

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING NO. 878
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 5:39 pm, **Wednesday, October 26, 2016** at the Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 South University Boulevard, Centennial, Colorado. Chair John Ostermiller presided.

(Note to the file: The Board held a special joint study session with the Littleton City Council on October 25, 7 pm in the City offices, to review an updated draft of the South Platte Park Management Plan and to share an update about the District's master planning activity. A quorum of Directors were in attendance at this session. Special posting had been accomplished, per State statute. /ds)

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
JoAnn Gould, Director of Recreation Facilities
Andy Jennings, Director of Parks & Open Space
Mike MacLennan, Director of IT
Eileen Matheson, Director of Recreation Services
Bill Ramsey, Director of Golf
Melissa Reese-Thacker, Planning Manager
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. In addition,

- Boardmembers also received an update about the South Suburban Clubhouse renovation construction project and the probable timelines, mostly based on upcoming City reviews of various aspects of the project.
- Particular to the Entertainment District grant application (See Consent Agenda items), staff explained that the scope of work for this proposed project would include the Phase 1 work identified in the master plan plus construction of a playground (at the request of the City).
- Regarding future sessions, Mr. Ostermiller noted that staff is working on arranging joint sessions with the Centennial City Council and Highlands Ranch Metropolitan District before the end of the year, with agendas to be determined.

The Board paused at 6:48 pm and returned to the public meeting at 7:02 pm.

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Public meeting continued: Special Recognition. American Academy of Parks and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) Legends Award for David A. Lorenz, retired District Executive Director

Ms. Cope introduced Dirk Richwine, member of the AAPRA recognition committee, and Mr. Lorenz. Mr. Richwine reported that the AAPRA is a group of 725 professionals committed to advancing professionalism and the value of parks and recreation. They videotape the histories of special individuals who've made particular contributions to the field, for future reference by students of the profession and others. Mr. Lorenz was selected, particularly in his role as one of the entrepreneurs in the field and for his leadership.

Public and staff reviewed the video prepared by AAPRA, which talked about the highlights of Dave's career from 1967 to 2015. On the video, Dave especially noted the acquisitions of the Lone Tree Golf Course and Family Sports Center as efforts he was particularly proud of. He mentioned the mentorship of retired Boardmember Grant Goodson and retired Littleton City Manager Gale Christy. He stated, camaraderie between professionals and local agencies are more relevant than ever, and it's critical to get citizen support for agencies, by listening to people, keeping promises, and following through on commitments. He also mentioned the development of the BMX Track at Lorenz Regional Park for local youth and the overall development of that park, including the athletic fields on top of the old Arapahoe County dump. Mr. Richwine and the 50 people in the audience gave Dave a round of applause, and Mr. Richwine presented Dave with a plaque. Mr. Lorenz stated it was an honor and privilege to serve. Mr. Ostermiller congratulated Dave, and he thanked the AAPRA for bestowing this recognition.

Citizens' comments

No public came forward to speak tonight.

Executive Director's report

Christina Wegscheider, Program and Facility Supervisor introduced Jessica Lyons, the new Assistant Facility Supervisor at Lone Tree Recreation Center.

Eileen Matheson introduced Bev Monaco, the District's new Tennis Coordinator.

Minutes approval

Board members had no corrections, additions, or changes. **Therefore, without objections, the minutes of meeting no. 877, October 12, 2016 stood approved as presented.**

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 THE NON-EXCLUSIVE PERMANENT FLOODPLAIN AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHEAST METRO STORMWATER AUTHORITY (SEMSWA), AS REQUIRED FOR THE SOUTH SUBURBAN GOLF COURSE FILING #1 PLAT.**
- B. APPOINT SARAH HEATON TO THE PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE TO SERVE AS THE LIAISON FROM THE LONE TREE ARTS COMMISSION.**

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- C. INCREASE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL BASE SALARY TO \$172,000, RETROACTIVE TO AUGUST 1, 2016.**
- D. APPROVE DISTRICT RESOLUTION # 2016-012, TO ENDORSE THE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS FOR THE GOCO 2017 LOCAL PARK AND OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT PARK.**

MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO ACCEPT ITEMS A–D. Mrs. Eller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. **Consent agenda items were approved unanimously (5-0).** (A copy of Resolution # 2016-012 is attached hereto and made part of the permanent record.)

