

**Wednesday, March 19, 2008
7:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
Town of Parker Field House
18700 E. Plaza Drive
Parker, CO 80134**

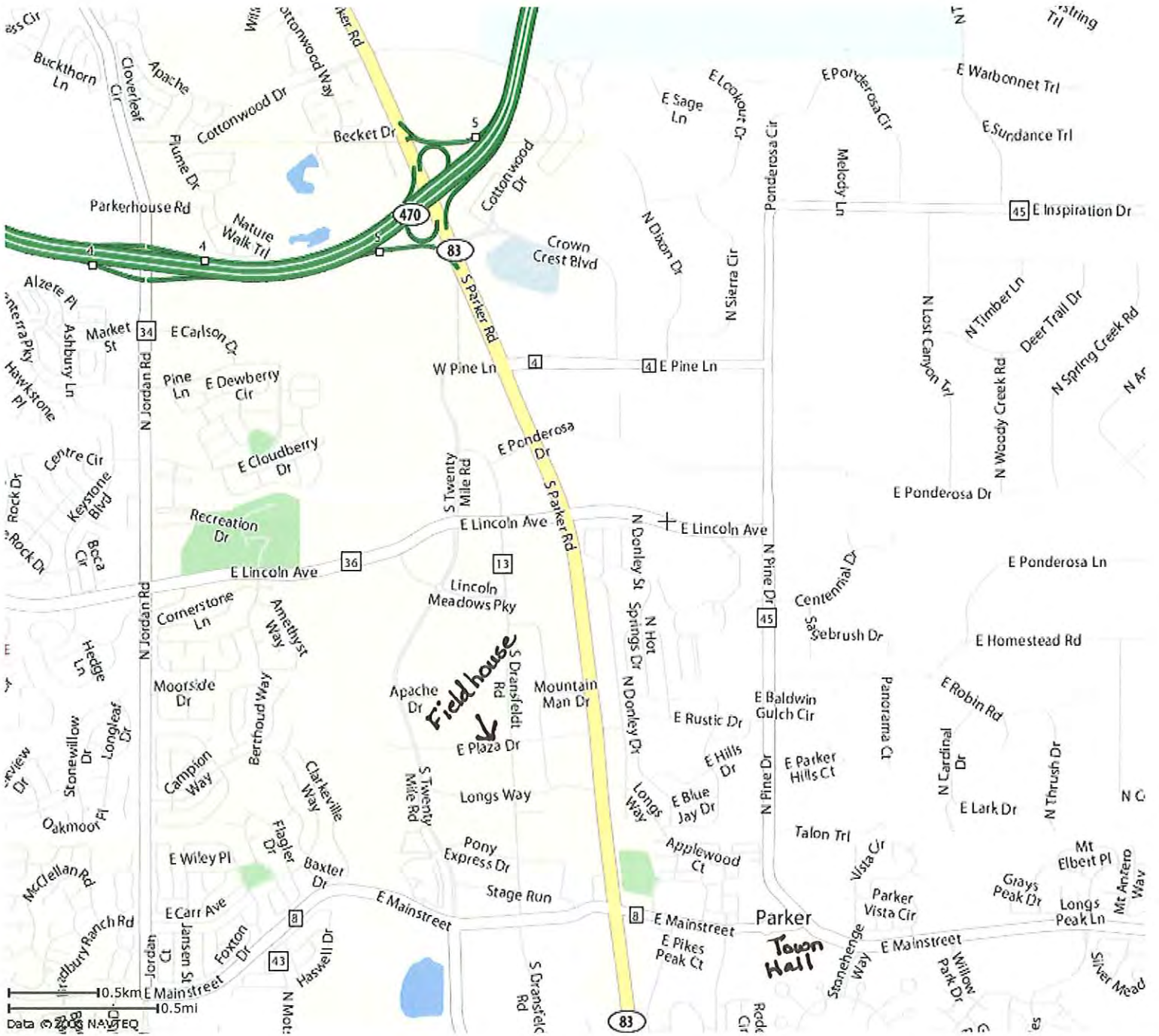
MEETING AGENDA

- 7:00 a.m. **Breakfast**
- 7:30 a.m. **Call to Order & Introductions** – Elton Winters
- 7:35 a.m. **Welcome and Jurisdictional Update** – Parker
- 7:40 a.m. **Jurisdictional Updates** (*Please limit to 5 minutes each*)
Castle Rock Douglas County
Larkspur Douglas County Libraries
Lone Tree Douglas County School District
- 8:10 a.m. **Civic Engagement**
- 8:50 a.m. **Early Childhood Coalition**
- 9:05 a.m. **Youth Congress**
- 9:10 a.m. **Monthly Manager’s Update**
 Environmental Sustainability
 Joint Dispatch
 Partnership Award Proposal
- 9:25 a.m. **Listing of Action Items from Meeting**
- 9:30 a.m. **Adjourn**

