

Open Space Advisory Board

Agenda

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
Library 1st Floor Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
6:00 PM

Members of the public are welcome to attend and give comments remotely; however, the in-person meeting may continue even if technology issues prevent remote participation.

- *Call in to: +1 346 248 7799 or +1 408 638 0968 or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free) Webinar ID: 883 3175 6380 or*
- *You can log in via your computer. Please visit the City's website here to link to the meeting: www.louisvilleco.gov/osab*

The Board will accommodate public comments during the meeting. Anyone may also email comments to the Board prior to the meeting at EmberB@LouisvilleCO.gov.

1. 6:00 pm Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. 6:05 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 minutes, more time as needed)
6. 6:10 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)
7. 6:15 pm Board Updates (10 Minutes)
 - Meeting Minute Assignments

Persons planning to attend the meeting who need sign language interpretation, translation services, assisted listening systems, Braille, taped material, or special transportation, should contact the City Clerk's Office at 303 335-4536 or MeredythM@LouisvilleCO.gov. A forty-eight-hour notice is requested.

Si requiere una copia en español de esta publicación o necesita un intérprete durante la reunión, por favor llame a la Ciudad al 303.335.4536 o 303.335.4574.

- Grant Tiger Team Update
 - OSAB Comprehensive Plan Priorities
 - Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Long Term Plan
 - i. louisvilleco.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1540/637122561609630000
8. 6:25 pm Discussion Item: Updates to the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department Memorial Program. Presented By Adam Blackmore, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (10 Minutes).
 9. 6:35 pm Discussion Item: Update About Upcoming City Council Discussion Regarding Open Space Encroachment. Presented By Adam Blackmore, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (10 Minutes)
 10. 6:45 pm Discussion Item: Proposed Revisions to the Louisville Acquisition Process. Presented By Adam Blackmore, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space and Jeff Durbin, City Manager (40 Minutes)
 11. 7:25 pm Discussion Item: Trail Review and Staff Updates to OSAB Regarding Red Tail Ridge. Presented by Bryon Webber, Project Manager (60 Minutes)
 12. 8:25 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting June 12th, 2024
 - A. Review a Draft Ordinance Amending and Clarifying OSAB's Role Related to Quasi-Judicial Matters
 - B. Strategies for Protecting Habitat, Steve Jones Wildlife Consultant
 - C. Glyphosate & Prescribed Fire Use in Pilot Projects
 - D. Off-Trail Education Regarding Grazed Areas
 - E. Ranger Update
 - F. Citizen Survey Update (Staff Update)
 - G. OSAB Acquisition Process Assessment
 - H. Presentation by LOSA
 13. Adjourn

Open Space Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 7:00pm
Louisville Public Library, 1st Floor Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street

1. 7:00 pm Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Andrew Dorsey, Brad Pugh, Jessamine Fitzpatrick, Mark Poletti, Michiko Christensen, Susan McEachern, and David Blankinship

Board Member Not Present: Charles Danforth

Staff Member Present: Ember Brignull

3. Approval of Agenda

No comments were made on the agenda. Andy motioned to approve the agenda as submitted and Brad seconded. All approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

No comments were made on the March 2024 meeting minutes. Susan motioned to approve the minutes as submitted and Mark seconded. All approved.

5. 7:05 pm Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda (5 minutes, more time as needed)

There were no public comments.

6. 7:10 pm Staff Updates (5 Minutes)

- We are using new video and audio transcript technology tonight in preparation for Michiko writing the minutes for the May meeting.
- The Open Space Division is in the process of hiring 4 seasonal workers. A part-time maintenance worker started on 4/1, we are in the process of hiring a 2nd maintenance worker, and we have another starting May 8. The open space manager position is open until Wed 4/17 and that position has already been open for 3 weeks.
- The Open Space Division is working with a CU post-doc on a smooth brome study. Part of the study consists of looking for an approach consistent with management techniques within OSMP (City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks) and BCPOS (Boulder County Parks and Open Space).

- Ember highlighted the Warembourg Open Space erosion near the 5-way intersection. The damage started with kids digging into the creek bed to cross the creek. This will likely need to be fixed by the city.
- The Warembourg Fishing Frenzy will be held on Fri 4/19, a day off for BVSD students. There are 2 sessions being held and usually there is a very good turnout. The Open Space Division will evaluate the larger attendance numbers at some events after this to see whether COVID-era restrictions on the number of attendees should be retained.

