The regular meeting of the Foothills Park & Recreation District was held at Peak Community and Wellness Center, 6612 South Ward Street, Littleton, Colorado 80127.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Director Bradley called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Bradley led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

III. ROLL CALL: Director Maulik: Present
Director Bielkiewicz: Present via conference phone
Director James: Present until 6:30 pm
Director Sutton: Present
Director Bradley: Present

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Ronald Hopp, Executive Director; Paul Rufien, District Counsel; Patricia Parkin, Director of Administrative Services; Colin Insley, Director of Parks Planning and Construction; Tom Woodard, Director of Golf; Barb Butler, Manager of Recreation Programs; Richelle Riley, Recording Secretary; other Foothills staff and members of the public.

Potential conflicts of interest were disclosed pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 18-8-308(2), 24-18-109(3)(a), 24-18-110, and 32-1-902(3).

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Ronald Hopp explained that Director James has a limited timeframe tonight because of a school commitment for his son, and suggested that New Business, Board Election of Officers be moved ahead of Community Comments.

MOTION: Director Maulik moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the May 26, 2015 agenda as amended. Director James seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Maulik, aye; Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director James, aye; Director Sutton, aye; Director Bradley, aye. The motion was approved.

V. APPROVAL OF APRIL 28, 2015 MINUTES:

MOTION: Director Maulik moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the minutes of the April 28, 2015 board meeting as submitted. Director Sutton seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Maulik, aye; Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director James, aye; Director Sutton, aye; Director Bradley, aye. The motion was approved.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board Election of Officers

Director Maulik indicated the Board agreed they are fine with the current office positions with the exception of Director Bielkiewicz moving to First Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair will be vacant after this meeting.

MOTION: Director James moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the following slate of officers for May 2015 through May 2016: John P. Bradley Jr., Chair; Michael J. Bielkiewicz, First Vice Chair; Vacant (until appointment), Second Vice Chair; Tim W. James, Treasurer; Keith C. Sutton, Secretary. Director Maulik seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Maulik, aye; Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director James, aye; Director Sutton, aye; Director Bradley, aye. The motion was approved.

VII. COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

A. Recognition of Founders of the District
Dr. Chris White, son of one of the original, founding Board members of the District, James E. White, distributed to the Board his presentation, A Parable of Civic Character: The Founders of Foothills Park & Recreation District. He talked about activities and the individuals that were influential in the formation of the District going back to 1955. Mr. White indicated the South Jeffco Parks and Recreation District was officially formed on December 31, 1959. The first directors included Frederick E. Hendrickson, Warren M. Jackson, Raymond W. Ross Jr., Robert H. Weaver, and James E. White. According to his presentation, Mr. White outlined accomplishments and challenges during the District’s first 10 years.

Mr. White spoke about the exclusion of Lakewood from the District in 2000 and Lakewood taking over the ownership and maintenance responsibilities of some former Foothills’ parks. He observed that prior to that, Ray Ross Park was named for Ray Ross, and Warren Jackson Park was similarly named. Upon receiving the parks from Foothills, the City of Lakewood kept the names of the parks that Foothills had turned over. Mr. White indicated from the materials he had researched, he could not find out why parks were named for Mr. Ross and Mr. Jackson and not the other three board members. He asked the Board to recognize, in some way, the contribution of these five founders; or at the very least, continue the recognition of the three who were not recognized earlier. Mr. White provided a brief bio for each of the founding board members. He suggested the District’s voters need to be reminded that they too have a responsibility to future generations to provide and maintain the facilities and services that they themselves have enjoyed.

Director Bradley expressed gratitude for what was done, and indicated he personally would like to carry on with several potential items in the future to honor all five of these individuals. He said the Board and staff will discuss it and enact a more than suitable recognition of those five individuals. Director James expressed appreciation for the history of the District Mr. White provided. He agreed it would be a good idea, and made suggestions for possible fund raising. Director Bielkiewicz also agreed and suggested some sort of exploratory committee could help put something together. Mr. Hopp expressed appreciation for the excellent presentation. He concurred with the Board that we should absolutely find a way to honor those individuals. Director Bradley made clear the Board will follow through on this, and thanked Mr. White for bringing up something that probably should have been brought up many years ago.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Adding to the report provided, Mr. Hopp discussed staff have had conversations with Dutch Creek Village about a potential inclusion into the District, and pointed out the area on a map. Ultimately, they have decided they do not want to pursue inclusion. Mr. Hopp indicated the process did create an awareness of our District and our offerings. Mr. Hopp explained he had a similar meeting with a gentleman who is on the board for Vintage Reserve to discuss whether the IGA that we have with Ken-Caryl Metro District would be something they could consider. Director Bradley indicated on one hand likes the fact of potentially some money coming in, on the other hand wonders if it would be a disservice to our existing residents who are paying taxes, is that fair? Mr. Hopp explained the mechanism would be that they are paying the district rate and we are billing the metro district the differential. The same amount of money would be collected if the individual used a facility as the non-district resident rate. Director Sutton indicated the idea makes sense, and recognized it is an accounting technique. Mr. Hopp suggested revenue potentially could be enhanced, recognizing that 239 homes the area has isn’t astronomical. Director Bradley pointed out that at the end of the year and subsequent years we would review the situation. The Board agreed that staff can look further into it.

