

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

Regular Meeting

July 10, 2019

1. CALL TO ORDER

5:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Joe Piesman, Vicky McLane, David Tweedale, Raymond Watts, Kelly Ohlson, Mike Weber, Alycia Crall

Edward Reifsnnyder joined the meeting after the Nix facility tour.

3. **Excused:** Andrea Elson

Unexcused:

NAD Staff: Dave Myers

4. **AGENDA REVIEW:** John Stokes added a tour of the shop expansion, newly added vehicle storage building and Field Service office to the agenda. Aaron Reed gave a tour for the Board members at 5:30 pm and the Board meeting reconvened at 6:15 pm.

Mark asked if an Action Item could be added to the agenda to discuss an amendment to the current conservation easement for the Hazelhurst property. This is the 40-acre property NAD is purchasing adjacent to Coyote Ridge Natural Area. Joe suggested adding it prior to the e-bike discussion.

5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vicky McLane made a motion to approve the June meeting minutes.

Alycia Crall seconded the motion. The motion was approved 8-0

7. COMMUNICATION AND BOARD MATTERS

8. NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEM

John Stokes, Director of NAD provided an update on Nature in the City. John will send out a written summary provided by Stephanie Kopplin in addition to his verbal summary. Stephanie is currently out of the office, otherwise she would have provided the update. NAD has been short staffed in Nature in the City, since Justin Scharton left. Stephanie was on maternity leave and an Environmental Planner position has been vacant leaving a gap in

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staff. Stephanie is leaving the department to move to San Diego so her position will be vacant as well. Meanwhile, Rachel Steeves has been working in Nature in the City, as an Environmental Planner and continues to do a great job. Justin Scharton's position has been filled by Julia Feder. She will be here next week, for a week, to work with Stephanie before she leaves, and then she will start full time in late August. We are hoping to be fully staffed by this Fall.

Current highlights of Nature in the City are:

- ✓ **Sugar Beet Park Pollinator Garden**
This fall an extensive pollinator garden will open to the public at the corner of Vine Drive and Lemay Avenue. The garden fills one of Nature in the City's "access gaps" and will feature over 7,000 native plants representing 35+ distinct species. Pollinator conservation is a big deal right now.
- ✓ **Leshar Middle School**
Nature in the City collaborated with Hewlett Packard Enterprise, Audubon Rockies, and Poudre School District to install a 1,200 square foot pollinator garden at Leshar Middle School this spring. The school maintains and manages the garden.
- ✓ **CSU Partnership**
In partnership with CSU and Audubon Rockies, Nature in the City was awarded a \$400K NSF grant to encourage residents to engage in environmental conservation behaviors.
- ✓ **Policy Alignment**
Nature in the City convened representatives from multiple departments in April of 2018 to catalyze the formation of the City Vegetation Team. The Team will identify and prioritize projects and process improvements that build collective understanding and efficiencies around vegetation.
- ✓ **Land Use Code Update**
There is a CSU graduate student engaged in best practice research, stakeholder engagement and cost/benefit analyst to help the Nature in the City team develop a "menu of options" with the land use code to integrate habitat/biodiversity into new and existing development projects.

Natural Areas Enhancement Certified Natural Area Fund

John reported on the community grant program that NAD has hosted over the last few years, referred to as the Enhancement Fund. As the program is in the process of being re-tooled, John and staff will work to reimplement it in the Fall. Staff are hoping to fund larger scale projects versus several smaller projects.

LCSB Retreat

As mentioned in the Board's Action Plan, Joe discussed having a Board retreat to overlay the monthly meeting in October. Topics for the retreat might include goals/objectives for

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land acquisitions, the NAD Master Plan and communicating with City Council. The Board hosted a retreat two years ago that focused on issues on how the Board functions, inner Board communications and communication with the Natural Areas Department staff. Joe thinks there needs to be some time to prepare for the retreat. John suggested looking at the Master Plan to compose some agenda items. City Council liaison Ross Cunniff should be invited as well. John suggested that he, Mark, Dave, Heidi and Daylan's replacement attend the retreat.

ACTION ITEMS

Conservation Easement Amendment

Dave Myers, Land Conservation Manager presented the request for the first and second amendments to the Hazelhurst conservation easement and the assignment of a conservation easement to Larimer County Open Lands. The amended and restated conservation easement will allow for the subdivision of the 45-acre property into two parcels: a 5-acre parcel to be retained by Glenn and Margaret Hazelhurst and a 40-acre parcel to be purchased in fee by the Natural Areas Department. Staff is also seeking authorization to subsequently enter into a Second Amended and Restated Conservation Easement that will split the Conservation Easement, one that will apply to the 5-acre tract the Hazelhursts retain and a the other encumbering the 40-acre parcel purchased by the City, so that the conservation easement can be managed separately on each parcel. The conservation easement on the City's parcel would then be assigned to and held by Larimer County through its Open Lands Department.

David Tweedale made a motion recommending that City Council approve the execution of First and Second Amended and Restated Conservation Easement on the Hazelhurst Property and Assignment of a Conservation Easement to Larimer County.

Vicky McLane seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 8- 0

E-scooter recommendations to City Council

John reported that City Council gave final approval to allow electric scooters on city streets and sidewalks. E-scooters, however, will be prohibited in natural areas and city park trails. Kelly suggested the board write a memo to City Council thanking them for prohibiting e-scooters in natural areas.

David Tweedale made a motion that the Land Conservation & Stewardship Board draft a memo to City Council acknowledging their appreciation for the banning of e-scooters from Natural Areas and City Park trails.

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Edward Reifsnnyder seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 8-0

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Bicycle Advisory Committee – Mike Weber

No report

Respectful Workplace Policy

Joe reported that a handful of Board members attended the required Boards and Commissions training, *Respectful Workplace Policy* on June 26th. The next training will be held August 6th. Michelle will send out details for the next training.

LCSB Field Trip

Meadow Springs tour. There was discussion earlier in the year about a tour of Meadow Springs. John will provide a couple of tour option dates to the Board.

Foothills Management Plan

John announced the draft Foothills Management Plan will be available mid-August. The plan is to send a memo to City Council describing some of the issues the LCSB would like to discuss with them. John will update Board members as soon as he has more information. Meanwhile he asked members to go online, look at the Plan, and then be prepared to discuss during the September Board meeting.

Board members were extremely appreciative for Aaron Reed's tour of the Nix Facility updates and new construction.

10. ADJOURN

The Board adjourned at 8:05 p.m.