

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: January 8, 2019

Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Horsetooth Area Information Center (HAIC), 4200 W. County Road 38E, Fort Collins, CO 80526

Contact: Please contact Emmy at ellisoea@co.larimer.co.us or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Brian Rasch	x	Ken Brink	x	James Bishop (BOR)
Chris Klaas	x	Mark Caughlan	x	Don Waldburger (Carter Marina)
Deborah Shulman	x	Dan Rieves	x	John Waldburger (Carter Marina)
Kathy Maher	x	Sarah Watson	x	
Mark De Gregorio	x	*Stephen Johnson	x	
Michael Robinson	x	Emmy Ellison (minutes)	x	
Robert Harris	x			
Russell Fruits	x			
Stephanie Hansen				
Ruthie Rollins	x			
Steve Ambrose	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:31 p.m.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Deborah moves to approve last meeting minutes, Mike seconds, motion passed unanimously.

5. INFORMATION & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Natural Resource events for this month: See <http://www.larimer.org/naturalresources>.
- b. To sign up for Parks Advisory Board minutes, go to <http://larimer.org/subscriptions.cfm>, enter your email, click 'Subscribe,' and then check the 'Parks Advisory Board' box.
- c. Hermit Park closed for the season on Thursday, December 20th. It will reopen to the public on March 1st, 2019, weather dependent.
- d. There have been reports of increased vehicle break-ins at Fort Collins and other natural areas; it is recommended to not leave valuables in vehicles.
- e. Fort Collins Natural Areas Department and Larimer County's DNR are seeking volunteer ranger assistants. Applications will be accepted through January 30th. Volunteers will attend 20 hours of training in February and are asked to give 20 hours of service in return. For further details, please call 970-221-6311.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Park District updates and reports – Dan/Mark
- b. HT Sail and Saddle Club update – joint meeting scheduled with BOR on 18th for possible resolution on lease agreement. Exclusive Use designation in RMP, working through ADA & public accessibility issues, staff is working to maintain healthy relationship with the Club long term.
 - i. Board member question regarding how those same issues were addressed when they came up 10 years ago. It was noted that this time a Record of Decision is expected and there are fresh eyes on the subject.
 - ii. Possible need for federal solicitation process, should have more news in next few months, still early in the conversation. Exclusive use and ADA/ABA are completely separate issues.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Review of BOCC Fee Update Decisions – Ken
 - i. Nights of camping sold over last 5 years have doubled, staffing not keeping up. Will add 3 FTE staff this year (1 Ranger at RMOS, 1 maintenance at HT, 1 maintenance at Carter). Want to maintain high level of service. Thanks given to board members (subcommittee particularly), BOCC and staff for work on Fees.
 - ii. Fee package approved by OLAB and PAB was mostly approved by BOCC with the exceptions of DBB (no fee approved) and Senior Pass (fee to increase to \$65) and with the addition of two new passes (low income Bison Pass and Veteran's Pass). Bison Pass will use same standards as government and State. Have had very little feedback since press release. New Director will decide whether or not the proposed 3-step process will be utilized.
 - iii. Board members asked why BOCC did not approve the DBB fee when both Advisory Boards supported it unanimously. Commissioner Johnson stated that Commissioner Donnelly wanted to pursue talks with the City of Loveland for potential cost-sharing at DBB before possibly revisiting the DBB fee option with BOCC. Commissioner Johnson also stated that the BOCC understands that

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without a fee at DBB, there may not be as much attention at that location from LCDNR staff.

- iv. Implementation March 1st for Bison and Veteran's passes, both are for LC residents only and both require sensitive information and will be sold at our offices only to protect customer privacy.
- b. Mark and Ken attended statewide ANS Taskforce meeting, ANS gates at LC will allow for more legal access (nighttime fishing, in particular), will have extensive signage. New \$25 fee for all boaters, more for out-of-state boaters. Potential BOR funding of \$200k to match \$40k from LC for proposed semi-permanent facilities for boat inspectors. Total cost for LC ANS program is \$450k, includes decontamination, supplies, staffing, administration.
 - i. Board member question about user honesty and whether it presents a risk to the ANS program. It was noted that a large percentage of the success of the program is based on honesty but that all boats are inspected visually and physically.

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Review and recommendation of updated Marina slip prices for 2019 – Dan/Mark
 - i. Marina's business needs are in line with the County's, increased demand, market correction. Agreements with marinas state that concessionaires must notify LC of any proposed substantial increase in fees, then LC approves changes. BOCC approves contracts, District Managers approve rates.
 - ii. Carter Lake Marina
 - 1. Carter Lake Marina increase may not necessarily trigger that notification as the proposal may not be considered substantial, wanted to get feedback from board for transparency.
 - 2. Comps provided to board, prices last adjusted in 2010, roughly 10% increase. Slip and mooring descriptions, rates related to service provided, bigger boats are bigger liabilities. Timeline for decision.
 - 3. Don Waldburger – has 130 slips and 70 moorings, both numbers dictated by BOR and LC, 200 boats is max, running out of shoreline for slips, one dock is 540 feet long which is as big as they can manage. Parking issues remain, particularly when marina is full. Added 26 slips last year, all sold out, had waitlist. Minimum wage has increased, insurance has increased by 50%, marina pays LC 4% of gross.
 - 4. Board member question about if the increased rates will affect LC staffing. It was noted that the rates are considered reasonable, well within market. Don addressed anticipated increase in newsletter last year and did not see pushback.
 - 5. Season is April 1 through October 31, weather dependent. Closed early only 1 year out of 31 due to drought.
 - iii. Inlet Bay Marina

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1. 350 boats, different experience. Average boat size is larger, complex docking systems, Glen has \$1.5 million invested in marina, has 20 employees, \$500k in fuel system. He is asking for a \$200 increase for single slips, double slips and moorings going up by \$100. Over 100 people waiting for slips, no longer taking names.
 - iv. Mike moves to recommend that managers approve the proposed Horsetooth and Carter Lake marina rate increases to staff, Steve seconds, motion passed unanimously.
9. U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE – James Bishop
 - a. Tour for board members scheduled for next Thursday, 3 members who can't make the Thursday tour are interested in a second tour, schedule passed around. BOR unaffected by government shutdown. Discussion of BOR being realigned with the Upper Colorado Region by the Department of Interior effective October 1, 2019, may affect ANS funding, will keep PAB updated as James gets information. Discussion of hunting on some BOR properties.
10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS
11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ken Brink
 - a. Significant increase in emergency incidents on LC properties, arrests up significantly over 2017. Ongoing challenge to maintain a safe, predictable environment, staff doing exemplary job of managing that. Grand Lake Clarity project folks working on economic analysis for improving clarity, discussing possible contracting of an economist with leadership, will be expensive. Overview of Grand Lake Clarity project.
12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 2/12/2019 at Natural Resources Administrative Offices (AO), 1800 S. County Road 31, Loveland, CO 80537
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 – 7:16 p.m.