

LARIMER COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

The mission of Larimer County Department of Natural Resources is to establish, protect and manage significant regional parks and open lands providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities and stewardship of natural resource values. We are committed to fostering a sense of community and appreciation for the natural and agricultural heritage of Larimer County for present and future generations.

MINUTES

Date: June 1, 2021

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom Webinar

Contact: Please contact Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Deborah Shulman	x	Chris Fleming	x	
Jill Wuertz	x	Daylan Figs	x	
Kathy Maher	x	Dan Rieves	x	
Kristina Kachur	x	Mark Caughlan	x	
Mandy Peters		Lori Smith	x	
Pete Blume		Melody Johnson	x	
Robert Harris	x	Shayna Jones	x	
Russell Fruits	x	*John Kefalas	x	
Ruthie Rollins	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Spencer Clark				
Steve Ambrose	x			

x = present

***commissioner**

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:32 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Steve moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Deborah seconded, motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resource events for this month: larimer.org/naturalresources.
- b. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board updates, go to apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm, enter your email, click "Subscribe," and check the "Parks Advisory Board" box.
- c. Daylan announced Chris Fleming is the newly appointed Visitor Services Manager and patrol captain. She will be joining PAB meetings moving forward.
- d. A public meeting was held on May 20th to gauge public feedback around management strategies at the north end of Horsetooth Reservoir. The online platform will be available for comment throughout the summer:
<https://lconnects.mysocialpinpoint.com/horsetooth-reservoir-forum>.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Park District updates – Dan/Mark
 - i. Mark – the forum was a nice venue for the community to provide input. Spoke with visitors at Satanka Bay afterwards and the majority were in favor of the paddlecraft only zone. Rob asked if boaters are opposed, Mark clarified most pushback has come from fishermen who are a small percentage of our use. Discussed crowding in cove areas and safety concerns, Jill suggested separate launch points for boaters vs. paddlers. ANS shelter project is wrapping up, waiting for certificate of occupancy. Still experiencing hiring challenges for seasonal employees; ANS and maintenance crews are understaffed. Visitation is averaging ~90% capacity.
 - ii. Dan – emphasized PFD requirement. Carter district is also experiencing ranger and maintenance vacancies. Campgrounds have been full and visitation remains high. New "no parking" signs along CR31 are working well. Groundbreaking meeting for Sky View Campground was last week with county commissioners and partners.
 - iii. Rob asked if the county could apply a stricter PFD requirement than the state, Dan affirmed but said enforcement has been challenging.
 - iv. Kristina asked if staffing challenges are due to cost of living/housing issues, Mark affirmed. Commissioner Kefalas asked if employee housing is available, Dan said they plan to discuss options this winter.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. CIP Financial Review – Lori
 - i. Lori provided an update from last meeting that sales tax data from residents vs. nonresidents is not currently available.
 - ii. Estimated capital projects 2021-2043 (\$130M):
 1. Open Spaces: 42%
 2. Reservoir Parks: 58%
 - iii. Overview of Reservoir Parks operating expenses and revenues 2021-2043
 - iv. Overview of Open Spaces operating expenses and fee based earned revenues 2021-2043
 - v. Sales tax 2019-2043 (\$370M):

