

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING NO. 838
MINUTES**

Call to order

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Suburban Park and Recreation District was called to order at 5:40 pm on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 South University Boulevard, Centennial, Colorado. Chair John Ostermiller presided. (Note to the file: Special posting for the continued public meeting at 7 pm had been accomplished per State statute. /ds)

Present: John K. Ostermiller
Susan M. Rosser
Pamela M. Eller
Michael T. Anderson
Scott A. LaBrash

Legal Counsel: James P. Collins, Esq.

Management Staff: David Lorenz, Executive Director
Deanna Heyn, Deputy Executive Director
Brett Collins, Director of Planning & Development
Jamie DeBartolomeis, Marketing Specialist
Jay Dikeman, Director of Hospitality Services
JoAnn Gould, Director of Recreation & Community Services
Mike MacLennan, Director of IT
Rich Meredith, Executive Director, Hudson Gardens
Jim Priddy, Director of Parks & Open Space
Bill Ramsey, Director of Golf
Clay Shuck, Deputy Recreation Manager
Steve Shipley, Director of Finance

Study Session

After the call to order, Mr. Ostermiller convened the Study Session, and the group completed most of the items on the posted agenda. (See continuation of monthly department reports, below. /ds)

The Board paused at 6:55 pm and returned to the public meeting at 7:05 pm. Mr. Ostermiller greeted the guests this evening. About 40 people including some staffmembers were attendance tonight.

Special announcements

David A. Lorenz, recognition for 48 years of service to the District

Mr. Lorenz anticipates his last day with the District will be March 31. Mr. Ostermiller noted that the District was formed in 1959; and Dave had been with the District for 48 of those years and 30 as the Executive Director. Mr. Ostermiller announced the retirement party for the wider community and employees on March 26, start time 4:30 pm at Hudson Gardens, which was open to anyone who wants to attend.

Mr. LaBrash read the Board of Directors' "Proclamation in recognition of excellent service to the District by David A. Lorenz, retiring March 31, 2015" into the record. (A copy of the proclamation is attached hereto and made part of the permanent record.)

Mr. Lorenz introduced family members present this evening, noting that son Luke had proposed development of a District BMX track when he was a teenager, which resulted in the track on the old Arapahoe County Landfill and now a feature of Lorenz Regional Park.

MINUTES

Mr. Ostermiller thanked Mr. Lorenz for his service, stating, the current Board of Directors recognizes everything Dave has been involved in, and he truly will be missed.

Mr. Lorenz thanked the Board and staff and citizens. He stated, citizens made the District what it is—if there'd been no funding, the District couldn't have been built.

New employees introductions

Ms. Gould recognized

- Michelle Helm, who was promoted to the Athletics Supervisor position.

Mrs. Helm introduced

- Aaron Middlestaedt, Recreation Coordinator, overseeing the youth flag football and pickleball programs; and
- Sara Nielsen, Recreation Coordinator who is overseeing the race series, and several youth programs including summer sports camps and basketball.

Mr. Shuck introduced

- Kelsi Wilkes, Assistant Facility Supervisor for Goodson Recreation Center; and
- Bradie Allen, Aquatics Supervisor who oversees all pool operations.

Mr. Dikeman introduced

- Charles Irvine, Kitchen Manager at Lone Tree Clubhouse, who is working with Chef Joseph Westley.

Mr. Ostermiller wished them a long and fruitful career with the District.

Citizens' comments

No public came forward to speak at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING. Big Dry Creek Trailhead, East Powers Avenue and Washington Street by Littleton High School. Revised final master plan, tabled from March 11, 2015 regular meeting

Chad Giron reported that since the Board tabled a vote on the proposed final master plan, presented during the March 11 public meeting, staff has continued the design effort, based on the discussion that evening with the citizens and the Board of Directors' feedback, in order to bring back a revised plan. The trailhead on District-owned open space property will be located 100 feet further west from the March 11 plan, in order to be further away from the single-family homes and horse corrals on the east side of the property, and therefore would be about 3.5 feet lower in elevation than previously. Neighbors immediately to the east probably will see the shelter top and top half of the users; from the northeast side, the drop is more like 6 feet.

