

City of Aurora
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD
AMC, Sand Creek Room
February 26, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tom Isaacson, Vice Chair Wayne Gallagher, Suzy Cress, Lee Lindholm, Cayenna Johnson, Mark Christopher and Victoria Samuel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Pat Schuler, Manager of Open Space and Natural Resources (OSNR); Brian Green, Superintendent of OSNR; Doug Hintzman, Senior Landscape Architect in Parks Planning, Construction & Design (PD&C) and Sarah Maier, Administrative Support.

VISITORS PRESENT: None

CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Isaacson at 5:30 P.M.

- I. WELCOME: Tom Isaacson welcomed Brian Green, Doug Hintzman and the Open Space Board.
 - GUEST SPEAKERS: Brian Green, Superintendent of OSNR, reviewed the Wildlife Stewardship Plan. The plan outlines how the city conducts business in a way that helps wildlife and people coexist. The most important part of what the city does is to help educate citizens when they have an issue regarding wildlife. Colorado Parks and Wildlife physically manages the wildlife but OSNR helps fill the gap with a 24 hour response to citizens. The Plan includes information about wildlife education and outreach, species specific management guidelines, trail alignment, land management and land conservation measures. The Plan also discusses rules and regulations enforcement. Chair Tom Isaacson asked what the recent wildlife issues have been. Brian responded that there have been several calls about coyotes with mange and also calls about geese and prairie dogs. Tom recommended adding page numbers to the Plan.
 - GUEST SPEAKER: Doug Hintzman, Senior Landscape Architect in PD&C, gave an update on the Tollgate Trail expansion project. Phase 1 from 13th Avenue to Fitzsimmons light rail station has been completed and is open for use. The contractor is finishing up planting willows and cottonwoods along the creek. The city was awarded a federal grant to be able to construct both phases of the trail. Phase 2 is along Tollgate Creek from 13th Avenue to DeLaney Farm. The trail will continue across the bridge at Chambers Avenue to connect to the Highline Canal Trail. Doug explained that the Water Department will also be completing a project modifying the Tollgate Creek channel through DeLaney Farm. Wayne Gallagher asked what the purpose is of altering the channel. Doug responded that there is a lot of erosion and they will be modifying steep areas and bends in the creek. Phase 2 will go out to bid in April and the tentative completion date will be at the end of 2019.
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Amendment to agenda to include the Board interview of Board Member Lee Lindholm. Cayenna Johnson motioned to adopt the agenda with this change. Wayne Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
 - **November Minutes** – Lee Lindholm motioned to approve the November minutes. Suzy Cress seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.
- IV. PROS MANAGEMENT REMARKS:
 - a) **Pat Schuler, OSNR Manager** –
 - i. **Board Member Vacant Position Advertising:** Board Member vacancies are typically only advertised on the city website. We asked the Clerk's Office to also send the open position advertisement to neighborhood leaders and involved residents. There are currently

two new applicants. Suzy Cress also mentioned that the advertisement was posted on Next Door.

- ii. **Plains Conservation Center Master Plan Update:** The first public meeting will take place at the Plains Conservation Center on Saturday, March 2. It is an open house and it is a great way to collect public input on what they would like to see happen at the site. The board is invited to attend.
- iii. **Marketing Material:** The OSNR printed material is being rebranded to a more modern and colorful design. Pat showed examples of the redesigned printed material.

V. **REPORTS:** None

VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- a.) **Elections** – The reappointment interview for Lee Lindholm took place. A vote took place and Lee was reappointed to the Board by unanimous vote.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a.) **Election for Chair and Vice Chair** – The term for both Chair and Vice Chair ends in March. Chair Tom Isaacson and Vice Chair Wayne Gallagher described the duties of the positions. Victoria Samuel expressed interest for the Chair position and Suzy Cress expressed interest for the Vice Chair position.
- b.) **Assigning Open Space Sites** – The Board discussed assigning specific open space sites to Board Members to complete assessments for. The group decided that instead of assigning sites, it would be better to have a list of all open space site and trails to keep track of which areas have been visited. A list will be created and sent to the Board.
- c.) **Subcommittees** – There is currently a presentation subcommittee. There is a possibility for a new subcommittee who could research and follow up on ways to bring the open space ethic to Aurora citizens. This topic will be discussed at the March meeting.
- d.) **Management Plans for specific sites** – The Management Plans are in progress and will be brought back to the Board.

VIII. **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

IX. **ISSUES TO CITY COUNCIL:** None

X. **CHAIR'S REMARKS:**

- a) Chair Tom Isaacson congratulated Lee Lindholm on being reappointed to the Board and thanked Cayenna Johnson for serving on the Board.
- b) Chair Tom Isaacson reminded the Board Members to reach out to their assigned City Council Member.

XI. **GUEST COMMENTS:** None

XII. **MEMBER COMMENTS & DISCUSSION:**

- a) **Wayne Gallagher** – Wayne thanked Victoria Samuel and Suzy Cress for their interest in the Chair and Vice Chair positions.
- b) **Lee Lindholm** – Lee asked if there is access to the new trailhead off of Jewell. Pat Schuler responded that the street was blocked for construction of a new storage facility but they should be laying a new road. Lee also asked if there is cattle grazing on the property off of Jewell. Pat Schuler responded that the property had an existing lease when it was bought so there is currently cattle grazing. The lease will expire in May.

XIII. **ADJOURN:** Victoria Samuel motioned to adjourn. Suzy Cress seconded the motion. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

The next meeting will be March 26 at 5:30 pm at the AMC in the Sand Creek Room

Tom Isaacson, Chair

Handwritten signature of Tom Isaacson in black ink.

Sarah Maier, Recording Secretary

Handwritten signature of Sarah Maier in black ink.