CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT
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CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AGENDA

MEETING DATE: January 7, 2015
TIME: 11:30 am
LOCATION: Recreation Center large conference room – 920 Boulder Drive

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2014 meeting.

Motion by_____, seconded by_____, that the consent agenda be approved and that each specific action on the consent agenda be approved as indicated. (Items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed above. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Committee Member or citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be considered on the regular agenda.)

Regular Agenda:

1. Consideration of the letter from the Law Offices of Prehoda, Leonard and Edwards concerning the Master Plan.

2. Consideration to direct staff to revise and amend the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan with all of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee's recommended changes for final comment and review by the public and the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.

New business:

1. Public Comments

Next Meeting Date: TBA

CITY OF LARAMIE
PARKS, TRAILS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN AD HOC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 10, 2014
Minutes of Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Amber Travsky, Amy Williamson, Bill Gribb, Dave Hammond, Evan O'Toole, Joe Lord, Vicki Henry
MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Dan McCoy, Mike Moeller, Peggy McCrackin
CITY OF LARAMIE STAFF PRESENT: Paul Harrison, Parks & Recreation Director; Derek Teini, Senior Planner; David Schott, Parks Manager; Audem Gonzales, Assistant Planner; Randy Hunt, Community Development Director; Mel Owen, Administrative Assistant
GUESTS: Eighteen members of the public in attendance, those who signed in are listed: Mike Leath, Janis Leath, Jacquelyn Walker, Carol Frost, Kimberly Starkey, Stephen E. Williams, Debby Wiltse

The regular meeting was called to order by Chair Dave Hammond at 11:35 a.m.

Consent Agenda:

1) **Approval of the minutes from the December 3, 2014 meeting.**
   Motion by Lord, second by Williamson, that the consent agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Regular Agenda:

1) **Consideration of the Northeast Laramie Greenbelt – Connect regional shortgrass prairie and open space proposal.**
   John Nutter, a representative from the Neighborhood Open Space Steering Committee created by citizens of the Alta Vista/Indian Hills neighborhood, gave an overview of the proposal concerning designating open space in the neighborhood. Nutter noted that a statement of support had been circulated in the neighborhood in reference to the creation of an extended open space area and that the full 7.4 acres, which the City has already acquired, be designated as open space. The statement of support was signed by 125 residents of the neighborhood. Nutter stated that neighbors in the area overwhelmingly support the designation of the full 7.4 acres as open space and that no other suggestions for other amenities or land uses were received during the neighborhood canvassing.

   Nutter discussed the motion that the Committee had passed on October 8, 2014 which stated that a *minimum* of 20 acres be designated as a natural area and that the balance *may be* developed. The neighborhood steering committee has been investigating possible grant funding to assist with land acquisition however there are some grants that require a minimum of 25 acres. In light of this, the neighborhood steering committee respectfully requested that the Committee consider designating a minimum of 25 acres as open space. Nutter also encouraged the Committee to consider that an open space designation retains the most options for the future; if needs do change in the future open space can be converted to a more traditional park but converting a traditional park back to open space would require a major commitment of time and money.

   Marius Favret addressed the Committee and noted that ideally the neighborhood coalition would like to see all three steps in their proposal come to fruition. The designation of more than 25 acres as open space would greatly help in preserving existing wildlife corridors.

   The Committee discussed designating the full 7.4 acres as open space and noted that if they do change the designation, then another location would need to be identified within Service Area 7 for a future neighborhood park since the service area would still be deficient in neighborhood park acreage. It was also noted that designating the 7.4 acres the City already owns as open space, in addition to the 16.6 acres of Outlot A, would still only be 24 acres total.

Steve Williams addressed the Committee and stated that he saw little downside to acquiring additional acreage, even 30 acres or more, and designating it as open space. Especially the outer lots which will be difficult to develop should be looked to as potential acquisitions.

Motion by Travsky, second by Henry, to designate 24 acres as open space in the area next to Kiowa Park and as possible, to acquire additional acreage to make a minimum of 25 acres of open space. Motion carried 7-0.

