

City of Aurora
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD
AMC, SAND CREEK ROOM
January 28, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Suzy Cress, Wayne Gallagher, Lee Lindholm, Bob Hunchberger, Tom Isaacson, Mark Christopher, and Steve Kennedy.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Victoria Samuel, Brad Stratton

STAFF PRESENT: Pat Schuler, Manager of Open Space and Natural Resources (OSNR); Tracy Young, Manager of Planning Design & Construction (PD&C); Michael Kennedy, Forestry Administrative Support; and Sarah Maier, Administrative Support.

VISITORS PRESENT: Council Member Juan Marcano

CALLED TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Wayne Gallagher at 5:30 P.M.

I. WELCOME: Pat Schuler welcomed Tracy Young, Council Member Juan Marcano and the new Open Space Board.

• GUEST SPEAKERS:

- a. Tracy Young discussed the latest progress report on the High Line Canal. It could potentially be used for improving stormwater quality and conveyance once it no longer delivering water. Council Member Angela Lawson, Sarah Young (Aurora Water), and Tracy Young (PD&C) are Aurora’s representatives in the working group. All planning documents are viewable at the conservancy’s website.(highlinecanal.org)

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Wayne Gallagher motioned to approve the agenda. Tom Isaacson seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **December Minutes** – Tom Isaacson motioned to approve the December minutes. Bob Huchberger seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

IV. PROS MANAGEMENT REMARKS:

a. **Pat Schuler**

- i. Pat and the board welcomed Steve Kennedy to his appointment on the Open Space Board
- ii. **Future meeting schedule:** Pat went over planned site tour dates and locations. The February and March meeting locations will be swapped due to an ongoing construction project at the Morrison Nature Center.
 - February 25 – AMC Sand Creek Room with guest speaker Eric Watts
 - March 24 – Morrison Nature Center/Star K Ranch walk with naturalist Kristen Memmott
 - April 28 – Aurora Reservoir at Senac Nature Center with Brian Green & Joy Thompson
 - August 25 – Confluence Open Space walk with Tony Lessley
 - September 29 – Plains Conservation Center wagon ride with Jennifer Brown
- iii. **Grants:** Pat went over some of the grants she will be pursuing for upcoming Open Space projects

V. REPORTS: None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. The group determined and reaffirmed their assigned City Council Member to contact.
 - Suzy–Council Member Murillo, Council Member Berzins
 - Brad- Council Member Marcano
 - Victoria – Council Member Johnston
 - Bob – Council Member Hiltz
 - Mark – Council Member Bergan
 - Tom – Mayor Coffmann, Council Member Gruber
 - Wayne – Council Member Coombs, Council Member Lawson
 - Steve- Council Member Gardner
- b. The Board reviewed the Action Plan and Pat discussed possible projects that could use the Board’s knowledge and expertise.
 - Comcast Cares Day could be a great opportunity for Board members to be crew leaders, training provided
 - 3.3 Urban Wildlife Management Plan, 3.4 Open Space compenents of Comprehensive Master Plan, 3.5 Senac Nature Center removed due to completion

IX. ISSUES TO CITY COUNCIL: The group determined this month’s bullet points to be sent to their assigned City Council Members.

- a. Highline Canal progress updates and website
- b. Field trip dates and locations
- c. Star K Ranch updates

X. CHAIR'S REMARKS: None.

XI. GUEST COMMENTS: None


XII. MEMBER COMMENTS & DISCUSSION:

- a. Suzy Cress– Suzy spotted a fox with mange chasing a rabbit. Saw the first large herd of deer at Sand Creek in years. Blue heron in area has not migrated.
- b. Wayne Gallagher –Raptors spotted at Coal Creek. Positive encounter with kids at Horseshoe and police officer at Coal Creek.
- c. Bob Hunchberger –Spotted two mule deer on Powhaton eating shrubbery. Herd of Pronghorns at Plains Conservation trail. Took first trip to see soddies at PCC and found it fascinating.
- d. Steve Kennedy – Witnessed two Bald eagles and two Red Tailed hawks circling with each other at Pronghorn Natural Area. Two coyotes with mange at Star K out during the day.
- e. Pat Schuler – Noted that rangers at Plains Conservation Center found and removed 125 rabbit snares along fence. Passed one around for everyone to see.
- f. Tom Isaacson – Woman in neighborhood had dog grabbed by coyote. Turned in application for reelection to board.
- g. Mark Christopher – Mark mentioned he had heard complaints of the amount of geese in his neighborhood.

XIII. ADJOURN: Tom Isaccson motioned to adjourn. Wayne Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

The next meeting will be on February 25 at 5:30 P.M at the AMC in the Sand Creek Room.

Victoria Samuel, Chair



2-25-2020

Michael Kennedy, Recording Secretary



2-25-20