

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING NO. 889
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(Note to the minutes: The Board of Directors held two special study sessions recently: on the evening of May 23, a joint session with the Littleton City Council, to discuss the an update to the South Platte Park Management Plan and First Amendment to Park IGA between the City and District; and the updated Progress Park Master Plan; and on the afternoon of May 24 to discuss the recent public opinion survey conducted by Public Opinion Strategies (consultant Lori Weigel). Proper posting was accomplished per State Statute. /ds)

1. Regular Meeting

A. 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, May 24, 2017, at the Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 South University Boulevard, Centennial, Colorado. Chair John Ostermiller presided.

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

Management staff: Rob Hanna, Executive Director
Rich Meredith, Executive Director, Hudson Gardens
Greg Collette, Social Media Specialist
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
Melissa Reese-Thacker, Planning Manager
Steve Shipley, Director of Finance
Erich WonSavage, Director of Human Resources

B. Study Session Convened

Study session topics included the following.

2. Items of Interest

A. April Financial Reports

B. Update on potential ballot questions, following the Special Study Session continued discussion the afternoon of May 24 regarding the recent public survey

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- C. An Announcement of a Grant Award for a Cornerstone Park Project
- D. Meeting Updates from Staff Liaisons
- E. Upcoming Events Updates
- F. Other Recent Items

There were no Consent Agenda items to consider this evening.

3. Discussion Items for Study Session

- A. Upcoming retreat with Hudson Gardens Board, July 31. There was a discussion about agenda items to include. Gardens Board President Ned White was in attendance to answer questions and give input.

4. Look ahead

- A. Future Board Agendas, Special Sessions, and Various Events

5. Recess

The Board paused at 6:37 pm and returned to the public meeting at 7:00 pm.

6. Public Meeting Continued

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Formal Roll Call. All members were present.

7. Unscheduled Public Comment (formerly Citizens' Comments)

No public came forward to speak tonight.

8. Executive Director's Report

- A. New Employee Introductions. Mr. Dikeman introduced Erin Lustig, the South Suburban Golf Course Clubhouse Food & Beverage Manager.

9. Minutes Approval

- A. Meeting No. 888, May 10, 2017
Board members had no corrections, additions, or changes. Therefore, without objection, the minutes of meeting no. 888, May 10, 2017 stood approved as presented.

There were no Consent Agenda items to consider this evening.

There were no public hearings this evening.

10. Other Discussion and Action Items for the Public Meeting

- A. South Platte Park Management Plan, and First Amendment to the South Platte Park Agreement.
Skot Latona, South Platte Park Manager presented the proposed Management Plan revisions for approval. He outlined the changes in the current version and the recent process of review, which included sessions with

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the Littleton City Council and public input opportunities. He noted that the plan has been updated twice over the years, and it should be updated every 5 to 10 years. Since the original plan approval, the character of the surrounding neighborhood had developed from a largely rural environment to being commercial and residential development, and a number of changes tonight were in response to that overall transformation.

Mrs. Eller gave some comments in response to a Councilmember's statement the evening of May 23 - that the plan should be reviewed and updated more often. Given this is a comprehensive document between the two government agencies, it isn't necessary to review more often. Mrs. Eller and Mr. Hanna agreed there is opportunity for discussion and annual updates as the District and Council interact and meet regularly; and if something comes up, we'll discuss it. Mr. Ostermiller agreed with their comments, again noting the routine expectation that the plan would be revisited every 5 - 10 years.

Mr. LaBrash referred to change indicators and tracking, and the current monitoring programs in place by staff and volunteers. He asked, are there indications/alarm bells of increased pressure on the South Platte Park due to the heavy usage? Mr. Latona stated there have been no major warnings. He cited one recent study regarding the birds in the park, which concluded that the population and variety of species haven't changed in 30 years, and the number of unique and rare birds has been about the same.

Mr. LaBrash asked about indicators on pollution levels. Mr. Latona noted some recent algae blooms in the lakes, indicating that lawn chemicals runoff from adjacent residential yards is being introduced into the lakes. He explained the current 7-11 Gulch project, which will include building settling areas to prevent chemicals from entering the lakes.

Mr. Latona presented the proposed First Amendment to the agreement, proposed by the City, for signature before going forward with the amended management plan. Proposed changes included mutual approvals on major projects; removal of references to various pieces of retired maintenance equipment; an edited section on joint purchases and ownership (for tools and equipment); updates to the liability insurance requirements; and transfer of a water gauge monitoring process to District staff.

Boardmembers had no further comments at this time. Mrs. Eller moved to formally accept the South Platte Park Management Plan and approve the First Amendment to the South Platte Park Agreement with the City of Littleton. Mr. LaBrash seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously (5-0). (A copy of the associated Resolution # 2017-011 is attached hereto and made part of the permanent record.)

B. Chatfield Reservoir Environmental Pool. Staff proposal to purchase acre-feet shares

Mr. Hanna reviewed the current South Platte Working Group effort to find local investors. He noted staff's and legal counsel's research on the program. He stated the District would not have control of when Colorado Parks and Wildlife's requests increased flows from the Environmental Pool to the Platte; but he believes the State agency's goals are in sync with what the District

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wants (to protect wildlife and recreation opportunities). Staff recommended that the Board approve a purchase of 10 acre feet (current estimated cost: \$7,500 per acre foot), to be funded from the 2018 budget.

The 500 acre foot environmental pool was required by the environmental impact statement associated with the recent increased capacity in the Reservoir. He enumerated the approved commitments by other local agencies for about 15 acre feet, to be matched up to 50 acre feet by Arapahoe County. There is a 250 acre-foot commitment by Denver Water. Adams and Weld counties have made commitments as well. There are still other agencies considering investment, including Denver County, and non-profits in the Denver area.

