

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING NO. 882
MINUTES**

Call to order/Roll call

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Suburban Park and Recreation District was called to order at 5:42 pm on **Wednesday, January 25, 2017** at the Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 South University Boulevard, Centennial, Colorado. Chair John Ostermiller presided.

Present: John K. Ostermiller
 Scott A. LaBrash
 Pamela M. Eller
 Michael T. Anderson
 James A. Taylor

Legal Counsel: James P. Collins, Esq.

Management Staff: Rob Hanna, Executive Director
 Rich Meredith, Executive Director, Hudson Gardens
 Brett Collins, Director of Planning & Development
 Teresa Cope, Director of Communications
 Jay Dikeman, Director of Hospitality Services
 Andy Jennings, Director of Parks & Open Space
 Mike MacLennan, Director of IT
 Eileen Matheson, Director of Recreation Services
 Bill Ramsey, Director of Golf
 Steve Shipley, Director of Finance

Study Session convened

After the call to order, Mr. Ostermiller convened the Study Session, and the group discussed the items on the posted agenda. The Board returned to the public meeting at 7 pm.

PUBLIC MEETING CONTINUED

Citizens' comments

No public came forward to speak tonight.

Executive Director's report

New employees introductions

Mrs. Matheson introduced

- Kelsi McNutt, the new Goodson Facility Supervisor

Darcie LaScala, Arts & Enrichment Supervisor introduced

- Christine Scott, the new Arts and Enrichment Coordinator.

Kelsey Whisler, Fitness Manager introduced

- Kimberly Borawa, Gymnastics Coordinator

Christina Wegscheider, Program & Facility Supervisor for the Lone Tree Recreation Center introduced

- Jessica Skiera, Family Services Coordinator.

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Minutes approval

Board members had no corrections, additions, or changes. Therefore, **with no objections, the minutes of meeting no. 881, January 11, 2017 stood approved as presented.**

Consent Agenda items

Mr. Ostermiller presented the Consent Agenda items for consideration by the Board.

- A. TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 2017-002, TO ENDORSE AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR THE 2017 ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES SPRING CYCLE STANDARD GRANT PROGRAM FOR PARKING LOT IMPROVEMENTS AT CORNERSTONE PARK.”**
- B. TO ACCEPT TWO PERMANENT TRAIL EASEMENTS AT 10000 AND 10002 PARK MEADOWS DRIVE, WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE CREDIT UNION AND THE FARMERS NEW WORLD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY RESPECTIVELY, FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT TRAIL IN THE CITY OF LONE TREE.”**

MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS A AND B, WITH AN ADDITION TO ITEM B: THAT THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THE EASEMENT DOCUMENTS. Mr. LaBrash seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Consent agenda items were approved unanimously (5-0). (A copy of the Resolution is attached hereto and made part of the permanent record.)

NEW BUSINESS

Reallocation of funds: from Chase Park Expansion Project, to Bear Creek Trail at South Lowell Boulevard Realignment Project

Brett Collins presented. The District has received a request from the City of Sheridan to make the funding allocation change, in order to strengthen a grant application for the Bear Creek Trail projects. The proposed \$22,500 reallocation to Bear Creek Trail (from the \$50K match allocated by the District to the Chase Park project) is some funding that will not be needed this year. Therefore the Board's approval of this action could be appropriate, if the Board is in agreement. It is anticipated that the Chase Park project will require a master plan process and so probably the Chase Park project will be for a 2018 grant application.

To Boardmembers' questions, Brett explained the proposed project, which would include widening the existing sidewalk for safety reasons on the east side of the bridge deck, and realignment of the streetway at King to improve the trail alignment. Staff had considered and decided against recommending a flashing pedestrian light at that trailway crossing, as stopping the traffic immediately exiting 285 (Hampden) onto Lowell Boulevard also would be a safety concern.

MRS. ELLER MOVED TO REALLOCATE \$22,500 IN FUNDING FROM THE CHASE PARK EXPANSION PROJECT TO THE BEAR CREEK TRAIL REALIGNMENT PROJECT, TO SUPPORT THE CITY OF SHERIDAN IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR 2017 ARAPAHOE COUNTY OPEN SPACES GRANT FUNDS. Mr. Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

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Board of Directors items

High Line Canal Working Group meeting review

Mrs. Eller presented Canal tree inventory slides and reviewed the Working Group meeting held on January 18.

- Within the 65 to 66 miles of the Canal trail (total 71 miles) tree canopy surveyed by Davey Tree and involving many local agencies providing management, there is an average of approximately 350 trees per linear mile with a diameter of 6 inches or more. Of the 20,677 trees surveyed (mostly cottonwood, ash and elm species), approximately one-third are in excellent to good condition, one-third are in fair condition, and one-third either need some aggressive attention or are dead. Approximately 1,095 trees are identified for priority removal, and priority mainly was determined by where the trees are – i.e., their potential impact to people (safety issues). The jurisdictions will be notified of the survey results and strongly encouraged to do something about the trees. Arapahoe County Open Spaces is planning to provide some matching funds through grants to help with this effort.

The next step for the Conservancy will be to master plan a future tree canopy along the entire Canal Trail (identifying appropriate future tree species), and this will be a long-term process.