7. 7:15 pm Board Updates (5 Minutes)

- **Communication Clarifications**

- Michiko is seeking more feedback from the rest of the board when she is done speaking. Board members should feel empowered to ask for clarification from her and to interrupt the interpreter as needed.

- **General**

- Jessamine mentioned that she and Andy are serving on a grants tiger team. They met and are planning to put together a collaborative database of types of grants that might be available for open space and trails. They are hoping to take advantage of contacts on other boards (e.g., David's contacts on the Superior Open Space Advisory Committee). They are seeking suggestions on which organizations to investigate.
- David mentioned that he attended a S. Boulder Rd. steering committee on March 14. Only overarching themes and no specific recommendations for the S. Boulder Rd. corridor between Broadway in Boulder and 120th St. in Lafayette have been presented so far.
- David mentioned that he attended the city's comprehensive plan open house on March 21 and that he saw Michiko, Susan, and Andy from the board there. There were about 150 people in attendance, and it was very well run. Quite a bit of feedback was provided to city staff, and it will be challenging to gauge priorities in some situations since in some categories all elements were being identified by the public as high importance.
- Susan passed out a summary of our priorities for the comprehensive plan per what came out of the February OSAB meeting presentation by Rob Zuccaro and as homework asked for each board member to prioritize highest to lowest. They are as follows:
 - Protect, maintain, and acquire open space
 - Improve and maintain trails
 - Wayfinding completion and social trails plan

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- Improve and increase public education and engagement around open space issues
- Prevent urban sprawl, connect open space properties with other cities
- Prioritize climate change resilience and decarbonization
- Enable fewer cars, more bikes for transportation
- Strengthen local business opportunities to enhance sales tax revenue
- Balance economic vitality with preserving healthy open spaces for citizens, animals, and plants
- Remove barriers between council and advisory boards
- Develop west-side community park and farmer's market
- Brad provided an update on the S. Boulder Rd. property on which OSAB had voiced support for acquisition last summer. The property is technically for sale, but the seller can't receive offers as they are working through deed restrictions with the city. Councilmember Deb Fahey was in attendance and said that Council is aware of the deed restrictions and understands that it was originally supposed to be county low-income housing.
- Brad also mentioned that there is a property adjacent to North Open Space that is for sale with a list price of \$4 million. It is the southern half of a 35-acre property and used to be a horse farm. Anybody with contacts on the county POSAC (Boulder County Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee) or the Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee should contact Ember with information to see whether looping them in would be a logical next step.

8. 7:20 pm Action Item: Finalize OSAB Work Plan Priorities for 2024. Presented By Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (30 Minutes)

OSAB work plan priorities for 2024 were discussed as presented in the packet and Jessamine voiced support for a few additions: advise staff and council on operational and capital projects and quasi-judicial matters as requested, participate in public outreach and education events, and volunteering activities to support the profile of the Open Space Division in the city.

David mentioned that wayfinding should be added to the work plan as well. Michiko expressed the importance of having open space and trail sections of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) master plan. Ember mentioned that it was the department's agreement with the city manager that we are just doing a PROST master plan and not an open space specific plan.

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The board supported the addition of another item to the work plan as follows: continue to advocate for wayfinding in a timely fashion.

Jessamine moved to approve the revised work plan with the edits that we discussed. Andy seconded. All approved.

9. 7:50 pm Discussion Item: OSAB Recommendations for Open Space Operational Budget and Staffing. Presented by Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent (60 Minutes).

The operational budget is a biennial budget for day-to-day operations and is separate from CIP (capital improvement projects).

The acquisition subprogram just covers staff time focused on the acquisition process (and therefore does not include any money for acquisitions themselves). More city participation in the process will be captured by the new policy that will be formulated this year. This could include, among other things, the creation of a portfolio of deed restrictions, history, and other background information on potential acquisitions. Ember said that the workflow and possibly fiscal processes will be presented by the city manager at the May OSAB meeting.

The new trails subprogram includes working with the county, partners, and on grants. Details will be fleshed out in the PROST master plan. The trail maintenance subprogram has a primary focus on hazards and safety.

