

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

Open Lands Annual Regional Meeting

February 19, 2020

Regular Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Ray Watts called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Edward Reifsnnyder, Andrea Elson, Kelly Ohlson, Alycia Crall, Raymond Watts, Mike Weber, Joe Piesman

3. **EXCUSED:** Vicky McLane, David Tweedale

a. **NAD Staff:** Zoe Shark, Staff Liaison, John Stokes, Mark Sears, Dave Myers, Michelle Vattano

4. **AGENDA REVIEW:** Ray suggested Dave's Land Conservation Update include discussion of the two confidential that were sent in the packet material. Ray wanted to discuss the BFO subject before board follow-up.

5. **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION:** none

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Joe Piesman made a motion to approve the January LCSB Meeting Minutes. Andrea Ohlson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 7-0.*

7. **NEW BUSINESS:** Ray referred to the two memos that were circulated for board review. The first memo addressed the Harmony Gateway Plan Update and the second memo referred to e-bikes.

8. **COMMUNICATION & BOARD MATTERS:**

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

ACTION ITEM:

Ebike Pilot Program memo

Vicky, although not present, made recommendations to Ray with regards to the language. After much discussion the Board agreed to various changes to the memo to better reflect the Boards opinion. The Board agreed to support Class I e-bikes only on paved trails and not Class II. Ebikes are not supported on soft surface trails.

Joe Piesman made a motion to approve the memorandum to City Council regarding e-bikes with the recommended language approved by the Board. Kelly Ohlson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 7-0.

Harmony Gateway Plan

The Board agreed to support the overall Harmony Gateway Development Plan Update.

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The memo reflected the Boards opinion and members agreed to send to City Council.

Joe Piesman made a motion to approve the memo supporting the Harmony Gateway Plan with the recommendation language approved by the Board. Kelly Ohlson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 7-0.

DISCUSSION ITEM:

Land Conservation Updates

Dave Myers announced that he closed on 5.4 acres in Kingfisher Natural Area and the closing on the 24 acres adjacent to Two Creeks Natural Area on February 28. The two confidential memos were reviewed to discuss potential future land acquisitions as well.

Kelly requested an NAD staff member meet with him to discuss how NAD is demonstrating their efforts to purchase lands and the number of staff working specifically on land acquisitions. He feels he hasn't been convinced that NAD is doing the job of putting all hands-on deck. NAD staff explained that acquiring land is not an issue of lack of staff. Acquisitions depend upon the seller being willing to sell their land and willing to accept a reasonable price. Staff contacts over 30 landowners a year and on an ongoing basis are building and maintaining relationships with 30 to 50 land owners. It takes time for the land owner to be willing or ready to sell; negotiations can take years, because sellers may have false high expectations as to the value of their land; it can take years on the market before they realize what the true value is and becoming willing to accept the City's offer; and then it can take 3 to 6 months to close.. Mark explained many sellers are sometimes requesting between 30 to 100% more than fair market value.

BFO

Zoe explained that according to the Communication and Public Involvement Office, all Boards will have the opportunity to be involved in the BFO process. They are talking about hosting a Super Issues meeting in May or June to discuss BFO. Zoe felt the LCSB would want to participate as well. In an effort to help the Board participate in NAD's budget offers, Zoe would like to bring NAD's strategy next month. In March staff will provide a broad overview about the BFO process and then in April dive into more detailed information. In May or June members can participate in the All Boards Super Issues meeting. The City Manager's recommended budget goes to City Council on September 1st and through September and October there are scheduled City Council Work Sessions and Public hearings. Board members are welcome to participate in those as well.

Board follow-up

Secondly, Zoe reported a spreadsheet that has been developed to help her, as the

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Staff Liaison, the Chair and Vice Chair track the status of board follow-up items. This will be an internal document used to ensure board agenda items and issues are revisited in a timely manner. She welcomed members to present any request for follow-up items to Ray or Joe. A more uniform process will provide for better follow up and ensure that items are addressed and tracked.

Zoe announced a Super Issues Board meeting on Oil and Gas on February 24th, 6-8 p.m. An e-mail invitation went out to the Board. Joe mentioned reinventing Boards and Commissions would be the second part of that Super Issues meeting.

Zoe provided two memos in the Boards' packets. One memo was a follow-up to a request on oil and gas issues in and around natural areas and the other memo included a breakdown of costs for the Poudre River Whitewater Park.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS:

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Update

Mike Weber attended the last BAC meeting. Tessa provided a presentation on the pilot ebikes program similar to the one she provided to the LCSB. An additional presentation was given on the e-scooter program. Lastly the BAC had a presentation on the upcoming BFO process.

Andrea reported that she attended the second meeting for the Parks Plan Update. She reported on some of their initial findings of their survey.

10. OTHER BUSINESS:

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



Raymond Watts
Acting Chair



Michelle Vattano
Secretary

3-11-20
Date

