

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

FOOTHILLS PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 10, 2020

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Nov 10, 2020 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Board Meeting 11/10/2020. Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_phc1QsbRQ3WFUrPIK4hKZA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

- 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 Butman: | Present |
| Director Bielkiewicz: | Present |
| Director Meyer: | Present |
| Director Bosanko: | Present |
| Director James: | Present |

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Rufien, District Counsel; Ronald Hopp, Executive Director; Dennis Weiner, Director of Finance and Administrative Services; Derek Eberhardt, Director of Operations; Barb Butler, Director of Recreation Programs; Colin Insley, Director of Parks, Planning and Construction; Tom Woodard, Director of Golf; Richelle Riley, Recording Secretary; other Foothills staff and members of the public via Zoom webinar.

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:

MOTION: Director Meyer moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the November 10, 2020 agenda as submitted. Director Bosanko seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Butman, aye; Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director Meyer, aye; Director Bosanko, aye; Director James, aye. The motion was approved.

- V. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 27, 2020 MINUTES:

MOTION: Director Bielkiewicz moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 board meeting as submitted. Director Meyer seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Butman, aye; Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director Meyer, aye; Director Bosanko, aye; Director James, aye. The motion was approved.

- VI. COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

Michael Sexton and Nancy Werkmeister, past presidents of two of the clubs at Foothills Golf Course, were in attendance. Mr. Sexton addressed the Board. Though neither of them are presidents any longer, Mr. Sexton indicated they are still representing those clubs which have a real interest in the Foothills golf facilities. He discussed that the Board should consider advancing their project. Mr. Sexton referred to an item from the National

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Golf Foundation he thought was appropriate to reflect their interest in this project that speaks to golf course management. He argued that golf participation from their clubs represent a major continued revenue source for Foothills. Mr. Sexton recalled that last year the group argued for a new clubhouse and some additional facilities. At that time, Mr. Hopp and staff had pointed out that it may be premature because there was a hope that the mill levy extension would be approved by the voters, which it has been. Mr. Sexton indicated the Board had offered part of the District's retained earnings for this spring for some capital improvements at Foothills; COVID interceded. He discussed that the COVID situation showed the possibilities for a good golf facility and what it can do, and talked about revenues at the golf course. Mr. Sexton suggested that to sustain that, the District needs to advance the facilities and capital improvements at Foothills. He indicated that tonight, they are trying to put the project for the Foothills capital improvements back on the drawing board. They would like to get the commitment from the Board and others to enter into a planning process and a good faith commitment to try to get something done going forward. Mr. Sexton asked for some time in the next month or so to initiate some planning process and develop some timelines and see what is possible.

Director James recognized it is a 50-year old clubhouse and assured that the Board does see that need to have it leveled and rebuilt at some point in time.

Director Meyer shared that after the last Board meeting, looking at numbers and how well golf operations have done the last year, particularly in light of COVID, recognized how that provided a great opportunity for the District's constituents to get out there and enjoy facilities of the District. He said he is very much on board with making this a much higher priority to try to get a clubhouse built. Director Meyer discussed he sent an email to the Board after the last meeting suggesting that as well. It seems the District had the best year of golf rounds ever this past year, he discussed, and suggested if the District did an incremental increase in the price of a round of golf, funds could be generated and could potentially be used as some sort of mechanism to cover debt service or a hybrid method to fund a new clubhouse. Director Meyer recalled when the District was looking at opportunities to refurbish what was there or tear it down and do a complete restart, and had conceptual plans drawn up for that, recognized there was concern about whether the conceptual plans for the rebuild were sufficient. Director Meyer expressed support that the Board should be looking at this very seriously.

Director James concurred as far as looking into the feasibility of funding mechanisms for the clubhouse at Foothills Golf Course. He pointed out that the 2030 Master Plan does have the fact that it is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, clubhouses in the Denver Metro area. The support is there and the numbers demonstrate that the need is there and some expenditures and funding can be justified.

