

Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday January 3, 2012
6:00 pm, Regular Meeting
City Hall Council Chambers

Draft Minutes

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm. Those in attendance were Dave Belin, Mark Dowling, Bob Spillman, Josh Abram, Lynn Riedel, Erin Frazier, Allison Hamm, Councilmember, Steve Kracha, Parks, Open Space and Golf Director, Monte Stevenson, and Open Space Superintendent, Jeff Moline. Also in attendance was Bill Mangle of ERO Resources.

Items from the Public

Molly Hansen of 502 ½ East Simpson in Lafayette spoke in favor of safe and healthy communities through community design, policies, and planning. She supports partnering with Boulder County Public Health and incorporating strategies to fight obesity and support health equity into the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan which is currently in the process of being developed. She suggested strategies such as include open space properties in close proximity to households and public transportation; have inter-city trails; pursue joint use agreements between schools and cities; establish a high level of maintenance of city facilities; consider smoke-free parks, trails, open space parcels, and facilities; and, advocate for growing opportunities on open space.

Rachel Ardnt of Boulder County Public Health shared information on how the county is providing services to help support healthy living strategies. She suggests looking at access to parks by evaluating the sidewalks, curb cuts and bike lanes leading to facilities in addition to the ¼ mile buffer analysis. Rachel suggested that a county-provided team might be available to complete a sidewalk/bike lane/transit lines assessment and mapping project this summer. She also supports including health metrics into the PROST Master Plan. She suggests that policies be put into place that mandates healthy vending machines in and at city facilities. Rachel will email Jeff Moline more information.

Chairman Belin noted that the city agrees with these strategies and is currently acting and making decisions with them in mind with the exception of making city parks, open space properties, and facilities smoke-free. He indicated that the PROST Master Plan will make a recommendation that the Public Works Department work with the Parks, Open Space and Golf and Planning departments to develop a connectivity plan.

Ms. Hansen suggested the inclusion of quantified mapping, especially of low-income and at-risk areas, as a priority in the master plan.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Bob Spillman *to approve the November 2012 minutes*. Mark Dowling seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Reports

Monte Stevenson reported that the BNSF Railroad corridor closing is scheduled for January 15, 2013. Trail construction may begin this summer using the Boulder County Youth Corps team. BNSF will remove railroad ties. This is a great trail connection for the Old Town community.

A resolution will be on the January 7 City Council in support of a Great Outdoors Colorado grant for a joint project between the city and Boulder Valley School District.

Jeff Moline updated members on the status of the Eastern Link project on Coal Creek Trail. It looks like the opening of the trail may be delayed until early spring given the remaining tasks. An opening ceremony involving council members will be held at a later date.

The underpass at Horizon Avenue is being cleaned out and repaired.

The solar project at Thomas Open Space will begin later in the month. The power use at the barn will be off-set by the solar array.

The Public Works Department will work with CDOT to stripe a crossing at Highway 7/Baseline Road on the east side of town (at the future trail corridor that will be located on the BNSF property once the city has title to the property).

The art committee is conducting fund-raising for the "Surveying Our Future" metal sculpture which will be placed at Thomas Open Space.

City Council held a meeting under executive session regarding Area 8.

Isabelle Farm's business model heavily involves Thomas Open Space although the tenants also own a parcel at the intersection of Isabelle Road and US 287.

Jeff Moline worked with the landowner to the north of Greenlee Wildlife Preserve to reclaim land that had been encroached upon for a number of years. Jeff then worked with a Boy Scout to have a fence constructed along the property line as part of an Eagle Scout project.

Topics for Discussion

Axel Bishop of Design Concepts in Lafayette explained a Great Outdoor Colorado School Play Yard Initiative proposal for Outdoor Classroom and Escuela Bilingua Pioneer School. The proposal would provide play forms that subtly incorporate natural play in the Outdoor Classroom space and active play on the school property. The grant application is due March 15, 2013. Members voiced that they would like to preserve the intent of the Outdoor Classroom through this process. The passive nature play would include environmental education opportunities and that the values of open space would be preserved. The transition area between open space and the school field is a key area of improvement—currently the area acts as a barrier due to the presence of a fence. Lynn Riedel suggested that the teachers at Pioneer be considered so that they can utilize the space in conjunction with their curriculum. Should the grant be awarded staff will either budget for the project in the 2014 budget or will go to City Council in 2013 for an appropriation. An estimated project cost is \$250,000. The maximum grant request is \$100,000. Staff will look into the use of the fields by the recreation center. Josh Abram made a motion to recommend to City Council in support of the GOCO

School Play Yard Initiative grant application. Erin Frazier seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Members revised the 2013 goals and made goals assignments. The goals will be presented to City Council in mid-February or early March.

Bill Mangle of ERO Resources presented the findings relating to the open space and trails portions of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trail Master Plan public input process. Outdoor play is incredibly important and permeates into many things the open space program provides. The public would like to see a more mature trail system with connections within the city and regionally and the preservation of open space. The draft plan will be available in February. Bill presented a draft map of future open space parcel acquisition recommendations. Smaller pieces, such as trail corridors, buffers and valuable natural resource areas, make up the majority of the identified parcels. Varying mechanisms for acquisition such as easements and partnerships will likely be exercised in the future. Existing IGA properties will be addressed within the master plan document and shall be called out as unique areas of interest with their agreement expiration dates identified. The open space system is maturing and the open space and trails service is important to the citizens of Lafayette. Maintenance, stewardship, equipment and staffing needs will need to be addressed as the population and open space program continue to grow. Efficiencies can be found by centralizing the city's land management operations so equipment, materials, and administration can be shared. Multi-modal connectivity opportunities are important to the community. Trails will provide an important component to a city-wide connections system within and around the city; but, the system will need to be supplemented by additional connections such as on streets/sidewalks. A recommendation regarding enforcement of ordinances will be included in the master plan. Members appreciate Bill Mangle and Andy Cole's work on the open space and trails portions of the master plan.

Member Updates

Erin Frazier suggested retaining the 2A advocacy webpage for future use.

Dave Belin attended Isabelle Farm's winter grand opening and reported that it was very pleasant and great atmosphere.

Planning Updates and Review

There were no items to review.

Next Agenda

Items for the next agenda include finalizing goals and the presentation to City Council.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Erin Frazier to adjourn. Mark Dowling seconded and the motion passed unanimously.