1. Management, maintenance, and administration of open spaces, natural areas, wildlife habitats, and trails: 48.9% (\$181M)
 2. Acquiring interest and protecting open space, natural areas, wildlife habitat, parks and trails, and enhancing native plant and animal communities and other habitat related restoration: 35.3% (\$131M)
 3. Improvement of open spaces, natural areas, wildlife habitats, and trails: 12.7% (\$47M)
 4. Improvements to Carter Lake, Horsetooth Reservoir, Flatiron Reservoir, and Pinewood Reservoir: 3.1% (\$11M)
- vi. Overview of Conservation Trust (Lottery) revenues 2021-2043 (average 1.17% annual increase)
 - vii. Parks capital funding 2019-2043:
 1. Partnerships (USBOR, GOCO, etc.): 30%
 2. Lottery: 29%
 3. Parks: 27%
 4. Sales tax: 14%
 - viii. Open Spaces capital funding 2019-2043:
 1. Sales tax: 80%
 2. Partnerships: 20%
 - ix. Overview of BOR Reservoir Parks capital improvement projects 2021-2026
 - x. Overview of Open Spaces acquisition projects and capital improvement projects 2021-2026
 - xi. Overview of shared capital improvement projects 2021-2026
 - xii. Ruthie asked how new projects are prioritized/scheduled, Lori explained the department can review the budget and make adjustments as needed.
 - xiii. Deb asked about the budget for the Pleasant Valley Trail, it was noted that project is a concrete replacement for an existing trail at Lyons Park. Deb also asked about budgets for the archery range and parking lot improvements at Satanka Bay. Daylan explained the projects at Satanka Bay were delayed past 2026 for cash flow purposes.
 - xiv. Jill asked which projects are Master Plan vs. CIP. It was noted the majority of projects are marked as “replacement,” which indicate capital improvements/repair on existing infrastructure. Daylan clarified the HTMOS Management Plan is different than the Master Plan and discussed the balance between new projects and long-term sustainability. Kathy suggested further notation of this in the presentation.
- b. 2022 Budget Approach Review – Lori
 - i. Considerations for 2022 budget approach:
 1. Consumer price index: 1.91% change between 2019-2020
 2. Minimum wage: \$12.32 in 2021
 3. Prior years’ trends:
 - a. Reservoir Parks operations (revenues and expenses increased in 2020)

- b. Open Spaces operations (similar increase in 2020, gap covered by sales tax)
 - c. Land Stewardship (Weed District) operations
 - 4. 25-year projections 2021-2043 (assumes fee increase every 3 years):
 - a. Overview of Reservoir Parks operating expenses and revenues
 - b. Overview of Open Spaces operating expenses and fee based earned revenues
 - c. Land Stewardship Program (Weed District) projected property tax increases (10% by 2026)
 - 5. Summary:
 - a. Scale of mandated to discretionary items:
 - i. Regular wages and benefits increases: TBD
 - ii. Central services increases: TBD
 - iii. Temporary and seasonal staff increases: 3%
 - iv. Operational base increases: 2%
 - v. Additional increase in base budget: \$75k
 - vi. One-time project budget: \$216k
 - ii. Jill asked if the department anticipates increasing fees at reservoir parks every 3 years, Lori affirmed and explained 25-year projections were determined by an economic study by Harvey Economics in 2018.
 - iii. Lori will present the 2022 budget submittal approach at next month's meeting.

8. ACTION ITEMS

9. US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE – not attending

- a. Mark updated they are working on the contract extension due in 2022. Marina concessionaire contracts also expire in July 2022; the bid process will start at the end of this year.
- b. Dan added water levels at Carter will be slightly higher than anticipated due to the wet spring.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- a. Russell announced this will be his last meeting serving on the board. Election of officers will occur at the next meeting.
- b. Jill updated she attended the HTMOS Management Plan stakeholder meeting and commended the team on their partnership efforts.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Daylan Figgs

- a. HTMOS Management Plan update is underway. The 2022 budget will be submitted to the BOCC later this year, also plan to discuss fee schedule. Facing unknowns with labor shortage, visitation trends, budget requests, etc. Board members will be asked to provide feedback as plans progress. Commissioner Kefalas asked if American Rescue

Plan funds can be utilized for capital improvement projects, Daylan said some projects might meet criteria and Chris submitted several projects for consideration.

12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 7/6/2021 via Zoom Webinar

- a. Discussed resuming hybrid or in-person meetings by the end of summer.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Pursuant to C.R.S. (24-6-402(4)(a)) for discussion pertaining to the purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer or sale of any real, personal or other property interest.

14. ADJOURN – 7:06 p.m.