Director Bosanko agreed it is a high need and feels more confident investing in these capital improvements now that the bond extension is approved. She recognized the District did go through a lengthy process to identify different projects and recommended to revisit that and work this into the plan. Director Bosanko thought this has become a greater priority knowing that it is feasible and maybe there is other funding mechanisms that can be used along with capital funds. It should be continued to be discussed.

Ronald Hopp recognized with the successful mill levy continuation, the District's financial position is different. He expressed appreciation for Mr. Sexton's and Ms. Werkmeister's knowing that had to be successful in order for this to potentially come to fruition. The District's financial position has changed since last discussions about the clubhouse with the successful mill levy. The other significant piece is Gallagher, Mr. Hopp explained. It doesn't bring additional revenue but keeps further erosion of the residential assessment rate from happening. Mr. Hopp agreed golf has experienced a dramatic increase due to COVID-19. After COVID-19, there could be some reduction; however, with the selling of golf clubs and things, maybe there is hope that there is some resurgence of golf not only in this community but nation-wide. He pointed out that golf has done exceptionally well in 2020, other areas have not. Golf needs to be recognized as being part of the bigger picture in terms of the financial aspect.

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Mr. Hopp suggested going through an exercise of evaluating potential revenue increases for the increased green fees that could be dedicated, evaluate financing not only for potential clubhouse improvement, but for all of the projects, find out if there are opportunities for Certificates of Participation that would address some capital needs on a grander scale. He suggested maybe priorities are different now because of Coronavirus. Mr. Hopp agreed the District should absolutely evaluate the fiscal viability of a new clubhouse at Foothills Golf Course, and indicated he and Dennis Weiner have reached out to the District's financial people to set up a meeting.

Mr. Sexton added one of the things that Foothills may need is water retention management.

Director James expressed thanks for the dedication and loyalty to Foothills golf course. Director Butman agreed with the consideration of putting more funds and interest into the idea of a new clubhouse, and observed it does need to be looked at as a bigger piece of a large pie. It's definitely on the table and something to discuss moving forward.

Director Bielkiewicz said it would be a great thing to discuss, and expressed there are a lot of things that have to be considered. He added that based on what has happened this last year and based on continued impressive numbers always from golf, it should get a higher priority.

Director James thanked the Foothills community on behalf of the Board as far as the tremendously successful mill levy election the District had with 77.5 percent in favor of the mill levy bond conversion. He expressed the Board is very deeply grateful for such a supportive community and for all those people who have supported the District over all of these years and up to this most recent mill levy election. Director James expressed thanks for the confidence and faith in the Board to use taxpayer money wisely. He promised, as a Board, to be very good stewards of that money, and make sure the District follows through on those commitments.

VII. DECISION ITEMS:

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Hopp reported that staff applied for, and found out yesterday, that the District is the recipient of a 2020 Columbine award for park renovation design for Clement Park. It is a Colorado Park and Recreation Association award.

Highlighting the report, Mr. Hopp discussed he and Paul Rufien virtually attended this morning's Board of County Commissioner's meeting to present an appeal of the denial of the inclusion of the Deer Creek Villas developments. The denial was upheld by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), Mr. Hopp discussed. There was conversation and one of the county commissioners did indicate that they probably should be looking at service plans more closely in the future. Mr. Hopp and Mr. Rufien had previously attended planning commission and BOCC meetings asking them not to approve the park and recreation powers as part of the service plan and today when it was suggested they ought to look at that more closely, he and Mr. Rufien reminded them that they did suggest that. Mr. Hopp said he and Mr. Rufien also suggested to them that there are future developments that the District will be requesting inclusion of in the future and for them to try to think more comprehensively about their overall positions related that. Mr. Hopp mentioned two of the county commissioners will change starting in January. In answer to Director Meyer, Mr. Hopp said staff can try to reach out to the two new people coming in and introduce the District as a viable, large, south Jefferson County entity with similar interests.

