

**MINUTES
CITY OF FORT COLLINS
LAND CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP BOARD**

**Regular Meeting
October 12, 2016
1745 Hoffman Mill Road
5:30 p.m.**

Council Liaison:
Gerry Horak 420-7398

For Reference:	
Kent Leier, Chair	631-2361
Marcia Mallory-Patton, VC	222-0513
Trudy Haines, Communications	225-2760
Mark Sears, Staff Liaison	416-2096

Board Members Present: David Tweedale, Edward Reifsnnyder, Vicky McLane, Joseph Piesman, Kent Leier, Kelly Ohlson, Marcia Patton-Mallory, Raymond Watts, Trudy Haines

Excused:

NAD Staff: Mark Sears, John Stokes, Zoe Shark, Aaron Reed, Rick Bachand, Rachel Steeves

Public Attendees: Ann Grant

Call meeting to order: 5:37 pm

Agenda Review:

Raymond distributed a motion for the LCSB to draft an additional letter to City Council regarding the Running Deer/Hageman property. Kent suggested we discuss the topic at the end of the meeting.

Introductions: NAD staff introduced themselves and Ann Grant introduced herself as an NAD Master Naturalist.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Minutes: Trudy had some minor changes for the LCSB October 5th meeting. Replace the term "Code of Conduct" with "Team Values" in the minutes, adding "The Board discussed that freeing more of Mark's time for land acquisition was needed" to the second to the last paragraph under *LCSB Code of Conduct*, and inserting the "or lease", in the first paragraph under *Running Deer/Hageman Property*, first sentence after the word *sale*.

David Tweedale made a motion to accept the LCSB October 5, 2016 meeting minutes as amended.

Raymond Watts seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved

Discussion Items:

Bobcat Ridge Master Plan Update

Rachel Steeves, NAD Environmental Planner and Rick Bachand, Environmental Program Manager gave an overview of the updates for the current master plan. Rachel provided a background, summary of the ecological values, described the public outreach process and highlighted emerging management topics and detailed staff's recommended actions. Three major emerging management themes were identified. They are: 1) Parking Demand; 2) Trail Use Demand; and 3) Elk Management. Parking demand was identified by staff based on Ranger and Gate Attendant observations and data on users collected. Trail use demand primarily is driven by mountain biking enthusiasts seeking additional trail mileage for a range of skill levels. Lastly, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has cautioned staff that a resident herd of elk may be forming within the boundaries of Bobcat Ridge. Rachel provided an analysis of each topic to the board members.

The planning team will continue to compile feedback from the public which remains open on the NAD's website until October 14th. After that time, staff will re-convene to evaluate Board and public input to make final recommendations. The final recommendations and responses to public comments will be shared with the public, and brought back to the LCSB. Natural Area management plans are administratively adopted by the Department Director. The final plan is expected in December and will be distributed through normal channels.

Discussion:

Some board members were strongly opposed to allowing hunting access. David Tweedale said he was very much opposed to any hunting access through Bobcat Ridge. Some board members were against opening the DR Trail to bike use. There were complaints that bikers are using it already. Some board members questioned what it would take to reroute current trails to expand use as well as regional trail additions. Rachel explained that many options had been considered and the current trail design was reviewed to identify any additional changes or revisions. Trudy suggested staff consider opening the On the Rocks Trail to detour bikers from using the DR Trail. This is one of the trails staff is considered in the management plan update. Trudy feels supporting the elk management is a positive move; however allowing hunter access through the natural area seemed like a bad idea for many board members. Rick explained how staff wasn't sure if a resident elk herd was an issue yet, but staff would like to study the situation. Certainly if it became an issue in the future the added language to the current management plan would allow options for addressing it. Kelly suggested refining the outreach process to include those

outside organizations or groups. He suggested getting feedback from those who are not general users of the natural areas. He also suggested introducing NAD's own hunt on BCRNA, similar to Soapstone Prairie natural area. It could then be controlled and managed by NAD. In general board members agreed with NAD staff recommendations.