Mr. Hopp mentioned that Fun City is closing at the end of May. It will be torn down and redeveloped into a medical office site. Mr. Hopp indicated something that could possibly be good for us is a potential for more utilization of our facilities for birthday parties.

As this is Director Maulik’s last meeting, Mr. Hopp said we had promoted in the paper, our website, and social media that we want to fill a vacancy for a one-year board appointment. Three people had submitted interest before the deadline of May 20. We are tracking towards doing interviews on June 2, and conduct the appointment at that time.
Mr. Hopp reported that GOCO did not recommend the Clement Park Water Feature Fountain project for grant funding, and pointed out the projects that were recommended. Recognizing there was much competition, he said we have a meeting scheduled with GOCO staff to review, and they can provide us some ideas and thoughts as to ways we can improve upon that in the future. Also included in the packet, Mr. Hopp said, is the report from the architect that we hired to do an analysis of the Clement Park core building and some recommendations.

Mr. Hopp provided a prairie dog update, advocates Tina Gurdikian and Gina Writz were in attendance. Mr. Hopp recalled that at the last board meeting, we talked about the fact that the BMX track is going to be installed and there are prairie dogs in that area that need to be mitigated one way or another. People who are advocates for the prairie dogs came before the board at the last board meeting wanting to potentially relocate those prairie dogs on site a little bit further south and to the east of the BMX track. A map of those locations was distributed. Staff met with the advocates on-site, as well as the local Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) officer, Jerrie McKee. Mr. Hopp explained. The 1.8 acre site, in accordance CPW, has a recommended density of 16 prairie dogs per acre, so it is 29 prairie dogs that CPW would recommend to be allowed on that site. Mr. Hopp indicated that some of the advocates have since contacted Jerrie McKee asking for a higher density; we have not heard the official response to that at this time, Gina Writz said that she asked Ms. McKee to increase the number of 16. Ms. McKee had said she would be willing to talk to her teammates to look at increasing that number, but right now is sticking to the 16. Staff has counted 14 – 15 prairie dogs that are already on that site, and also counted 57 holes in that particular site. It would potentially accommodate an additional 15 prairie dogs, and there are more than 15 prairie dogs in the BMX site. Mr. Hopp expressed concern about the time and expense associated with relocating 14 or 15 prairie dogs, and how do they choose which ones get to be relocated and which ones don’t? Mr. Hopp had told advocate, Tina Gurdikian, that until the BMX site starts, what we would allow is a passive relocation from the BMX site directly east because north is a parking lot, west is RMRHL, and south is Weiland School. We would allow as much passive relocation that they can be successful with in the timeframe that we give them. Whatever is not successful, we would mitigate through a humane process.

Another thing Ms. McKee had expressed concern about is the disc golf course. Once the BMX track impacts the disc golf course that is there, we would relocate the baskets into the remaining area. Mr. Hopp explained. Ms. McKee had indicated that typically they don’t like to see that there is active utilization from people in a prairie dog colony. We have to recognize that there is risk associated with comingle humans and prairie dog colonies since it is our land to manage.

In answer to Director Bradley, Mr. Hopp clarified, after moving disc golf to Fehringer Ranch, there are still nine baskets at this site that people have indicated to us that they would like to see remain as a smaller course. The Fehringer Ranch course is an 18-hole course so it takes a longer time to play. There was discussion about the effect that relocation of the prairie dogs would have on disc golf. When questioned if the disc golf course would be intermingled with the prairie dogs, Mr. Hopp indicated that is the way it is now, and pointed out we would be adding density to that same area. The Board discussed at length. Director Sutton expressed he likes the idea of the dual use; Director Bradley agreed if it is working and has not been a problem. Mr. Hopp added that the relocation cost is being estimated at $1,600 which they are asking the District to pay for. That does not include flea dusting and incidentals.