The trailhead has the same amenities: four parking spaces including one ADA space, and a small picnic shelter to house one table. As before, the proposed shelter cannot be reserved. The water hydrant will remain for maintenance, and therefore there is a gravel access road on the open space property. Vehicle traffic on the open space property will be restricted to the parking lot roadway and lot by a 3-tier wood fence. The fence will be placed as close to the roadway as possible, and as the roadway is as narrow as the regulations allow (24 feet wide), any parking outside would be discouraged by the design. The lot includes a turnaround on one end. Seven new trees, all evergreens will be planted to screen trailhead activity more effectively from the residents. There will be more extensive grade work to create a 5% grade to the new location. Probably the stormwater management agency will require runoff from the open space to be piped under the trailway and into the creek.

MINUTES

As the west-side trailhead would be 100 feet from the original location, the existing street lights would be an ineffective safety feature, and so all three lights will be removed (including the one previously proposed to be retained). There will be a park sign on Powers, at the top of the hill.

Planning staff's current ballpark estimate is in the range of \$120K-150K, where for the March 11 version, staff was estimating the cost would fall within the \$104K budget. To Mrs. Rosser's question about funding for the overage, Messrs. Lorenz and Ostermiller explained that the \$104K, originally donated by the City of Littleton, was banked by the Park Foundation several years for this project; and there is no proposed match from the City, and the District will be responsible for the overrun. Mr. Giron added, the current budget includes a 10% contingency (which may not be needed) and possibly the District will get some good bids. He suggested, moving the trailhead to the west showed a good decision by the Board for the residents' concerns, and therefore it is a good investment.

Mrs. Eller asked about the stormwater permit and time frame for construction. Mr. Giron explained that the Littleton development and zoning process would occur next, and the Littleton City Council may wish to review the design. Then Arapahoe County, as holder of the conservation easement on the open space, would review it. These two steps may take 2–3 months. Then staff will work on construction drawings, possibly another 2 months' work. Construction would begin in the fall, earliest.

Mr. Anderson asked for clarification: With the elimination of the street light, would there be a security light in the shelter? Mr. Giron confirmed there would be, as this is a typical District shelter feature, and probably it would be powered by solar cells. To Mrs. Eller's question, Mr. Giron reported the light in the shelter would be on all night.

Mr. LaBrash thanked Mr. Giron for his flexibility and for coming back to the Board so quickly with a redesign. He expressed approval of the redesigned trailhead.

Mrs. Rosser agreed with Mr. LaBrash's comments. She expressed appreciation for the residents' input and their passion for their neighborhood. On reviewing the original plan from some time ago, this plan is a little more expensive than the March 11 plan, but definitely it is scaled down and therefore less expensive than the very first draft. She noted that the Board was amenable to the first plan, and this proposed project still is significantly less expensive. The District has done everything they could to make it acceptable to the neighborhood while providing the amenity to the trail users.

Mr. Ostermiller opened the public hearing, asking the speakers to keep their comments to 4 minutes and express agreement with previous speakers where possible to reduce the amount of testimony. He promised that those who hadn't signed up, would be allowed to speak.

(Note: Several of these individuals also spoke on March 11. Please see the March 11 minutes. /ds)

Lesley Shearer, 11 Sunset Lane, Greenwood Village lives at the top of the hill. She is very pleased that the District listened to the neighbors' comments; she stated the design was a considerable improvement. She noted the solar-powered security light for the shelter and concluded, that the District already knows there will be problems. She reported on some recent vandalism, where someone is taking material from the High School campus and building little bridges over the Big Dry Creek; this is the kind of stuff that happens all the time. Mr. and Mrs. Shearer use the trail every day and are very aware of what goes on.

She addressed the trash problem in the Big Dry Creek. As soon as the Creek goes under Littleton Boulevard, it is filled with garbage; though through Greenwood Village, the Creek is pristine. Some trees have been toppled into the Creek and other trash and garbage collects on the trees, from the vicinity of the proposed trailhead through Lehow Street. She and her husband regularly pull out trash from the Creek and dispose of it. The groups who build trails by waterways don't understand that the waterways have to be maintained (cleaned up); why can't they maintain the nature that users are supposed to be enjoying?