NEXT MEETING:
Hosted by the Douglas County Libraries
April 16, 2008

Attachments:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Parker Field House map | Letter regarding Early Childhood Coalition |
| Civic Engagement Summary | Youth Congress Agenda & Fact Sheet |
| | Memo on Partnership Award Proposal |



18700 E Plaza Drive

Partnership of Douglas County Governments
Chris Gates Speech on Civic Engagement
February 20, 2008

Challenges to Engagement

- 1. Information/technology revolution**
- 2. Diversity now everywhere**
- 3. Angry citizens**
- 4. Cynical media**

1. Information/technology revolution (challenge to all our decisions) -
Everyone has access to data. Everyone thinks they know enough to have a seat at the decision making table. People are self empowered, but may not be well informed. Once someone says they want to be involved we (government) have to create ways and paths for citizens to be informed and involved.
2. Diversity now everywhere -
Diversity includes “new comers” and “old timers” in a community. Diversity brings with it a diversity of operating style, communication styles, etc.
3. Angry citizens -
People are not involved because they are mad and not because they are apathetic and do not care. People are rational political actors. The act of not voting may be a choice.
4. Cynical media -
We believe everything is spin and nothing is real in the media. The result is that we believe there is less shared value and more conflict. There is a shared value concept in communities. The concept of community is full of shared value – regarding what is a good community, safe community, parks and recreation, etc. There is a shared notion of what makes a good/nice community.

Other Insights

People are too busy. Commuting time has increased, as has TV watching.

We need to reinvent our models to engage people to fit their lifestyles.

Young citizens do not vote. Civics is no longer taught in schools. We (community and schools) need to teach new civics. We need to teach why it is important to be a citizen, what is involved, etc.

If people want to help run the world, or change it, or lead, it is not necessary to run for office, but you can be involved in community activities such as church, rotary club, etc.

One of keys to get young people engaged is to embrace technology.

Local Governments adapting to the challenges

1. Government no longer owns the public agenda.
The government may be the steward and the guardian of public agenda, but there is no way we can ask government to do it alone. It is unfair to ask government to do it alone. Big government is not wanted anymore and can not solve society's problems.
The public agenda is jointly held.
The studies of the most successful communities that exist in America today show that the private and non profit sectors have stepped up in a major way to play a role in helping that community be great.
 - i. Old models of public involvement don't work very well.
 - ii. There is a huge effort by local government to reinvent public involvement.
2. The notion of public meetings, public hearings, and advisory councils feels a little tired – it doesn't really fit how people live their lives. There is experimentation using blogs, list servers to get citizen input, but there is a huge amount of reinvention going on about how government gets public input and there is a general recognition that the input you get at traditional forums are the gatekeepers or the professional citizens. If you want to move past professional citizens to find out why the community thinks you've got to do business in a different way.
3. Collaboration has gone from being a nicety to a necessity. What local government is learning is that unless you collaborate aggressively across jurisdictional lines it is really hard to get things done. People need to figure out what their issues of shared concern and shared values are and how they can work together.

Successful communities across the country, are communities that:

Aggressively collaborate

They don't consider collaboration a professional favor, they are doing for someone.

They consider collaboration a fundamental tenant of how they do business, how they do work and how they partner with other people.

Three aspects of public life need to be reinvented

1. How we listen – find ways to have different kinds of communication
 - Dialog vs. deliberation (listen and build on that).

2. How we lead – asking the right questions and empowering others
 - Sharing the power
3. How we live – citizenship is about engaging
 - There is an obligation to be involved and give back

Reinvent how we listen:

We need to find a way to have different kinds of conversations in our communities that are more authentic. There is a distinction that can be made between deliberation and dialog. Dialog is what most communities have. Deliberation is something very different. What passes for deliberation and community dialog doesn't work and is not authentic citizen engagement. **Deliberation** means that you're going to listen to what I have to say and you're going to respond to it directly, listen and build upon what each other says. There is no shortage in America of places for people to say what they think and feel. The shortage in America are places people feel that they are heard. *Citizens aren't angry because they don't get to talk, they're angry because they don't think anyone is listening.*

Communities have figured out how to change the dynamic of a community and bleed some of the anger out by:

1. Ask them what they think.
2. Listen *actively and with respect* to what they have to say; you don't necessarily need to agree but you need to *respond*. It's OK not to agree.
3. Respond substantively – this totally changes the dynamic of how people interact with one another.

