



Date: November 2, 2021
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: Zoom Webinar

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

MEMBERS		STAFF		GUESTS
Bill Prater	x	Daylan Figgs	x	Tara Piper (USBOR)
Deborah Shulman	x	Dan Rieves	x	Jeff Stahla (Northern Water)
Jill Wuertz	x	Meegan Flenniken	x	
Kathy Maher	x	Julie Enderby	x	
Kristina Kachur	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Mandy Peters				
Pete Blume				
Robert Harris	x			
Ruthie Rollins	x			
Scott Murray	x			
Spencer Clark	x			

x = present

Call to Order – 5:32 p.m.

Tara Piper, Natural Resource Specialist for Reclamation, introduced herself to the board.

Public Comment – none

Agenda Review

Review and Approval of Last Minutes

Ruthie moved to approve the minutes from last meeting, Jill 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

Update and Reports

Park District updates – Dan

- Carter Lake: Marina infrastructure is 75% out, Sail Club infrastructure is out. Transitioning back to management mode for the season, only one seasonal employee remaining on staff. Sky View Campground has made a lot of progress, minor electrical work and pavilion installation remaining. Water levels are good at Carter, Flatiron, and Pinewood. No major projects are scheduled for the winter besides a few gate installations.
- Horsetooth Reservoir: Cabin construction and revegetation work are complete, waiting for mattresses. Opening date is TBD but a ribbon cutting ceremony will occur sometime next spring. Marina inspection with Tara at Inlet Bay and Carter Lake marinas went well. Inlet Bay waterline will be reconfigured with a tap from the Spring Canyon Water District in the next couple of months. Boat ramps and ANS program remain open for limited hours between now and December 1st, then a hard closure will occur until April 1st.

2021 Quarter 3 Board Report – Daylan

- Key highlights:
 - The BOCC approved a new fee structure that will go into effect Jan. 1st. Adjustments include a rise for daily permits, annual permits, and all types of camping, as well as the installation of a fee at the Devil's Backbone Open Space southern trailhead. The disabled individual and low-income (bison) permits will incur no increase.
 - Recognition for two LCDNR rangers for a life-saving commendation at Carter Lake.
 - Open space projects including riparian restoration at River Bluffs Open Space and the Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Management Plan update.

Education and Volunteer Program update – Julie/Meegan

- Meegan introduced herself and Julie to the board. Julie shared an annual update on programs and strategic efforts provided by education and volunteer staff.
- The education program promotes stewardship and responsible outdoor behaviors and provides public education classes, field trips for school and community groups, outreach education, and non-personal media. 2021 updates include:
 - SEEK (Safety, Education, and Ecological Knowledge) stations and stewardship messaging
 - 66 stations and 7,147 visitors reached in 2020
 - 95 stations and 14,810 visitors reached in 2021
 - Niche geology field trip/education opportunities at Devil's Backbone and Red Mountain open spaces
 - Updated Junior Ranger Guides to include new stewardship messaging and LNT principles
 - Natural Guides for Discover Packs
- The volunteer program assists staff to meet department needs by way of trail and facility maintenance projects, public and school education programs, volunteer ranger assistants, and campground hosts. 2021 updates include:
 - 3,143 feet of old barbed wire fenced removed from Little Thompson Farm
 - 6.25 miles of existing trail restored/maintained
 - 37 campsites restored/maintained
 - 50 trees mulched and/or planted
 - 52 bags of dog poop and 108 bags of trash collected
 - 30 hours of painting over graffiti at Rotary Park
 - And more!
- Scott asked about target audiences/inclusivity in programs. Julie said the department considers groups that are currently engaging with us and noted the skill set needed to reach middle and high schoolers, Spanish speakers, etc.
- Deborah commented on ways to give kudos to volunteers. Julie said we will make a note for next year and explained the process for community/corporate groups to stay involved.

- Ruthie asked if the Discover Pack guides can be accessed online, Julie said they are still in the design process but will be available soon.

Discussion Items

Visitor Services Staffing update – Dan

- Dan distributed info for Mark Caughlan's retirement gathering and updated he will move to manage the Horsetooth District. The District Manager position for Carter Lake is currently advertised.

Horsetooth Forum update – Daylan

- The Horsetooth Community Forum had a great turnout and wrapped up Aug. 31st. Most respondents agreed that separation of use is a good first step in managing safety risks on the north side of the reservoir, with noted concern from the boating/angler community. In response to public comment, and with strong direction from the community, LCDNR plans to maintain the separation of use at Satanka Bay within a designated timeframe and enforce a shoreline zone for hand-launch craft. Final management decisions will be made during the next recreation year.
- Ruthie asked if we anticipate increased SUP use to continue. Daylan commented on long-term predictions and the likelihood for trends to continue. The department's management decisions aim to be adaptive and operational in nature.
- Bill asked about wake boats, it was noted wake boats were not a predominant theme in the forum.
- Jill suggested reviewing capacity guidelines. Daylan explained capacity on open spaces is managed by parking lots, but reservoir capacity is determined by Coast Guard standards. Dan provided further explanation that the calculation is based on surface area by particular use. Meegan commented on the potential for adaptive management over time.

Action Items

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Update – Tara Piper

The board informed Tara of regular updates to provide at meetings including activities that might impact water levels or safety/security, MOU status updates, etc. It was noted the City of Fort Collins has more information on water quality.

Board Member Reports

Director's Report – Daylan Figgs

- Daylan relayed a message for Commissioner Kefalas that the Climate Smart Task Force kick-off meeting is November 3rd at 6pm. The meeting will help the County to determine how to engage the public in the process.
- LCDNR will initiate a strategic planning process in the next couple of weeks. The process will develop an internal document about the delivery and outline of department master plans. More info to come.
- Board members are encouraged to stay engaged in planning processes (Horsetooth Reservoir Forum, Horsetooth Mountain Open Space Management Plan update).
- The recreation season is winding down and staff are preparing for next year. Expect to see staffing changes, budget requests, additional bandwidth, etc. in the new year. A new Project Manager verbally accepted the position to manage the CIP. The MOU with USBOR will be ready for signature in the next couple of months.

Next Meeting Scheduled

January 4, 2022 via 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 – 7:14 p.m.

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