MINUTES

She added, the area is subject to a lot of crime and bad behavior; two bodies have been found in the Creek over the last year. She found marijuana products laying by a bench on Broadway.

Michelle Biggs, 6 Sunset Lane, Greenwood Village spoke. They are relatively new residents, having moved in less than a year ago. They are very pleased with the amenities that South Suburban provides. They are concerned about the speed of the bicyclists, using the neighborhood to connect from one trailway to another in their neighborhood. The bicyclists are on a regular roadway, as there is no official trail connection, and they are not protected from vehicle traffic; and they often ride at an excessive speed, and it is dangerous for them. She reported on accidents they've observed. She voiced concern particularly because the proposed four-vehicle lot will bring more cars into the area. There are no sidewalks or streetlights in the area, and bicyclists are using the trails at night. She asked the District to examine the need to provide parking and therefore encourage more vehicle traffic while encouraging more bicycle traffic at the same time, and therefore enhancing the possibility of injuries.

Mrs. Rosser suggested that Mrs. Biggs write a letter and make a presentation to the Greenwood Village City Council as well, and see what the City can do, possibly utilizing signage or patrols. She assured them that the District Board is concerned about safety considerations.

Greg Comstock, 5559 South Washington Street stated that his home is probably the one most impacted by the trailhead; their horse paddock is directly connected to the open space property and adjacent the proposed trailhead location on March 11. He also congratulated Mr. Lorenz for his service to the community and thanked the Board for listening to the neighbors' concerns. He is very pleased with the revised plan, concluding, it addressed the neighborhoods' concerns. He believes the shelter and picnic table will be a better amenity for the trail users, as it will be closer to the Creek and old cottonwoods and more pleasant. The cyclists come down the trail too fast; one cyclist ended up with a broken collarbone; he doesn't know what the remedy to this speeding would be. He believes that the neighborhood should have a commitment to knowing what's going on, and he plans to stay involved; over the last 16 years, he believes some of the problems have become less and less, but "It is what it is." If the District presents the plan before the Littleton City Council, he is willing to speak in support of it.

David Bolt, 9408 West Gibraltar, Littleton spoke on behalf of the South Suburban Park Foundation Board and in support of the project as proposed. He encouraged the Board to vote for the Trailhead, as it will be great for the trail and community at large. The Park Foundation and the South Metro Chamber hold an annual four-hour cleanup event, and this year's project again includes the trailway from Cornerstone Park to Littleton High School and west to the Mary Carter Greenway. He stated that the Park District staff does a great job cleaning up and maintaining the trails generally.

Mary O'Brien, 5548 South Washington Street thinks the new plan is wonderful. She thanked the District for moving the trailhead away from the horse corrals. Mr. Giron worked extremely hard to get a compromise with the neighbors. It is beautiful and she likes the smaller shelter. She hopes the District will build to this plan.

Debbie Kuehn, 5600 South Washington Street has been opposed to the trailhead. While this plan is better than the previous one for some neighbors, the trailhead is still in a line from her house.

She wants to address the issue of the trash as well. She wants it to be cleaned up once a week, particularly after the weekend parties; and she asked for answer from the Board at this time. Mr. Ostermiller responded, hopefully with the trash container and regular pickup, the situation will improve. Ms. Kuehn asked, are you willing to clean it up a lot more? She reported on a conversation with Mr. Priddy. She had stated that the Creek trailway is clean through Cherry Hills Village and Greenwood Village, and in the South Suburban area it is not as nice, concluding that District staff doesn't clean up as well as the other districts.

She doesn't ride her horse down there, because it's creepy; and she stated that Mr. Priddy agreed. She has talked to a Denver policeman, who told her they did find a body near the proposed trailhead; the policeman also stated

MINUTES

that the District will respond with maintenance and cleanup and the Littleton Police will respond regarding any crime, if the neighbors call. She was told this was an open space area when she bought her house; where she comes from, open space is open; and here, South Suburban is open for development. If the District develops it, the District needs to maintain it. With increased traffic, there needs to be increased maintenance.

