

# ***City Council***

## ***Study Session Summary***

**January 27, 2015**  
**Library Meeting Room, 951 Spruce Street**  
**7:00 PM**

The City Council met in a study session at 7:00 p.m. in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room at the Louisville Public Library at 951 Spruce Street, Louisville, Colorado. The following persons were present:

City Council Present: Mayor Bob Muckle  
Mayor Pro Tem Hank Dalton  
Council member Chris Leh  
Council member Susan Loo  
Council member Ashley Stolzmann

Staff Present: Malcolm Fleming, City Manager  
Kurt Kowar, Public Works Director  
Joe Stevens, Parks and Recreation Director  
Dawn Burgess, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Others Present: Members of Open Space Advisory Board:  
Helen Moshak, Laura Denton, Tom Davinroy, Spencer Guthrie, Missy Davis  
  
Members of Public

*Call to Order* – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Pro Tem Hank Dalton

### **Update/Discussion – Brainstorming Session with the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) Regarding the Future of Open Space**

List of topics for discussion:

**Expansion of OSAB’s purview to include trail planning, review and comment on any City-owned public lands including: Parks, public right of way and Open Space lands**

Council member Sue Loo said that any discussion of creation of a Parks Board should include Horticulture and Forestry Advisory Board (HFAB). Mayor Muckle thinks OSAB should stay focused on Open Space. He feels HFAB is the place for Parks Board. Board member Tom Davinroy said OSAB may be reluctant to take on "Parks" – they are more interested in connectivity with trails. OSAB feels the perception is that OSAB is where people go to talk about Parks. Open Space list of ranked properties was discussed with the merits of having or not having certain properties on list. OSAB should direct people who have non-OSAB questions to Council. Citizens sometimes don't understand the difference between Parks and Open Space.

When citizens come to OSAB it is an opportunity to educate the public on how ranked lists are prioritized and the differences between Parks and OSAB.

If the purview of OSAB is to expand to trails the Charter would have to be changed.

Mayor Muckle would like HFAB to handle Parks. Were that to happen, a lot of big ideas for Parks and a lot of conversation about what the mission would be needs to take place. Council member Loo advocates for a separate Board.

**Recommend short and long term strategies and/or tactics to study, manage, improve and restore Open Space:**

There was a discussion about prairie dogs and counts and weed control. Staff is prioritizing hot spots concerning weed management by doing baseline studies. Additional studies will need funding and collaboration for future planning and management.

- Resource studies related to social trails and weed management
- Once studies are completed, advocate what to spend funds on
- Trail hosts and Park Rangers
- Board knows they need to proactive; want to contribute more to the operational budget
- Education – children's programs, adult education, perhaps share resources with other communities
- Volunteer programs
- Not just maintenance of the land, but also how it is used. Need code enforcement
- Want to make sure the Wayfinding plan being developed actually happens.

Michael Menaker hopes to not set up competition between OSAB and HFAB. He suggested exploring spending some of the Open Space money on maintenance and education. Deb Fahey not sure about spending money. John Leary said there needs to be an agreed upon set of principles on percentages, funding and agreed concept of mission of Open Space.

**Integrate Open Space property acquisition into City Planning. Encourage and support City staff to pursue alternate acquisition approaches such as conservation easements, rights of first refusal and other methods.**

Mayor Muckle said the City already does this. The City seizes the opportunities as they become available. The City takes a cautious, non-threatening approach to contacting property owners whose property ranks high on list. Discussion ensued on transparent processes for property acquisition.

OSAB asked that when Council considers areas that will increase in density, consider adjacent open space.

OSAB said the Board feels engaged by the Council and appreciates their support.

**Update/Discussion – Snow Removal**

Public Works Director Kurt Kowar gave a presentation on the snow removal procedures. The Streets' Snow Removal Map was shown. Public Works operations crews try to plow every residential neighborhood street once after the major arterial and collectors are cleared. The Parks and Recreation Department attempts to remove snow on hard surfaced trails and sidewalks under City responsibility within 24 hours following a snow event.

Back to back storms in December along with extremely cold temperatures presented challenges for snow removal. The new City Services Facility will greatly facilitate Ice Slicer storage. Ice Slicer storage space will likely double and the City will be able to get better pricing. The current Ice Slicer process is very manual. The City is awaiting delivery of two snow plows equipped with an automated system to apply Ice Slicer, allowing for better distribution. Gang plowing has been instituted and is more efficient. Rock salt has been used in the past and is not very effective.

A map of priorities was shown and discussed. Trails require a lot of manual labor and smaller vehicles. The Parks and Recreation Department has added staff and is upgrading smaller equipment. Snow removal will continue to improve as new staff becomes more experienced.

Council member Leh commended Director Kowar for an information email response to a citizen in December saying it was very thorough.

Mayor Muckle wants to make sure we commit enough resources. Director Kowar feels the resources and feedback received from Council are good and helpful.

**Comments:**

None

**City Manager's Report:**

City Manager Fleming reviewed the Advanced Agenda.

**Future Discussion items:**

Council member Loo asked for a Comcast update at the February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Council member Stolzmann asked for Recreation Center expansion options and usage.

Council member Leh asked for information on the open records process concerning use of personal laptops, phones, etc. City Manager Fleming said he would like Legal Committee to review.

- How Council communicates with each other, use of private computers (Policies on email communications and use of private computers)

Council member Loo requested a discussion of the Legal Committee's responsibilities on a future agenda.

Council members requested a discussion of how Parks comments are handled.

*Adjourn – 9:05 pm*

*Submitted by – Dawn Burgess*

*January 28, 2015*