



**May 20, 2009**  
**Highlands Ranch Metro District**  
**62 West Plaza Drive**  
**Highlands Ranch, CO**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**MEMBER ATTENDEES:**

Castle Pines: Doug Gilbert

Castle Rock: Sally Misare

Larkspur: Matt Krimmer

Lone Tree: Patricia Braden, Jackie Millet, Michelle Kivela

Parker: Scott Jackson, Phyllis O'Reilly, David Casiano, Patti McKee

Douglas County: Jill Repella, Wendy Holmes

Douglas County Libraries: Demetria Heath, Jaime LaRue

Douglas County School District: Kristine Turner, Steve Herzog

Highlands Ranch Metro District: Vicky Starkey, Terry Nolan

**GUESTS:**

Gary Dubus, HR Backcountry Wilderness,  
Tom Hoby, Equestrian Center, Spring Gulch  
Kati Carter, Douglas County

**CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS – Scott Jackson**

Acting Chairman Scott Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the west side of Douglas County.

Attendees introduced themselves.

**WELCOME** – Highlands Ranch Metro District

Vicky Starkey welcomed everyone to their District Office.

## **JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES**

**Douglas County** – Jill Repella reported that the board is reaching out to the community to gather information in several areas and are looking to work closer with the business community. The board is establishing an Economic Advisory Committee of a diverse group of small and large business members, a sort of “constructive think tank” to provide input. Their desire is to create a fertile environment for the business community by improving processes and determining other perceived roadblocks.

**Highlands Ranch Metro District** – Vicky Starkey welcomed everyone to their first hosting of the PDCG meeting and introduced Gary Debus of Highlands Ranch Back Country Wilderness Area. Gary gave a power point presentation on the history of 8,200 acres of open space that the community can utilize for recreation. Included in this area are archeology sites, sacred Indian grounds, a working cattle ranch, several homesteads, trail systems and wildlife habitat.

Tom Hoby also shared with the group a power point presentation about the Spring Gulch Equestrian Center and remarked that this project was a great example of how a good partnership works. The park includes 105 acres, with a five acre pond. The Colorado State Park and the current land managers asked Highland Ranch Metro District to take over the management of this land beginning the first part of June 2009. HR agreed with the plan to enable them to pursue several improvement goals to make this area more compatible to the neighbors and allow for better use of the different facilities. Improvements include buffer areas between residents and activity areas, increased parking at Shea stadium, a fishing pier, regional trails and soccer fields. There are a multitude of partners including Douglas County, the School District, their Metro District’s lottery proceeds, the Water District, a church and several equestrian clubs.

**Castle Pines North** – Doug Gilbert reported that their current focus is on a future annexation project and that there would be more information coming in the near future.

**Castle Rock** – Sally Misare reported that Castle Rock had to make more budget cuts this last week including the lay off of several employees and the mandate of several furlough days. She shared that seven and half million dollars had been cut from the budget so far this year. She commented that the town was “Going forth on a small but mighty scale”.

**Larkspur** – Matt Krimmer reported their town had just completed the IFB proposals for the Birmingham project with four proposals being submitted. They had quite a bit of interest with seventeen firms attending the conference and expect to award the contract at the next Council meeting. They are completing the contract for trash service and the operation of the dump facility, which will be open to residents and non-residents for a small fee, and will be open on Saturdays beginning the first part of June. Matt mentioned several upcoming festivals/celebrations to include the Renaissances Festival, the Spring Fling and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

**Lone Tree** – Pat Braden announced the opening of Prairie Scott Park, a city owned park. The celebration included kite flying, a Frisbee toss and activities at the ball fields, basketball courts and playground, with a large number of residents in attendance.

Americana music was the focus of the recent Symphony presentation including a new artist named Laura Johnson. An architect has been hired for the future Cultural Center, and the pool is scheduled for its grand opening on June 11.

**Parker** – Scott Jackson announced the grand opening of the Railbender Park on May 30. Staff is working on a coyote management plan with Centennial and other municipalities. For information contact Phyllis O'Reilly. Jeannene is working on the selection process for the Economic Development position. The Country Festival will be held on June 13 and 14 and the Chamber has hired Ben Snow as their new Director.

David Casiano mentioned that “Parkerfest on Mainstreet” would be held every Sunday throughout the summer and that the Farmers Market would be located on the west side of Parker Road. Council approved a new Urban Renewal Plan. The stadium is moving along well, people are excited about it as well as the Chambers Road connection to help with traffic in that area during events. Parker will once again host a group of Iraqi students this summer, so if anyone has meetings or events the students can attend to please let him know. The students are here to learn about government and our culture. David also said he hoped that people were planning to attend the CML conference in Vail on June 16 through the 19, that it would be a great opportunity for people to get together from the various municipalities and share information.