Education & outreach subprogram: Among other things, we contract out the raptor programs. Susan advocated that a new hire be considered for education programs and volunteer coordination and outreach. Jessamine proposed having a component of that work be education and outreach around tougher issues such as encroachment, holiday lights, dogs, etc. Ember said that the communication teams plans to create an open space newsletter which could house some of these topics. Brad proposed that there be more education about staying on trail. The group agreed that we don't want to put up signs about social trails until we have formal policies in place. In the meantime, there was discussion of a potential email campaign to tell people not to use social trails, i.e., going the route of advice not enforcement. Social trails are ultimately a larger discussion topic for the PROST master plan. Ember mentioned that we might want to refine the social media posting strategy and that this would potentially be a future meeting agenda topic. The board agreed that we could move in the direction of supporting fewer education programs but spending more time on outreach and communication.

The maintenance & management subprogram accounts for the largest part of the overall Open Space budget. This includes prairie dogs, resource control, grazing, prescribed fire, mowing trail corridors, and lawn mower fuel. Wildfire mitigation, including mowing fire perimeters and controlled burns, might be handled in part via partnerships with other agencies. Susan would like to see more ecological restoration, i.e., reseeding and restoring riparian areas. The board recommended that wildfire mitigation be added to the description of this subprogram.

New hires for an open space manager and an open space maintenance technician have been approved. Also proposed are an open space project manager, resource specialist, and a ranger position. No formal recommendation was made by OSAB on specific hires as we left it to Ember, with her more detailed knowledge, to make personnel decisions for the Open Space Division.

10. 8:50 pm Discussion Item: Review Results of OSAB Capital Improvement Project Ranking. Presented by Ember Brignull, Open Space Superintendent (10 Minutes)

Susan distributed a draft email for Council that was discussed. We will remove the formal designation of medium priority for line item #5 in the memo (Lake-to-Lake Wayfinding) since there was not a formal vote. For line item #3 in the memo (Seeding Equipment and Fencing), it should be marked as high/medium since that item spanned multiple 2024 CIP entries and we had identified that equipment was deemed a high priority. All approved of the content of the memo to Council. All wayfinding work after the Powerline Trail (including the Lake-to-Lake Trail) has apparently been deferred officially to 2025 per Adam. The board decided that the section of the memo entitled “Additional items not supported by staff but recommended by OSAB” should be removed. The board agreed that all items ranked 2.5 and above should be ranked as high priority. Andy motioned that the memo as amended be approved and Jessamine seconded. All approved.

2025-2030: moving entries #20 (Open Space Equipment) and #29 (Open Space Planning Documents) from medium to high priority since the data is clustered such that 2.5 and above most logically can be deemed high priority. David asked about the missing Additional OSAB Ideas that we ranked, including Mayhoffer, education center, moving Warembourg fishing pond, and adding Lake-to-Lake trail wayfinding to 2025. 2025-30 will include the 3 items that were bumped from 2024 with their original priorities. Susan will draft a letter with revised priorities for 2024 and 2025-30 CIP and send that to Council.

Jessamine raised the topic of Louisville Open Space Advocates (LOSA) transparency. LOSA should be advised to present ideas to OSAB for consideration in addition to any direct meetings with Adam and Jeff. Any LOSA meeting minutes should be shared with OSAB.

11. 9:00 pm Discussion Item: Joint Meeting with Lafayette Open Space Committee and Potential Topics to be Discussed. Presented by Susan McEachern, OSAB Chair (10 Minutes)

OSAB would like to plan a joint meeting with the Lafayette Open Space Advisory Committee to build on the success of the meeting with Superior Open Space Advisory Committee last year. Potential meeting topics include grants, strategies for managing open space, jointly owned open space properties, wildlife management plans, social trails, the education center at Waneka Lake, and land acquisition processes.

12. 9:10 pm Discussion Items for Next Meeting May 8th, 2024 (Adam and Jeff will attend) - meeting will be at 6 p.m.