Mr. Taylor asked about any legal exposure for the District from the identified trees for removal. Jim Collins offered the opinion that it's a balance of some exposure against the fact that by law, that the District isn't responsible for natural falling objects. Brett Collins and Mrs. Eller added, actually the District's ongoing tree inventory is more detailed than the database put together by Davey Tree, and District crews have been addressing issues over these years. Within the District's management area, responsibility for trees generally depends on which Canal bank they're on; and some trees identified for aggressive maintenance or removal may be the responsibility of Denver Water. Mr. Jennings added his report on recent tree maintenance along the Canal; he will compare recent District crew work reports against the Davey Tree report, and hopefully the numbers will match. Mrs. Eller noted, if a tree is dead, it may not be removed for reasons of habitat or aesthetics.

- Mrs. Eller continued her report. The Working Group received reports on several new projects. One current major project is the crossings improvements (underpasses construction) at Hampden Avenue and Colorado Boulevard, with construction work to start later this year. There's a new project, the Cherry Hills Village acquisition of Quincy Farms for open space.
- Mrs. Eller also reported on the status of the High Line Canal Vision and Action Plan (reviewed by the Board December 14, 2016, and to return for final formal approval in February 2017). She noted, there is some funding left over from the recent Phase 1 effort, and they will be identifying some new projects and therefore some grant applications to write. The Conservancy is working with the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to plan a stewardship project. They are also planning education opportunities for the public.

Director reports, continued

Mr. Anderson reported on the Economic Forecast breakfast this month, organized by the South Metro Chamber. The presenters gave a very positive forecast, a continuation of what we've seen in recent years. However, there has been a slow-down in oil and gas economy in 2016, which is predicted to continue. Overall, the reports are based on historical trend; they anticipate a low unemployment rate in the State in 2017, and business as usual. There also was a presentation on where the public is with regard to taxing and priorities: The number one priority continues to be K-12 education.

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Mr. Taylor attended the Sheridan CANDO meeting. One major topic was the old pool building, owned by the Sheridan School District and adjacent the Sheridan Recreation Center. An RFP has been issued for a consultant to develop a grant application for Colorado Health Foundation funds, to fund a feasibility study for the building. He explained the parameters of the grant. He also described aggressive improvements which would be needed to turn the building back into a pool facility, concluding, this probably isn't a feasible use.

The CANDO Committee also talked about a proposal by DRCOG for a boomer bond project. He reported the metro area's population is composed of 25% adults at age 60+. The DRCOG assessment tool has been created to evaluate what's in place to help people age in place, and what needs to be done, to make that happen. CANDO members will follow up with some input to this idea.

Mr. Ostermiller and Mr. Meredith reported on the most recent Hudson Foundation, Inc. Board meeting. Three current boardmembers (Ron Martin, Dennis Reynolds, and Courtney Loehfelm) were reappointed to their seats. Ned White was reelected President, Andy Hancock the VP, and Ron Martin the Secretary/Treasurer. The Gardens has saved substantially by switching over its property insurance to the District's policy with the Special District Association, by approximately \$50K, and thanks to Mr. Hanna's efforts. The District Board of Directors will be asked to confirm the Foundation's boardmember renewals during a future meeting.

Announcements and emergency items

Mr. Ostermiller announced the South Platte Park volunteers recognition banquet on January 27, starting at 5:30 pm, at the Lone Tree Golf Club and Hotel. Several Boardmembers plan to attend this social event.

Executive Session

At 7:35 pm, Mr. Ostermiller announced the request to adjourn into Executive Session.

MRS. ELLER MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO, OR, AS AUTHORIZED BY C.R.S. SECTION 24-6-402(4), #

(E) FOR THE PURPOSES OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS,

AND SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS A POTENTIAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATION. Mr. LaBrash seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously (5-0).

The Board continued into Executive Session immediately, and returned to the public meeting at 8:15 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the group adjourned for the evening at 8:15 pm.

Donna Shephard
District Records Clerk

/ds

SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION # 2017-002 TO
ENDORSE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS

WHEREAS, the South Suburban Park and Recreation District (“the District”), as part of its mission statement acquires and improves land within the District boundaries to develop and provide park and recreation facilities for the public;

WHEREAS, Arapahoe County Open Spaces provides funding for such projects through distribution of its Open Space Grant monies;

WHEREAS, the District provides park and recreation services to the residents of the cities of Bow Mar, Centennial, Columbine Valley, Littleton, Lone Tree, and Sheridan and portions of Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties; and

WHEREAS, the **Cornerstone Park Parking Lot Improvement Project** (“the Project”) is an active outdoor recreation park facility open to the general public,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the South Suburban Park and Recreation District Board of Directors shall and hereby does endorse the following:

- 1: The Board of Directors of the District strongly supports the grant application for the Project.
- 2: The Board of Directors of the District has appropriated more than 25% of the overall project cost in matching cash funds for said Arapahoe County Open Spaces Grant and authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of the awarded grant.
- 3: The District commits to completing the Project if the grant is awarded.
- 4: The project site is owned and managed by South Suburban Park and Recreation District.
- 5: The South Suburban Park and Recreation District will maintain the Project in a high quality condition and will appropriate funds for maintenance in its annual budget.
- 6: If the grant is awarded, the South Suburban Park and Recreation District Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Executive Director to sign the grant agreement with Arapahoe County.
- 7: This resolution is in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Resolution to Endorse Application for Funds

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 25th day of January, 2017 by the Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District, by a vote of _____ for and _____ against.

South Suburban Park and Recreation District, by

ATTEST:

SIGNED

John K. Ostermiller, Chairman

Pamela M. Eller, Secretary

MRT/