**Douglas County** – Wendy Holmes reported that staff was working on government policies which were taking most of their time. DC recently hosted an Executive from the Center for Digital Government. Wendy stated that the county is constantly trying to keep up on what is happening with web sites. One of the comments she made was that in the next five years most citizens will expect more mobile applications from their government. DC also reported the launch of the web site [www.dcoutdoors.org](http://www.dcoutdoors.org) which is a collaborative effort between Parks, Trails and Open Space, Public Affairs and Television Divisions. It is packed with information like videos, events and will work well for “staycations” i.e., keeping people in Douglas County for their vacation time. The electronic recycling and shredding event will be held in Castle Rock on June 13. Commissioners will be attending the CCI Conference from June 8 thru the 10th. The County Fair is coming up in August.

**Douglas County Libraries** – Demetria Heata spoke of the first round of budget reductions. Also spoke about the closing of the Cherry Valley Satellite and was happy to report that with a change in hours, they are able to keep the other library open.

Jamie LaRue recognized DC8 for their hard work with Castle Pines North. They have been able to raise thirty thousand dollars for underwriting the cost of a small library in their community. The funds will allow the library to run for at least three years. Jamie reported that he recently returned from an International Gathering of Librarians where he had the opportunity to interview young librarians from all over the world.

**Douglas County School District** – Kristine Turner said they were still working on budget adjustments, focusing on staff, larger class sizes, and more creative ways to manage the budget. She mentioned that there are four school board positions up for election this year.

Steve Herzog mentioned that bus route changes are being made which include a county walk safe, play safe mapping program. Teacher's contracts are still being negotiated and will include a change to their HSA plan. Wellness programs are the hot topic right now with a special Get-fit program that includes wearing pedometers and recording their steps/mileage. This program has been such a success that three thousand more pedometers will be purchased next year.

Questions regarding keeping the quality of education at a high level are being asked. Due to budget cuts, the district is looking at other ways to educate students through partnerships, the internet, and they expect classrooms will have a different look in the near future.

Kristine mentioned that Arapahoe/Douglas County Works is offering a great opportunity to utilize youth interns (ages 14 to 21 years old) for placement in learning positions. She stated that if anyone had interest, that Kim Mamidei would be the contact person.  
kamidei@co.arapahoe.co.us

### **PROMOTING VALUED BASED GOVERNMENT**

Jamie LaRue asked everyone to write out three to four quick words for two questions he asked the group. The questions were, 1) how do we change the way that government is viewed by the public. 2) Why did you want to work for government?

He wanted to show the group a new online "wordle.net" application that creates a summary or word picture of the responses. He said he would send everyone the results via email later that day and that he wanted to engage in this exercise to prove a point about the perceived image of government and the need to work on changing that image.

### **2009 PARTNERSHIP / MELANIE WORLEY AWARD**

Wendy Holmes shared with the group a quick overview of the Civic engagement award criteria and asked everyone to please look it over and provide input on how to facilitate the award. The decision was made to discuss this topic at the next Managers meeting.

### **MONTHLY UPDATE**

#### **Environmental Sustainability**

Kati Carter gave a quick update on Douglas County's Sustainability Team efforts and how they have been working on putting together a list of options for their Energy Efficiency Grant money. She reported that staff have gathered a lot of information and are planning to propose the money be used for matching rebate programs and/or incentives to citizens, traffic light synchronizing, public outreach, and recycling projects. The group is hoping to gather as much information from the public as possible and finalize a list for the June 3 work session with Commissioners. The grant deadline is June 25.

Wendy reminded everyone that this grant money is actually seed money and is meant to be sustainable over the long term and create jobs.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

Wendy reported that the committee did not meet.

Wendy had some additional updates from Douglas County. She stated that staff were working with RTD on a marketing campaign to increase ridership to avoid the threat of discontinued services. David Casiano mentioned that Jack O'Boyle and Kent Bagley from Highlands Ranch should be brought to the table as our representatives on transportation issues.

Wendy spoke about Public Outreach with regards to the Energy Efficiency Block Grant. She stated that she wasn't sure there was a need for financial assistance from the jurisdictions in this area especially since DC have the websites built, television network thru DC8, and staff available to put together the materials. She mentioned that the only thing that might be needed was a budget for mailing DVD's and print productions, but commented that by sending these mailings out, it was not being green.

Wendy discussed having public events in the form of a traveling green event or fair that would give the public ideas on how to be green. David Casiano stated he would like to see some sort of demonstration project in the county.

### **Managers Meeting Update**

Matt Krimmer provided the Managers meeting update stating that Mimi Martin is working on recommendations to the Managers group for an Economic Development forum or summit. The forum would be made up of economic development and chamber of commerce staff from around the county with the purpose of discussing ways to improve economic conditions in Douglas County. This report lead to a discussion on the need to establish a regional business center, similar to the Tech Center in Douglas County to draw new employers to our area. David Casiano commented that we needed to look at Douglas County as a whole and not just focus on individual municipalities.

It was also reported that the Transportation Sub-Committee met and decided to move forward with regional transportation, working with DRCOG and CDOT in the sharing of information. Meetings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 8:30 a.m. with the next meeting being held on June 8 at the Park Meadows Center.

### **LISTING OF ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING**

No action items.

Chairman David Casiano adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patti McKee, Executive Assistant  
Town of Parker

*NEXT MEETING:*  
*Douglas County School District*  
*June 17, 2009*