2) **Consideration to direct staff to revise and amend the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan with all of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee's recommended changes for final comment and review by the public and the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee.**
Don Prehoda, provided a copy of a letter mailed to the Committee requesting they further consider the treatment of land within the extra territorial zone. The Committee members were provided with a copy and formally acknowledged receipt of the Prehoda letter. The Committee decided to further consider the Prehoda letter at the next meeting in order to give adequate time for review and consideration. Staff noted that the City's interim attorney would be requested to attend the next meeting as well.

Issuing a directive to amend the Master Plan, incorporating all changes made by the Committee, would be further considered at a future meeting.

New Business

1) **Public Comments**
Kimberly Starkey requested a clarification of the timeline moving forward. Staff noted that after the Committee directs them to amend the Master Plan, the document will be updated. After the Master Plan has been amended a public comment period of thirty days will be opened on the final draft. After the public comment period concludes the Committee will send the final draft on to the Laramie City Council for consideration of approving and adopting the plan. Starkey noted that the County Planning and Zoning Commission and the County Commissioners were included in the consideration of the Laramie Comprehensive Plan, which statutorily required their concurrence. Starkey encouraged the Committee to follow the same timeline for the Master Plan.

2) **Next Meeting Date:**
January 7, 2015

Meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Owen

Mel Owen
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation - City of Laramie

FILE COPY

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*** Admitted in Colorado**

December 8, 2014

Mr. Paul Harrison
Director, Parks & Recreation Department
City of Laramie
P.O. Box C
Laramie, WY 82073

Re: Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee

Dear Paul:

I am assuming you are the proper person to whom to address this letter and that you will make it available to the members of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee. Just to be sure, I am copying Dave Hammond with this letter.

I represent JD and Candice Hamaker and write this letter on their behalf. I have listened, with interest, to the exchanges between the committee members and various Albany County residents and landowners. Various reasons to exclude the county properties from the master plan have been presented to the committee. They have included trespass, lack of notice to effected landowners, authority of the committee, interference with property rights and a form of taking of private property. The recent discussions have centered on icons and now, shaded areas of county property located outside of the city limits. Rather than stand up at a meeting and express a position, I thought it may be better to articulate the points I'd like to make in writing and, hopefully, provide the committee an opportunity to consider the following prior to their meeting on January 10, 2015:

1. Wyoming Statutes, Sections 15-1-502 and 503, permits the formation of a commission, and after holding public hearings, to adopt a master plan. The Parks, Trails & Recreation Master Plan Ad Hoc Advisory Committee was charged with the duty of developing a master plan. Upon adoption and certification, the ad hoc committee then certifies to the governing body (the City) a master plan.

2. Wyoming Statute 15-1-503 (a) states that if the plan involves territory outside the City or town, **action** shall be taken with the concurrence of the Board of County Commissioners or County

Planning Commission. This provision of the statute was specifically acknowledged by the City of Laramie in August of 2007, when it Resolution No. 2007-61 when the City adopted the 2007 Comprehensive Plan.

The ad hoc committee appears to have agreed to remove the icons from the County (extraterritorial) properties. The remaining issue is the inclusion of the shaded areas. It is submitted that the inclusion of shading, of any kind, on County properties necessarily requires the concurrence of the Board of County Commissioners or County Planning Commission. The last meeting before the County Planning Commission sent a very clear message that the County Planning Commission, and likely the Board of County Commissioners, will not concur with the master plan's inclusion of territory outside of the City.

I have been trying to determine how the master plan is either enhanced or diminished by the inclusion or exclusion of the shaded areas. If the shaded area were removed, the boxes identifying future needs could remain without necessarily implying specific areas under consideration. This removal also would serve the purpose of avoiding county residents from claiming their private property was being impacted by the master plan. Further, excluding the shading removes the necessity to bring the master plan to the Board of County Commissioners or County Planning Commission for their concurrence. Including the shaded areas does not seem to enhance the maps at all. It creates the illusion of a plan for the shaded portions. The icons which end at the City borders adequately demonstrate a vision, without highlighting an identified portion of the County.

I encourage the ad hoc committee to seriously consider the above points and remove the shaded areas from the maps. I think the process of obtaining certification of this master plan will occur with much less consternation if the shaded areas are removed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

PREHODA, LEONARD & EDWARDS, LLC

By: D P Prehoda Jr
Donald P. Prehoda, Jr.

cc: Dave Hammond, chairman
JD and Candice Hamaker