



Date: August 6, 2024
Time: 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM
Location: Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC) at 4200 W. County Rd. 38E, Fort Collins CO 80526 - Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Bill Prater	I	Chris Fleming	I	Jeff Stahla
Jill Wuertz	I	Daylan Figgs	I	Tara Piper
Kathy Maher	V	Steve Gibson	A	
Kristina Kachur	V	Cindy Claggett	I	
Adam Crossan	A	*John Kefalas	A	
Pete Blume	V	Andrea Weber (minutes)	I	
Robert Harris	I	Zach Cook	I	
Ruthie Rollins	I	Hannah Beam	I	
Joe Bakel	I			
Phil Stout	I			
Jeannie Mounts	I			

V = virtual attendee

I = in-person attendee

A = Absent

*commissioner

Call to Order – 5:30 pm

Public Comment

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

May - Phil moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Bill seconded, motion passed unanimously

June - Bill moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Rob seconded, motion passed 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.

March 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

April 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

May 2024 Tax Distribution Letter

Quarter 2 Board Report

- Daylan explained the reports are to display key projects and initiatives through staff led stories, encompassing all aspects across the department.

Update and Reports

Park District Updates – Steve/Cindy

- Chris
 - Acknowledged the excellent fire response despite limited resources. Special recognition to Daylan for his work in the gatehouses during the incident.
 - Bill questioned why HT and Carter were used for these fires but not Cameron Peak Fire.
 - Chris speculated it might be due to lessons learned from Cameron Peak to prevent another large-scale fire. Hannah added scooper planes weren't available in 2020 during the Cameron Peak Fire.
 - Chris highlighted the coordination across multiple departments in the county, including Human Services, the Humane Society, and the Sheriff's Office (SO).
- Steve (on behalf of Cindy):
 - Both full-time and seasonal maintenance staff are currently short, and hiring is ongoing.
 - Water is decreasing faster than expected, but still higher than previous years. The marina and maintenance teams are keeping up with the water level changes. No ramp issues are anticipated for the season.
 - South Bay Decontamination Station is planned for mid-late August, with a September opening.
 - Satanka Shelter construction was delayed due to fire restrictions, which prohibit welding.
 - South Bay parking lot restriping project in progress, hoping to have funded by a grant.
 - Hiring additional ANS boat inspectors to stay on through November.
 - July 4th, Horsetooth (HT) reached capacity at 8:15 am and remained full until 6 pm. Many visitors parked at Lory State Park and walked in, causing challenges.
 - Lory State Park closed their gates when parking was full, resulting in people parking in unconventional areas. She also raised concerns about multiple fights and issues at the park, noting a need for crowd management.
 - Chris mentioned that overcrowding presents a safety issue, and expanding infrastructure isn't necessarily the solution. She said the new master plan will address these issues over the coming years.
- Cindy
 - July 4th at Carter was beyond control after 10 am. Overcrowding was an issue, with people parking illegally.
 - Carter Eastside Project: Removing 7 shoreline campsites, relocating the swim beach, and addressing erosion and social trail issues. DNR will continue public outreach for this project.
 - Plans to offer opportunities for public feedback regarding Chimney Hollow.
 - Collaborating with Loveland on permits for fire hazard mitigation, targeting Pinewood community. Efforts were paused due to fires but are expected to resume.
 - Carter not reaching capacity but coming close.
 - Jill asked about increasing fines for parking violations.
 - Cindy explained there are legal restrictions on what can be charged to someone in person vs. their vehicle.
 - Pinewood was used for bucket scooping. Ranger Beam extinguished a fire at Pinewood with assistance from residents.

RES 2024 – Zach Cook

- The Ranger Excellence School was hosted in Estes, serving 85 participants, including rangers and outdoor staff from across the country (50 non-LC rangers and 31 LC rangers).
 - Focus includes officer safety, ranger training, and driving skills for limited commission officers.
 - Raised \$18,000 in revenue, with \$7,000 in donations.
- New Concepts and Continued Efforts:

- Split registrations for one/two-day attendees instead of the whole week
- Discounted Rocky Mountain Ranger Association (RMRA) membership for instructors/facilitators/safety officers
- RES standard operating procedures
- Continued effort to provide higher level classes certifications/highlight entry level classes (currently set up for more entry level certifications, no CEUs offered).
 - Jill suggested offering a CEU for rangers to earn continued education, which would bring in revenue year after year.
- Continued coordination with RMRAs training committee to increase attendees at RES
- Website link on National Park Ranger Institute and International Ranger Federation
- Continued Regional Leadership by seeking new agencies for attendance and networking opportunities
- Zach noted RES does not make profit, however, it allows DNR to train its temporary staff.
- RES 2025 will be held May 19-23.

Operation Dry Water – Ranger Hannah Beam

- Operation Dry Water (run by NASBLA): National Boating Under the Influence Awareness and Enforcement Campaign
 - Year round within heightened enforcement around July 4th
 - Alcohol use is the leading contributing factor in recreational boater deaths
 - CPW and LC are the only two entities in CO that participate
- Hannah said that over July 4th, 3,202 passes were sold on a single day. Over 1,165 boats inspected between Horsetooth and Carter. Totaled 150 ranger hours.
- Safety and Enforcement: 101 vessels contacted, 41% had alcohol on board, 13 citations issued; top reasons were missing PFDs and fire extinguishers, 3 DUI arrests (highest BAC 0.218), 3 BUI arrests (highest BAC 0.145).
 - The board asked about knowledge sharing and training across agencies. Zach noted Senior Ranger Travis Bernstein with DNR developed a boat training academy, inviting other agencies to share knowledge and participate.

Text-to-Pay Project – Daylan/Chris

- Daylan said the motivation for the new system is to have a backup to the unreliable iron ranger's system and recover lost revenue from these often-failing pay stations. DNR's estimated lost revenue in 2023 was \$170,000.
- Visitors will text a number or use a QR code (via T2, a system DNR is currently using) to receive a link for pass purchases. There is no app, and the license plate data is collected to look at in/out of state metrics. The system is expected to roll out by Labor Day.
- Costs will be \$14,500 up-front, with \$9.18 in net revenue per permit. It is estimated to break even after 1,580 sales.
- Plans are to have a 24-hour window of time where visitors who did not purchase a permit can purchase one if they received a warning ticket on their windshield.
- Chris noted cell boosters are being explored to improve connectivity.

Discussion Items

Action Items

Board Bylaws

- Daylan noted the bylaws were updated to align with county policy.
 - Purpose of the board is to advise the BOCC.
- Ruthie asked for a motion for PAB to recommend to the BOCC the adoption of the PAB Bylaws. Rob made a motion, Jill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair and Vice Chair Elections

- Ruthie asked for board chair nominations. Ruthie nominated Kristina; Kathy seconded. Kristina accepted the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.
- Kristina opened the election for vice chair. Ruthie nominated Rob for vice chair. Rob accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update

- Tara said BOR owns and oversees the land around reservoirs and provides updates on water levels. She surveyed around 200 people, and collected feedback, which was generally positive.

Northern Water Conservancy District Update

Board Member Reports

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Submitted the budget with a modest increase of 3-4%. General funding requests included off-property ranger patrols/projects and noxious weed management.
- Federal Land Access will fund \$15 million worth of work, of which DNR has invested \$3 million into. Work will begin in 2025.
- Fee increases might be considered at the end of the year.

Next Meeting Scheduled

September 3rd, 2024 – at Horsetooth Area Information Center: 4200 W. County Rd. 38 E. Fort Collins, CO 80526 Mountain Lion Room & Zoom Webinar.

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 – 8:02 pm

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 weberan@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.