



## Final Minutes

TOWN OF LYONS

**Monday, Jan. 13th, 2020 6pm-8pm**

Parks and Recreation Commission  
Lyons Historic Train Depot  
432 5th Ave. Lyons, Colorado 80540

Attendance: Pam Barnes (audience business) Veronika Gaia, Randy Pollard, Yelena Hughes, Dave Cosgrove, Ian Brighton, Claudia Kean, LaVern Johnson

I. Approval of Minutes from November 2019: Approved unanimously

II. Audience Business - Limited to 15 minutes - All comments will be limited to 4 minutes per person

Pam Barnes: Parade. Pam needs Parks and Rec Commission people to help, as she was short staffed and had to be in too many places at once. Crowd control, especially near the St. Vrain Market, was difficult. People get into the street, and kids are not safe. We need more control. Pam had to help the officer at the island up there also.

Dave: Debrief with police and fire department - we do hire more officers, tripled the barricades. But we still need more to make it clear to people where to stay. For the police, it's an extra duty, they need to sign up for it.

III. General Business

1. Town Updates

a. Flood Recovery Updates and Park Operations/Projects

Lyons Valley River Park - adding railings to stairs, other minimal cleanup on interior - re: landscape. March/April. Next week, working with contractor to open trails. Signage will be placed for Restoration Area. Rope will still be there to protect landscaping. No announcement or posting, but "soft" trail opening.

Plant replacement and reseeding will continue. Irrigation along highway.

Bohn Park:

Starting soon: 2 weeks of work from river inlet to well, pipe install will impact trail along river temporarily. Deep trenching, dirt pile. Funding and phasing with a different contractor. The delay we had earlier caused two different contracts to become out of sync.

5-8 million gallons needed annually to sustain Bohn Park as building now. Two softball fields and passive field, and bathrooms.

NorthEast corner is seeded with bluegrass combo, will be used for practices, etc.

High demand.



Soccer goals in Multi-Use are moved by school people, Dave will see that they get anchored.

Pump house is working. Pavilion is progressing quickly, and retaining walls for skate park are close to finish. Dugouts will be poured - and then they will look at March as landscaping target for MAY completion. There will be power, lighting, potable water in yard hydrant nearby.

### **Pedestrian bridge at 4th Ave progress?**

Bridge would be included in the Safe Routes to School grant which must be matched. That match will need at least \$400,000 and maybe more. The bridge would be part of that project, so can't be separated or scope reduced.

SRS - adding bike lanes, sidewalks, etc.

Yelena - Elementary PTO could be a partner in fundraiser on this.

### **2nd Ave Bridge**

Project is working on final design, utility placement, surveying for alley and tie in to Bohn, and this project will continue throughout 2020.

Flood Recovery paving will happen this spring, mostly on south side of town, 2nd, Evans, Park, Railroad area. March/April.

Bank cut project - design. Just below Highland diversion, on town property that abuts Keith Bell's property. CDBDGR funding is covering this.

#### **b. Community Events**

Old Man Winter - Feb 9th. AdventureFit is putting this on.

Winter Wonderland Concert series - First one done. Ian was hoping a tent for musicians to be warmer. Dave says town will need to replace the flood-lost tents.

Jan 25th, Feb 8th are the two more dates for the Winter Wonderland.

Joe Kukla and then Jessie Garland.

Lisa Ramsey is new Recreation Coordinator, programming out of Walt Self, as well as Youth Baseball and Softball is coming up with Longmont. Indian Peaks softball out of Boulder will also be working with us.

Soccer has a lot more participation this year, working with St. Vrain teams in partnership.

Marissa is now Deputy Town Clerk.

Ariel Hodgson will take on Special Events.

Kim Mitchell is still coordinating these departments.

Reserving and scheduling shelters, camping and events are going to be more automated now, RecDesk will be the software used.



Eastern Corridor utilities still moving forward, end of February/March the offices may be ready.

c. Other issues

**2. Adding Pedestrian Routes to Plowing Prioritization**

Areas at accessible ramps - major snow piles at Walt Self and so on. Accessible public infrastructure needs to be prioritized somehow.