She asked, will there be time limits for the parking lot by the shelter? Mr. Ostermiller stated that a certain numbers of hours hasn't been established, and any new rule would be dependent on usage. There are no time limits in other lots, other than prohibition from dusk to dawn. Ms. Kuehn stated there'd be a problem with high school students using the lot.

Ms. Kuehn asked about the rocks in the creek being used as a bridge by High School students; and Mr. Ostermiller affirmed that the Big Dry Creek is maintained by Urban Drainage, and the rocks belong to them. Ms. Kuehn asked if Urban Drainage is responsible for cleaning up the creek way as well; directors and staff acknowledged that is the case.

Mrs. Eller reported on her ex-officio membership on the Park Foundation Board and recalled a tour with the head of the Park Foundation several years ago. She explained that the Creek has been renovated and salvaged by the trail-building project; it was a big mess before; there have been huge strides made over the last 10 years insofar as removing trash and paraphernalia. She encouraged Ms. Kuehn to come to the Park Foundation's cleanup day this spring, and see how much trash is hauled away. This is an urban area, and some people are very careless, while other users are conscientious and clean up as they go along. The Foundation and District are trying to do education and understands it's a problem; but the District staff can only do so much. She's sorry to hear the District trails are trashy; we take pride in our maintenance, and we have regular pickup schedules.

Ms. Kuehn responded, there is a difference between Greenwood Village and Cherry Hills Village maintenance efforts and the District's; the cities have more money. Mrs. Eller added, and fewer trails. Ms. Kuehn stated, the cities' trails are used by people who live there. This very public area will bring in people who don't, in the middle of a neighborhood. It will bring in people who don't care, because they don't live there. The neighborhood needs help cleaning up the space; if the neighbors can call the District, it would be good. Mrs. Eller responded, the District takes calls all the time. Ms. Kuehn just wants the trailway and creek cleaned up; she noted the report about the body. Mrs. Rosser responded, the City of Lone Tree just found a body recently; it happens everywhere.

Ms. Kuehn concluded, this will be a tough situation—tougher to maintain than the District Board thinks, suggesting, Let's work together. Mrs. Rosser noted her seven years on the Board and stated citizens who came out with concerns on several other projects have, after 2-3 years, seen that their concerns don't come to pass. She believes this is a really good compromise, and she'd like to revisit the matter with the neighborhood in a few years. She appreciated their comments about the bicyclists; she reported on a visit to the site with her husband over the weekend and observing the bicyclists, and so she understands what everybody is saying. What the District is putting in, is very minimal. There could have been townhomes on the open space property, or a row of large homes. She stated, if I were a neighbor over a 10-year period, I think this about is the best I could have hoped for.

Ms. Kuehn relayed one comment, that one neighbor would rather have the six houses with six families they know rather than thousands they don't. Maybe if the District and neighbors work together, the situation can be sane. It's either a really quiet or a really crazy neighborhood. Mrs. Rosser expressed appreciation. She suggested that the controversy, however, probably brought the neighborhood together in a way than if the plan had not been controversial. She concluded, the District would do their best.

No more public came forward to speak. Mr. Ostermiller closed the public hearing.

Mr. LaBrash expressed appreciation to the individuals who came back and voiced their concerns and appreciation for the flexibility. He understands the issues with the bikes. When he's visited the space, he's seen them. He isn't sure what the District can combat about the speeding; there are issues on trails overall. The

MINUTES

District can work with the different jurisdictions to see if they can combat it. The District would accommodate their comments as much as possible.

Mr. Anderson stated the District is trying to strike a balance. The District found the money to buy the property. The District has tried to create a vision, and to connect the High Line Canal and Big Dry Creek trails, and all the way to Mary Carter Greenway. He heard from residents about the connectivity of trails; and this is one way we can do it and enhance the overall experience of users. The District has many trailheads which enhance the overall trail system, providing trail access for people who might not have had it otherwise. This project stands on its merits. He appreciates the citizens' comments and concerns. He suggested that staff will be putting more attention to this area, as with other parts of the trail system, to keep it as clean and safe as the District can make it. Part of the intent of the District is to have facilities that are safe and clean.

MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISED FINAL MASTER PLAN FOR THE BIG DRY CREEK EAST TRAILHEAD (EAST POWERS AVENUE AND WASHINGTON STREET) AND DIRECT STAFF TO BEGIN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. Mrs. Rosser seconded the motion.

Mr. Ostermiller supported Mr. Anderson's motion. Several times, changes were made to the proposed plan based on input from the neighbors. He knows there are a lot of concerns about what the unintended consequences might be. He believes, as areas are developed as South Suburban trailheads, they are better cared for. The District has been working on and talking to Greenwood Village about making a (formal) trail connection. Every street in Littleton now is also a bike trail. Some people ride too fast on bikes or cars; it's something for the jurisdictions to work on. As this develops and becomes an amenity to the neighborhood, it won't be as bad as some think it will be. In a few years, the neighbors will be happy it's there. This is a District investment, and the District intends to take care of it. **Mr. Anderson's motion was approved unanimously (5-0).**

Board of Directors items

- Mr. Ostermiller was asked to serve on one of the assessment teams who are reviewing candidates for the Littleton Public Schools' superintendent position. He reviewed the composition of the team, which included members of all the communities (including officials, students, interest groups, members of the general public), and he overviewed some of the process that they are using. He will share information with Mrs. Heyn, and he hopes to discuss the LPS process more with the Board as they enter that stage of the search for the District's new executive director.
- Mr. Ostermiller also reported an upcoming meeting with representatives of the City of Littleton, Arapahoe County, and District regarding the Ohlson property on the High Line Canal, which was purchased several years ago, and funded by the City and District with the District contributing about half. District management has been anticipating a potential formal use or resale of its portion of the property at some later date. If the matter of a future sale becomes a controversy with the City and County, Mr. Ostermiller would rather see the District receive ownership of its half of the property outright and have title for the west half. Boardmembers had no objection to his interpretation of the matter.

To Mrs. Rosser's questions, Mr. Ostermiller clarified. Historically, before the District had funds to purchase property, most of the parkland came through the City and from developer dedications; and the properties belonged to the City. More recently, when the District has been asked to co-fund purchases, the District would be deeded about half of the acquisition (e.g., Lee Gulch, Murray property, and Superchi property). Pertaining to the Ohlson property acquisition, the City still owns the entire property by deed; no portion has been deeded yet to the District. The matter of the Ohlson property is on the Littleton City Council agenda on April 21. Mr. Lorenz urged Mr. Ostermiller to ensure the property has been zoned open space by the City.

MINUTES

Announcements and emergency items

Mr. Ostermiller announced:

- March 26, 2015 quorum event and celebration: Dave Lorenz' retirement party. 4:30-7 pm. Hudson Gardens and Event Center, 6115 South Santa Fe Drive, Littleton.
- March 30, 2015 quorum event. Dinner with Mr. Lorenz, Boardmembers, and senior staff. Starting at 5:30 pm, at the Lone Tree Clubhouse, 9808 Sunningdale Drive.
- April 16, 2015 quorum event. Centennial State of our City Address and Luncheon. Start time, 11 am, at the Embassy Suites Hotel DTC, 10250 East Costilla Avenue, Centennial.

At 8:30 pm, the group returned to the remaining monthly reports discussion begun during study Session.

Monthly department reports, continued

- Parks: To Boardmembers' question, Mr. Priddy provided details regarding a recent report, about an individual who established a feeding station for coyotes in deKoevend open space. Ranger staff has identified the individual who is feeding them and has worked to establish a rapport and eliminate that issue.
- Recreation: Mrs. Rosser relayed another media report, about black rubber pellets in artificial turf fields and potential health and safety problems. Ms. Gould explained, since their report to the Board last fall, staff hasn't spent additional time researching the matter. They talked to vendors at the NRPA trade show and read available trade magazines, and they were comfortable in not following up on the matter.

Mr. Anderson thanked staff for the invitation to the Showtime on Ice over the weekend. He expressed regret that he had a previous commitment.

