



## Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday July 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.

### **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Those in attendance were: Dave Belin, Chair, Lynn Riedel, Vice Chair, Allison Hamm, Tim Shafer, Josh Kuhn, Rob Burdine, Open Space Superintendent and Staff liaison, Joe Smith, Planning Board Liaison, Cara Potter, Ethan Abner, Jena Van Gerwen, Consultants from Masters of the Environment (MENV) Program of U of C Boulder.

### **Items from the Public**

There were no Items from the public.

### **Approval of Minute**

A motion was made by Dave Belin to approve the June 3, 2021, minutes. Lynn Riedel seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Topics for Discussion**

- **Mayhoffer Farm Management Plan, Q and A**

The three graduate students from the MENV program presented the vision and process for the Mayhoffer Farm Management Plan and requested for feedback from LOSAC. They meet once a week at 9:30 am on Tuesday.

Mayhoffer property boundary between Lafayette, Louisville, and Boulder CO., primarily agricultural lands. The farm functionally serves as an extension of the Harney-Lastoka property.

Questions:

CRISP (Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusivity Strategic Plan) - Boulder County. Dave asked the consultants to expand about how they are working with CRISP.

Lynn - The public doesn't just want trails. There could be a concept where the ag lands are highlighted. Cara agreed saying the plan will need to facilitate irrigation and trails.

Evan - Old capped coal mine with water seepage can provide wetland potential.

Tim - Is the current ag plan firm or can it be massaged? Evan - There is some flexibility but a little difficult to change significantly.

Rob said he and Ember (Louisville Open Space Superintendent) have introduced the concept of more native grasses.

Josh appreciates the work the team intends to devote to a survey - great that they are really interested in getting community information. Will the survey include some background of the property? What about people just walking by? Response: Yes, intercept surveys on adjacent properties are planned. Yes QR code.

Cara - Looking for input from wildlife experts on placement of trail(s).

- **Prairie Dog Relocation**

Rob updating on a few relocation projects.

1. Removing prairie dogs from Great Park area and Boulder Co Ag lease east of Rothman. Potentially to be moved to Rock Creek. Working on the permits to move in late fall early winter. Will be putting up a barrier.
2. Prairie dogs have moved to Rothman South - were only supposed to be in Rothman North. Haven't crosses the ditch to the Outdoor Classroom yet. Not proposing to move any of them now. Would have to be euthanized.
3. Relocation idea to move to Rock Creek - north of current site, both sides of trail.
4. Lynn - area south of the creek will be very difficult to get to. One of the areas has very sandy soil and has never been tilled, weedy to be sure but also a lot of native vegetation. So Lynn would not advise relocation to the southern area (especially with regard to installing prairie dog boxes in this area). She thinks the furthest south area is a good place to expand.
5. Rob - Top areas for relocation are north of creek - have done 3 -4 years of cheat grass management there and it is working.
6. Tim's question - what is current vegetation. Conflicting goals of prairie dog restoration and native plant community protection.
7. Rob - I'm hearing LOSAC members are ok with using the top three areas (north of the creek) and the furthest southern area.
8. Tim - The Boulder County land - there's potential for grazing with environmental restoration.
9. Future Waste water treatment plant expansion site. - PDAWG applied to remove to the Arsenol space. Application denied. So these Prairie Dogs will need to be euthanized.
10. Water Tank - These Prairie dogs important to local wildlife.
11. S. Boulder Road construction area being passively relocated on-site, away from construction.
- 12.

- **Open Space Fund Balance update**

\$1,014,486.61?? Net amount. (about 1M in Legacy fund) Up, prior years some big purchases, Mayhoffer, Waneka(?)

POST (Parks Open Space and Trails tax comes out of general fund) fund 1.77 M base fund Transferring \$385,000 to deal with budget deficit. 1,23 M - Site/Facility improvement \_POST funds operations, salaries, and projects. Building repair and Maintenance, professional fees (including Martin Ogle, sewer replacement at Waneka). Naturalist position funded for 2022. Budget is currently in deficit by 1.2 M. 2020 lost out of about \$600,000 in revenue in taxes (Covid related).

### **Staff Report**

Flash flooding has been happening all over town. 3 inches last Friday and another inch today.

PROS plan - not approved to provide hard copies to members. Trying to go digital. Email Rob if we want link.

Waneka Bird survey will have to wait til next year.

Mid late July Joint meeting at Waneka with Historic Preservation. Will send out a doodle poll.

2 finalists for the Natural Resource position. - to lead wildlife plan, centennial farm plan

IPM plan at future meeting with new Natural Resource person

104<sup>th</sup> st. connector. Coal creek to Rock Creek down 104<sup>th</sup> St. Price tag has doubled. Partners have agreed to go forward with a design in 2022. Cost over 2M. County Commissioners had sticker shock so not sure how it will happen.

Proposal that came in this week: Pete Derosier email. To Purchase parcel on Laramie Road and have use of specific open space areas in the area north and south of Coal Creek. Question of exclusive use of these spaces during business hours.

40 North Development update. It is agreed that the developer will preserve many trees. The ditch will be maintained separate from the irrigation piping. This will require supplemental water in the future but Rob's ok with that.

Silo development tree removal fiasco - this Investigation is on-going.

### **Member updates**

No member updates

### **Next Agenda:**

Thorne Nature proposal

Natural Resources Coordinator introduction

Open Space Day planning

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made by Dave Belin to adjourn. Josh Kuhn seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.

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

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