There wasn't any New Business to discuss this evening.

Board of Directors items

Mrs. Eller attended the most recent High Line Canal Working Group meeting. She shared a draft plan document produced by Sasaki, the High Line Canal Conservancy's consultant with the Boardmembers. She praised the work of the Conservancy.

The Conservancy has identified five character zones for the approximate 71 miles of the Canal. The subsequent planning and guiding principles under development have led to a very workable plan for the future of the Canal, and from each guiding principle has identified five objectives for each principle. From this came a draft action plan, with five strategies for each. She explained some of the strategies, particularly noting that the third strategy points to development of a long-term governance model, and that the Conservancy is not proposing that it become the manager over the Canal. The future of the Canal will include stewardship, volunteers and donation opportunities, and a network of partners that reaches further into the community than those immediately adjacent to the Canal with feeder trails and similar.

The strategies are capitalizing on the current momentum to take action now. For instance, there are three stormwater test areas already; and work is underway to plan for improvements to crossings and connections, pedestrian bridges, and more. They are talking about tours of the Canal, for instance history programming and biology programs and more. They are talking about posting signage on the Canal with the vision statement, so people will know that the Conservancy effort is progressing. Denver Water is working on an inventory of current signage along the Canal to improve wayfinding. A member asked the Conservancy to provide regular community updates and flash reports to all jurisdictions, to be shared with other stakeholders.

Mrs. Eller concluded, the results of the Conservancy's efforts are exactly what the Conservancy looked for, and money contributed by the District has been well spent.

To Mr. Ostermiller's question about the Conservancy's status, she reported that they have found 58 donors, \$25K each, of the 71 needed for each mile of trailway, and they are happy with staff and with Sasaki. They will finalize the mission statement and present it to the High Line Canal Working Group next month.

In addition, the Working Group meeting included a report on the Canal tree inventory (complete for 64 miles), comprised of 23,760 trees with diameters of 6" or more. There is a need to diversify the tree population, particularly as there are so many ash trees along the Canal. Each government agency partner will be responsible for maintaining its section of the database, including South Suburban.

Mr. Anderson attended the High Line Canal Conservancy's most recent meeting. He added, it was well attended, and there is enthusiasm and focus, and the response shows the value of the Canal. Mrs. Eller added, Sasaki has been impressed by the passion and level of participation by the public in this effort.

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Mr. Anderson thanked the staff for putting together a meeting last week with the Colorado Parks & Wildlife representative, regarding recent local issues with the coyotes. There was good interaction from folks on both side of the issue.

During the study session last night with the Board and Littleton City Council, he praised the excellent presentation that Skot Latona, South Platte Park Manager gave, and the timely and comprehensive proposed update of the South Platte Park Management Plan. He hopes the Board will move forward and approve that plan, and the District will stay in touch with Littleton as owner of the property.

Mr. LaBrash attended most of the same meetings as Mr. Anderson. He thanked Andy Jennings for the coyote meeting, and he noted the second public meeting next week. He praised Justin from Colorado Parks & Wildlife, particularly for the public education he provided. Board and staffmembers talked about creating a video of the next presentation, which could be made available to the public through the internet. Mr. Ostermiller noted a sign announcing a Greenwood Village meeting on coyotes, concluding, this issue seems to be gaining momentum locally. Mr. Hanna explained that the issues spike with typical coyote activity in the spring and fall.

