

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING NO. 826
MINUTES**

Call to order

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Suburban Park and Recreation District was called to order at 5:35 pm on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at the Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 South University Boulevard, Centennial, Colorado. Chair John Ostermiller presided.

Present: John K. Ostermiller
Susan M. Rosser
Pamela M. Eller
Michael T. Anderson
Scott A. LaBrash—*absent/excused*

Legal Counsel: James P. Collins, Esq.

Management Staff: David Lorenz, Executive Director
Deanna Heyn, Deputy Executive Director
Brett Collins, Director of Planning & Development
Teresa Cope, Director of Communications
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 discussed several items on the posted agenda. (See conclusion of agenda, addressed in public meeting, below. /ds)

The Board paused at 6:55 pm and returned to the public meeting at 7:05 pm.

Legal Counsel's report

Jim Collins referred the Board to his confidential report with tonight's Board packet. Some items were on the agenda for discussion later in the meeting. Boardmembers had no questions for Jim at this time.

Minutes approval, September 2014 sessions

Referring to the September 17 draft minutes, members again had a discussion regarding possibly publishing part or all the Board packets for study sessions and public meetings on the District website (and possibly in paper format as well) for the use of the public requesting it, and associated matters. It was emphasized that the Board of Directors have not voted to approve any policy or directed staff to change their process, particularly regarding distribution of packets.

Staff reported they are continuing with their previous process and delivering to one previous recipient, who is not a Boardmember or staff/consultant but serves as a District liaison to a local City Council. The September 17 minutes, page 13, paragraph 1 were corrected to read "*The Chairman* directed Mr. Lorenz" Board decision has been tabled, and the Board plans to receive staff's reports regarding transparency issues and to consider formal direction again during the December 10 meeting. **WITH NO OBJECTIONS, THE MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 824, SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 STOOD APPROVED AS CORRECTED.**

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For the September 24 minutes, Board members had no corrections, additions, or changes. Therefore, **WITH NO OBJECTIONS, THE MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 825, SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.**

Citizens' comments

No public came forward to speak tonight.

Consent Agenda items

Mr. Ostermiller explained that Consent Agenda items are provided for study in the Board's study packets and introduced in Study Session for the Board's review. They can be adopted by a single motion. All resolutions and proposed actions must be read by title prior to a vote on the motion. Any consent agenda item may be removed at the request of a Director and either tabled or heard separately.

- A. APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2014 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,212,950.**
- B. APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD FOR THE TRAIL CONNECTION FROM CORNERSTONE PARK TO BIG DRY CREEK TRAIL THROUGH BELLEVIEW PARK.**
- C. APPROVE A LICENSE AGREEMENT AND TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT WITH THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD FOR THE TRAIL CONNECTION FROM CORNERSTONE PARK TO BIG DRY CREEK TRAIL ACROSS THE CITY OF ENGLEWOOD'S CITY DITCH.**

MRS. ELLER MOVED TO APPROVE ITEMS A–C. Mrs. Rosser seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Consent agenda items were approved unanimously (4-0).**

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING: 2015 Budget. Presentation of proposed budgets and changes to fees & charges. Citizen comments.

Mr. Lorenz explained that according to State law, the proposed budget must be presented to the Board by October 15 each year. Traditionally, the Board's budget retreat (a special study session) occurs before that deadline. Due to scheduling conflicts this year, it will occur on October 23. (See Announcements and Emergency Items below.) During the retreat, Boardmembers will discuss the budget in much more detail.

Mr. Shipley noted a correction to the fees and charges packet provided with the Board packet, for shelter rentals. He emphasized that the proposed budget is based on the current situation, i.e. current income expectations, without including any additional funds that might be available if the District ballot question # 4C is approved by the voters at the November 4 election.

Boardmembers had no questions at this time.

Mr. Ostermiller opened the public hearing for citizens input. No public had signed up to speak, and none came forward.

Mr. Lorenz noted articles in the local newspapers, reporting on the opportunities to speak before the Board about the 2015 Budget.

Mr. Ostermiller closed the public hearing.

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Employee benefits package renewal

Mrs. Heyn introduced Lori Gurdis and Kandy Biesterfeld, representatives of BIG Inc., the District's benefits consultant. They reviewed the proposal and explained estimated funding to support the employee benefits program in 2015, which would include use of some reserve funds.

