



Parks & Open Space

Parks & Open Space Advisory Committee MINUTES

February 27, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Commissioners' Hearing Room, 3rd Floor
Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by James Krug

Members:

Scott Miller
Sue Anderson
Heather Williams
James Krug
Jenn Archuleta
Paula Fitzgerald
Trace Baker
Kira Pasquesi -- **Excused**
Steven Meyrich -- **Excused**

Staff:

Eric Lane
Sandy Duff
Therese Glowacki
Dave Hoerath
Janis Whisman
Conrad Lattes
Bevin Carithers
Jenny Dalton
Renata Frye
Vivienne Jannatpour
Nik Brockman

Approval of the January 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ACTION REQUESTED: Minutes Approval

ACTION: Anderson moved approval of item. Baker seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Anderson, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Baker; **EXCUSED:** Kira Pasquesi, Steven Meyrich; **AWAY:** Scott Miller;

Public Participation - Items Not on the Agenda

None

Presentations

McLachlan Acquisition

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC

PRESENTER:Sandy Duff, Senior Land Officer

Public Comment:

Dan Wolford, City of Longmont. He expressed the city's excitement for this opportunity. The city is considering an agricultural lease on the property, but no use is designated yet.

Kevin Markey, 8853 N. 55th St., Longmont. He lives near this property. He wondered why Longmont is acquiring land so far west.

Jeff Mason, 10000 N 65th St., Longmont. He lives near this property. He had concerns that allowing public access on this property would negatively impact the ecological aspects of the property and also impact their ability to use their own property.

ACTION: Fitzgerald moved approval of item. Baker seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Anderson, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Baker; **EXCUSED:** Kira Pasquesi, Steven Meyrich;

Madison Farms Acquisition

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC

PRESENTER:Sandy Duff, Senior Land Officer

Public Comment:

None

ACTION: Baker moved approval of item. Miller seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Anderson, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Baker; **EXCUSED:** Kira Pasquesi, Steven Meyrich;

Ron Stewart Preserve at Rabbit Mountain Elk and Vegetation Management Plan Extension

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC

PRESENTER:Therese Glowacki, Manager, Resource Management Division

Public Comment:

Ken Altshuler, 3997 Nelson Rd., Longmont. He is concerned about hunting in this area and questions its success in controlling the elk population.

Dr. Rob Roy Ramey, Nederland. He recommended peer review to find other solutions to controlling the elk populations.

Amy Strombotne, 8502 Stirrup Ct., Longmont. She is against hunting to control elk numbers. She thinks the area could become a hunting mecca and that is not what county residents voted for when they approved money for open space. This plan should come to the voters for approval of funds for fencing and non-violent measures.

ACTION: Miller moved approval of item. Fitzgerald seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Anderson, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Baker; **EXCUSED:** Kira Pasquesi, Steven Meyrich;

Red Hill Elk Management Plan

ACTION REQUESTED: Recommendation to BOCC

PRESENTER:Therese Glowacki, Manager, Resource Management Division

Public Comment:

Clive Jones, 4251 Nelson Rd., Longmont. He thinks it's not safe to hunt in this area because it's too close to a developed area. He would like the county to consider other options.

Kevin Markey, 8853 N. 55th St., Longmont. He lives in the area and although he enjoys seeing the elk, he has experienced damage. He thinks the county is not doing enough to get the elk to move. He would like more efficient methods like culling and sharpshooting.

Mina Altshuler, 3997 Nelson Rd., Longmont. She is against hunting in this area. Suggested staff build a trail through this area to keep elk away.

Ed Falborn, 9087 N. 55th St., Longmont. He would like to see other options considered, such as feeding the herd so elk don't come onto private property to eat crops.

Dr. Rob Roy Ramey, Nederland. He spoke again to recommend peer review to find other solutions to controlling the elk populations.

Ken Altshuler, 3997 Nelson Rd., Longmont. He is concerned about hunting in this area and questions its success in controlling the elk population.

ACTION: Miller moved approval of item. Baker seconded the motion.

VOTE: **AYES:** Miller, Williams, Krug, Archuleta, Fitzgerald, Baker; **NAYS:** Sue Anderson; **EXCUSED:** Kira Pasquesi, Steven Meyrich;

Director's Update

- Heil Valley Ranch helicopter logging operations have been completed but ground work will continue for the next month with processing timber, hauling wood chips, and site rehabilitation. Trail closures for the Lichen Loop and Grindstone Quarry Trail have been lifted. The 162-acre forest stand improvement project will enhance habitat on Heil. Incidentally, it will also provide fire mitigation for Lake of the Pines and the wood chips will heat our office and the jail for the rest of the year.
- Last Saturday, the Left Hand Outdoor Challenge included a service project for participants to help with the infrastructure improvements at Southdown Indian Mountain that support American Indian cultural practices. The high school students were treated to a presentation and interaction with the Native American leaders who are coordinating use (sweat lodges) of Indian Mountain.

Upcoming:

- Parks & Open Space will host a public open house on March 3 at our Longmont office to discuss management actions coming up at Webster pond (Pella Ponds). We will be removing non-native fish so the pond can become a nursery for Red Belly Dace, a native fish. Wildlife staff (and Education & Outreach) have been working with CPW, the Innovation Center, and Oceans First to be the first native fish propagation collaborative with St. Vrain schools. (Students are growing the fish in their classrooms to later be released.)
- The public is invited to attend an open house for updating the Carolyn Holmberg Preserve at Rock Creek Farm Management Plan. Staff will share information and gather input on what is working well, areas for enhancement, and opportunities and constraints to consider in developing refined management direction.

Wednesday, March 11, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Louisville Recreation and Senior Center

900 Via Appia Way, Louisville <<https://goo.gl/maps/cms7VVd7v12DK7aK6>>

Materials presented at the open house and a comment form also will be posted online. Staff will present the public input to POSAC in April to help guide next steps in the plan development. It is envisioned that the planning process will run through the fall of 2020.

Kudos:

- Steve Sauer was named the Western Society for Weed Science “Weed Manager of the Year.” It’s a very meaningful award as it is given by a society of scientists to a land manager.
 - Jim Drew and Carol Beam completed a nationally recognized program called Standards and Excellence Program for History Organizations (StEPs) in collection management that resulted in the department’s renewal as a state approved repository for archaeological objects held-in-trust.
 - Mary Tiernan recently took the International Society of Arboriculture exam and passed so she is now an ISA Certified Arborist.
 - Land Conservation Awards:
 - **Land Conservation Award goes to *Paul Lev-Ary***
 - **Environmental Stewardship Award goes to *Lowell and Diane Dodge***
 - **Volunteer Award - Education & Outreach goes to *Gedeon Lafarge***
 - **Volunteer Award - CSU Extension goes to *Rob Alexander***
- Formal presentations will be made with the Board of County Commissioners at POS Longmont headquarters at 3 p.m., April 21.

Lastly, tonight is Sue Anderson’s last night as a member of POSAC and I want to thank her for her several years of service to POSAC, to POS, and to the BOCC. As is tradition, staff have prepared a map that depicts the land acquisitions that were completed during her tenure on POSAC. Some notable properties include agricultural lands like Waneka Centennial Farm, Wheeler, and Hicks-Stitzel and Hicks 2, as well as the Rainbow Nursery property which may be the future home for a county-wide compost facility to reduce the waste streams in the county and create compost for agricultural application.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:01 PM