- Redtail Ridge: trail material and plant list
- Review of Methodology for Internal Acquisition Process
- PROST Memorial Program
- Open Space Encroachment (could potentially be deferred)
- PROST Long Term Management Plan (deferred to June)
- Glyphosate and Prescribed Fire Use in Research Plots (could be deferred)
- Review Public Education to Discourage Citizens from Going Off-Trail in Grazing Units (could be deferred or tiger team)
- Michiko is doing the meeting minutes

13. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

To: Open Space Advisory Board
From: Open Space Division
Date: May 8, 2024
Re: Information Item 6: Staff Updates

General:

1. Staff has reached out to Lafayette Open Space regarding a joint board meeting. Currently, staff are targeting a fall meeting with a preference for September. Staff liaisons and board chairs will work towards drafting an agenda and materials.
2. Open Space Manager Interviews occurred the week of April 29th. Second interviews and selection will occur in May.
3. South Boulder Road Property: No new updates at this time.

Natural Resources:

1. Natural Resource seasonal have been hired and will be starting the week of May 13th.
2. Fire Presentation updates
 - a. Nathaniel Goeckner, Natural Resource Supervisor, will be presenting at the Front Range Grassland Fire Workshop on May 29th. This is the first year of the conference and was organized by several Front Range partners including: Great Plains Fire Science Exchange, Southern Rockies Fire Science Network, Colorado State Forest Service, The Watershed Center, Boulder County, and Wildfire Partners.
 - b. The presentation will be in an afternoon time slot (3pm-ish) covering 20 minutes and presenting our program's prescribed grazing management, mitigation, Smooth Brome Case Study, and grassland restoration.
 - c. <https://www.southernrockiesfirescience.org/event/front-range-grassland-fire-workshop/>
3. Herbicide applications are scheduled for select Open Space properties on May 7-10 and May 14-17.
4. The Bridge house Working Group helped to re-install two prairie dog fencing sections on Davidson Mesa Open Space which were damaged during the windstorm.
5. Four eggs have been laid in one of the City established American kestrel boxes.
6. Cattle grazing will begin at both North and Dutch Creek Open Space on May 8th and continue through June 8th depending on weather, growing conditions etc.

7. Staff with the Bridge house group have been removing dead and downed debris from the understory of the main cottonwood stand on North Open Space. This work aims to reduce ladder fuel loads and to disrupt vertical fuel continuity.
8. Staff completed earth day pollinator pocket planting at Aquarius Trailhead.
9. Staff has organized and implemented seeding/planting tracking system to gauge success of previous seedings and plantings on open space.

Maintenance & Trails

1. In April, the Wayfinding contract was awarded to e3 for the Powerline Trail. The Powerline Trail signage fabrication will begin in June with installation estimated to be completed by July. Concurrent with this work, staff will be identifying sign locations for the Lake to Lake Trail. In July, staff will move forward with contracting the Lake to Lake Trail sign fabrication and installation with a goal of completion in 2024.
2. Seasonal Hiring is complete for the 2024 season, and seasonals have begun their field training.
3. The Maintenance Technician I interviews occurred the week of April 29. Second interviews and selection will be made in May.
4. Staff will begin the trail mowing season on April 30 with Hillside Open Space. Then staff will move onto mowing all concrete trail corridors followed by soft surface trails.
5. Staff will be repairing minor trail damage at Aquarius Open Space, due to recent rainfalls, in the upcoming weeks.

Resource Protection:

1. Rangers removed citizen created signs from the Davidson Mesa Dog Off-Leash Area (DOLA) that warned visitors of an impending closure of the area if they do not pick up their dogs' waste. The sign incorrectly identified City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) as the DOLA's managing agency.
 - a. Rangers have removed spurious signs from the DOLA before and will continue to remove signs as they appear.
 - b. Rangers have received several inquiries from concerned members of the public who were worried the DOLA would be closed. Rangers have assured callers that no such plans are extant.

Education/Volunteer:

1. A group of 13 volunteers provided a trash pickup on the 104th Street trail on Earth Day.
2. Staff promotion of the Adopt program was successful with twelve Open Space properties Adopted for the year.

Education Events Upcoming:

1. Saturday, 5/11/2024 from 9:00 to 9:45 AM, Bullfrogs and Biodiversity at Hecla Lake Open Space.
2. Saturday, 5/18/2024 from 10:00 to 10:45 AM, Noxious Weed ID at Aquarius Open Space.
3. Saturday 5/18/2024 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Pulling for Louisville-Aquarius at Aquarius Open Space.
4. Sunday, 5/19/2024 from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Aquarius Lightning Tree on Canvas (Open Space Plein Air Series) at Aquarius Open Space.
5. Thursday, 5/21/2024, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Grassland Walk at Davidson Mesa Open Space.
6. Saturday, 5/25/2024 with 3 session times: 10:00-11:00 AM, 11:00 AM -12:00 PM and 12:00-1:00 PM, Adaptive Bike Ride/Accessible Trails at Daughenbaugh Open Space.

