



City Council

February 21, 2023
Packet Addendum #1

From: [John Leary](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: RESOLUTION NO. 8, SERIES 2023 – A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AN OPEN SPACE AND PARKS SALES TAX EXTENSION TASK FORCE
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2023 4:36:29 PM

Members of the City Council,

At your meeting on February 21, 2023, I request you remove Resolution No. 8 from the consent agenda and give directions for its modification. It is very shallow and inadequate, and will not create a process that will serve the proposed task force nor the citizens of Louisville well.

Before getting into my reasons for this, I would like you to read an article published in last Wednesday's edition of the Daily Camera. The article, written by Richard Knight, is titled "Western U.S. still an exploiter's paradise." Mr. Knight is writing about a mega house proposed in the valley where he lives in northern Colorado. As I read it, I saw how it reflected my feelings about the house, nearly finished, "on" the Waremburg open space at "Dead Man's Corner." The house, and its garage, severely impact the vistas one once experienced in that area. This is contrary to our City Charter which calls for open space to protect such vistas. Why did this happen? It happened because a majority of the City Council voted not to purchase this land when it was available to us. Why did this happen? The City Council developed a policy to use General Fund money to purchase open space rather than to accumulate a balance in the open space fund for such a purpose, and the majority argued there was not enough money, after a Covid set aside, to purchase the property. Unfortunately, this assessment was not valid; there was enough money. There are two problems with this; poor homework and secondly, making the decision to shift the purchase of open space from the Parks and Open Space Fund to the General Fund was a betrayal of the citizens of Louisville who created an open space tax to purchase open space.

Plug the following address into your search engine to find Mr. Knight's opinion piece.
https://enewspaper.dailycamera.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=a67fe4e3-9175-4240-8f36-d12e771a224d

Here are recommendations to correct the shortcomings of the resolution.

1. It should direct staff to provide the Task Force with a clear description of the history of the Parks and Open Space tax and how it is integrated by policy with funding from the General Fund. Previous commitments to the general public should be reviewed and incorporated into recommendations from the Task Force. One such commitment was that General Fund support for parks and recreation would not be reduced.
2. It should direct the Task Force to reach out to the public on two occasions: 1) The Task Force should hold a public meeting to solicit public input on what direction the Task Force should proceed. 2) Upon developing its initial recommendations, the Task Force should present them to the public. Folks, this is Louisville. We value giving the public the role of shaping policy, not simply reacting to the ideas of others. After the fact input is an invitation for conflict.
3. The Task Force should be directed towards the City Charter to ensure their understanding of the multiple purposes of open space in Louisville. The Charter gives extraordinary powers to

citizens with respect to the amount and use of open space. You will not see this type of thing in most, if any, city charters.

4. The Task Force should not be bound by arbitrary past policies. The major direction should be driven by public input.

5. There should not be Councilmembers on the Task Force. Because of their position they would put undue pressure on other members. Furthermore, Louisville has a history of not letting Councilmembers serve on advisory boards. Why should Councilmembers be in the position of advising themselves? Furthermore, it is well known that Councilmembers have different priorities on the issue of open space. If the purpose of this task force is to institutionalize a particular ideology, that would be unfair to those with counter views and would result in considerable conflict.

6. The Director of Finance should be charged with giving objective information to the Task Force in order to ensure members understand all fiscal implications of their recommendations.

7. The Task Force should have at least 3 additional citizen members who are not members of City advisory boards. The existence of much of our open space is due to the work of “off the street” residents. An example would be the citizens who exercised their right of referendum when the Waremburg property was annexed and approved for a large residential development. Due to the action of these citizens the City Council reversed its development decision. It is worth noting, the citizens were sued by the developer causing them considerable anxiety. The case was thrown out by the judge, but not without a strong admonishment of the developer. Because of the work of these citizens, the property became available for open space several years later.

In sum, it is essential for the Task Force to be given sound, unbiased guidance from the Council. Guidance should not be “loosey goosey” and subject to the judgment of whomever is running, or maybe controlling, the process.