Reinvent how we lead:

People used to seek power so they could impose their will on others. Leaders have a new frame, empowering others and sharing the power that you have. They have learned that *local* is where the reinvention of our democracy is going on. It's not about having all the answers it's about asking all the right questions and then being a part of the conversation.

The concept of leadership is really changing and people are not talking about.

Catalytic leadership – how do you catalyze change?

Convening Leadership – how do you use your power to convene people?

Servant Leadership – how do you, as a leader, serve the people who put you in place?

Reinvent how we live:

Fundamentally it is about a shift from being manipulative and transactional to something that is more *transformational* and thinking about *shared values*. It is about finding common ground.

Democracy has shifted and changed - for many people they've grown up in a world with government as the mother or father figure - to a society of government as the patriarch; believing that we can live our lives the way we want to and someone else will take care of us.

One of the things successful local governments are on the cusp of is reinventing citizenship as a more muscular notion. Citizenship isn't just about living but about engaging and giving back; getting involved and being part of the solution.

Social change is codified in Washington but is not created there. Change gets there last not first. Social change starts in the hearts and minds where people say "I'm going to live my life in a different way". The first evidence of social change is in the way people choose to live their lives in their communities.

The indicator for the health of America's democracy:

"If we are going to have the foresight that our forefathers had 100 years ago to reinvent democracy and make it more relevant to the times, it will happen because it started in places like Douglas County.'

Douglas County Youth Initiative Program Collaborative Partners
Jamie LaRue, Douglas County Libraries

Dear Jamie,

I am writing on behalf of the Douglas County Early Childhood Coalition. This group has been in existence for 12 years, with the goal of encouraging community connections that support families and child care providers and promoting a high quality of life for young children. Historically, our membership has included Arapahoe Community College, Douglas County Libraries, Douglas County School District, TriCounty Health Department, Douglas County Extension Office, Arapahoe/Douglas Mental Health, Douglas County Parents As Teachers, Developmental Pathways, Child Care Innovations: Resource and Referral at Red Rocks Community College and others. We voluntarily meet regularly to network our various agencies and to present workshops for parents and child care providers.

Recently we became aware of an opportunity to become the recognized Early Childhood Council for Douglas County. This involved applying for a grant through the Colorado Department of Education. In early 2007, we were awarded the grant as an Emerging Council, with funds to hire a coordinator for the Coalition. As we attended training sessions for groups like ours, it occurred to us that in Douglas County we have a unique precedent for this kind of position. We believe we have an opportunity to develop a seamless continuum for families of children of all ages by using the Youth Initiatives model. The mission of the DCECC is to serve families of children, birth to eight, and the DC Youth Initiative Program focuses on age and eight and older.

We propose an Intergovernmental Agreement between the same entities that collaborate to create and support the Youth Initiative Program. In the case of the Douglas County Early Childhood Coalition Coordinator, the funds for the salary would be provided through the Colorado Department of Education grant. While we do not need funding, we value the credibility an Intergovernmental Agreement would give to the Coalition and the coordinator.

We do not have a guarantee that the grant will be renewed every year, but there is a ten-year history of the existing councils having their grants renewed. We are still in the process of developing the coordinator position and exploring how the person will be housed and what agency will be the direct employer. Douglas County School District is taking on the responsibility of getting the position started and we are talking with Douglas County Human Services about their role in the long term. We expect to hire the coordinator in January 2008.

We believe that early childhood education for families is of great importance to strong communities. Successful early years set the stage for success in school and life. We are eager to share our vision and hope to meet with you to discuss how we can work together.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Queen
Douglas County Libraries, Literacy Specialist

The first annual
Douglas county youth congress
Saturday, April 12th, 2008
9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Southridge Recreation Center
Wildcat Auditorium
4800 McArthur Ranch Road
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130

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|------------|--|
| 8:30 a.m. | Check-In |
| 9:00 a.m. | Youth Congress Starts! |
| 9:15 a.m. | State Legislator Panel |
| 10:00 a.m. | Keynote Speaker |
| 10:30 a.m. | <i>Break</i> |
| 10:45 a.m. | YOUTH: Small Policy Action Groups
ADULT POLICY MAKERS: Youth Input - - How to Get & Use It |
| 12:15 p.m. | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 1:00 p.m. | YOUTH: Prep for Policy Presentations to Partnership Members |
| 1:30 p.m. | Policy Recommendation Presentations by Youth Action Groups |
| 2:30 p.m. | What Happens Next: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal Policy Recommendation Presentations to Partnership• Making a Commitment to Public Service• And We're Outta Here! |

FIRST-EVER DOUGLAS COUNTY YOUTH CONGRESS

April 12th, 2008

Fact Sheet

WHAT:

- Policy suggestions / action plans (collective, not individual) which will be presented to adult leaders
- Youth attendees who have some common sense tools on how to advocate for their views with adults
- Influential adult attendees (policy makers) who are prepared to listen to and communicate well with kids
- Concrete ways for teens to influence policy that affects them
- Opportunities for dialogue on important youth issues
- Opportunities for continued activism on the part of youth attendees

Purpose:

- Youth learn to advocate for their views experientially by working on youth/family issues in Douglas County.

WHEN:

- April 12th, 2008 (a Saturday)
- 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (registration from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m.)

WHERE:

- Southridge Recreation Center, 4800 McArthur Ranch Rd. in Highlands Ranch

WHO:

Youth Participants:

- 9th – 12th graders
- Recruitment from ALL Douglas County high schools, including Eagle Academy, DC Oakes, Bridges, the Student Support Center, etc. (10 nominated from each school)
- Diverse kids with leadership ability or potential...

Adult Participants:

- Summit attendees:

- Partnership of DC Gov'ts entities; all members of each entity invited
- Chiefs of Police & DC Sheriff
- Staff (particularly those staff members who attend Partnership meetings)
- State Legislators
- Facilitators:
 - Keynote Speaker - - Joseph Neguse
 - 2002 TRHS Graduate
 - Student Body President, University of Colorado
 - Attending law school at CU
 - Running for Regent at CU this year
 - Youth Small Group Leaders
 - Adult Group Coach
 - Issue Educators

HOW:

- Experiential education for youth attendees on how to get their voices heard
 - Youth will develop policy recommendations on current issues that affect them:
 - Youth Access to Tobacco
 - After School Activities & Supervision - - 3 to 6 p.m. Window
 - Tagging / Graffiti
 - Status (age-related) Offenses
- Workshop for adult leaders on how to get and include youth voice in policy decisions
- Facilitators:
 - Overall - - Carla
 - Keynote Speaker - - Joseph Neguse
 - Youth Small Group Leaders
 - Adult Group Coach
 - Issue Educators

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:

- Adult leaders will leave with policy recommendations (collective, not individual) from youth attendees
- Youth attendees will leave with common-sense tools on how to advocate for their views with adults
- Teens will leave with concrete ways to influence policy that affects them
- Influential adult attendees (policy makers) will leave prepared to solicit and include youth input into policy decisions
- Youth & adults will have an opportunity for dialogue on important youth issues.



**PARTNERSHIP OF
DOUGLAS COUNTY GOVERNMENTS**

COLLABORATE • INNOVATE • LEAD

To: Partnership of Douglas County Governments

From: Communications Subcommittee

Subject: Partnership Award

Civic Engagement is a priority initiative for the Partnership in 2008. Knowing that to move a community toward a Civic Engagement model is a process not an event, there is an assumption being made by the Communications Subcommittee that while 2008 is the first year of the initiative, this approach to governance will be alive beyond 2008.

Along that line of thinking the Subcommittee then acknowledged that the Partnership of Douglas County Governments is a model of Civic Engagement. With collaboration at the root of the Partnership of Douglas County Governments, we are a prime example of what successful communities across the County are doing. As Chris Gates said – “Collaboration has gone from being a nicety to a necessity. Successful communities across the County are communities that aggressively collaborate.....they consider collaboration a fundamental tenant of how they operate, how they do work and how they partner with other people.”

Therefore as the Partnership is a model of Civic Engagement and Civic Engagement is an organizational priority for each member, the Subcommittee recommends that the Partnership award should honor the tenets of Civic Engagement – not in a self-congratulatory way, but in ways that recognize the citizen role in effective civic engagement.

There was unanimous acceptance that Commissioner Worley was the energy behind the creation of the Partnership and its sustenance since it was founded in 2001.

Therefore the recommendation is that the Award should be named the Melanie Worley Civic Engagement Award honoring her for creating the environment that led to the creation of the Partnership and then led us to a focus on civic engagement.

This annual citizen award - in which each Partnership member organization would nominate a citizen who embodies the tenets of civic engagement – would allow us to recognize citizen leaders in our communities, localizing the award - and the newsworthiness - for each community.

Next Steps

If the Partnership supports this direction, the Committee will then take the next step of developing Award criteria, etc.