



## Final Minutes

TOWN OF LYONS

**Monday, March 8th, 2021 6pm-8pm**

Parks and Recreation Commission

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87276488232>

Passcode: 303823 (new security feature)

Or call in!

+1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 872 7648 8232

Passcode: 303823

Attendance:

Ian Brighton, Claudia Kean, Kim Mitchell, Julie Herz, Tom Delker, Yelena Hughes, Chris Cope, Dave Cosgrove, Randy Pollard, LaVern Johnson, Veronika Gaia,

- I. Approval of Minutes  
Approved unanimously
  
- II. Audience Business - Limited to 15 minutes - All comments will be limited to 4 minutes per person
  
- III. General Business
  1. Town Updates

We have gotten approval of a grant from GOCO that we submitted for Black Bear Hole and 2nd Ave Parking improvements. We submitted for just under \$300,000 for our projects, and we have a chance at getting these funds. This will include a trail head and restroom for 2nd Ave parking area.

Golf carts are allowed on main trails (along highway) but it is illegal to drive in the parks with golf carts, and the bridge over the river at Black Bear is too tight.

There may be a drainage issue between the sewer plant and the 2nd Ave bridge, along path.

Path may be realigned as improvements with the new 2nd Ave Bridge projects, so this may be moot. The new grant will establish parking on the north and western edges of the lot, similar to Bohn across the road.

A restroom will go in (prefab) either at lot or Black Bear Hole.

Park Operations

- a. Park Projects



LVRP ponds - aeration proposals are out, pre-proposal meeting is tomorrow. Proposals will be done at the end of March for some sort of installation no later than mid-May.

Proposals are in for Main Street and more, beautifications and enhancements.

Camping expansion plans in LVJP - 3-4 sites that are being converted or expanded. Some are existing parking spaces beyond second gate - pop-up campers will be allowed. 4 or 5 parking spaces will become dry camp spots.

Several trail projects in Stone Canyon and others to fix drainage are in the works. In Bohn, the trail on east side where it goes past dog park will be extended to Ledge Ditch in a more manicured manner with crusher fine.

Ian - formalizing social trails will need to occur. Some may need to close, or become more "official".

Dave has been working on October and November holes - to protect the pond-side we will need to add material that has been scoured out by the river. This is normal maintenance, and S2O will help with this.

Weed Mitigation - for March 15th BOT meeting, Dave is bringing more information on the plans for weed solutions. Town Manager would want to make sure that all stakeholders are aware that due to less chemical use, some areas will look different - they may not look weed free, as we are following the new directives.

New products experimented with so far have mixed results. We will now do natural turf care, except for the area that contractor says is still under warranty and is not responding to organics (seed not taking, weeds taking over.) Contractor would like to do one Weed and Feed for that area.

Main Street, McConnell, 2nd Ave, - we have done a one-time early spring pre-emergent hit with good results. This is not permitted now to be our first choice option. There has to be a driving reason, such as the presence of noxious weeds.

These areas that are NOT parks turf and high use areas need different care.

A compromise was reached which is not a ban on use of synthetics entirely.

Chris Cope - believed the policy allowed for use of synthetics in these circumstances. It seems that the "spirit of the policy" is the grey area, where some citizens are still applying pressure.

#### b. Community Events

Baseball practice is beginning, activity at the court is increasing with the good weather and completed fields.

Dave - no Outdoor Games discussion at this time.

#### c. Other Issues

Veronika - still no stop sign for drivers exiting Bohn Park onto 2nd Ave. Dave will follow up on this, hoping this will happen with sidewalk work.



## **2. Skate Park Concerns**

Javin Farmer, with Randy Pollard. Javin is an avid skate park attendee, and has noticed parents dropping young children (6 and under) off at the skate park, unattended. These kids at times are treating it as a playground, without skateboards or bikes.

On times for different skill levels: Javin feels this is too constraining for skateboarders with difficult time schedules.

He feels no one should be allowed on the skate park without the appropriate wheeled equipment. He also feels parents should be in attendance for 12 and under for safety reasons and rule following.

The signs have been updated, waiting on naming issue. Much of the “rules” will be self-regulated, as there will not be an enforcer at the skate park.

Dave says often a new park will have a lot of heavy use at the beginning. Over time, user groups will regulate themselves. Signage that gives guidance on this helps. Our rules sign does address respect for all users, and that children must be supervised.

Javin brought up the idea of a “complaint” box - maybe a Questions or Concerns number or site to go to electronically is more efficient. Dave says a link is on Town Website already that can work for that.

## **3. Ice Rink Operations**

Yelena - the days rink was closed - not due to weather, but maintenance issues. It is a lot of work to do this. The demand is high for the rink, and she would like to see a solid volunteer corps. Rental staffing is also a tight window.