Mr. LaBrash referred to the Conservancy meeting. He praised the work of Mrs. LaMair and concluded, he was hearing that people want to keep the area natural and the public uses the Canal to escape into nature. But there are different uses and perceptions of the Canal, for instance South Suburban's vs. Aurora's uses, and there will need to be a balance of what the cities in the areas can support. Mrs. Eller suggested, some of that has happened naturally; whole sections of the Canal Trail in Denver are already in concrete, and Denver wants more community access on its stretch, for instance to local shops and bars and restaurants.

Mr. Ostermiller reported on the most recent Hudson Gardens Board meeting last week. They took a first look at the 2017 budget. He noted, the Gardens continues to grow and prosper under Rich Meredith's leadership.

To Mr. Ostermiller's request, Mr. Hanna reported that the District would be able to provide insurance coverage for several types of insurance to the Gardens, through the SDA Insurance Pool. Mr. Meredith estimates they will save the Gardens \$25K a year net for several types of insurance; and then staff will bid out the remaining insurance needs. The group was agreed that this savings would result in a reinvestment in the Gardens, and a benefit for the common good as well as to save taxpayers money. The group talked about liability insurance requirements for the Sunday night concerts; and Mr. Meredith estimated they spent \$45K in 2016.

Announcements and emergency items

As reported on the posted agenda:

- For the District master plan/strategic plan project: Public information meetings have been scheduled for Thursday, November 10, 6:30–8:30 pm at the Goodson Recreation Center; and Thursday, November 17, 6:30–8:30 pm, at the Lone Tree Golf Club and Hotel.
- The Board of Directors has cancelled the November 23 regular sessions. The next regular meeting will on be on December 14.

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
RESOLUTION # 2016-012 TO ENDORSE APPLICATION FOR FUNDS**

**Supporting the Grant Application for a Local Parks and Outdoor
Recreation Grant from the State Board of the Great Outdoors
Colorado Trust Fund for the Entertainment District Park**

WHEREAS, park development projects support the South Suburban Park and Recreation District's mission by providing park and trail amenities to foster healthy living, particularly in this under-served area of the City of Lone Tree; and

WHEREAS, in addition to general park recreation benefits, this project will provide off-street, multi-modal transportation access between residential, light rail, commercial, and office properties, thus benefiting the local public in another way that is both economical and healthy, and will get youth and families outdoors for a few more minutes every day; and

WHEREAS, the City has made development of the park a priority for the last two years, and the District, City, and Douglas County (project "Partners") have come together to jointly to fund this active/passive park project and have requested \$305,000 from Great Outdoors Colorado to construct phase 1 of a park in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District supports a Great Outdoors Colorado grant application, which Partners are submitting for the Entertainment District Park Project ("Project"). If the grant is awarded, the South Suburban Park and Recreation District supports the completion of the Project,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT THAT:

Section 1: The Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District strongly supports the application and has appropriated matching funds for a grant with Great Outdoors Colorado.

Section 2: If the grant is awarded, the Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District strongly supports the completion of the Project.

Section 3: The Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District authorizes the expenditure of funds necessary to meet the terms and obligations of any Grant awarded.

Section 4: The Project site is owned by South Suburban Park and Recreation District and will be owned by the South Suburban Park and Recreation District for the next 25 years.

Section 5: The Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District recognizes that, as the recipient of a Great Outdoors Colorado Local Government grant, the Project site must provide reasonable public access.

Section 6: The Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District will continue to maintain the Entertainment District Park in a high quality condition and will appropriate funds for maintenance in its annual budget.

Section 7: If the grant is awarded, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Executive Director to sign the grant agreement with Great Outdoors Colorado.

Section 8: This resolution will be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 26th day of October, 2016 by the Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District,

by a vote of 5 for, and 0 against.

South Suburban Park and Recreation District, by

SIGNED

John K. Ostermiller, Chairman

ATTEST:

Pamela M. Eller, Secretary

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Adjournment

There was no executive session this evening. With no further business to discuss, the Board of Directors adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Donna Shephard
Executive Assistant

/ds