

City of Aurora
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD
WebEx Meeting
April 20th, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicky Samuel, Suzy Cress, Wayne Gallagher, Brad Stratton, Steve Kennedy, Bob Hunchberger, Tom Isaacson, Mark Christopher, Jason Amaya.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

STAFF PRESENT: Brian Green, OSNR Acting Manager; Lauren Morales, Administrative Support.

VISITORS PRESENT: None.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Victoria Samuel at 5:33 PM.
- II. WELCOME: Victoria Samuel welcomed everyone to the April meeting.
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Brad Stratton asked about the annual action plan, which was not on the agenda. OSB members agreed to revise the draft plan via email and vote on approval during the May OSB meeting. Vicky Samuel suggested an addition to the April agenda to discuss in-person meetings under new business. Suzy Cress motioned to adopt the agenda, as amended. Mark Christopher seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mark Christopher motioned to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Wayne Gallagher seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- V. GUEST SPEAKERS: None.
- VI. MANAGEMENT REMARKS:
 - Brian Green spoke about the recent camping ban and its impact on the Open Space Division. The impact to the Open Space Division is minimal and staff are quickly adjusting to the changes.
 - Brian shared that the division is struggling to recruit qualified individuals into certain positions. This staffing shortage is a nationwide issue and staff are doing their best to mitigate the impacts of the shortage.
 - Eric Watts has finished the conservation easement monitoring standard operating procedure, with help from several OSB members. The SOP will be sent out to the OSB members via email within a day or two.
 - Brian shared a presentation with recent updates for the Open Space Division. This presentation will be given to select council members at an upcoming PFQL (Parks, Foundations, and Quality of Life) policy committee meeting. Topics included baled eagle nests in Aurora, the restoration of Confluence Natural Area, and Aurora Reservoir visitation and updates.
- VII. REPORTS:
 - None.
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
 - OSB members will review the 2022 Draft Action Plan and make any final revisions via email. The Action Plan will be finalized at the May meeting via an in-person vote.
- IX. NEW BUSINESS:
 - The OSB members set up site visits for the next five OSB meetings.
 - Wednesday, May 18th- Pronghorn Natural Area
 - Wednesday, June 15th- Confluence/Picadilly East
 - Wednesday, July 20th- ACRE site
 - Wednesday, August 17th- Ponderosa Preserve

- o Wednesday, September 21st- Jewell Wetlands
 - OSB members discussed returning to in-person meetings in the fall after the upcoming site visits. No opposition and members agreed to discuss again when the time is closer.
 - Tom Isaacson inquired how long Vicky has been Chair of the Open Space Board. Lauren Morales was asked to check OSB records to confirm if an election needs to be held soon.
- X. ISSUES TO CITY COUNCIL:
- OSB members decided on a plan for open space site visits for the next five OSB meetings. Council members are invited to join the OSB on these site visits.
 - Brian Green, Acting OSNR Manager, gave a presentation on Open Space project updates and site visitation. This presentation will be shared with the PFQL committee at the next PFQL meeting on Thursday, April 28th.
 - The official conservation easement monitoring standard operating procedure was shared with the OSB. The first rounds of conservation easement monitoring will begin this quarter.
 - At the March 28th, 2022 Council Meeting, the Aurora City Council officially voted to appoint Jason Amaya and reappoint Brad Stratton and Mike Christopher to the OSB. These members were welcomed on board at the April OSB meeting.
- XI. CHAIR REMARKS: Vicky Samuel has been enjoying time at Coal Creek. Has seen that rangers have been through. Still seeing some youth on motorcycles. Shared some interesting wildlife sightings.
- XII. MEMBER COMMENTS & DISCUSSION:
- Steve Kennedy- Looking forward to getting the Pronghorn Natural Area monitoring going. Doing beta testing soon. Currently working with Fendi Despres to finalize SOP.
 - Mark Christopher- Saw an area with Wayne Gallagher recently that is plowed up. Area is below E470 bridge, west of Red-Tailed Hawk park. Wayne shared there are plans to build homes there. A public hearing was scheduled but was delayed. Brian Green confirmed the parcel is commercial space near city-owned open space.
 - Brad Stratton- Was at Horseshoe park and saw an abatement of the area. Saw nine shopping carts and a large mattress. Noticed area that usually has trash was cleaned up. Very appreciative of staff for doing what is often an endless job. Brad also shared that he and Tom will be shared as featured artists at the Chalk Lines and Vines event at the Arapahoe County fairgrounds on May 14th and 15th.
 - Wayne Gallagher- Shared his number in the chat in case Jason or other board members would like to connect and get out into open space. Shared that open space was hard to come by in Boston so he is very appreciative of all the nature and open space in Aurora. Was at Quincy Reservoir and thought the water looked beautiful. Brian shared some recent updates on the restoration of that area and phosphorous removal efforts. The next step is floating hydroponic mats of vegetation and native grasses. About 30% through the design currently.
 - Jason Amaya- Really enjoyed Brian's presentation and agreed that Aurora Reservoir is a jewel in Aurora. Started going to the reservoir and the swim beach the summer before. Also went walking in Jewell wetlands a few weeks ago and saw some interesting wildlife there.
 - Suzy Cress- Elevated bridge over Tollgate Creek had a shopping cart in the creek recently. Brian will notify Aurora Water.
 - Tom Isaacson- Also looking forward to the Chalk Lines and Vines event and shared a few more details about attending.
- XIII. ADJOURN: Steve Kennedy motioned to adjourn the January meeting. Tom Isaacson seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

The next meeting will be on May 18th at 5:30 P.M. at Pronghorn Natural Area.

Victoria Samuel

Victoria Samuel, Chair

Lauren R. Morales

Lauren Morales, Recording Secretary