Education Events Past:

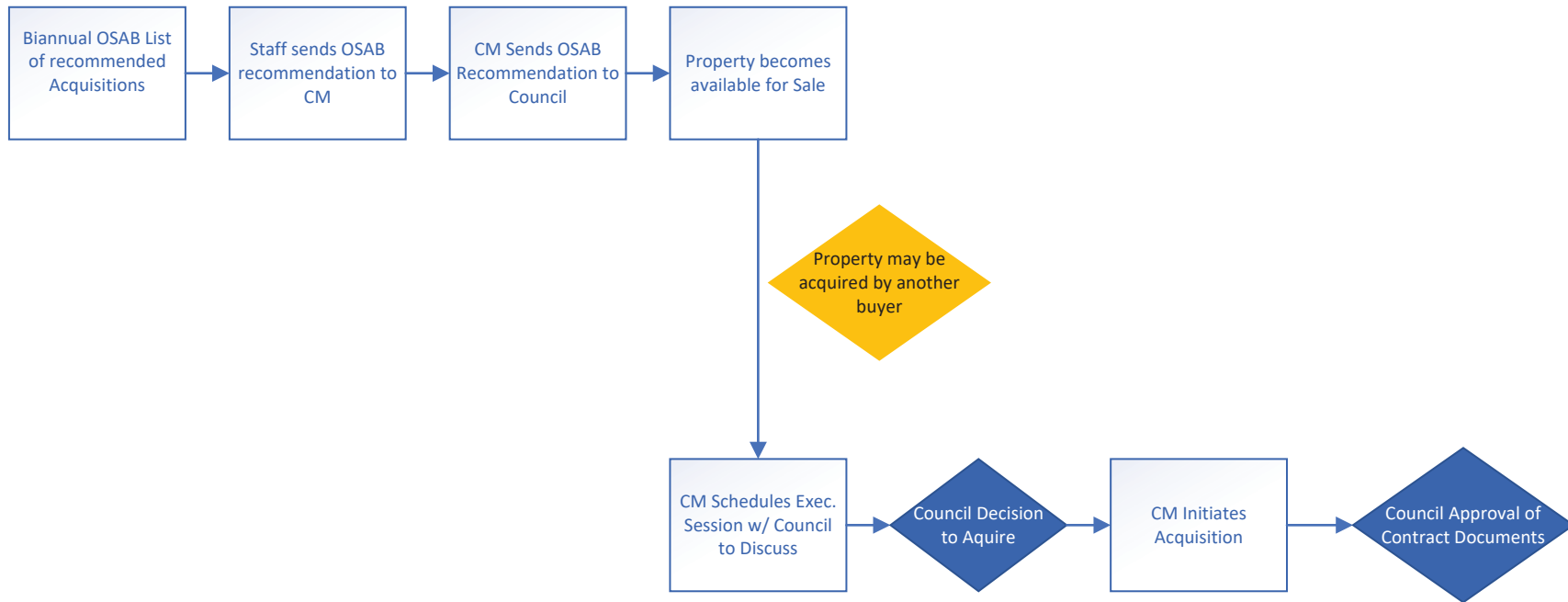
7. Sunday, 4/7/2024 from 7:30 to 9:30 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Celebrate Dark Sky Week at the Aquarius Open Space. 15 participants.
8. Monday, 4/8/2024 from 11:30 Am to 2:00 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Eclipse Viewing at the Louisville Library. 326 participants.
9. Friday, 4/19/2024 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Annual Fishing Frenzy at Warembourg Fishing Pond. 95 participants.
10. Monday 4/22/2024 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Open Space Stargazers: Earth Day Volunteer Event at Aquarius Open Space. 17 participants.
11. Thursday, 4/25/2024 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM, Pulling for Louisville at Daughenbaugh Open Space. Event cancelled due to bad weather.
12. Sunday, 4/28/2024 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, City Nature Challenge Bioblitz starting at Community Park. One participant.
13. Friday, 5/3/2024 from 5:00 to 6:00 PM, Ranger Mystery Party at Harper Lake Open Space. Participation not available at time of publication.