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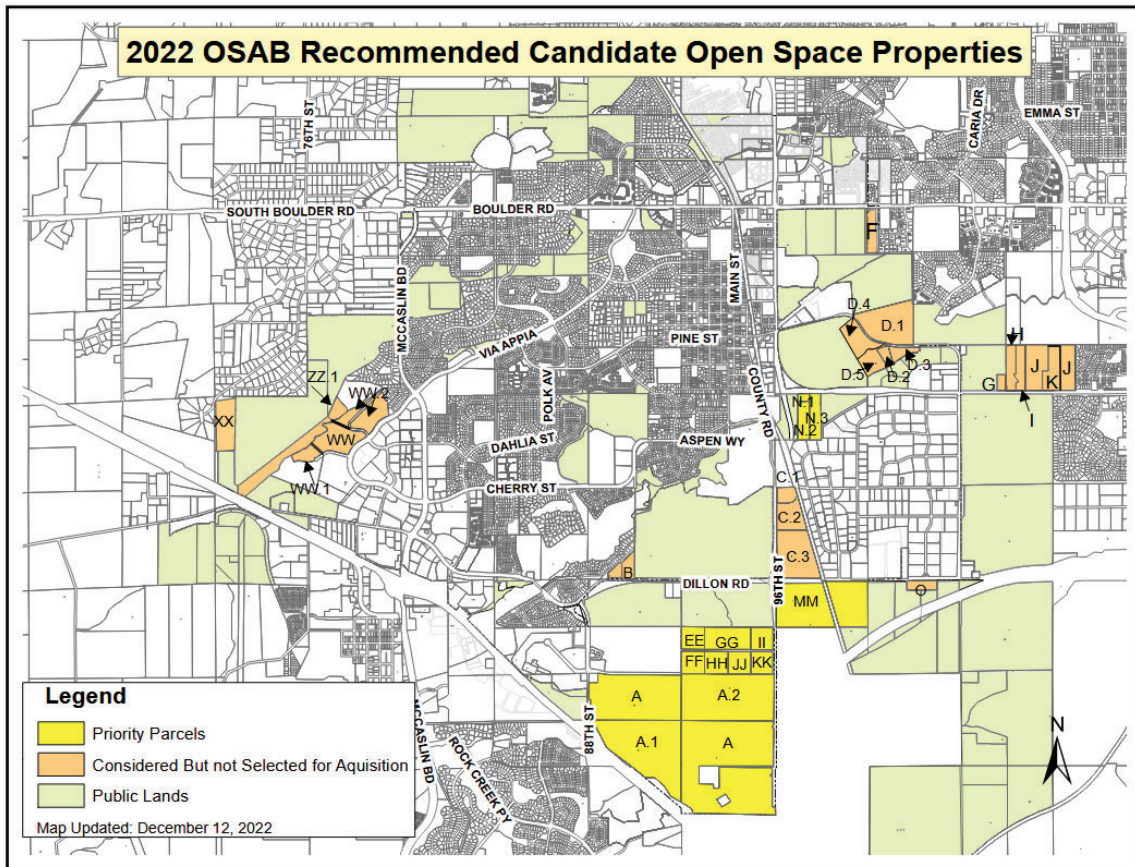
From: [cindy Bedell](#)
To: [Dennis Maloney](#); [City Council](#); [Meredyth Muth](#)
Subject: 2/21/23 Tonight's Consent Agenda
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2023 11:09:54 AM

Dear Mayor Maloney and Louisville City Councilmembers,

In reviewing tonight's City Council Meeting Consent Agenda, I noticed an omission or incomplete information for:

RESOLUTION NO. 9, SERIES 2023 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION TO BOULDER COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE REGARDING 2022 MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE AND TRAILS REQUESTS

The current recommended candidate open space properties map below is not included in the packet. Therefore, if you vote on this resolution this evening, you could be voting on incorrect or incomplete information.



I encourage the city to continue collaborative efforts to fund open space acquisition and expand funding options through grant applications. One good resource is The Conservation Fund.

<https://www.conservationfund.org/our-experts/justin-spring>

Another resource is Great Outdoors Colorado for land acquisition or creative outdoor recreation projects: [Our Grant Programs](#)

Thanks,
Cindy Bedell
Louisville

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