Mr. Hopp indicated our policy states that we won’t allow relocation to district properties and believes the intent of that, as it was talked through at the last board meeting, was relocation to properties elsewhere in the District. Mr. Hopp had looked at the site to determine if an on-site relocation would make some sense. He made clear his recommendation is that we allow them to do passive relocation within the timeframe we give them before the BMX track gets started. He believes it is going to be difficult to save all 45 prairie dogs, and believes densities are not going to be outlined appropriately for that. Concerning joint use, right now it’s working, but if we increase those densities, it’s going to be more difficult. Mr. Hopp clarified we are not holding up the progress of the BMX track at this point in time. Discussion ensued regarding cost, funding, process, etc. Director Bradley stressed the importance of long range solutions, possibly on a regional or county basis. Director Sutton indicated he is all about parks and recreation for people; prairie dogs, mountain lions, foxes, etc. are secondary; and suggested we move on from prairie dogs. Director Sutton assured it is not to diminish anything that has been said, it is all valid, but at the same time, how much time do we want to spend on something that has populated the entire state? Discussion continued.
Mr. Hopp explained the difference between the full active relocation of 15 prairie dogs versus a passive relocation. He restated his recommendation is to allow a passive relocation in a timeframe that we give them, whatever they are successful with is great; the rest are exterminated. Regarding active or passive relocation, he pointed out if they are going to save 15 prairie dogs, do it the cheapest way as opposed to the most expensive way. Discussion about those processes and costs, and trying to save all 45 prairie dogs continued.

Director Sutton expressed support for Mr. Hopp’s approach with the passive relocation, and there was agreement from the Board. Director Bradley noted he is not in agreement with the decision on the prairie dogs, although the rest of the Board is in agreement. He expressed hope that we can get a coalition going that will help. The most important thing about this meeting is the future with a coalition of some sort.

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. 2014 Audit Report

Patricia Parkin said she has provided the 2014 audit and finance report in the packet. John Cutler, of John Cutler and Associates was in attendance to talk about the audit and our financial condition, and answer any questions.

Mr. Cutler explained he is required to report to the Board in writing if they find any exceptions, and there are no items that rise to that level. Ms. Parkin mentioned we are in a transition with our IT department and have a lot of work to do with our computer server room. We have a plan in place to correct that, Ms. Parkin explained.

Mr. Cutler outlined the meaning of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, which are set by the Government Accounting Standards Board, they dictate what auditors have to report. Director Bradley expressed appreciation to Mr. Cutler; their work is excellent and saves us money.

B. Finance Update

Patricia Parkin said that provided in the packet is the financial report year-to-date through April 30th. Our operating revenues are lower than planned; much of that is timing. Ms. Parkin explained. Tom Woodard discussed this has been the worst May on record for golf, but staff have been able to cut some of the losses by cutting expenditures. Due to the rain, Ms. Parkin observed that golf impacts are unfortunate, field rentals are guaranteed, and we will see a significant savings in water for parks. Ms. Parkin discussed the rain has impacted revenue, and outlined how expenses are being controlled. She mentioned property taxes are higher than planned, and due to timing, property taxes will come in lower later in the year. Overall, Ms. Parkin reported we are favorable to plan, most of that is timing. She proposed she will have a better answer at the end of May as to how this last two months of rain have really impacted the District.

C. Financial Forecast Follow-Up

In terms of the financial forecast, Mr. Hopp said we made a couple of updates that we think we are going to experience and also added some requests from board members at the last board meeting. He suggested we defer the broader discussion until the June board meeting when we have our new board member. Mr. Hopp outlined those changes that were made to the forecast. He mentioned that potentially, assessments throughout the District may go up about 10 percent which would increase our tax collections in 2016 by about $454,000. He suggested that would be part of the overall conversation that we need to have concerning a future mill levy; if assessments remain high, we could ask for a lower number. Mr. Hopp observed that makes the 2016 budget easier to balance, but again, without much capital. Proceeds have been added to the forecast model that we would generate from a 2 mill increase and 2.5 mill increase, Mr. Hopp pointed out.

Director Bradley recognized the work that board members do and take upon themselves on a monthly basis or semi monthly basis. He said we are losing a very valuable member of our board, Terri Maulik, and expressed his deep appreciation. He recognized she has consistently worked to keep costs down, and yet, not at the expense of district employees. On behalf of the Foothills Board of Directors, Director Bradley thanked Director Maulik for her seven years of service and
May 26, 2015
Page 5

presented her with a commemorative gavel plaque. Mr. Hopp thanked Director Maulik, on behalf of Foothills’ employees, for being an employee advocate and a great board member.

Ms. Gurdikian thanked staff and commented further on her perspective about prairie dogs.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Parcels Update per 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S.

MOTION: Director Maulik moved that the Foothills Board of Directors move into Executive Session to discuss Parcels Update pursuant to Colorado Revised Statute 24-6-402(4)(b). Director Sutton seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Maulik, aye; Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director Sutton, aye; Director Bradley, aye. The motion was approved.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. Executive Session started at 7:57 pm and ended at 8:44 pm. The regular meeting reconvened at 8:44 pm.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next regular board meeting will be held at 6 pm on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at Peak Community and Wellness Center, 6612 South Ward Street, Littleton.

Submitted by:

Richelle Riley, Recording Secretary