Mountain Vista Subarea Plan –

Cameron Gloss, Planning Manager with the City of Fort Collins Planning Department gave a brief overview of Mountain Vista: Subarea Overview. In response to potential concerns regarding the cost to provide the full range of urban services to the Mountain Vista area, City Council directed staff to evaluate a hypothetical rural development scenario that considered the environmental, economic and social impacts and costs to develop at a lower intensity. Particular focus was provided on transportation infrastructure costs as well as the implication of recently adopted oil and gas setback regulations.

The Mountain Vista Subarea Plan, originally adopted in March 1999 and subsequently updated in 2009, lays a community development framework for a large, primarily undeveloped area of northeast Fort Collins. The 2009 update was responsive to the ideas and concerns of the many stakeholders involved, including area property owners, residents, the City of Fort Collins, and the broader community. Cameron provided feedback and information on the framework and overall phases of each analysis of the plan.

Discussion:

Board members asked Cameron to include the phrase wildlife movement corridors, habitat and natural areas protection in future power point presentations when listing implementation measures for Mountain Vista. Trudy stated that protecting habitat such as in a natural area should not be combined with park. Kelly wanted to know what the game plan would be since the city plan. Cameron explained that multiple things needed to happen: adding staff capacity; assisting with Nature in the City; and assisting with the City Plan update. The realities of this are that mandating these changes to the Mountain Vista plan right now would be difficult. The City isn't there yet with developer standards. Kelly asked what NAD was doing to follow City Council's direction to 'work quickly on an implementation strategy'. Mark explained NAD's multipurpose land use is probably the largest opportunity for implementation.

Nix Farm Campus – Master Plan Update

Mark Sears, Natural Areas Manager made a brief presentation regarding the master planning for the future growth of the Nix Farm site in anticipation of the growth of the Natural Areas Department. The proposed remodeled/expanded shop, vehicle storage building, and expanded equipment yard are being designed to meet the needs for the next 15 plus years. The improvements will meet the immediate needs of the approximately 39 plus field staff: 8 rangers, 12 Public Improvements Crew members, and 14 Resource Management Crew members, 2 Facility Operations Staff, and 3 Land Management Crew members working out of the shop and equipment yard. Staffing projections anticipate a need to increase staff by approximately 2% per year to keep up with the growing land stewardship needs. Over the next 15 years field staff will likely grow from 39 to 52 and the amount of equipment and materials will grow proportionately. Mark hosted a field trip prior to the meeting for board members to identify areas where the current shop and yard would be expanded and the changes needed to the conservation easement.

Action Items:

Amended and Restated Kingfisher – Nix Natural Area Conservation Easement - Mark Sears, Natural Areas Manager is seeking the board’s approval of an Ordinance approving the amended and restated Nix Natural Area Conservation Easement; which is being renamed the Kingfisher - Nix Natural Area Conservation Easement. The amended and restated conservation easement offers a conveyance of a conservation easement on an additional 31.75 acres to Colorado Open Lands to mitigate the exclusion of additional 4.70 acres to allow for the future expansion of the Nix Farm Natural areas Facility.

Vicky McLane made a motion the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board recommend that City Council approve the Amended and Restated Kingfisher Nix Natural area Conservation Easement.

Edward Reifsnyder seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Running Deer/Hageman Property

Raymond Watts made a motion that the LCSB send another letter to City Council that restates LCSB’s adopted position on the disposition of the Running Deer – Hageman property. The revised letter will include the following perspective: “If the ownership situation were reversed, with HEC owning the parcel in question, and if HEC offered the parcel for sale at a fair price, then LCSB would recommend to NAD and to Council that the parcel be purchased as an addition to Running Deer Natural Area.” The foregoing sentence will be included with material from earlier letters and motions adopted by LCSB. The new letter will be circulated among LCSB members by email and transmitted to Council when approved by all LCSB members.

Vicky McLane seconded the motion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

The board agreed to discuss the deed restrictions on November 9th, at the next LCSB meeting.

Kent Leier resignation

Kent announced he would be resigning as both Chair and as a board member at the end of December. Additional work obligations would require more of his time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Approved:

 _____, Vice Chair 11/9/16 Date

Michele Vattano, Secretary

