longmont.

Rob mentions the Flag Park to Waneka farm trail - will be pursuing and is Lafayette's responsibility.

Rob will take property, trail recommendations memo to City Council, then submit to BCPOS.

Arbor Day Celebration 2021

9 - 12:30 - Greenlee, Shack area, Saturday, 4/24 - May have to limit to 25 but may be able to have 50. Nonnative shrub removal and planting, cattail removal. Lafayette interns and families will be involved. Arbor Day Proclamation at lunch. Let Rob know by early next week if want to attend. Stephanie will be able to read the proclamation. (Dave not available)

Natural Resources Coordinator Position. HR may be able to post within the next week. Rob will send job description to group when posted.

Staff Report

Waneka Centennial farm - field trip soon. Will plan HPB joint meeting at farmstead. Will reach out to Rebecca Schwendler and HPB and Historical Soc. to help us with landmarking.

MENV Capstone project (CU) - students will write management plan for Mayhoffer property - will be discussing scope with students soon.

120th and Coal Creek in underpass - Mile High will be removing sediment - minimizing impact.

Horizon underpass at Rock Creek - Otak will have options to present for underpass.

104th St project - construction meetings beginning. Cost has risen to 2 million - split multiple ways among partners. Will need to go back to City Council regarding funds increase.

Outdoor Classroom project - contractors have been inquiring. Expect several bids. April 9 bidding closes. August start for project. Staff will be selecting contractor. Great horned owl nesting nearby, Cooper's hawks not showing up this year.

Thomas farm management - recent annual meeting with Isabelle farm. Will be increasing cover cropping and reducing water use considerably (1/10 of normal use). Likely no CSA this year - last year difficulties due to Covid restrictions. Stem Cider is a new partner. Might have a late season planting and CSA. Will be open more days soon. Pumpkin patch working well. May have more community events this year. New roof due to hail. Prairie dogs continue to be a potential issue with impending development to north of Baseline.

Stephanie - social media posts recently about wildlife on 40 North development. When should Rob be contacted? Rob aware and CPW working with developer on permit requirements. Rob says to reach out to him if have questions from social media posts.

Rob - Shout out to Ben and Matt for holding things together in March while Rob was out of town.

Member Update s

Stephanie's council update - Comp Plan progress - draft stage and hopefully adopted later in year (possibly end summer). Stephanie has asked consultants to clarify which areas are city open space on maps. Planning Commission will work on code changes subsequently.

Thanks for input on sustainability plan - many LOSAC comments were incorporated. Council on Medtronics decisions - LOSAC and other public input supported by Council and LOSAC value mentioned.

Eminent domain - 120th and 7 intersection improvements - CDOT funded - hoping that city land will not undergo eminent domain. Portion of Waneka/Lowes land purchased was not purchased with OS funds to provide for road improvements that were known ahead of time.

Multimodal transportation plan development is underway.

Look for opportunities for open space funding through DR COG organization.

New fire chief - Pete Bradshaw.

Officer Tally death and funeral has impacted local law enforcement and emergency responder community as well as the greater community.

Recent Covid case increases - please continue to be careful.

Joe planning updates - Kolidascope project approved for building an artist workshop rental space

Planning Commission changed bylaws - meet 2nd and 4th Wed each month starting in May

2 openings on Planning Commission

Praise from Rob and Joe on Jeff Brasel's improvements to Planning dept.

Luke - backpacking reservations in RMNP. Rough week talking with tenants surrounding Table Mesa King Soopers in Boulder.

Lynn - fence repair needed at Chuck's pond along the east side of the Burlington Trail.

Gave a Boulder Audubon talk - Lafayette birds praised and advertised by BA chapter.

Rob says youth corps will be removing and replacing the old fence along the Burlington Trail.

Katie will be expecting in June and may miss meetings.

Alison will be doing a WRV fencing project and will share what she learns.

Tim mentions Nature Almanac - now linked by going to Boulder Audubon society webpage.

Next Agenda

Next meeting is May 6 - agenda items to be determined.

Future topics mentioned: Open Space budget update; Waneka C. F. field trip with HPB; sharing Natural Resource Manager position description with LOSAC; potential for providing LOSAC members with hard copies of the PROS Plan; LOSAC members to review potential open space acquisition ranking criteria to become more familiar with the ranking process and outcome in PROS Plan.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Luke Arrington to adjourn. Allison Hamm seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Chairperson _____ Date _____

Asst. to the Director _____ Date _____