



Date: February 1, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Location: Zoom Webinar

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Bill Prater	x	Chris Fleming	x	Jeff Stahla (Northern Water)
Deborah Shulman	x	Daylan Figgs	x	
Jill Wuertz	x	Dan Rieves	x	
Kathy Maher	x	*John Kefalas	x	
Kristina Kachur	x	Jordan Williams (minutes)	x	
Mandy Peters	x	Zac Wiebe	x	
Pete Blume		Cindy Claggett	x	
Robert Harris	x	Korrie Johnston	x	
Ruthie Rollins	x			
Scott Murray				
Spencer Clark				

x = present

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:31pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Ruthie moved to approve the minutes from January, Kathy seconded, motion approved unanimously

Information and Announcements

Natural Resources events for this month: <https://larimer.org/naturalresources>.

To sign up for Parks Advisory Board updates, go to <https://apps.larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click “Subscribe,” and check the “Parks Advisory Board” box

Download the online LCDNR 2022 Calendar: <https://www.larimer.org/naturalresources/2022-calendar>

October 2021 Open Space Sales Tax distribution

November 2021 Open Spaces Sales Tax Distribution

January News article – Horsetooth 71st Anniversary

Horsetooth Community Forum (January 25) – Korrie Johnston

- The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hosted a Q and A session to conclude the [engagement process from 2021](#). 15 residents were on the call, and management steps for 2022 were discussed.

Commissioner Kefalas Update

- Commissioner Kefalas commended DNR for their public outreach surrounding Satanka Bay at Horsetooth. He recommends continuing engagement with [NoCo Places 2050](#) as the region looks to manage increased demand for recreation while being more inclusive.
- Jill asked about funds related to ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). Daylan said that DNR submitted ARPA requests for water systems at Hermit Park and other restroom upgrades.

Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Management Plan Update – Zac Wiebe

- Zac shared his screen: In addition to two public meetings and two rounds of public feedback, the draft plan outlining management actions to improve visitor experience, ecological health, and financial stability will be [posted online for a last set of public feedback](#).
 - The second open online survey received 411 responses, with 254 coming from mountain bikers with a focus to “Enhance the trail system” receiving the most support with 376.
- Enhanced ecological conditions: Goal to expand/retain intact habitat patches, restore Redstone Creek riparian corridor through appropriate grazing, utilize seasonal closures for raptors, and continue responsible forestry work.
- Improved visitor experience: Will make trail system adjustments, design improvements to main trailhead, redesign restroom/kiosk, designate and monitor rock climbing areas, and retain equestrian parking with adaptive adjustments.
 - Ruthie asked if horse trailer parking might be taken away during busy times later in the day. Zac affirmed that changing parking options on weekends could be part of adaptive management.
- Trail system: Objectives include intermediate access to upper trails, more balanced difficulty levels, improved connections, downhill directional options, and greater sustainability. Proposals included 13 different concepts, with two nearby at the reservoir: the Powerline social trail and a South Bay to Inlet Bay connection.
 - Trail concept feedback has been positive, and it will help the trail crew prioritize next projects. Closure/realignment of Mill Creek will not be implemented currently but will continue to be monitored.
 - Deborah asked about additional access to upper trails and how e-bike usage will impact the open space. Zac highlighted a new intermediate trail from the Soderberg Trailhead that will provide an alternative to Towers road access. E-bikes are only allowed on soft surface trails for riders with a mobility disability
- Nighttime Use: The initial concept was a full nighttime closure due to operational challenges, low visitation, and neighbor concerns. However, the public said they valued the before/after work access, nighttime experience, and backcountry campsites close to home.
 - New proposal: 11pm-4am closure and retain campsites (to be added to the department’s reservation system with a nightly fee)
 - Will continue night-based education programs through DNR with limited appropriate special events.
- Next steps: Website updates for the public and Open Land Advisory Board adoption, then implementation and adaptive management.
 - Mandy commented that DNR did a good job of listening to the feedback and concerns of the public. Ruthie thinks the plan provides a balanced approach. Jill thought the online engagement tool was helpful and asked about when work would begin. Staff noted that some trail updates and restoration efforts could begin as soon as this summer.