To Mr. Ostermiller's question, staff and Mr. Taylor were not sure if the South Platte Working Group's goal to acquire investors for 50 acre feet would include the County match or not. Mr. Taylor also noted a conversation with a representative, who told him that if the investors purchase more than the proposed total of 500 acre feet (the entire pool), there could be advantages to this situation though a few problems to be resolved.

To Mr. Anderson's question, staff affirmed that this is not a "once in a lifetime opportunity." Mr. Hanna believes that \$7,500 per acre foot is special pricing, and a later purchase would likely be at a higher cost.

To a question regarding when some minimum flow in the Platte would initiate the call for water, Mr. Hanna understands the motivating reasons would be for wildlife and recreation. Mr. Latona reported, the minimum 100 cubic feet per second (CFS) is for recreation uses. The lowest flows in the Platte usually are between October and December. Staff has emphasized that there is no guarantee that the flows will happen under this program, as for instance, a senior water rights owner could make a different claim. The benefit of the program, nonetheless, is that there is a right to call for flows.

To Mrs. Eller's question, staff agreed that if the District doesn't contribute to the program, there may be enough contributors to create an appropriate release at a time which would be to the District's advantage; and Mr. Hanna stated he believes the managers of the program will want the District's input. Mr. Latona reported that Park staff receives daily reports from the mitigation manager on the Platte flows. The group also discussed the boat chutes rights, which are more junior than these reservoir water rights.

Mr. Taylor moved purchase 10 acre feet of Chatfield Reservoir Environmental Pool shares to help protect the overall health of the South Platte River. Mrs. Eller seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

To Mrs. Eller's question, Mr. Latona reported that the testimony received during the reallocation discussion was heard, along with the strong feelings and concerns, and they were addressed by the US Corps of Engineers. He reported he is on the local technical advisory committee; there have been mitigations to protect the health of the Park and River, though, there's still a long way to go.

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11. Board of Directors Items

- A. Mrs. Eller reported attending a meeting on Saturday morning. State Representatives Susan Beckman and Assistant House Minority Leader Cole Wist reported on the 2017 State legislation. There were two items for the District to continue to follow: potential legislation to allow employers to invest in concierge medicine programs, rather than full health insurance; and to promote transparency in TIF financing (what dollars are being collected from where, and how they are spent and by whom).
- B. Mr. Taylor attended the most recent CANDO meeting. The group reviewed results of the recent comprehensive DRCOG survey. Members reported on their agencies' activities, and Mr. Taylor provided a report about the District's new master plan.
- C. Mr. Ostermiller attended the most recent Hudson Gardens Board meeting. At his request, Mr. Meredith reported that the Gardens were well within the Scientific & Cultural Facility District's Tier II thresholds in 2016, with \$3.7 million in qualified revenue and 76K qualified paid attendees. The Gardens will receive a \$370K - \$375K distribution this year. There are 26 Tier II agencies in the State, up from the original 13 Tier II agencies. Discussion continues on how to count attendance (particularly, with the Foundation's free admission program); and new technologies to assess attendance counts. To members' questions, he reported that there are five Tier I agencies which have received about 65% of the total SCFD funds in the past; and current calculations will reduce this percentage somewhat and redistribute some funds. To Mr. Taylor's question, Mr. Meredith agreed, during the reauthorization ballot campaign, there was some discussion about creating an additional tier made up of "high III's and low II's," but it was not adopted; and Mr. Meredith believes that it probably won't be addressed again until the current SCFD renewal sunsets in 2030.

12. Announcements and Emergency items

Mr. Ostermiller announced

- A. The annual Arapahoe County 2017 Shareback and Grants Ceremony is on Friday, June 16, at the 17 Mile House Farm Park, 8181 South Parker Road, Centennial, 8 am. Boardmembers plan to attend this event.

13. Executive Session

- A. Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session

Mrs. Eller moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to, or, as authorized by C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4), # (f) for discussion of a personnel matter, and specifically to continue the Executive Director's annual review. The Executive Director was previously informed of the meeting.

Mr. LaBrash seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously (5-0). The Board paused briefly at 7:53 pm and continued into Executive Session at 8:05 pm.

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14. Final Adjournment

The group returned from Executive Session at 9:18 pm. There being no further business to come before the Board, the group adjourned for the evening.

Donna Shephard
District Records Clerk

/ds

**South Suburban Park and Recreation District
Resolution # 2017-011**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED
SOUTH PLATTE PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (“Board”) of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District (“District”) has the power and authority pursuant to Section 32-1- 1001 (1)(m), C.R.S., to adopt Rules and Regulations not in conflict with the Constitution and the laws of this State for carrying on the business, objects, and affairs of the Board and of the District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Littleton and South Suburban Park and Recreation District worked together and developed a master plan for South Platte Park in 1983; and

WHEREAS, a management plan for South Platte Park was developed in 1996 and updated in 1999 and then in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the management plan was updated in 2016 with public comments accepted and additional revisions made completing the plan in May of 2017; and

WHEREAS, the final version of the South Platte Park Management Plan was presented at a joint meeting to the South Suburban Park and Recreation Board of Directors and the City of Littleton’s City Council on May 23, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that the adoption of the current version of the management plan is in the best interest of the District, its inhabitants, and the South Platte Park users,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the South Suburban Park and Recreation District as follows:

1. Approval of the South Platte Park Management Plan. That the South Platte Park Management Plan as set forth on the attached Exhibit A is hereby adopted.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 24th day of May, 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

John K. Ostermiller, Chairman

ATTEST:

Pamela M. Eller, Secretary

AJ/ds