Mr. Hopp discussed the repeal of Gallagher which was Amendment B on the November ballot. Because it was successful, it will freeze the residential assessment rate at 7.15 and won't roll back any further. It was likely, if this had not passed, to roll back to 5.88 percent for the 2022 tax year, Mr. Hopp discussed.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

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A. November 3, 2020 Election Results

Referring to the memo provided, Mr. Hopp said there were a few more votes trickling in and the results are now up to 47,799 in favor and 13,871 opposed; still 77.51 percent approval. Staff are ecstatic with the overwhelming success. Mr. Hopp suggested it is an affirmation of what the District is doing, and affirmation of staff doing a great job working with the public and people seeing the fruits of their tax dollars, and the District being good fiscal stewards, doing what is being promised and will continue to do that. Mr. Hopp indicated staff are excited about the things the District will be embarking on in the years to come, and thanked the Board for their support of doing that. He recognized volunteers from the community who were Friends for Foothills who did signs, social media posts and things like that. Mr. Hopp reminded the funds that were used from the Citizens Committee to pay for signs and social media posts were raised privately so no district funds go towards any sort of advocacy, that is the reason and purpose for a group like Friends for Foothills.

B. COVID-19 Update

Using screen share presentation, Mr. Hopp discussed what has happened since the last board meeting, showing that the Coronavirus dial changed to colors as opposed to levels and Jefferson County has moved to orange on the dial and the state-wide mask order was extended through November 12th. Mr. Hopp said the variance that has been talked about over the last several months is no longer valid and has had an effect on the offerings the District can provide to the public. He talked about the metrics and requirements for level orange which is considered the high risk category, and discussed the guidelines and restrictions.

Mr. Hopp assured the District has taken steps for conforming with the new orders. He provided an update on staff furloughs, and provided a summary of changes in the various areas. He indicated staff continue to monitor additional orders from the state and the county.

Mr. Hopp went over a spreadsheet demonstrating three scenarios, best case scenario, next best scenario, worst case scenario. He concluded in November and December, if the District does a total shut-down, it would hurt but staff have managed it well through the year and should be still okay by the end of the year. Mr. Hopp answered questions from the Board.

C. 2021 Proposed Budget Presentations

Dennis Weiner explained Administration includes the various functions that support the operation of all programs within the District. He reminded that it includes Marketing and Public Outreach, Finance and Accounting, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Executive Director Department.

As detailed in the 2021 Budget Book, Mr. Weiner talked about highlights from the Administration budget for Executive Director Department, Marketing Department, Finance Department, Human Resources, and Information Technology.

Colin Insley acknowledged park's staff and went over the general budget for Parks, Planning and Construction, following the 2021 Budget Book. He provided highlights for Parks Administration, Fleet Services, Urban Parks Maintenance, Regional Parks Maintenance, Kipling Villas Sub District, and Clement Park.

Director Bielkiewicz acknowledged and thanked park's staff for what they have done to keep things going with probably unprecedented numbers of people using the District's parks.

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Director James thanked staff for the hard work done over the last six to nine months. He suggested the successful mill levy election was partially due to the maintenance of the District's parks and being responsible managers of finances and expenditures.

Mr. Hopp reminded that the December 8th board meeting will be the final consideration of the budget. There are things that will change, Mr. Hopp outlined a few of those. He pointed out that staff believe there is going to be a fairly significant overage of operational funds and would like to request to carry those over. That will help next year if they don't need to be utilized for managing the overall fiscal impacts because of COVID-19, the funds could be utilized for capital projects. In the final budget presentation, staff will demonstrate all the changes. Mr. Hopp asked that if the Board has any operational type changes of things they would like to see different based upon the presentations, that staff would know those tonight or very soon because it would be difficult to make those changes at the December 8th meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:31pm. The next regular board meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, December 8, 2020.

Submitted by:

Richelle Riley, Recording Secretary