

City Council

Study Session Agenda

February 12, 2013
Louisville Public Library, 1st Floor Meeting Room
951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM

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|------------------|-------------|--|
| 7:00 p.m. | I. | Call to Order |
| 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. | II. | Update – Sustainability Advisory Board |
| 7:30 – 8:15 p.m. | III. | Discussion – Parks and Recreation Advocacy and Advisory Boards |
| 8:15 – 8:20 p.m. | IV. | City Manager’s Report
a. Advanced Agenda |
| 8:20 – 8:30 p.m. | V. | Discussion Items for Next Study Session on February 26, 2013 and Identification of Future Agenda Items |
| 9:00 p.m. | VI. | Adjourn |

SUBJECT: UPDATE – SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2013

PRESENTED BY: LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD

SUMMARY:

The Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board (LSAB) will report on activities and tasks completed in 2012, discuss goals for 2013, and introduce new board members

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. LSAB 2012 Accomplishments & 2013 Goals

Louisville Sustainability Advisory Board (LSAB)

2012 Accomplishments/2013 Goals

Vision: Moving Louisville towards a more sustainable future.

Mission: Promoting sustainability through energy efficiency, resource conservation, and localization to better the environment, social well-being, and economic viability of the City of Louisville.

2013 Goals

Waste Reduction (Mark)

- Work collaboratively with the DBA and Chamber on waste reduction activities

Community Gardens (Mary Ann)

- Promote Louisville's community garden vision and establish a model garden in 2013 with the help of LSAB and citizens

Work with the Building Code Board of Appeals (Andy)

- Enter into the Board's assessment of green building codes

Urban agriculture white paper (Mary Ann)

- Work with Troy Russ to develop the analysis for Staff, Planning Commission, and City Council

Comprehensive Plan (All)

- Continue involvement with the Planning Department after completion of the Plan

Baseline Energy Assessment (Ted)

- Continue in an advisory role to the City as needed

Build alliances with community entities business and citizens (All)

- Meet with the DBA, Chamber, and citizens groups to discuss activities and solicit feedback

Solicit feedback from other Boards and Council throughout year (All)

- Attend quarterly council meetings and invite other board members to LSAB meetings to discuss LSAB activities, solicit feedback, support common causes

Livable Cities -(All)

- Continue to promote livable city concepts

2012 Accomplishments

Comprehensive Plan

- Worked with staff to incorporate Livable City Principles within the Comp Plan and Core Values
- Submitted sections for Energy, Transportation, Infrastructure (Water), Community Health, and Waste

UCD Energy Assessment (Mary Ann)

- Obtained funding for the study

Submitted a Zero Waste Resolution (Mark)

- Proposed the City support the County's plan

Urban Gardening (Annie, Mary Ann)

- Began working with the City and citizens to develop a garden

**SUBJECT: DISCUSSION – PARKS AND RECREATION ADVOCACY AND
ADVISORY BOARDS**

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2013

PRESENTED BY: JOE STEVENS, PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

SUMMARY:

The 2012 adopted Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails Master Plan (PROST) identifies 29 parks totaling 306 acres within the City of Louisville. Some parks are fully developed while others have minimal enhancements. Most parks are within easy walking distance of adjacent neighborhoods and virtually all parks are accessible via a network of 38 miles of trails. In addition to parks, the City also has 1,758 acres of Open Space (698 solely owned by the City of Louisville with the balance jointly owned with Boulder County and Lafayette), and special use facilities such as the 154 acre Coal Creek Golf Course, Recreation and Senior Center Campus, Arboretum, Louisville Cemetery and Louisville Sports Complex. In a 2011 survey conducted by RRC Associates, 91% of Louisville residents say that parks are meeting the needs of their households. This and other survey data is included within the adopted PROST.

One objective of the PROST is to identify priorities and to make recommendations that will help Louisville address operating, capital and program needs over the next ten years. With the exception of the south west portion of the City, Louisville is well served with regards to parks. Areas that merit additional attention according to the PROST include Recreation and Senior Center expansion, multi-use or additional sports fields for practices and games, new, updated aquatic facilities, trail connectivity and a more vigorous maintenance program to address new design and maintenance standards including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as revised in 2010. This is not to suggest that the PROST is not a flexible document that can justify acquisition and expansion of parks when opportunities present themselves and/or as new development occurs (i.e. Cowboy and Steel Ranch Parks).

The PROST does recommend that the City consider changes to the structure and operating procedures of appointed boards and commissions (consistent with Charter requirements) to provide consistency and to maximize efficiency. Presently, the Parks and Recreation Department staff provides assistance to six advisory boards. In addition, other boards and commissions are engaged in advocacy efforts that impact department resources (i.e. Sustainability Committee, Historic Preservation Commission). The department also works closely with area schools and sports advocates ranging from youth football, baseball, soccer, tennis and softball to skate park enthusiasts to swim clubs and dog obedience/training programs to running clubs to scout groups and remote control boat clubs. They all have direct access to staff and are engaged in influencing many facets of park operations.

SUBJECT: PARKS AND ADVOCACY WITHIN CITY PARKS

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2013

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Active citizen involvement is a City of Louisville hallmark. In effect, we have over 18,376 park advocates. A most recent and related example is the Colorado Technology Center (CTC) to downtown trail championed by a Louisville resident. While the City does not have a trail advisory board, in 2010 this citizen encouraged staff to work with CTC and the Metropolitan District encouraging the City to construct a trail link connecting the CTC to historic downtown Louisville. In 2012 the trail was dedicated. There was significant support from the Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB) and the Business Retention and Development Board (BRAD). Understandably, not all projects get “legs”, are adopted, and are implemented in a timely manner, however; they all garner thoughtful consideration. This is but one example and a testament to citizen involvement, responsive municipal government and perhaps a strong indicator of why the City has 38 miles of trails, 29 parks and is consistently cited as a great place to live. It may also lend credence for the PROST recommendation to consider structural changes/consolidation of some boards and commissions to perhaps make them more inclusive of services and programs provided by the City.

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the intent is to develop more parks and create another board, staffing demands and budgetary impacts will need further evaluation dependent upon direction from City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City of Louisville retain the Charter-required Open Space Advisory Board, and investigate the consolidation of the Golf Course Advisory Board, Horticulture and Forestry Advisory Board, Youth Advisory Board and Senior Advisory Board into a nine member Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with sub-committees for each discipline as necessary. 501c3 organizations such as Friends of the Arboretum and Louisville Cultural Council would coordinate operations with the City but would be functionally independent of the City and without City staff.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Current Park Inventory