Update and Reports

Park District updates – Dan/Cindy

- Chris noted that the Larimer County Sheriff recognized four DNR rangers at a recent award ceremony.

- **Carter:** Camp hosts are being solidified, but unfortunately a previous host passed away recently. DNR is reaching out to support their family. Cindy discussed the history of fishing access at Flatiron Reservoir but noted that since the water fluctuates it is a challenge to avoid issues with mud. Bill wrote the grant 10 years ago for the Flatiron fishing pier and wants to know if the pier could be extended to help avoid access issues for seniors who fish from the shore. Dan said they can mention the senior derby dates to Northern Water and Bureau of Reclamation to help with water levels. Jeff said that Chimney Hollow Reservoir will not fluctuate as much, but the ground is steeper. Cindy noted that hiring seasonal rangers and planning for Ranger Excellence School is ongoing.
- **Horsetooth:** Dan has been meeting with Horsetooth area concessionaires and event organizers to clarify expectations. The Polar Plunge and 5K run took place in January with over 600 participants. Work continues rehabbing and upgrading technology at the gatehouses. Dan provided information on the history of the Fishing Expo history at the Ranch. The Expo was supposed to help demystify fishing at Horsetooth and Carter Lake to increase visitation during the shoulder seasons. DNR would be willing to participate if another agency/organization planned a similar event in the future.

Discussion Items

LC Boards and Commissions: Pilot Stipend Program – Daylan

- Daylan said the pilot stipend program goal is to help eliminate barriers to participation by providing financial support for childcare, travel stipends, etc. It is a voluntary application that is reviewed by the county commissioners.
- Kristina noted the importance of outreach when there are board openings. Commissioner Kefalas said the newest board for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is having interviews this week and the stipend program form is being adjusted based on community feedback.
- Ruthie asked how the county recruits for boards and commissions. Commissioner Kefalas noted the recent hiring of Latinx individuals at the Commissioner's Public Affairs office and Spanish-language community conversation sessions.
- Kristina wants to be inclusive with the PAB and asked about annual permits for board members. Daylan said there is a \$59 limit on gifts, but DNR will be exploring ways to show support to the board members. Regarding inclusivity, Daylan noted that the free Discover Packs can be checked out via local libraries and the most popular park/open space brochures have been translated into Spanish.
- Jill thought it would be helpful to include county board and commission information during the workforce center presentations.

Advisory Board Guidelines – Daylan

- Shared screen: Purpose of the county board/commission is to advise the Board of County Commissioners. DNR Staff will make sure to note on PAB agendas when there are operational topics for input.
- Open Meeting Laws: Everything at board meetings is available for public review (recording, minutes, etc.) It is important to note what constitutes a meeting and when public notice must be given. Executive sessions are exempt from public meeting laws.
- Code of Ethics: Board members have their own external endeavors, so it is necessary to be aware of potential conflicts when advising the BOCC on a particular subject.
- CORA requirements: Board records are required to be available for inspections of the public upon request.
- Bylaws for PAB were adopted in 2008 (see attachment.) They include a description of the goals, objectives, and duties/tasks of the board, but they can be updated if needed.

Department Strategic Plan Update – Daylan

- Daylan shared his screen: The DNR Strategic Plan is an internal focusing document to help guide the department for the next 3-5 years. It aims to integrate the three existing master plans for Parks, Open Lands, and Weeds.
- Currently in process between Step 2 (Strategic Planning Retreat) and Step 3 (Strategic Plan Showcase). Continuing staff engagement through the online portal to help build ownership of the plan across the department.

- The role of the advisory boards is to provide feedback on the draft priorities and maintain awareness of its objectives and outcomes.

Board Member Reports

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Daylan noted that there soon may be options to host upcoming board meetings in-person.

Next Meeting Scheduled

March 1, 2022

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.

Adjournment

7:35pm

Per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Larimer County will provide a reasonable accommodation to qualified individuals with a disability who need assistance. Services can be arranged with at least seven (7) business days' notice. Please email us at williajo@co.larimer.co.us, or call (970) 498-7719 or Relay Colorado 711. "Walk-in" requests for auxiliary aids and services will be honored to the extent possible but may be unavailable if advance notice is not provided.