



Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday May 6, 2021  
6pm-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.

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. Those in attendance were Dave Belin; Chair, Lynn Riedel, Vice Chair; Joe Smith, Planning Commission Liaison; Allison Hamm; Luke Arrington; Tim Shafer; Josh Kuhn; Rob Burdine; and Stephanie Walton, Mayor Pro-tem

**Items from the Public**

No items from the public.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Luke Arrington to approve the March 2021 minutes. Josh Kuhn seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Luke Arrington to approve the April 2021 minutes. Josh Kuhn seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Topics for Discussion**

**Arbor Day Celebration 2021**

Rob provided summary of the Arbor Day celebration events. The group planted (5) cottonwood trees and (55) shrubs, including service berries and native plums. Many were planted in areas where privet removals occurred. The interns assisted with the plantings and worked directly with Martin on placement of plants to avoid impacts to existing plants. Interns were acknowledged during lunch for the work.

Rob Burdine, Allison Hamm, and Mayor pro tem Stephanie Walton were in attendance. Mayor pro tem Walton read the proclamation and recognized staff (and others). Rob sought input on how to handle Arbor Day in the future. Also sought input on how to deter/prevent vandalism at the Shack.

**MENV Captstone Project - Mayhoffer Management Plan**

Rob provided update on the status of the project. Students have drafted a scope of work (SOW) for the project. Rob is looking for review and input on the SOW from LOSAC by May 14.

Students met with Rob and agency partner staff, Rob Alexander, Tim Nielsen Janis Whisman, Mel Stonebraker, all from BCPOS, and Ember Brignull, City of Louisville, to discuss details of the conservation easement and goals of the County. BCPOS recommended the property continue to be managed for agricultural uses. Also identified some possibility for native plantings near Adler Fingru. Considering a possible ADA trail on the property. Working with BCPOS Education and Outreach and GIS staff to develop a story map.

The property is jointly owned with Louisville and there are some parameters defined in the conservation easement that constrain how the property can be managed (proposing to manage similarly to Harney-Lastoka).

Tim asked about alignment of management plan with City guidance documents/plans (eg. PROST). Lynn suggested students could add as a task referencing the guidance documents that have guided their management recommendations.

Lynn asked if there would be a website where the story map would be accessed. According to Rob, everything will be live on the County website.

Mayor pro tem, Stephanie Walton, suggested that community engagement about the management plan be pushed out to our community (not just coming from County) so they feel they are very much a part of this planning effort. Stephanie also asked if oil and gas is a factor on the property and whether the students should be addressing this management consideration as part of the SOW. Rob will look into whether or not the City purchased oil and gas with the property.

Josh inquired about the possibility to create some wetland habitat on the property, wondering about impacts of mine seepage on property. Rob stated that seepage makes a portion of the property unsuitable for agricultural operations, so there may be opportunity to its natural habitat for wetland creation.

### **Outdoor Classroom Project**

Project was put out to bid and a contractor has been selected (Arrow J). There were two bids on the project, each within \$2,000 of the other. This will be a \$315,000 contract and includes all six alternative bid items. Construction begins August 1, 2021 (delayed to accommodate nesting raptors).

Working with E3 to look into increasing size of signage so more information can be included. May reach out to Katie Christiansen for artwork to include on signage.

Rob sought input on deterring vandalism at skate park. Lots of vandalism has occurred recently. Suggestions were offered about how to deter vandalism, including considerations for design of shelter that account for maintenance needs (eg. cleaning paint off of features, building features simple and sturdy).

### **Lafayette Nature Kids**

Three weeks left in the 6-month program. The Cottonwood institute recognized Kevin as the influential leader of the year. Great program supporting kids and creating an opportunity to earn money and help support their families in underserved communities. Looking to continue the program through fall-winter-spring (only on open space, not parks).

For LOSAC consideration: do we keep this program in the budget in the future (\$50 - \$60K, shared with WRV).

- Lynn votes to continue it. Good outreach to underserved communities.

- Josh supports it. Investment in community assets and underserved communities. Breeds stewards of the environment. Helps build capacity in open space program for accomplishing projects.
- Monte is on board and asked Rob to bring it to LOSAC.

## Staff Report

### Bird City Ceremony

Saturday May 8 at Waneka Lake. Lafayette is the only Bird City in Colorado. Rob is encouraging LOSAC members to appear. Tim will plan to be there and Rob has asked him to say a few words as a LOSAC rep. Counselor Barns also planning to attend. Rob will send out information on qualifying criteria that were achieved for Bird City status.

