

Board Candidate Information

Candidate name: Timothy W. James

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Candidate Information: will be supplied to the press and district voters

Education, personal skills or experience you feel are applicable to your candidacy:

I have served on the Foothills Park & Recreation District's Board of Directors for the last five years, as I began my service by appointment in May 2013. During the last two years, I have served as Chair of the Board, and Treasurer the prior two years. I have a deep understanding and knowledge of the District in the present state, along with past history and future plans.

I graduated from the Indiana University School of Optometry with a Doctorate of Optometry (O.D.), and received my Bachelor of Science with Honors degree in Exercise Science from the University of Iowa. I moved to Colorado in 2001 and joined Ken-Caryl Vision Center as an associate doctor. After working just 19 months with the Senior Optometrist, he unexpectedly passed away. I have owned the practice for almost 15 years, and consider myself a proud small business owner in the South JeffCo / Foothills community.

As an optometrist who has met thousands of patients and constituents in the Foothills District, along with an office location adjacent to Clement Park, I know the pulse of the community and its needs.

I am an active member of Columbine United Church, and have served on many important Committees, including Associate Pastoral Search, Nominating, Adult Education, Worship, Usher and Welcoming Ambassador. I have served on Committees within the Colorado Optometric Association and Advisory Boards for Vision Expo West and East, two of the largest eye care and optical conferences in the world.

How many years have you lived in the District?

I've lived in Ward 3 of the District for 12 years (Country West and Belleview Farms) and owned Ken-Caryl Vision Center in Ward 2 nearly 15 years (Swedish Healthpark Southwest II, 6179 S. Balsam Way, Suite 130). I am happily married to my wife Laura and have three sons that have grown up in the District; Trent is in his final semester at Colorado Film School, Dane is a junior at Chatfield Senior High School, and Gavin is a 5th grader at Ute Meadows Elementary.

Do you use District facilities? Yes If yes, which ones?

My family have participated in more than 100 classes, programs and sports teams in the Foothills District. From swimming to softball and gymnastics, we utilize the majority of the facilities in the District. We frequent many of the Neighborhood Parks' walking trails, playgrounds and Regional Parks' baseball fields. During the past 15 years, my business has frequently been a sponsor of the Red, White and You 4th of July Fireworks celebration.

Please describe what you consider to be the most important need that the District has, and what action you would take as a board member regarding that need:

The most important and primary responsibility of the Board is to strategically implement and oversee the use of Mill Levy dollars for capital improvements and service enhancements that was approved by voters in November 2017. One of my goals during my tenure on the Board was to pass a Mill Levy in order to bring the District up to current regulations for safety and accessibility, along with improved services and efficiencies for our tax paying constituents. The District has a healthy list of Parks and Facilities Projects and Refurbishments, and I would like to ensure we are spending wisely and achieving a good return on our investments. I believe Staff has correctly identified areas of the District that need attention, and solid fiscal responsibility will lead to great parks in this wonderful Foothills community.

What would you like to accomplish as a member of the Board?

During my next and final term as a member of the Board, I would like to see creation of a Youth Advisory Board that would have six to ten members. Many of our part-time staff are below the age of 25, and may have interest in the Parks and Recreation / Outdoor Adventure careers. The District needs to listen to the youth of our community to remain relevant and evolve for our District's continued success into the future.

As I have done over my tenure, I would continue to pursue more revenue producing opportunities for the District, with minimal impact on expenditures. A key focus of my next term would be exploring partnerships with small businesses in outdoor recreation and fitness industry to expand the diverse portfolio of activities and sports the District will offer our residents.

What is your primary motivation for running for the Board of Directors at this time?

I want to continue the positive momentum and energy that the District has had over the last 10 years. I've overseen many accomplishments of the District, including the purchase of the Foothills Fieldhouse (for pennies on the dollar), approval and construction of the BMX Park at Schaefer Athletic Complex, the initial phases of the Clement Park Improvement project, refinancing debt to reduce the burden on taxpayers, and leveraging grants from Greater Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

What personal attributes do you have that you think would make you a good board member?

I strive to be a caring person who respects all people and treats them with fairness and honesty. In my five years on the FHPRD Board, it has been important to me that at every meeting we give time to all people in attendance to share their thoughts, concerns, praise and complaints of the District. I am open minded to new ideas and change, yet understand the importance of considering all sides of an issue, historical perspectives, and ultimately how constituents would be affected before making an informed decision.