



City Council

February 13, 2024
Packet Addendum #1

From: [Joshua Cooperman](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Comments for City Council meeting with OSAB and PPLAB
Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 9:08:54 AM

Dear Louisville City Councillors,

I wish to begin by taking the occasion of City Council's first meeting of the year with advisory boards to comment on these boards' roles within and relations to the City.

- First, I have long thought that there must be ways for the City to better utilize its advisory boards. These boards' members are eager, informed, and passionate residents who want to move the City forward on several fronts; yet, the boards' operating structures often seem to preclude the achievement of significant progress. We should work to make our advisory boards more effective in their service to the City.

- Second, while I appreciate the City's recent efforts to better codify its advisory boards' rules and procedures, I do not believe that the updated rules and procedures foster better communication between boards and the City (especially City Council). On the other hand, City Council's meetings with advisory boards, beginning tonight, represent a step in the right direction towards improved communication and interaction.

Regarding the Open Space Advisory Board, I wish to make the following comments.

- First, although the meeting packet contains only a snippet of OSAB's activities, even this snippet demonstrates the Board's consistently excellent work. OSAB benefits greatly from its members' commitment and dedication, its continuity over many years, and its structured duties and expectations.

- Second, I wholeheartedly support the City's acquisition of new open space. Preservation of open spaces is vital to halting our epoch's wildlife declines; relatively undisturbed open spaces sequester carbon dioxide from the atmosphere; and residents love our open spaces for the opportunities for passive recreation that they provide. I support the further establishment of a flexible and expeditious process for weighing acquisition of new open space parcels.

- Third, when reviewing and ranking parcels for acquisition as open space, we should give appropriate consideration to other potential uses for these parcels. For instance, the City's housing study recommends the development of more than two thousand housing units over the next two decades, an effort that will require a nontrivial land footprint. For example, parcels WW and WW.2 could host future housing, at least right along Centennial Parkway, although there are better locations to build housing first. OSAB might not be the body to consider such other criteria, but we should ensure that such other criteria are considered.

- Fourth, I support the further establishment of sustainable wildfire mitigation on the City's open spaces. Clearly, the City must engage in such mitigation, but, since climate change is the single greatest factor in heightening wildfire risks, we must ensure that mitigation efforts do not themselves further contribute to climate change. We must also respect the City's open spaces as wildlife habitat when mitigating wildfire risks.

- Fifth, I wholeheartedly support the use of open space sales tax revenues for habitat preservation and restoration on the City's open spaces.

Regarding the Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board, I wish to make one fairly general comment.

In the meeting packet PPLAB inquires with City Council about the pace and level of the Parks Department's implementation of sustainability measures. I would like the Parks Department to increase the pace and level of its implementation of sustainability measures, and I believe that there is support for such an increase on PPLAB. Such measures should include planting trees of appropriate species in appropriate locations, replacing nonnative plants, especially turf grass, with native plants in all appropriate locations, removing or reducing all unnecessary hardscapes like tarmac, concrete, and rock mulch, expanding the landscape coverage of trees and plants, and eliminating the usage of all fossil fuel-powered landscaping equipment.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Best,
Josh

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Special Meeting: Louisville City Council and PPLAB

Parks and Public Landscaping Advisory Board Update & 2024 Work Plan

February 13, 2023

Presenters: Cynthia Corne, Chair and Ellen Toon, Past Chair & current Vice-Chair

Advisory Board Members:

Shannon Mihaly

Patricia Rogers

Signe Buck

John Webb

Jody Ash



Special Meeting: Louisville City Council and PPLAB

Highlights and Successes of 2023 for the Board

February 13, 2023

Quick Highlights from 2023		Louisville Ballot Issue 2C: Open Space and Parks Sales Tax increase, extension
1	Ballot Issue 2C: Supported working group with Advisory Boards, Council and staff to determine ballot language.	What it asks: "Shall the City of Louisville taxes be increased \$1,500,000 in the first full fiscal year and by such amounts as may be generated annually thereafter, beginning Jan. 1, 2024, and automatically expiring after 10 years, by the imposition of an additional .125% sales and use tax to be used solely to acquire, restore, preserve, protect and maintain open space and mitigate wildfire risks within open space areas; and shall the current .375% sales tax approved by the voters in 2012 for open space and parks purposes be extended from its current expiration date of Dec. 31, 2023, for an additional 10 years, to be equally divided between separate parks and open space funds, with the open space funds used for the purposes described above and parks funds used solely to acquire, improve and maintain parks; and shall all such sales and use tax revenues be collected, retained and spent as a voter-approved revenue change under Article X, Section 20 of the Colorado Constitution or any other law?"
2	Provided multiple design and project reviews re: Medians and 4 Playground renovation projects. Note: Council emphases were reiterated (e.g. accessibility)	
3	Supported City and Community's Bee City designation: - Educational activities (PPLAB component) including speakers, art contest and Ecotoberfest.	



Special Meeting: Louisville City Council and PPLAB

Highlights and Successes of 2023 for the Board

February 13, 2023

2024 Work Plan Highlights	
1	Ballot Issue 2C Implications: Provide Council and staff with feedback and review re: updated financial modeling.
2	Outdoor Amenities Roadmap and Operational Model Buildout: Work with Rec Advisory Board (RAB) to develop options.
3	2 Work Plan Items: Entryway experience input and planning, for interchanges: Promoting Louisville: Partner with other Advisory Boards (LRC, RAB, OSAB, Culture, Sust – examples).
4	Other Work Plan Items also important: Bee City Operational Model shift, Parks Design Reviews & Project Execution updates (packet).

Louisville Ballot Issue 2C: Open Space and Parks Sales Tax increase, extension
What it asks: "Shall the City of Louisville taxes be increased \$1,500,000 in the first full fiscal year and by such amounts as may be generated annually thereafter, beginning Jan. 1 of an additional preserve, protected space areas; and open space and 31, 2023, for an and open space above and parks all such sales and use tax revenues be collected, retained and spent as a voter-approved revenue or any other law

2024 and 10 years = Budget and Adjustments



Thank You
To Council and Staff and Community

