

City of Aurora  
**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD**  
WebEx Meeting  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Gallagher, Brad Stratton, Bob Hunchberger, Tom Isaacson, Mark Christopher, Jason Amaya.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vicky Samuel, Suzy Cress, Steve Kennedy.

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Watts, OSNR Superintendent; Lauren Morales, Administrative Support.

VISITORS PRESENT: None.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Tom Isaacson was selected as acting Chair for the May OSB meeting. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM.
- II. **WELCOME:** Tom welcomed everyone to the Pronghorn Natural Area.
- III. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Tom suggested the agenda be adjusted to move all items forward, ahead of the plant identification walk led by Eric Watts. Bob Hunchberger motioned to adopt the agenda, as amended. Wayne Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Brad Stratton motioned to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Bob Hunchberger seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. **MANAGEMENT REMARKS:**
  - Eric Watts reminded the board that elections for the chair and vice-chair positions will be held at the next OSB meeting, in June. Tom offered to send out an email reminder to the board. Members interested in the chair or vice chair position should submit their name for consideration to Brian Green.
- VI. **REPORTS:**
  - The OSB members provided updates on the Conservation Easement Monitoring project. Tom, Brad, and Jason have done about half of their area so far. Mark and Vicky completed their monitoring at Triple Creek. Mark suggested having a discussion on what has gone well so far and what processes could be improved before starting the next quarter monitoring. OSB members agreed. 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter monitoring will continue through the end of June. Tom likes collecting this baseline data and thinks it will be useful. Eric agreed and said everything has been good so far. Eric reminded OSB members to use the phrase “Assign to PROS Open Space Division; CE Monitoring” in the issue description when submitting issues in Access Aurora. Brad asked if anyone had submitted information in iNaturalist. So far Brad has been the only one to use it.
- VII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
  - Tom Isaacson led a discussion on potential changes to the 2022 Draft Action Plan. Tom asked if the Land Use Management Plan, Weed Management Plan, or Urban Wildlife Management Plan need to be updated. Eric answered that the Weed Management Plan was completed in 2016 and was a 5-year plan, meaning it will need to be reviewed in 2022. Eric was not sure about the Land Use Management Plan or the Urban Wildlife Management Plan. Bob Hunchberger asked if the education plan referenced in item number 2 would be put together by the board or by City staff. Eric said it would be good if the OSB members could put together a proposed education plan for staff to review. The board members discussed various public education efforts that had been taking place prior to COVID, such as council presentations, HOA meetings, working with the local boy scouts, etc. All members agreed there is a large need for public education. Tom had an old PowerPoint copy and offered to send it to Brad. Brad offered to help update the presentation. Tom asked why the Action Plan mentioned dog parks. Bob responded that the hope is that the OSB can provide oversight and guidance about preserving open space as the PROS department and the city council discuss dog parks. The OSB can act as stakeholders and participate in these discussions to advocate for open space. Tom asked if the OSB Chair still makes an

annual presentation to the PFQL (Parks, Foundations, and Quality of Life) Committee. Staff confirmed that is still the case. Vicky Samuel provided the 2021 annual update to the PFQL Committee last October. This presentation usually takes place near the end of the year. Tom asked if the board members still wanted to vote on the 2022 Action Plan, or postpone to June, given that there are still some unanswered questions. The OSB members agreed it would be good to postpone until June. Wayne suggested that Vicky could discuss the unanswered questions with Brian prior to the June meeting, or designate another board member to do so. Eric suggested the board members compile a list of any questions in the next week so there would be time to review the questions before a final vote in June. Mark Christopher moved to table the vote on the 2022 Action Plan to the June meeting, until the board addresses specific questions that came up at the May meeting. Bob Hunchberger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- Brad Stratton provided information about a monitoring project at the Pronghorn Natural Area. Board member Steve Kennedy and City staff Fendi Despres have been spearheading the project. The work at Pronghorn is similar to the conservation easement but has an added component referred to as bio blitz. This is when observers move through the area and look for anything interesting, then use iNaturalist to record the observation. The goal of the project is to see if anything changes during construction. There is unfortunately no pre-construction baseline, but this work can be done starting now. Steve is especially interested to see if there are any potential areas for restoration and has at least one spot in mind already. The observation post markers have already been set up, and Fendi marked them to indicate which direction to photograph. Staff are working to set up a Google drive to collect all the collected data. A calendar is also being set up to allow volunteers to sign up for observation walks. The goal is to do at least two per month. Some guidance is still in flux, such as what data should specifically be collected and how to analyze the data once collected.

IX. ISSUES TO CITY COUNCIL:

- New OSB Chair and Vice-Chair to be elected next month.
- OSB members provided a report on the conservation easement monitoring project, which is off to an encouraging start.
- Eric Watts, OSNR Superintendent, led the OSB on a plant identification walk at Pronghorn Natural Area.

X. MEMBER COMMENTS & DISCUSSION: None.

- GUEST SPEAKERS: Eric Watts, OSNR Superintendent, led the OSB on a plant identification walk at Pronghorn Natural Area.

XI. ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The next meeting will be on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 P.M. at Confluence/Picadilly East.



Tom Isaacson, Acting Chair

*Lauren R. Morales*

Lauren Morales, Recording Secretary