

March 24, 2015

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

Council-Manager Form of Government

Adjourned Meeting – 6:00 PM

● ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Weitkunat, Overbeck, Poppaw, Campana, Troxell, Cunniff, Horak

ABSENT:

Staff present: Atteberry, Daggett, Nelson

1. **Resolution 2015-039 Adopting the Nature in the City Strategic Plan as an Element of the Comprehensive Plan of the City. (Adopted)**

The purpose of this item is to seek City Council approval of the Nature in the City Strategic Plan as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. Nature is a defining characteristic of Fort Collins; the community has a 40-year history of protecting nature in the city and region. Nature in the City is a long-term planning effort that capitalizes on these efforts to protect and integrate nature into the community's fabric through a variety of regulatory, policy, outreach and collaborative solutions on public and private lands.

Karen Cumbo, Planning, Development and Transportation Director, discussed the evolution of this project.

Lindsay Ex, Senior Environmental Planner, discussed the community's development patterns and stated this Plan is designed to address how to balance the urban infill and redevelopment goals with the desire to preserve Fort Collins' small town feel and access to nature in the city. Ex detailed the process used to develop the project, including its three phases of inventory and assessment, strategic plan, and implementation.

Justin Scharton, Environmental Planner, discussed the second phase of Nature in the City, the strategic plan, and noted it has involved partnerships between several City departments, external entities and public. The vision of the Plan is to create a connected open space network that balances the desire of residents to access nature with the need for wildlife habitat and went on to detail the goals of the plan.

Ex discussed the implementation aspect of the Strategic Plan and stated action items have begun, including demonstration projects and the continuation of monitoring. Additionally, design guidelines and Land Use Code changes, as well as the dark skies policy, will be brought before Council in the future.

Eric Sutherland commented on the Boxelder Stormwater Authority and the use of conservation easements.

Mike Pruznick expressed general support for the Nature in the City Plan and discussed utilizing a systems approach to address the plan.

Mayor Weitkunat commended the report format and photographs.

Councilmember Overbeck asked how the dark skies aspect will be measured. Scharton replied the City has partnered with the National Park Service night sky national office to measure night sky quality.

Councilmember Overbeck asked if there is a goal associated with the dark sky issue. Scharton replied staff is currently working to develop a night sky ordinance or policies; however, a specific goal has yet to be identified.

Councilmember Overbeck commended the Plan and public process and suggested the placement of a living wall or other resource in the Midtown area.

Councilmember Cunniff commended the Plan and asked how possible funding options will be evaluated. Ex replied funding options are not limited to City options and referenced an appendix of the plan dedicated to possible funding sources.

Councilmember Cunniff asked if the International Dark Sky Association has been contacted. Scharton replied a call is scheduled with the organization next week.

Mayor Pro Tem asked about the use of Natural Areas funds. John Stokes, Natural Areas Director, replied Natural Areas funds have been included as a funding source and noted there is a wide range of possibilities for sharing resources.

Councilmember Troxell commended the Plan and complimented staff on public outreach and the use of partnerships.

Mayor Weitkunat commended the Plan and suggested incorporating schools as part of the citizen science projects. Additionally, she suggested public-private partnerships with HOAs and gardening companies and asked about the inclusion of water and ditch companies. Ex replied staff is meeting with Poudre School District to discuss ways to engage students and announced a pilot program with landscape companies to plant trees as part of the West Central Area Plan. Additionally, water conservation issues are being considered and could be explicitly outlined in the Plan if desired.

Mayor Pro Tem Horak suggested active engagement with ELCO and the Fort Collins Loveland Water District as well as other entities in the urban growth area.

Councilmember Cunniff made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Poppaw, to adopt Resolution 2015-039.

Councilmember Troxell discussed the importance of resiliency planning and agreed with the importance of public-private partnerships.

Councilmember Campana commended the document and its holistic approach.

Councilmember Cunniff noted Natural Areas funds will not be a sole funding source.

Mayor Pro Tem Horak suggested an early implementation item should involve gaining a better understanding of how Natural Areas fits with Nature in the City.

Councilmember Cunniff noted Natural Areas funds need to be spent according to the intentions of voters and the outline of the City's Strategic Plan.


RESULT: RESOLUTION 2015-039 ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Ross Cunniff, District 5
SECONDER: Lisa Poppaw, District 2
AYES: Weitkunat, Overbeck, Poppaw, Campana, Troxell, Cunniff, Horak

● **OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilmember Cunniff noted the future Council will consider the Comcast agreement and suggested those deliberations be made as public as possible.

● **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 PM.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