HR staff is proposing to keep the employee benefits program substantially the same in 2015, with a few differences: 1) Per the requirements of national healthcare reform, some part-time employees who average 30+ hours of work a week will now be eligible to participate in the District health insurance program, creating an increase in medical plan costs. Newly-eligible employees may apply for single, employee + spouse, employee + children, or family coverage. 2) HR staff is estimating an increase to medical plan contribution rates, for employer and employee, to meet current cost increases. They are estimating an average cost increase of \$6 to \$8 per month for single employee coverage and a \$42 or \$55 per-month increase for families' coverage. 3) For the employees' health and dependent care flexible spending accounts, HR staff is proposing to add a rollover program provision, so that individual employees can carry up to \$500 of their unused funds into the next year. This change will not impact the dependent care cafeteria accounts.

To Boardmembers' questions, Mrs. Heyn and the BIG representatives explained in more detail how the \$500 rollover would work. The goal is to eliminate some of employees' potential fears about the historic "use it or lose it" provision, and to encourage more employees to sign up.

The total 2015 plan cost is proposed to be \$2,821,867. The total does include estimated plan costs to enroll part-time employees in the medical plan. As the initial measuring period ends and 2015 program enrollment begins, HR staff will be able to provide a stronger estimate of that cost; Mrs. Heyn added, as the District's medical plan is partially self-funded, it is more difficult to provide more than a cost estimate each year to the Board. HR staff proposes to continue the approximate contribution percentages that the District and employees have paid in the past: 76% by the District and 24% by the employee. Mrs. Heyn noted, in addition to their share of the premium, employees pay deductible costs, etc., out of pocket.

Mr. Anderson summarized, the cost difference between the 2014 and 2015 plans is \$393K, and part of the funding is coming from the reserve. Mrs. Heyn agreed. She assured the Board that the reserve should continue to have a healthy balance, even after using some of the balance for 2015 premium payments

To Boardmembers' questions, Mrs. Heyn explained on detail how HR staff is measuring and assessing the hours worked by part-time employees. HR staff works along with District supervisors to track hours. Members reviewed again total numbers of positions approved for 30+ hours/week, and the available tracking systems.

Members acknowledged the efforts by HR staff to provide a high level of detail to the Board. They discussed the 76/24 split on insurance premiums, and Mrs. Heyn suggested this is pretty standard, though companies do different things, especially in response to the rising costs of healthcare. The group also talked about what was typical market in terms of tiers of individual rates vs. family rates and contribution levels. Mrs. Heyn reported that the burden of the new healthcare reform legislation has been put on employer organizations, and there have been ramifications to the District's recruitment program.

MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS RENEWAL PROPOSAL, RESULTING IN AN ESTIMATED INCREASE TO THE 2015 BUDGET OF \$280,555, PLUS \$112,645 BUY-DOWN FROM THE BENEFIT RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR THE BENEFIT PLAN YEAR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2015. Mrs. Rosser seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and **the motion was approved unanimously (4-0).**

Members returned to the Study Session agenda.

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Future agenda items

Following discussion tonight (see September 17 minutes approval, above. /ds), staff plans to present information at the December 10 meeting regarding the potential availability of the Board packet to the public. Boardmembers asked staff to visit local government websites to see what others are doing, and how easily packet information can be accessed. Mr. Lorenz suggested that what special districts are doing, would be a better indication of what the District should provide to the public; he reiterated his concerns about costs and staff time to be spent on maintaining such a website.

Staff will present a report on the homeless living in local parks and trailways and discussions with local police December 10.

Board of Directors items

- Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Rosser, and Mr. Lorenz attended the Lone Tree Subcommittee meeting last week. Discussions included the typical current agenda items (including the proposed Lincoln bridge, plans for the Entertainment District, tree replacements on the Lone Tree Golf Course, and the South Suburban ballot question). City representatives continue to have high interest in construction of the bridge. The City Manager is available to answer Boardmembers' questions regarding a potential District financial partnership. Probably Messrs. Ostermiller and Lorenz, Mayor Gunning, and City Manager Hoffman will meet to discuss the proposed bridge project in more detail.

For the Entertainment District, the City representatives want to develop a special park, a gathering place for residents. Mr. Lorenz assured the representatives of the District's interest in this project. Planning staff will work on design options.

Mr. Lorenz also reported on the Fairways project, which has had some weather delays. Staff's plan is still to complete the project by the end of the year.

Discussion ensued about the bridge project. Mrs. Rosser reported the City shared who their project partners are and what the City is asking from them. She believes the construction may be pushed back to 2016.

