

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: September 3, 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 Sidney at smichl@larimer.org or 970-619-4462 if you are unable to attend.

Members		Staff		Guests
Brian Rasch	x	Ken Brink	x	
Daniela Lawler	x	Daylan Figgs	x	
Deborah Shulman	x	Dan Rieves	x	
Kathy Maher	x	Mark Caughlan	x	
Michael Robinson	x	*Stephen Johnson	x	
Robert Harris	x	Jenn Almstead	x	
Russell Fruits	x	Sidney Michl (minutes)	x	
Ruthie Rollins	x			
Steve Ambrose	x			

x = present

*commissioner

1. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS – 5:30 p.m.
 - a. Introduced Jenn Almstead to the board.
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – none
3. AGENDA REVIEW
4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
 - a. Rob moved to approve last meeting minutes, Kathy seconded, 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. The Department's Federal Lands Access Program grant application has been shortlisted which means we are likely to receive the grant. Next steps will include a site visit with program administrators with final notification anticipated in January 2020.

6. UPDATES & REPORTS

- a. Park District updates – Dan/Mark
 - i. Mark – Increasing visitation continues to be a trend, impacts on law enforcement and maintenance staff. 26k people visited HT Reservoir over Labor Day weekend, busiest to date. Sunrise Swim Beach is a very popular spot, cars parking outside of lot along road, common theme for holiday weekends. Campgrounds will remain full on weekends through September. Losing some seasonal employees, ongoing challenge that we are working to address. Finalizing process with BOR on Satanka parking lot and archery range, construction will start this fall. Working on traffic study with Road and Bridge. Replacing power pedestals at Inlet Bay mid-October.
 - ii. Dan – Challenges in retaining seasonal rangers throughout fall. Busy Labor Day weekend at Carter. 2 rangers in Academy, starting their 4th week and doing well. Camp hosts are leaving for the season, responsibilities will shift back to rangers. Planning and onboarding for winter projects. Weather has been great, had a very successful summer.
- b. Horsetooth Special Enforcement Zone Plan – Ken and Mark
 - i. Outlining a plan with SO, Poudre Fire Authority, BOR, and state patrol to create new solutions for crime-related issues. Meeting with BOCC in October to review proposals, will bring to board in November or December. Goal is to implement plan in 2020.
 - ii. Michael asked about effectiveness of after-hours gates at HT Reservoir, it was noted that installing road fangs at parking lot exits has been successful for security and public safety.
- c. Visitor Use Study – Jenn Almstead (30 minutes)
 - i. Increasing visitors due to increasing populations, purpose of study was to look at several properties (HTMOS, RMOS, HT Reservoir) to understand visitation and overall visitor experience. Worked with Colorado State University on methodology, sampling size, and data analysis.
 - ii. Study highlights include:
 - 1. Visitor Counts: estimated annual visitation and parking capacity (5 or less available parking spaces).
 - 2. Visitor Satisfaction Survey: typical visitor, residence of visitors, top cities where visitors are coming from, average group size, reasons for visiting, percentage of first-time visitors, primary activities by location, specific trail uses reported, quality of facilities, crowding/conflict summary.

3. The full Visitor Use Study report can be found here:
<https://www.larimer.org/naturalresources/plans-reports-advisory-boards>.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Board Election of Officers
 - i. Russell Fruits re-elected as chair, Deborah Shulman elected as vice chair.

9. US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION UPDATE (no staff attending)

- a. Daylan updated that a new area manager will start Sept. 15th.
- b. Board member comment about gates installed at Carter Lake, Dan clarified they will be used only in case of credible threats against the reservoir under authority of the SO.

10. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- a. Deborah reported the Horsetooth Open Water Swim is this weekend, Sept. 8th, 10k race from Satanka Cove to South Bay and series of 1- and 2.4-mile races at South Bay.

11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Daylan Figgs

- a. Land use code revisions on front end, may be some opportunities for board to comment soon. LC Comprehensive Plan has been adopted, HTMOS Management Plan will be revised next. Submitted 2020 budget, reflects changes in seasonal wages, maintenance projects, and fee changes. Biglandia is in planning stage.

12. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED: 10/1/2019 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 – 7:13 p.m.