Dave has reached out to CDOT to find out what their policies are so we are not working at cross purposes. CDOT has said it's actually our town responsibility, re: the State. So, how can we time the plowing to make this work? And create a list of places.

**3. Transferable Parking Passes TABLED for presence of Chris Cope.**

**4. Potential PRC Long-term Goals for 2020**

a. Pedestrian Improvement Plan (Sidewalks, Crosswalks, Trails)?

b. Updated O&M Plan (Operations and Maintenance)

1. Tie-in to town Comprehensive Plan

We could be sending out an RFP for a consultant to help us with a long-term plan, We should be moving toward long-term maintenance issues. We are the community voice and liaison to town; having a clear maintenance plan can really help take pressure off Town Staff. Apple Valley areas could be in a different category than the in-town areas.

Once flood recovery is completed, this should become a big part of our job. A consultant can help us form a plan for sustainable preventative maintenance.

We need technical maintenance "manuals" for fixing and maintaining parks works to keep institutional knowledge accessible to all.

Other Long Term Goals - Access and trail connectivity should be a continuing goal.

Trails require maintenance, so cataloguing and preserving our existing trail system and expanding connections where we can. Mapping can be a first goal.

Weed Management is another goal.

**IV. Apple Valley Buyout Letter of Recommendation**

**Vote to Approve the Letter of Recommendation Statement to Accept All Apple Valley Buyout Properties:**

**Unanimously Approved by present members of Parks and Recreation Commission.**



**Town of Lyons Parks & Rec Commission  
Recommendation Statement to  
Accept All Apple Valley Buyout Properties**

**December 9th, 2019**

**The Town of Lyons Parks & Recreation Commission voted unanimously at its August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting to recommend to the Town to accept all Apple Valley buyout properties.**

**In the recreational interests of the Town of Lyons, its residents and visitors, the Lyons Parks & Recreation Commission recommends that the Town accept ownership of the 10 flood buyout properties in Apple Valley being offered to it by Boulder County. Under Town control, the parcels can be managed for their natural, recreational and open space values.**

**The recreational values of these properties are strong. The parcels have more than 2,500 ft. of frontage on the North Branch of the St. Vrain River in an area that has traditionally been off-limits to the general public. Some of these parcels - the Boland, Chavez, Casey, Rivers/Mayes (combined) and Girl Scouts of Colorado – have frontage on both sides of the river.**

**The larger parcels (Mayes, Casey) together total more than 11 acres, which could be managed for limited river access and offer opportunities for local school ecology projects.**

**Activities that can be considered for these riverfront parcels include fishing access, bird-watching and tubing and kayaking put-ins/take-outs. Less desirable activities like camping, vehicle access, picnicking and swimming can be prohibited. The recreational activities on these parcels will be managed by a plan devised by Town staff, Board of Trustees, invested boards and commissions with input from stakeholders.**

**Having the Town own these recreationally important properties will enhance the Town's open space and park system. Access to open space plays a large role in why people live here and why visitors come here. The buyout properties will also**



provide an economic benefit for the Town by attracting birders and anglers to the Town and its businesses.

Boulder County has publicly said that these buyout properties can provide the greatest benefit to Lyons area residents, and that the town is better suited than the county to manage them. If the town declines ownership of the buyouts and the county retains them they would not develop any management plans and would only perform as-needed management. It is also likely that - absent any management plans and enforcement - Boulder County will post these parcels against public access, as they have already done to the Boland and Mayes parcels.

The Parks & Rec Commission understands there may be costs to the Town in maintaining these parcels but believes the alternative is blighted parcels with no public access. This would be especially troubling as the Town may consider future annexation of parts of Apple Valley into the Town.

For the reasons cited here the Parks & Recreation Commission recommends that the Town accept all of the buyout properties in Apple Valley being offered to the Town by the County.

**Parks & Recreation Commission Members: *Ian Brighton (Chair), Claudia Kean, Chris Cope, Veronika Gaia, Randy Pollard, Yelena Brachman, Greg Lowell***

**Next Meeting: Feb 10th, 2020 6:00 PM Depot**