Mr. Ostermiller asked if the 2015 after proms booked at Family Sports Center are achieving a record number. Ms. Gould explained that the numbers had declined during recent years, but the 2015 numbers are at the high end again.

- Accounting: Mrs. Rosser stated it was amazing how consistent the insurance numbers have been through 2013-2014.

Mr. Ostermiller asked about the process for any personal injury reports which aren't immediately forwarded for evaluation to the Special District Association insurance pool. Mr. Shipley explained that staff keeps good records against a potential claim in the future.

- Communications: Mr. Ostermiller noted that the Gold Medal award application was submitted this week. Mrs. Rosser asked about changes in process to the 2014 application. Mr. Lorenz and Mrs. DeBartolomeis reported that the statistics reported to the NRPA ProRagis system were far more complicated than previously; staff spent a lot of time compiling information.
- Members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Mr. Lorenz, for everything he has done over the years. Mr. Lorenz emphasized, it was a team effort.

There was no need to call an executive session this evening.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the group adjourned for the evening at 8:40 pm.

Donna Shephard, Executive Assistant

/ds



South Suburban
PARKS AND RECREATION

Proclamation in recognition of excellent service to the District by David A. Lorenz, retiring March 31, 2015

WHEREAS, Dave Lorenz has worked for South Suburban Park and Recreation District for 48 years, beginning as the skating rink manager in 1967 and retiring from his career as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Dave has provided an exemplary service to the public and has served the District and the wider community faithfully, including,

- His leadership in putting together the funding and acquiring land, to preserve it for active recreation as well as natural open space and trails; and
- His leadership in the development of unique and attractive local recreation facilities, including four recreation centers, two tennis centers, two swimming pools, tennis centers, a mini-golf course, batting cages, a BMX track, a disc golf course, dog parks, skateparks, in-line hockey rinks, and a sprayground; and
- His successful efforts to acquire three major facilities from distressed financial circumstances and keeping them available to the general public, including the Hudson Gardens, the Lone Tree Golf Club, and Family Sports Center; and
- For steering the District through seven successful elections for mill levies and bond issues, with the most recent on November 4, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Dave has given service to and has been recognized for his leadership and service by the wider community and professional organizations, and particularly

- For his many years of service to the larger south metropolitan community, including the Littleton Rotary Club (the Board, committees, and Littleton Rotary Foundation); Inter-Faith Community Services Board; South Platte Working Group; Western Welcome Week; Littleton Leadership retreats; South Metro Chamber of Commerce; Hudson Gardens Board of Directors; and on the initiative to form the City of Centennial; and
- He was honored by the South Metro Realtors Association with the annual service award for his personal service and professional contributions to the community (2000); and
- For his service to the State of Colorado, including his appointment to the task force of professionals that created Great Outdoors Colorado; and
- For his service to the special districts and parks & recreation professional communities, for which he has been recognized: by the Colorado Park and Recreation Association Recipient with the Fellow Award, for outstanding service and unselfish dedication to the profession (1993); Special District Association of Colorado with the Distinguished Manager's Award, for exemplary performance and outstanding dedication to the District (2003), as well as his ongoing service on the SDA insurance

pool board; National Recreation and Park Association with the National Distinguished Professional Award (2004); and Denver Regional Council of Governments with the Distinguished Service Award (2008); and

WHEREAS, since being promoted to Dave's current position of Executive Director, the District has been awarded a National Gold Medal 3 times for excellence in park and recreation management, and has been a finalist 8 additional times; and

WHEREAS, Dave's personal enthusiasm and dedication to sports, fitness, and wellness been an example to the wider local community;

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of South Suburban Park and Recreation District recognizes the outstanding contributions of David A. Lorenz for the past 48 years, and offers him Congratulations on a job well done!; and further, the Board of Directors proclaims **March 26, 2015 will be David A. Lorenz Day** in South Suburban Park and Recreation District.

GIVEN this 25th day of March, 2015, by the Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District.

SIGNED

Susan M. Rosser,
Vice Chairman

John K. Ostermiller,
Chairman

Pamela M. Eller,
Secretary

Michael T. Anderson,
Treasurer

Scott A. LaBrash,
Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer