

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

FOOTHILLS PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 25, 2022

Zoom Option

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Oct 25, 2022 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Board Meeting 10/25/2022 Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LZEVxLSESY-QOKdGvEzkBg

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

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Director Meyer called the regular meeting to order at 6:02pm.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Meyer led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.
- III. ROLL CALL:
- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Director Bielkiewicz: | Present |
| Director Lodice: | Absent |
| Director Trimble: | Present |
| Director Writz: | Present |
| Director Meyer: | Present |

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Paul Rufien, District Counsel; Ronald Hopp, Executive Director; Dennis Weiner, Director of Finance and Administrative Services; Barb Butler, Director of Recreation Programs; Derek Eberhardt, Director of Operations; 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.

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 Trimble moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the October 25, 2022 agenda as submitted. Director Writz seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director Trimble, aye; Director Writz, aye; Director Meyer, aye. The motion was approved.

V. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 MINUTES:

MOTION: Director Writz moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022 board meeting as submitted. Director Trimble seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Bielkiewicz, abstain; Director Trimble, aye; Director Writz, aye; Director Meyer, aye. The motion was approved.

VI. COMMUNITY COMMENTS:

Director Meyer asked that anybody who has comments and wants to address the Board to come to the podium, introduce themselves, state address, state whether in District or not, including people who are joining by Zoom. He asked if there is a comment on one of the discussion items, to wait until the Board has gone through the discussion items and address the Board at that time. For anything someone wants to talk about that is not a separate discussion item, come up at this time to the podium or on Zoom.

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VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Proposed New Jefferson County Library at Sledding Hill Park

Tom Hoby, Director of Jefferson County Open Space, and Donna Walker, Executive Director of Jefferson County Public Library, were in attendance to talk to the Board about what they have heard so far from the community in their engagement process on a proposal Jefferson County Open Space (JCOS) has received from the library. The proposal is to purchase up to six acres of property on the 29.6 acres of Sledding Hill Park property that JCOS currently owns and leases to Foothills Park & Recreation District.

Using PowerPoint, Mr. Hoby gave background information and talked about Open Space policy as it pertains to transferring properties, terms they had worked out with the library should this proposal proceed, community engagement updates and pro/con statements, and future community input opportunities.

Mr. Hoby provided history, since 2015 they have been looking at various ways to provide a level of service that they would like to in this area and other parts of the county. Mr. Hoby expressed it is understood that this site is very well-loved for sledding in winter, and they want to make sure that activity continues there and is enhanced by anything that is done there, and elaborated. The transfer of this property, and properties owned by JCOS, is subject to their transfer policies, he explained. Mr. Hoby added that the Columbine Library will remain as it is.

The library could be situated at the corner of Kipling and Ken Caryl with shared parking and park amenities that transfer from the built environment to the natural environment, Mr. Hoby discussed and showed a conceptual rendering. A large portion of the area would remain as open space for sledding and for other park purposes. He discussed terms that have been agreed to with the library, including park amenities.

Mr. Hoby discussed community input on the library location, they did conduct two community meetings. He discussed the themes and concerns that came out of the first community meeting, and the second community meeting. Mr. Hoby emphasized the fact that they want to make sure the sledding would be preserved and enhanced by this.

Mr. Hoby talked about the impact on wildlife. He pointed out they would make every effort, working with Foothills, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, etc. to relocate any of the prairie dogs that might be on this four and a half to six-acre site. They could potentially be relocated on site or off site, and they do have a relocation site.

Mr. Hoby described the need for the new South Jeffco library, site choice criteria, cost and funding, people experiencing homelessness, traffic and parking. He discussed the community meeting results, they are at the beginning of the process. There was additional engagement besides the community meetings such as emails. To give a flavor for the comments received, Mr. Hoby read a con statement and a pro statement received from the community and explained there will be more opportunities for people to comment. Mr. Hoby discussed the future approvals that are necessary if it is determined that JCOS would transfer this property to the library.

Director Writz questioned if there is any way to guarantee relocation of the wildlife working with Rocky Flats. Mr. Hoby recognized JCOS is a conservation organization and would intend to make sure that those prairie dogs are relocated. Director Writz asked how do we ensure that it remains a sledding hill for the next 10 years? Mr. Hoby offered they are considering this proposal because libraries are community facilities and a library has the potential of enhancing that whole park experience. There is the opportunity to deed the property to the District, Mr. Hoby explained.

Linda Auburn, District resident, said she is one of the people who saved the sledding hill 23 years ago from being a shopping center. She observed that the space up for sale is used by the young children to sled on.

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South Jefferson County will lose the last visual green space if this building is built. Ms. Auburn read a quote from NASA. By building the library on open space, they squeeze out the diversity of wildlife living in the park. Citizens are concerned about the homeless who will use the library by day as a shelter and the sledding hill by night as a place to camp. Ms. Auburn read a quote from an article by Jennifer Brown. Ms. Auburn said the problem this library brings – light pollution, traffic problems, loss of visual green space, lost animal homes and forage, homeless problems associated with libraries – all will have both a negative and physical, and a negative economic effect on the surrounding homes and area. She asked the Foothills Board not to look at the money they are going to receive from a sale, but to help preserve open space as open space. Ms. Auburn observed there are better places to put this library such as at the RTD abandoned site at C470 and Ken Caryl, it has all the criteria that the library board is looking for.

Tina Gurdikian, District resident, echoed what Ms. Auburn said. She expressed concern about the sledding as well and primarily concerned about the wildlife there. Ms. Gurdikian confirmed with Mr. Hoby that Rocky Flats is a relocation site. She said she would like to see Foothills and JCOS adhere to that. There are relocators that can move those prairie dogs, they do catch and release.

B. Prairie Dog Management Plan

Ronald Hopp pointed out the Prairie Dog Management Plan included in the packet, this is an agenda item at the request from the Board at the September 27th board meeting. The Board had received an email from a member of the community and an individual attended the board meeting to express concern with a particular control that happened near Clement Park. Both of those concerned citizens have been informed that the control was not at Clement Park.

Tina Gurdikian, District resident, referred to the requests she made in her email; Director Meyer confirmed the email was discussed at the last board meeting. Ms. Gurdikian said she requested three reasonable amendments to the Prairie Dog Management Plan: board members and Executive Director will be notified immediately when such written statements are received; upon receipt of such written statement the District will also provide public notice on the District website of the need for prairie dog controls to include the location, circumstances and timeframe. The District Executive Director will not permit controls to occur until after the next scheduled board meeting to allow public comment and volunteers to step forward to implement non-lethal control measures. Management practices will not be conducted during pup season, March through June. Ms. Gurdikian reiterated she is recommending three sentences to be added to the Prairie Dog Management Plan with an effort moving forward to use the Rocky Flats site. There was discussion about relocation sites.

Director Trimble asked if the Rocky Flats relocation site is on-going or specific for this one project. Mr. Hopp indicated JCOS has made that determination based upon the Sledding Hill project.

In answer to Ms. Gurdikian's requests, in terms of awareness, Mr. Hopp said he is made aware of all controls and works with staff to make sure they adhere to the Prairie Dog Management Plan. The Board has adopted the Prairie Dog Management Plan; it is staff's responsibility to make sure any management is conducted based upon that. The Board is asking staff to manage based upon the policies whether it is this one or any other policies that the Board approves.

As far as public notification, Mr. Hopp reiterated the Board approves this. Staff are making sure that all management practices adhere to that. Staff do many things in terms of implementing all of the policies that the Board has. He discussed that there are legitimate concerns from HOAs that staff are managing within the policy.

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In terms of the pup season, Mr. Hopp said that can get added to the Prairie Dog Management Plan; however, there could be emergency type situations where it's a necessity from a safety perspective that the policy should say, when possible, would try to keep prairie dog controls from happening March, April, May, June.

Mr. Hopp agreed, staff should seize the opportunity to see if relocation efforts can be done. He discussed possible opportunities to work with Jefferson County Open Space.

Director Writz, expressed when there are decisions being made that affect the emotional needs and well-being of the community and their concerns, it should be brought to their attention, people create a connection to wildlife. Mr. Hopp discussed the perspective of the people who are asking the District to do controls, there is a whole other side the District is trying to balance. There are people who are equally as angry with the District for not doing something as quickly as needed.

Director Bielkiewicz recognized there is a board meeting once a month. Waiting for the Board to meet every month is going to delay and cause problems from both sides. He suggested the things Ms. Writz mentioned have been researched in the past and cost exponentially more and one of the Board's prime responsibilities is fiscal responsibility to the District. If there is a spot at Rocky Flats, there needs to be responsibility from a financial standpoint.

Director Meyer added the last time this policy was dealt with, it was revised. He reiterated the resolution was to have a plan, as long staff are following the plan, this is a policy the Board agreed on. There are multiple opportunities in the plan to relocate, mitigate, etc. The Board empowered staff to make those decisions, Director Meyer elaborated. Director Writz discussed creating transparency. Discussion ensued.

Director Trimble asked about the time requirement to relocate prairie dogs, there was discussion about the process. Director Trimble expressed the Board should set the policy and allow staff to handle the day to day decisions. He discussed willingness to look at a proposal but in terms of having the Board make decisions or be notified before anything can be done and the public have a chance to comment on it, it does not look like a workable plan. The policy can be changed if needed. He agreed it is reasonable to not do any mitigation during the pup months.

Director Meyer concluded, based on the discussion, staff can come back with a recommendation on potential revisions to the Prairie Dog Management Plan that the Board may be willing to implement. Director Trimble added if there can be a policy that seems to work in terms of relocation, he would like to hear that and if staff doesn't see how it would work, would like to hear that too. Director Meyer added to have it long term, in the next three years there may be nowhere to relocate them.

Mr. Hopp added the question might be what is the window of opportunity for relocation at Rocky Flats. The preference would be to relocate them all from the areas where staff are consistently having to do mitigation. Mr. Hopp said staff can come up with some recommended changes based upon what is being heard from the Board. He discussed exploring options in terms of Jefferson County Open Space support for relocation, identifying the biggest problem areas, and looking to do some relocation efforts.

C. Finance Update

Dennis Weiner discussed the financial update through September 30th as included in the meeting packet, and went through highlights of the report. He discussed operating revenues, operating expenditures, net operating loss, non-operating revenue. As a result of all of the financial activity through September 30th, net expenditures were better than plan.

D. 2023 Proposed Budget Presentations

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A 2023 Proposed budget Book with all the information was distributed to the Board, and using a PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Hopp provided an overview of the whole budget. He talked about the differences between the 2022 budget and 2023 budget. Mr. Hopp went over sources of revenues, district mill levy, total operating revenue, total operating expenses, capital projects expenditures, and long-term debt. He went over operating revenue and expenses by department for Administration; Parks, Planning & Construction; Leisure Services; Golf. Mr. Hopp summarized the net-operating budget and non-operating budget for a balanced budget of zero. He reminded that tonight Leisure Services and Golf will present their budgets, at the November meeting it will be Administration and Parks. At the December meeting there will be a similar overview presentation and staff will show what has changed from the preliminary budget to the final budget

Barb Butler introduced Leisure Services staff who helped put the budget together, and who manage all the recreation areas outside of Golf that are in the District. Referring to the 2023 Proposed Budget Book, Ms. Butler explained that the Leisure Services Department is comprised of two different divisions; Operations and Programs. Derek Eberhardt manages the Operations area which oversees Facility Maintenance, Aquatics Department, and Facility Operations; Ms. Butler oversees the Programming Department which is Children's Programs, Arts, Athletics, Fitness, Edge Ice Arena, Fieldhouse and Sports Arena. Ms. Butler provided highlights for the Leisure Services budget.

Director Trimble said he has a friend who is a hockey player and a hockey coach. He has been on all the ice in the entire area and said the Edge has the best ice in the entire area. There was discussion about After School programs.

Tom Woodard introduced Golf staff who were in attendance. He introduced two new employees; Joe Pinson, Assistant Golf Professional at Foothills Golf Course and Brendan Murphy, Head Golf Professional at Meadows Golf Club. He announced that Sue Maguire is retiring after 41 years of employment with Foothills. Mr. Woodard shared guidelines staff used to establish the operational revenue. Referring to the 2023 Budget Book, he provided highlights for the Golf budget.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Highlighting the report provided, Mr. Hopp explained changes to the pass structure, Ms. Butler and Mr. Eberhardt elaborated.

Mr. Hopp recognized Director Bielkiewicz is Director of Foothills Theatre Company's upcoming show, *Greater Tuna*, and there is opportunity for tickets and a gala following the show on Friday, November 4th.

Mr. Hopp brought to the Board's attention that Hogback Metropolitan District is building homes south of the Meadows Golf Course. They have a drainage easement, Jefferson County Open Space owns the property where the drainage easement would come onto the golf course, JCOS approved that easement and the license agreement that accompanies it. It did not require Foothills Board approval which is inconsistent with things we have done in the past, Mr. Hopp explained. He discussed that staff are engaged and will be observing the improvements.

As a requirement regarding our junior storage rights for Beers Sisters Reservoir in Blue Heron Park, Mr. Hopp explained we have to release water due to what is called Owe the River. We have been proactive with notifying the neighborhoods, posted on Nextdoor, etc.

Mr. Hopp said the Foothills Foundation Golf Tournament, which golf staff at the Meadows worked hard to organize on behalf of the foundation, netted about \$17,400 in revenues.

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Mr. Hopp added that our auditor decided not to audit for the District next year and an RFP was issued for a new auditor. We did not get any interest in the RFP, he discussed. The RFP has been extended another week or two and has been put on Bidnet.

Mr. Hopp provided an update on the Foothills Clubhouse project. We did get a design from Xcel Energy for the movement of the switch box, Mr. Hopp explained, it could be 10 to 12 weeks to schedule. We have decided to give A & P notice to proceed to start doing whatever they can, Mr. Hopp discussed.

Mr. Hopp provided an update on the pools renovation project. He discussed a two-foot diameter corrugated galvanized pipe that was discovered at Columbine West.

IX. DECISION ITEMS:

A. Memorial Bench Application

Referring to the memo provided, Colin Insley explained staff received an application for a memorial bench at Willow Creek Park, and pointed out a location map and wording on the plaque.

MOTION: Director Writz moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the memorial bench request from Ms. Vasicek and Ms. Roe to be installed at Willow Creek Park. Director Trimble seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director Trimble, aye; Director Writz, aye; Director Meyer, aye. The motion was approved.

B. Memorial Bench Plaque Replacement Request

Referring to the memo provided, Mr. Insley pointed out a location map of Easton Regional Park. He explained a few years ago he came before the Board to seek permission and approval for a plaque that was for the family's pets. Since then a family member passed away, and they are requesting to replace the plaque. Mr. Insley pointed out wording for the replacement plaque.

MOTION: Director Trimble moved that the Foothills Board of Directors approve the plaque request form Ms. Elley Peterson to be installed at Robert A. Easton Regional Park. Director Writz seconded the motion. Poll of the Board: Director Bielkiewicz, aye; Director Trimble, aye; Director Writz, aye; Director Meyer, aye. The motion was approved.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

The regular meeting was adjourned at 8:28pm. The next regular board meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Submitted by: Richelle Riley, Recording Secretary