- Mr. Anderson reported on the most recent issue of the Timberline, the City of Lone Tree's monthly paper. The District's most recent submissions appeared back on pages 22 and 23 in the latest edition, though the information provided was good.
- Mrs. Rosser asked about newsletters for the individual homeowner associations within Lone Tree. Mr. Anderson couldn't respond to her question with a lot of detail.
- Mrs. Eller reported that the Littleton women's 18-hole golf club and the South Suburban women's club held end-of-season lunches recently. She was pleased that the District pros really know the ladies, and the ladies love them. She reported on a less positive experience at other local clubs. There are already 35 ladies on the waitlist for next year.
- Mrs. Rosser reported on the South Platte Working Group meeting a couple weeks previous. The focus of the meeting was on signage and the South Platte Greenway area. The City's consultant plans to present to the District Board in two weeks. Discussion has included how much signage is needed, how much can be directed towards promoting local businesses, as well as way-finding signage. She reported that the consultant was critical of the District's current signage. During the meeting, Mr. Lorenz reminded the group that the District holds the agreement for the trailway with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and ultimately the signage should be the District's decision. Some at the Working Group meeting made comments to the effect of, Don't worry about development and maintenance costs (for the signage)—just get what we want. There was some discussion about how much signage is wanted on the Mary Carter Greenway as well.
- Mrs. Rosser shared a copy of the Willow Talk newsletter. The front page was devoted to the District's November 4 ballot issue # 4C. Mrs. Rosser has been talking to neighbors; she has found that people are

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reading, and they're very aware of the question, and generally their response seems favorable to passage of the ballot issue. They shared stories of how their children have participated in District programs. Some neighbors were distracted, however, by the recent hailstorm and damage to their homes.

- Mr. Ostermiller asked if the school districts would allow the election volunteers to provide election information for pickup at the schools. Mr. Lorenz reported the school districts are putting up tables for flyers, etc. The volunteers are talking to the libraries as well.
- Mr. Ostermiller reported that the Littleton City Council addressed and approved the Jamison property project (6-0) the previous evening: rezoning the property to PDR, and the general plan. Next will be a final platting approval. There were some interesting comments about the existing property; the overall opinion is that this is a good use for the community and will provide some new housing stock for the City. KB Home, the new property developer, gave a good presentation to the Council and tried to address the neighborhood's concerns; some neighbors are clearly in support of the project. The Council really didn't have any concerns. The easement for the development's water line is still a work in process.

Announcements and emergency items

Mr. Ostermiller announced

- A quorum event, a public election forum held by the League of Women Voters for the November 4, 2014 election: Wednesday, October 15, 2014 6:30 pm, at the South Metro Chamber offices, 2145 East Commons Avenue, Centennial.
- An art dedication event on October 9, 2014, 4:30 pm at the South Suburban Golf Course, 7900 South Colorado Boulevard, Centennial.
- A special Study Session (Board retreat) on October 23, 2014, start time 8 am at the Lone Tree Golf Course Clubhouse & Hotel, 9808 Sunningdale Boulevard. The primary topic will be a review of the proposed 2015 Budget for the District.

Members asked Mr. Lorenz to arrange for the October 23 retreat in the upstairs area of the Clubhouse. Mr. Lorenz will request it.

It was noted that the Goodson Recreation Center will be an Arapahoe County voting center, starting October 20 through Election Day November 4. Therefore the building and area within a 100-foot perimeter of the building will be off-limits to campaigning activities.

Mr. Anderson reported that Douglas County Libraries is moving forward with development of three new library buildings. Public meetings have been held. The cost range is now more like \$34 million than the \$24 million originally estimated. The Castle Pines library will be the first construction project, breaking ground in 2015; Parker, second; and Lone Tree, third. The facilities will be different sizes. Mr. Anderson encouraged Boardmembers to continue dialogue with local representatives about the old library building adjacent Cook Creek Park, and to talk about partnering opportunities. Mr. Lorenz reported one meeting has already occurred. Mrs. Rosser asked how the Library District plans to raise an additional \$10 million, and Mr. Anderson wasn't aware of a plan at this time.

Executive Session

At 8:35 pm, Mr. Ostermiller announced a request to enter 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), #

- (A) CONCERNING THE PURCHASE, ACQUISITION, LEASE, TRANSFER, OR SALE OF ANY REAL, PERSONAL, OR OTHER PROPERTY INTEREST,**

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- (B) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFERENCES WITH DISTRICT LEGAL COUNSEL, TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE ON SPECIFIC LEGAL QUESTIONS, AND**
- (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, NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING TWO CITY OF LITTLETON PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT PROJECTS AND NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON A PARCEL NEAR THE HIGH LINE CANAL. Mrs. Rosser seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously (4-0). The Board conducted Executive Session and returned to the public meeting at 9:34 pm.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the group adjourned for the evening at 9:34 pm.

Donna Shephard
Executive Assistant

/ds