### Trail Closures due to high water

- Horizon and 120<sup>th</sup> (Coal Creek and Rock Creek) underpasses were temporarily closed due to flooding. Hoping to reopen Rock Creek underpass soon.
- Closed portions of Rock Creek trail temporarily due to flooding.
- Tim: curious about fill dirt near/in floodplain downstream of 120<sup>th</sup> St. bridge. Rob stated that this is private property and has gone through the appropriate regulatory approvals.
- Lynn: Two Creeks Preserve, trail was purposefully pulled away from the creek to create room for wildlife habitat. A preserve in addition to Greenlee.

### 104<sup>th</sup> St. project

- Coming along well.
- County Ag. And County ecologists do not want to bisect Ag property. Neighbors also prefer alternate alignment. Most cost-effective alignment.

### Natural Resource Coordinator position

- Received final approvals. Moving forward with hiring.
- Lynn: reminder to share job description with LOSAC for review.

### Drought Planning

Planning and preparation are in the works for forecasted drought conditions.

- Isabelle Farms switching to drip irrigation and reducing use. Late season pepper and tomato crop.

## Member Updates

### Mayor pro tem Stephani Walton (Council Update):

- 3 leaf farm lease approved by City Council
- Starky Building approved
- Chamber of Commerce signed lease for building on Simpson St.
- Water update at last city council update.
  - o Good news in terms of drought
  - o Watching water levels
  - o Anticipation we would not be able to fill any bit in Waneka. Were able to fill it with free river recently.
  - o Raising awareness in community to minimize water usage.
- O&G moratorium extended for 6 months through November.
  - o Originally proposed a 1-year plan. Opposed by many.
  - o Will be opportunity for public input.
  - o Will be joint meeting with Planning and Council.
  - o Gets it done before new council is seated.

- Welcomed new Fire Chief.
- Introduced to Elizabeth Zorad, new Sustainability Coordinator.
- Open Space and Trails recommendation approved by Council.

Joe Smith (Planning update):

- Held workshop with community advisory committee around comp plan
  - o Two more workshops scheduled.
  - o Workshop with city council as well focusing on comp plan and code directions falling out of that plan.
  - o May be opportunity for additional planning commission liaisons. (Especially around sustainability).
- Two openings on planning commission now available.
- Lynn: Where in the comp plan can habitat buffers and wildlife connectivity concepts fit in.
  - o Joe: need a specific definition of wildlife corridors to include in comp plan.
  - o Mayor pro tem: mention of corridors and connectivity in comp plan will be reinforced by the Wildlife Plan. Wildlife Plan spans beyond open space.

Allison:

- Worked on prairie dog fence in Longmont to keep prairie dogs on open space. A big fence. May not be the model we want to use
  - o Rob: that is the type of fence we will be using. (Powerline trail and Rothman)
    - Working on permit to do that work now. Remove prairie dogs east of barrier on Roach open space.
    - Relocate or not?
    - Tim: should look into barrier design that minimizes impacts to non-target species (allows small mammals and herptiles to move through barrier.
    - Fence construction is solid metal panel.

Lynn:

- Bioblitz: Last weekend mini-bioblitz led by Martin and Butterfly Pavilion staff.
  - o Used iNaturalist
  - o 10 participants, from areas beyond Lafayette
  - o Started at Centennial farm and moved east toward wetland.
  - o Contributed to a list of plants and animals for the property
  - o Birds setting up nesting territories in wetland.
    - Need to be careful about holding programs near the wetland during bird nesting season.
  - o May want to share/communicate with BCPOS to help with management.
  - o Allison: Urban Prairie Project encouraged participation by their members.
- Meeting minutes, should include Action Items for quick and easy reference.
- Hard Copies of PROST??
  - o Rob doesn't have a response yet. Ben working on hard copies
  - o Martin and Rob get together every other week. Only plan out a few weeks in advance. Do not have whole year planned out.
- July meeting. Potential conflicts with July 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. May consider rescheduling.
  - o Rob would like to keep July 1 date. Encouraged by staff to do so

Tim:

- Thanks Lynn for update on BioBlitz.
- Mentioned Coyote Gulch as a website with much of information on all things water, including maps of drought severity. Good resource if anyone interested in water issues.

Rob:

- Training for LOSAC Members. Each member should try to attend one. Late June potential date for Waneka Centennial Farm field visit.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Rob send MENV student project scope of work to LOSAC for review.
  - Share with LOSAC information on constraints/parameters defined by easement restrictions and other that students have to consider in their planning.
- LOSAC send comments on MENV SOW to Rob by May 14.
- Rob to share budget with LOSAC at June meeting
- Rob to send LOSAC information on criteria Lafayette achieved for Bird City status.
- Rob to send LOSAC Natural Resource Coordinator job description for review
- Rob: Hard Copies of PROST to LOSAC
- LOSAC members: attend one of the upcoming trainings.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Dave Belin to adjourn the meeting at 8:28pm. Allison Hamm seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Asst. to the Director \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_