

MINUTES

CITY OF FORT COLLINS • BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS



Land Conservation & Stewardship Board

May 14, 2025

Regular Meeting – Excerpt

Members:

Ross Cuniff, Chair

Scott Mason, Vice Chair

Denise Culver, Member

Jennifer Gooden, Member

Holger Kley, Member

Elena Lopez, Member

River Mizell, Member

Mark Sears, Member

Tom Shoemaker, Member

1. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

LCSB: Jennifer Gooden, Denise Culver, Mark Sears, Tom Shoemaker, Scott Mason, Holger Kley, Elena Lopez, Ross Cuniff

Excused: River Mizell

NAD Staff: Katie Donahue, Tawnya Ernst, Matt Parker, Kelly Smith, Elaine Calaba, Aaron Reed, Julia Feder, Emily Shingler, Mary Boyts

City Staff: Dave Kemp, Sr. Planner, Park Planning & Development

Guests: Randy Kenyon, District Engineer, South Fort Collins Sanitation District

Excerpt related to this Council Meeting Agenda Item: Adoption of Natural Areas Strategic Framework

6. ACTION ITEMS

Strategic Framework

Julia Feder, Environmental Planning Manager stated she was here to discuss the final draft of Strategic Framework with the LCSB and the proposed recommendation to Council. Julia shared the project timeline, feedback themes and the resulting updates to the final plan. She stated her appreciation to the Board for their valuable input throughout the process

Discussion

The LCSB and staff discussed additional edits to the plan and the proposed recommendation.

Comment: It is not the job of the Natural Areas to promote “working rivers.”

A. Staff’s intent was to acknowledge that the river system is extremely disturbed but agreed to remove the text.

Comment: Modify “Factoring mental health and wellness benefits into decision making” to include appropriate.

A. Staff explained the bullet points are intended to provide clarity around decision making related to this value specifically (Safety and Wellbeing) and not necessarily to other values or goals in plan, i.e., ecological function.

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Q. Can you provide an example of how that bullet item would apply?

A. It could potentially influence the location of parking lot or bench and how signage is designed. One of the things that staff heard from people loud and clear around use of our natural areas was that these are really places of respite for people.

Comment: Requests change to bullet item “providing high-quality visitor experience that balances protection for critical natural resources”

A. Staff will amend bullet item: providing a high-quality visitor experience while protecting critical natural resources

Comment: It's hard to think of a human using our natural areas in a way that doesn't somehow impact mental health or wellness.

Question: Will the broader public understand the pocket restorations?

A. We can use a different descriptor.

The LCSB discussed and agreed on several changes to enhance the proposed recommendation to Council.

Member Gooden made a motion that the Land Conservation and Stewardship Board (LCSB) strongly recommends that City Council adopt the Natural Areas Strategic Framework. LCSB has been actively engaged in all phases of development and drafting of the Strategic Framework, with the final plan reflecting broad guidance and specific feedback LCSB has provided over the past 18 months. As such, LCSB believes this will be a sound guide to support Natural Areas and citywide planning for the decade to come and that the Natural Areas Strategic Framework reflects the will of the voters and the conservation and stewardship priorities of the board. LCSB applauds staff for their innovative approach, inspiring communication, and community responsiveness. Member Culver seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved 8-0.