

## Grand Lake Municipal Lands Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes – 2/2/21

**Introduction/Update** – The February 2021 meeting was held virtually via Zoom and the topic of focus was the Thomasson Park property, an eight-acre parcel of land located about 700 feet north of the Grand Lake Visitor’s Center, on the east side of US-34/Trail Ridge Road.

**\*\*Note:** The committee did not meet in January 2021.

### **Minutes** - Updates/Approval

The minutes from the meeting on 12/1/20 were reviewed and approved by the committee after correcting a few typos.

### **Discussion Items**

The discussion kicked off with Judy Burke providing the group with some background information about why and how the property was obtained in the first place. She explained that the Town was informed by Rocky Mountain National Park officials in 2000 that they would need to come up with a plan to address overflow from the current Town cemetery, located on park land at the corner of US-34 and County Road 49. The Thomasson property was leased to purchase in 2002 with the intent to use it as a space to house cemetery overflow, and more specifically to be used as columbarium (a memorial site to store cremated remains).

Other possible uses that were discussed at that time included a “Watchable Wildlife Park” and a trail system that could provide greater recreational connectivity throughout Town. However, Judy warned of doing anything on the land that would hint at de-classifying it for cemetery use as this could lead to federal involvement.

Ginny Wilkinson added that in previous years she had researched a GOCO grant to assist in improving trails through the property, but eventually abandoned the pursuit when she learned that the project would require a costly land survey as portions of the property contain protected wetlands.

The group determined that the property could be best used in the following ways:

- Cemetery overflow/Columbarium site
- Watchable Wildlife designated area/signage
- Parking area or pull-off area, located on the north end of Thomasson Park. Some parking could also be shared with the GL Visitor’s Center.
- Restrooms, trash cans and doggie bag station to encourage “Leave No Trace” principles
- Multi-use trails to improve recreational connectivity, with a possible loop design to connect the property to Woodpecker Hill neighborhood and the Grand Lake Lodge, creating an attraction for visitors. There is a utility easement on the entire north end of the property.

It was discussed that partnering with local non-profit organizations, such as the Headwaters Trail Alliance and/or snowmobile/ATV might be beneficial, especially in regard to obtaining grant funding for trail projects. It was also noted that there is a utility easement on the entire north end of the property.

### **Additional Items/Follow up**

The committee decided to focus on the Lakefront Park, beach and marina spaces at the next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021.

The Grand Lake Board of Trustees will be considering the hiring of a consultant to assist in the future development of the public lands, parks and open spaces in their upcoming meeting on Monday, February 8, 2021.