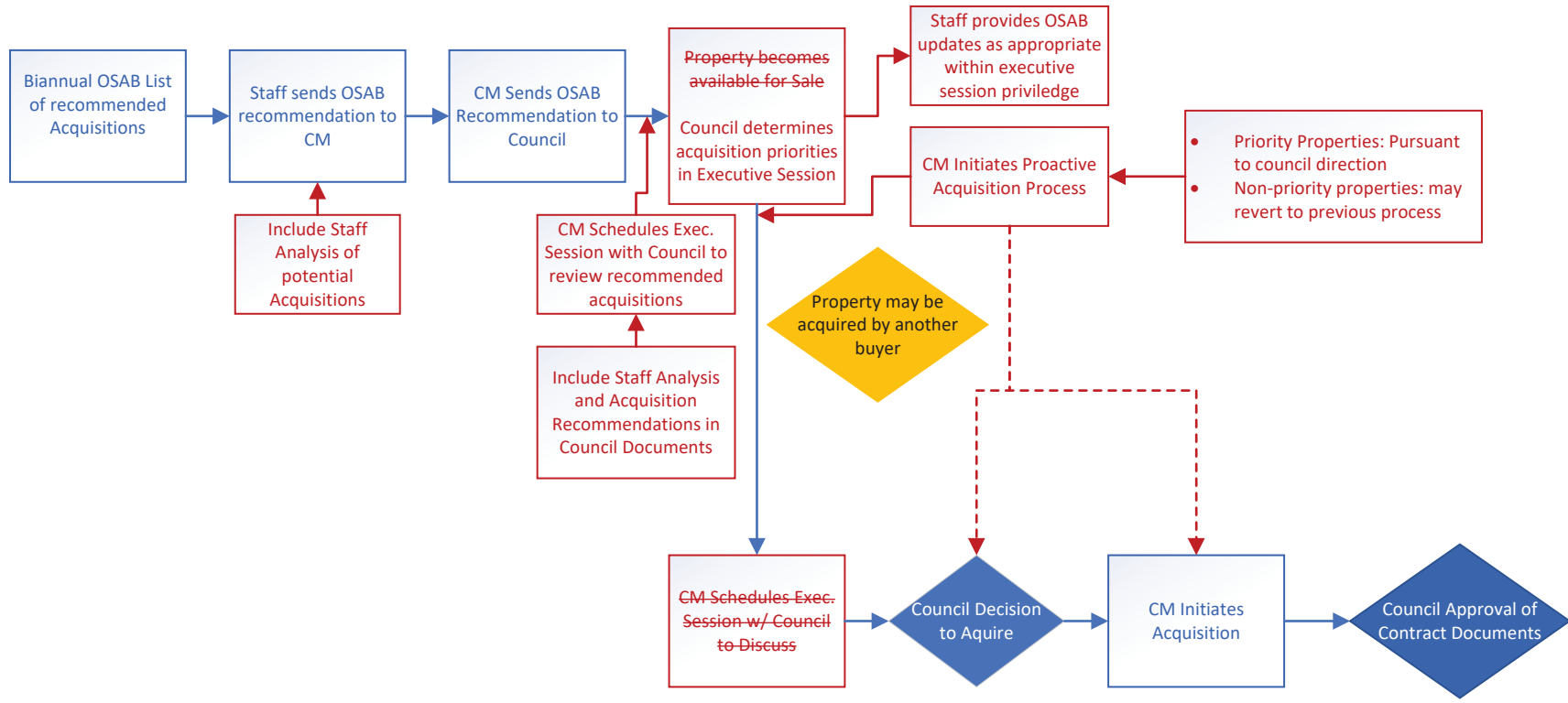
Update Item 7: Board Updates

OSAB Priorities for Louisville Comprehensive Plan

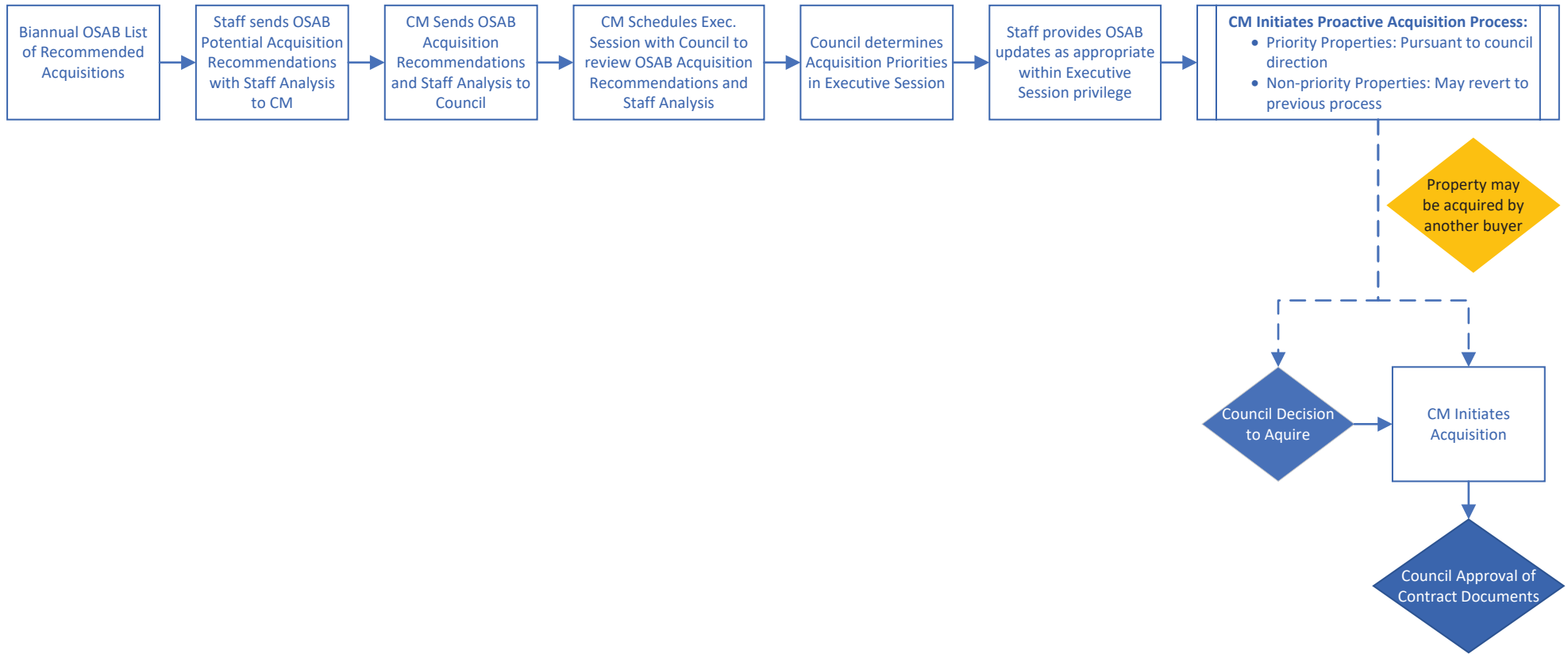
Priority Ranking	Goal	Total Points
1	protect and restore existing open space properties	27
2	wayfinding completion	32
3	acquire new open space properties	44
4	improve and maintain trails	45
5	balance economic vitality with preserving healthy open spaces for citizens and for native animal and plant life	45
6	social trails plan	52
7	remove barriers between council and advisory boards	55
8	stengthen local busines oportunities to enhance sales tax revenue	56
9	prioritize climate change resilience and decarbonization	60
10	improve and increase public education and engagement around open space issues	68
11	enable fewer cars, more bikes for local transportation	73
12	connect open space properties with other cities	74
13	prevent urban crawl	76
14	develop a westside community park and farmers market	100

Existing Open Space Acquisition Process





Proposed Open Space Acquisition Process



Trail Surfaces & Widths

Discussion item 11: Redtail Ridge Trail Locations

All comments shown in RED indicate on-going discussions as part of the final plat and/or construction document review. No decisions or agreements have been made regarding implementation. All are subject to change.

- 12' Width, Hard Surface Trail
- 10' Width, Hard Surface Trail
- - - 10' Width, Soft Surface Trail
- 8' Width, Hard Surface Trail
- 6' Width, Hard Surface Trail

