



Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday June 3, 2021
6:00 pm, Regular Meeting

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, Allison Hamm, Luke Arrington, Tim Shafer, Katie Christiansen, and Rob Burdine, Open Space Superintendent and Staff liaison.

Items from the Public

There were no Items from the public.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Luke Arrington to approve the May 2021 minutes. Alison Hamm seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Thanks to Tim for recording the May minutes.

Topics for Discussion

Open Space Budget - 2021 and 2022 capital projects (Rob presented CIP spreadsheets)

2021 (some carry over from 2020)

Outdoor Classroom, including signage - starts August 1

Signage package

Wildlife Plan - fall initiation with RFP 120k (half OS fund and half general fund)

Prairie dog relocation from Rothman. Rock Creek will be the receiving site. 24k and volunteer labor

104th St trail design - cost estimate to be determined for construction. 40k for design in 2021

Steam machine - OS will purchase for OS use; now sharing with Parks

Natural Res coordinator truck - 35k

Utility truck replacement - 65k

2022 proposed budget - Since upcoming sales tax income is uncertain, staff has been asked to be conservative with proposed expenses.

104th trail construction - 450 - 500k per project partner

Rock creek trail Horizon underpass - Otak design paid for by Mile High Drainage - project is to open underpass to the degree possible post-flooding; add an at-grade crossing of Horizon. (No beavers observed downstream in project area.)

Chipper replacement - 120k

All-terrain vehicle - 15k

Open Space signage - 110k

Overall Open Space budget will be presented later in the summer (acquisition, operations, capital) once 2022 budget is finalized.

Mayhoffer Management Planning - MENV Capstone project update - Student group would like to present to LOSAC on the Scope of Work and what they have accomplished to date.

Rob will ask students to include guidance from the PROS Plan and Boulder County Comprehensive Plan in the project.

MENV Capstone Group met with BCPOS agricultural staff and lessee Keith Bateman; Louisville staff, etc. Study of water resources and use is not in SOW. An interpretive walkway with an agricultural theme was an idea discussed. The history of the property and purchase history were provided to students.

Upcoming events: June 8 team building gathering; June 15 partner meeting to review SOW; July 1 LOSAC presentation; stakeholder meetings between students and BCPOS work groups through June and July (Rob may attend). Martin O. may attend July 1 meeting.

Bird City Follow -up

The event went well; 100+ attendees; Tim, Lynn attended; There was a live link to an international celebration. Ted Floyd presentation provided good information and rationale for preserving local habitat. He talked about the larger landscape significance and proximity of Waneka and nearby lakes - and the ecological significance for birds.

Waneka Properties

Rob's update. Dry weather is needed to install septic system. Oil wells are being removed. Agricultural fields are being planted in dryland wheat. Rob has been requesting improved communication between the City and County about activities on Waneka, especially when need to access Lafayette land.

Bill Waneka is recovering from a fall. Rob is in touch with him regularly.

Dave updated LOSAC on the recent discussion with Historic Preservation Board members Kim Dugan (chair) and Doug Conarroe. They are interested in moving forward with an historic survey and structure assessment and propose sharing the costs between the Open Space and Historic Preservation funds. A future state-level historic designation could make grant dollars available for maintaining the farmstead. HPB will be developing a policy/guidelines document for historic city properties. HPB recommends a public process for Waneka Centennial Farm planning.

Tim Shafer suggests a volunteer bird survey this spring/early summer with area bird experts to begin to build an information base about wildlife for use in future management decisions. Chuck's Pond could be included. Tim suggests the possibility of a Lafayette/BCPOS joint fieldtrip, and a LOSAC/POSAC joint site visit. Rob appreciates these ideas and says that Martin will deliver his 'Waneka Vision' findings soon.

HPB-LOSAC joint field trip - Rob will work with Greg Thompson to arrange for late June, if possible. Thursday evenings will be proposed. Also depends on receiving permission to hold an in-person meeting. Tim agrees a growing season visit would be most informative.

Staff Report

Natural Resource Coordinator - advertised position has closed and many applications were received. Rob will be reviewing applications and selecting a pool of candidates. He hopes the Coordinator can start by early July, and is looking forward to having this position.

Development review by staff has taken a lot of time recently - Rob has had to consult frequently on development projects. A lot of damage was done on Lafayette OS adjacent to the Silo project: grading and removal of older trees. The City missed catching the destruction of habitat on OS until after it happened. The Land Dedication associated with Silo was part of the area where habitat destruction occurred. Luke suggests a cash penalty for this kind of violation of agreements on OS property. Rob will follow up with Councilwoman Walton.

Horizon underpass at Rock Creek - Otak will provide an updated cost estimate.

Flooding in underpasses and trails has caused recent intermittent closures. OS staff are monitoring underpasses daily and sending updates for the Boulder County trails App.

104th St project - Construction meetings are beginning. The cost has risen to \$2 million - split multiple ways among partners. OS staff will need to go back to City Council regarding this cost increase.

Outdoor Classroom signage team/consultants met. The project is set to begin Aug 1. The nesting owls have fledged.

Waneka Lake Park - Rob reports that water levels are good in Waneka and Greenlee. The new dock at Waneka Lake has been installed.

Planning Review

No development project reviews.

Member Updates

Luke - Congratulates Katie on upcoming birth.

Lynn - Mentions Comp Plan Urban Design Guidelines comments and CAC/Planning Commission meetings coming up. Rob appreciates being kept informed and will send Lynn's recent Comp Plan comments to LOSAC. Rob hopes to review the draft Comp Plan.

Tim elaborates on the comments that were submitted and appreciates those.

Tim gives a shout-out to Rob for all of his hard work.

Katie sorry to hear about the Silo transgressions. Thinks that a message needs to be sent to developers about the significance of land dedications.

Multimodal planning - Katie would like to know more about Lafayette's current efforts and cites a connection to Waneka Farm as a potential topic. Transportation staff will be arranging a meeting for committees soon to give input into the developing Multimodal Plan.

Outdoor Classroom wildlife - The owls spent a lot of time this year in trees in the vicinity of the proposed platforms. The idea of taking the planned platforms out of plan was discussed.

Tim agrees with being conservative to benefit wildlife in the riparian zone and suggests this is a good opportunity to teach people about habitat conservation and minimizing habitat fragmentation and disturbance. Tim suggests signs to discourage off-trail travel and says new amenities may invite more people to spend time there which may influence wildlife.

Luke suggests a seasonal closure of some areas like the platform area as a compromise and most LOSAC members agree.

Rob mentions careful oversight of contractors as Outdoor Classroom plan is implemented.

Alison - Expressed concern that the Wildlife Plan is not in place prior to the Comp Plan update. Other members urge involvement in the Comp Plan development process. Luke mentions the importance of OS to the community; suggests that the Wildlife Plan can also make recommendations for code.

Next Agenda

Next meeting is July 1 - MENV Mayhoffer student report to LOSAC. Other agenda items to be determined.

Future topics: Prairie dog relocation briefing; overall Open Space budget briefing; invasive species management overview; MENV Capstone project updates; Natural Resource Coordinator update; HPB-LOSAC meeting/field trip update; Waneka bird survey update

Adjournment

A motion was made by Alison Hamm to adjourn. Luke Arrington seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Chairperson _____ Date _____

Asst. to the Director _____ Date _____