Dave says that there are forms and background checks that need to be done. There is a strong group of volunteers, but they did not follow up this year. Staff tries to resurface at end of day and in morning. For rentals, it is a Finance Dept. issue, as money has been handled by Town employees. Dave - we are contracting concession services for the summer - RFP is now out.

Renting tubes, providing charcoal for campers, and so on - prepackaged goods for park users. We haven't seen the proposals yet. Town gets paid a flat fee or percentage. We could possibly do this in the winter also, including rink maintenance. In the meantime volunteers are welcome.

### **Small Dog Section in Dog Park Concept (Tabled until next meeting)**

## **4. Boulder County Open Space and Trail Requests**

Dave - has updated based on County meetings. We have an opportunity to view this again - numbering has changed. The ordering is roughly in order of priority, but not solid. County has many criteria and flexibility.

Should we spell out Corona Hill as a priority? Dave does not want to provoke controversy on that issue, feeling that the County is well aware of the potential there.

We may want to raise the priority on the Apple Valley underpass at Hwy 36 at Planet Bluegrass.



However, this is a CDOT and County transportation issue, which is why Boulder County has it lower.

#### **5. Highway 7 Connector Trail Update**

There has been movement on this issue. From Mark Browning - a meeting with CDOT, Boulder County and Open Space occurred, with Town Staff. The Town resolution and past agreements were submitted. CDOT showed how the trail could not go back to the way it was, but if they can work as a partnership, they will look at alternate options.

Dave will work with Jeff Moline and Boulder County Parks and Open Space, and County Public Works to explore the trail options through Martin Parcel to County Road 69.

Alternatively, the Corona Hill area should be investigated. This is the hill just above LaVern Johnson park, between Hall Ranch and LaVern Park.

#### **6. Eastern Corridor Trail Design recommendations**

Intent - should this be a funnel for bikes to enter town? or more pedestrian oriented, keeping bikes on the highway? How has the Town imagined this? Dave - originally, the intention would get cyclists off the highway and onto a path. Safety was a part of the purview of the grant. This may not be the case now. The path would need to be concrete to get cyclists off the highway. We now know we cannot make the entire trail concrete, but will be in certain areas. There is a question about the intersection - connections to the underpass at 36/66 will be important to make this work.

Ian - looking at the long view. Claudia - as much off-highway as possible would be the best for long range conduit for safe biking to Longmont or Boulder.

#### **7. Consideration for Comp Plan Presentation to PCDC (10 Year Vision)**

##### **a. Utilizing Existing Plans (DRBOP, Flood Recovery etc.)**

We need to look at the 2010 Comp Plan, and the Flood Recovery plan - which shows much of what has been done, and some that are not done yet, such as North Loop trail and some open space connections. We should look at what conceptual developments have been done.

Dave has received emails about starting a Community Garden. Utilities and Engineering Board is also looking at a Solar Farm option, and may work with the Community Garden group.

Panels can provide some shade. Area between the Carrolls and the Dirt Jump Park is being looked at but this may be in conflict with current regulations. There are deed restrictions and voting requirements. Any use of park land over ½ acre for anything other than parks standard use will require a vote. Access is also a problem. Using pathways as roadways is not permitted.

##### **b. Long-term pedestrian improvements in town**

##### **c. Trail connections**

We need to look at the social trail network, such as Ledge Ditch, going up to L, loop around Longs Peak and cemetery area - where are people walking now, and what needs formalizing or re-routing?

##### **d. Others?**



## 8. Dark sky night

### a. Next steps

#### 1. Town Coordination

Ian can help with this, as he is working with town already

#### 2. Business Engagement

We can rally local businesses to sponsor and spread the word

#### 3. Resident Engagement

Outreach. Julia Herz - leading on this. Bohn Park is the best location as recommended, open sky and farther from town lights.

Can we make this go until dawn?

Perseid July 1- August 13th, after midnight to dawn is best viewing. That weekend around the second week in August is best viewing. Night of Aug 11-12 is peak viewing.

Should this then include camping as an option?

How do we get this onto the town calendar?

What is being asked of Town and residents on darkness?

What programs can we include to be more official and educational? This special access gives some percs on talks and viewing with equipment.

We need to stay aware of Pandemic issue and follow all guidelines.

Special use permit process- on website. Parks and Rec page. Arielle Hodgson is the town Special Event Coordinator.

Make BOT aware

How are we dealing with camping?

Dave - park lighting is easy to control, but we don't know yet on street lighting. Camping could work near the ballfields. We just need to check schedule, and use the new multi-purpose fields.

Back up date could be after the peak in case of weather. Friday the 13th of August.