FOOTHILLS PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 14, 2017

The regular meeting of Foothills Park & Recreation District was held at Peak Community & Wellness Center, 6012 South Ward Street, Littleton, Colorado 80127.

I. CALL TO ORDER: Director James called the regular meeting to order at 6:03pm.

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

III. ROLL CALL: Director Bosanko: Present via conference phone
Director Farrar: Present
Director Esolen: Present
Director Meyer: Present arrived at 6:20pm
Director James: Present

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Rufien, District Counsel; Ronald Hopp, Executive Director; Colin Insley, Director of Parks, Planning and Construction; Derek Eberhardt, Director of Operations; Barb Butler, Director of Recreation Programs; Tom Woodard, Director of Golf; Dennis Weiner, Director of Administrative Services; 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:

Director James added, under Old Business, an update from Ronald Hopp about the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners meeting this morning in relation to the land sale parcel at Columbine and Wadsworth.

MOTION: Director Farrar moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the March 14, 2017 agenda as amended. Director Esolen seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Bosanko, aye; Director Farrar, aye; Director Esolen, aye; Director James, aye. The motion was approved.

V. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 28, 2017 MINUTES:

MOTION: Director Esolen moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the minutes of the February 28, 2017 board meeting as submitted. Director Farrar seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Bosanko, aye; Director Farrar, aye; Director Esolen, aye; Director James, aye. The motion was approved.

VI. COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Columbine and Wadsworth Land Parcel Update

Providing background information, Ronald Hopp explained that the District entered into a Purchase and Sales Agreement on property located at Columbine and Wadsworth in April of 2016. Since that time, he explained, staff have been working with the County on the two-step process of de-zoning and potentially re-zoning. The first step was the de-zoning approval, Mr. Hopp explained, similar to the process utilized for the Coal Mine and Wadsworth parcels. Mr. Hopp indicated that the Planning Commission had voted to deny the de-zoning and today the Board of County Commissioners voted to deny it as well, and he talked about the criteria. Director James expressed opinion that the Board should not appeal that decision; the Board discussed and agreed. There was discussion about doing some outreach with the Stony Creek neighborhood about maintaining the property.
March 14, 2017
Page 2

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

X. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Mill Levy Election

Mr. Hopp recalled that in the special meeting the Board and staff had back in December, the Board directed staff to work with a company to do a poll of the community regarding receptivity to a potential mill levy increase. Staff worked with Lori Weigel, with Public Opinion Strategies. Ms. Weigel was in attendance to present the results of the poll that was conducted between March 1st and March 4th. Sheila MacDonald, with MIDG Group, LLC, was in attendance to also assist with the discussion.

Ms. Weigel prefaced that she works with various agencies around the country in terms of looking at voters’ priorities and trying to assess whether funding measures can be in alignment with those priorities, and assess feasibility of various measures. Using PowerPoint, Ms. Weigel outlined the process used to poll the 300 respondents, provided information about the survey questions, and detailed the results and how people responded.

In regard to the positive poll results, Ms. Weigel summarized that the ballot language is important, being it’s for the right price point - 2 mills and 3 mills were tested, and a sunset is important. She noted there is a high percentage of support from parents. Ms. Weigel pointed out that people connect parks and recreation to quality of life, and want the District to maintain what it has. Ms. Weigel answered questions from the Board, and there was discussion.

Mr. Hopp called attention to a spreadsheet that was distributed to the Board showing specific amounts that would be generated from the various mill levy levels. It shows how much additional revenue could be utilized for capital, over and above operating, for each year and extrapolates that out for multiple years. Mr. Hopp pointed out that the positive revenue stream that would be generated for 3 mills ends in nine years; for 2 mills the positive revenue stream ends in seven years. 2 mills would be $64 per year additional for a $400,000 house in value; 3 mills would be $96 per year additional for a $400,000 house in value. Discussion ensued. Part of the equation is the bond that expires at the end of 2020, which is capital oriented, Mr. Hopp discussed. He suggested staff would like direction from the Board in order to begin to assemble information necessary to move forward; possible mill levy level and desire on a sunset. With assistance from Ms. MacDonald, discussion took place. Paul Rufien pointed out that the decision being made now allows for a more aggressive campaign. He added that between now and August, District funds can be spent, and the District can be very proactive; come August only the committee can campaign.

Following additional discussion, the Board agreed and directed staff to move forward with 2.75 mills and a nine year sunset for a November, 2017 election.

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:23pm. The next regular board meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at Peak Community & Wellness Center, 6612 South Ward Street, Littleton.

Submitted by:

Richelle Riley, Recording Secretary