

**SOUTH SUBURBAN PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING NO. 843  
MINUTES**

**Call to order**

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of South Suburban Park and Recreation District was called to order at 6:01 pm, Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at the Goodson Recreation Center, 6315 South University Boulevard, Centennial, Colorado. Chair John Ostermiller presided. (Note to the file: Special posting for the special start time had been accomplished, per State statute. /ds)

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

**Management Staff:** Deanna R. Heyn, Acting Executive Director  
Brett Collins, Director of Planning & Development  
Teresa Cope, Director of Communications  
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

Mr. Ostermiller announced that a quorum was in attendance this evening. He greeted Dody Erickson, a candidate for the Executive Director position.

**Study Session**

Mr. Ostermiller convened the Study Session, and the group discussed the items on the posted agenda. The Board paused at 6:55 pm and reconvened in public meeting at 7:05 pm.

**Citizens' comments**

No public came forward to speak tonight.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Executive Director search, announcement of finalist candidates and additional matters**

**MR. ANDERSON MOVED TO**

- **FORMALLY APPROVE AND ANNOUNCE THE LIST OF FINALISTS FOR THE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION, AS FOLLOWS:**
  - (1) LORA “DODY” ERICKSON,**
  - (2) ROB HANNA, AND**
  - (3) CHRISTOPHER NUNES**

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**AND TO DIRECT STAFF TO COMPLETE THE APPROPRIATE POSTINGS PER STATE STATUTES;**

- **FORMALLY APPROVE AND ANNOUNCE THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS A WHOLE IS THE SEARCH COMMITTEE AND WILL MAKE THE FINAL DECISION REGARDING THE CHOICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; AND**
- **DIRECT STAFF TO COMPLETE PLANS AND THE APPROPRIATE POSTINGS FOR THE INTERVIEW SCHEDULE AND OTHER EVENTS TO BE HELD ON JUNE 11 AND 12, 2015 AT THE LONE TREE GOLF COURSE & HOTEL.**

**Mr. LaBrash seconded the motion.**

Mr. Ostermiller asked for a clarification, whether all the events on June 11 and 12 would occur at the Lone Tree Golf Course & Hotel Clubhouse. Mrs. Heyn confirmed that all events would except for the District management staff's tour on June 11 There was no further discussion. **Mr. Anderson's motion was approved unanimously (4-0).** Mr. Ostermiller announced that the finalists list also would be forwarded to the local press, by press release on Thursday.

### **Board of Directors items**

- Members discussed the City of Lone Tree's most recent public meeting, regarding designs for the proposed pedestrian bridge over Lincoln Avenue. Approximately twelve public attended the meeting. City representatives reported, citizens' taxes would not increase to pay for the bridge; and the City has been successful in finding funding partners. Attendees viewed two plans for the bridge, "the leaf" (estimate: \$6.8 million) and the "the arch" (estimate: \$6.3 million). Additional citizen meetings are coming up, including a robo-call phone meeting on Thursday night to collect additional citizen input regarding the two proposed designs. The proposed bridge will link in several park properties and create a continuous trail from the Bluffs to the Platte.

During the meeting Dan Murphy, a City resident, referred to a study conducted several years ago. The results of the study were that the public wouldn't leave their typical walking paths to use a bridge. John Cotten, City Public Works representative explained that the current street-level pedestrian traffic lights are backing up vehicle traffic all along Lincoln. To Mr. Murphy's questions during the meeting, it was reported that the City hasn't prepared current studies or traffic counts.

During recent meetings, reports indicate that much of the City of Lone Tree's growth will be east of I-25, creating a population shift. The City will grow from approximately 10,000-12,000 residents to about 40,000 in a few years. Boardmembers believe the City's sense of urgency for the project is the need to wrap up land deals while the land is available, ahead of future City development, and before the November 2015 election. Future plans for the City include more bridges, including accesses across I-25. The City wants to create access and to eliminate I-25 as a major barrier to a cohesive city.

Members discussed support for the bridge project, including some residents and local businesses including Charles Schwab.

- Mrs. Rosser reported on an early-morning meeting in the Willow Creek neighborhood. Some talked about improving the Willow Creek Trail; she noted that in the past, proposed trail improvements were not always welcomed at the planning stage by various District neighborhoods, but often neighbors are pleased with the improvements after construction is complete. She concluded, it's important to poll people at the right time of year about potential projects.
- Mrs. Rosser and Mr. Anderson continued the report on the most recent Lone Tree Subcommittee meeting. In addition to the bridge plans, the Subcommittee talked about the ongoing Fairways Park improvements

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project, which has been delayed by the recent heavy rains; plans for the Entertainment District; and the City's new community gardens program. Mr. Anderson reported the new gardens were put together utilizing partnerships with Urban Gardens, Home Depot, and the local School District. Some garden areas have been put aside for the use of teachers and students, and one plot is dedicated for the use of military personnel. Almost all of the plots have been assigned already, and the City has built some nice relationships.

- Mrs. Rosser reported on a controversy in the Willow Creek neighborhood having to do with a "Hooters" restaurant going in at Yosemite and County Line Road, creating some negative feelings toward Lone Tree Mayor Gunning. Apparently the Willow Creek neighborhood has no options to pursue, to prevent the restaurant's opening.

The Willow Creek neighborhood is very pleased with the new playground. She expressed appreciation to Melissa Reese-Thacker, Senior Park Planner. Some work remains to be completed, included bench installations.

- Mr. Anderson reported on the Lone Tree State of the City event. Several Boardmembers and staff attended. Mayor Gunning and the City Council are very upbeat about the future of the City, particularly the current economic and infrastructure developments.
- Mr. Ostermiller and Mr. Meredith reported on Hudson Gardens. Mr. Ostermiller encouraged the group to visit the expanded concerts amphitheater and the new business offices. There was a cost overrun from the office improvements construction, but the Gardens is doing so well that they can absorb the overage this year. The Views & Brews event scheduled for Memorial Day weekend was cancelled, due to the weather and issues regarding finding enough brewer vendors to participate. It has been rescheduled for Sept. 5.

## Announcements and emergency items

Mr. Ostermiller announced:

- For the Executive Director search process, there will be interviews and other events with the finalist candidates on June 11 and 12, 2015, at the Lone Tree Golf Course & Hotel, 9808 Sunningdale Boulevard. The Board of Directors' meeting schedule, as well as those events which will be open to the public, are to be announced.
- A Board quorum event: Arapahoe County Open Spaces' 2015 grant announcements. June 26, 9 am, at the 17-Mile House Farm Park.

There was no request or a need for an executive session this evening.

## Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the group adjourned for the evening at 7:40 pm.

Donna Shephard  
Executive Assistant

/ds