



Wednesday, September 16, 2009
Castle Rock
Douglas County Libraries, Phillip S Miller Library

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBER ATTENDEES:

Castle Pines North: Doug Gilbert

Castle Rock: Randy Reed, Mark Stevens, Sally Misare

Larkspur: Matt Krimmer

Lone Tree: Patricia Braden, Jackie Millet, Jack Hidahl

Parker: David Casiano, Jeannene Bragg, Phyllis O'Reilly, Rosemary Sietsema

Douglas County: Doug De Bord, Jill Repella, Wendy Holmes

Douglas County Libraries: Jamie La Rue, Demeira Heath

Douglas County School District: Kristine Turner

Highlands Ranch Metro District: Terry Nolan, Vicky Starkey

GUESTS: Fran Santagata, Douglas County Sheriff, Elizabeth Marchetti, AICP, Senior Planner, Douglas County

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Acting Chairman Jeannene Bragg called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Attendees introduced themselves.

WELCOME

Jamie La Rue welcomed everyone to Castle Rock.

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES

Douglas County School District – Kristine Turner reported on the interim Superintendent:

- Steve Herzog was named interim Superintendent
- The district is conducting a nationwide, public search process for a new Superintendent

Douglas County Libraries – Jamie La Rue said the new Castle Pines Library will open on September 19 at 11:00 a.m. He described the library as 2500 square feet that was completed in less than ten weeks and cost under \$100K. He said over half of that was provided by the local community. He invited everyone to the grand opening. Jamie said there is a three year window for use of the library and after that sustainability will be questionable.

Castle Pines North – Doug Gilbert said Castle Pines North is happy to have a new library. Doug said October 22 there will be a Public Hearing vote on a large annexation at the request of the applicant. He said a petition was approved to dissolve the Castle Pines North Metro district. The town's preliminary budget analysis is complete and looks good. There is a contested election for Mayor and uncontested election for Ward 3.

Castle Rock – Randy Reed reported on the “Rock Your Dollar” campaign that runs from September 1 to September 30. The campaign includes t-shirts and the ability to earn \$50 gift cards to town businesses following a \$500 purchase at local businesses. The gift cards can be used in any increments and swiped like regular debit cards. 390 gift cards have been issued to date. Sponsorships have helped off-set the marketing costs of the campaign that had \$100K in it.

Randy also reported on the “Rocky Renovation” program that runs from September 1 to September 30 for renovations of bathrooms, kitchens, etc. The program allows for the waiver of building permit fees. \$100K was allocated for this program and has been used; Town Council approved increasing that to \$125K which will extend the program until the additional \$25K is used up or until September 30, whichever happens first.

Randy said both programs have been an economic success with the support of the citizens, sponsors and staff.

Highlands Ranch Metro District – Terry Nolan said a report will be given on Wild Cat Regional Park later in the meeting.

Larkspur – Matt Krimmer reported that the campground annexation is scheduled for Public Hearing on September 21, 2009 and he doesn't anticipate a decision for a couple of months due to ongoing negotiations with the applicant.

The park enhancement project has completed with some significant changes to the restrooms being installed by early next week. The park enhancements have received

compliments. There are replaced restrooms from the park available for sale if anyone has a need.

Pat Braden suggested the restrooms be advertised for sale, at no charge, in the CML newsletter that reaches statewide.

Lone Tree – Pat Braden reported that money was given to the Gabby Krause Foundation from the Youth Commission which raised over \$1K in their inaugural event. The Foundation distributes “Bags of Fun” containing small electronics that are distributed to children undergoing cancer treatment. “Hearts Across America” is the Lone Tree charity event that has received over \$10K to deliver packages to military personnel. The Colorado Children’s Chorale will be playing Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The Lone Tree Symphony will have a fall concert October 9. Work is being done on the Cultural Arts Center. The Youth Congress will meet at 9 a.m. on October 3 at the Villa Parker in Parker. Pat encouraged everyone to attend as it is meaningful to the youth that they are being heard.

Parker – Jeannene Bragg reported that ground has broken on the new police facility. The budget process is on-going.

Douglas County – Jill Repella said the Board has been working on very clear, focused policies that are about ready to be adopted; once adopted they will be shared with the Partnership. The Business Economic Advisory Committee (BEAC) has produced a draft report for comments prior to the final draft. The Board also formed the Rural Framework Committee that is working on a report in about three weeks. There is a Site Selector Conference organized by the Denver Metro Chamber to aid corporations in determining areas to expand or relocate their business. All Douglas County will be included in the conference. Work has been done on how to best roll out the entire County to the Site Selectors. The Art Encounters People’s Choice Awards Reception and Open House is Friday at 5 p.m. at the Recreation Center.

Pat Braden said the Art Encounters People’s Choice Awards Reception and Open House is one of the most unifying events of Douglas County. The Douglas County Cultural Council expanded the vision with a county wide theme of a sculpture garden with one in Parker, Castle Rock, Lone Tree and Highlands Ranch. Everyone was encouraged to attend the awards ceremony.

Guests:

Fran Santagata from the Sheriffs Department gave an update provided by the Center for Disease Control on H1N1. It appears only one vaccination is necessary instead of two, as previously thought. Points of Distribution (PODs) have been identified for free vaccinations and they will be in service for the public for a period of six weeks. The PODs will reduce the time and issues of the public waiting in lines. The health care community does this on a regular basis and information will be on the website. There still

is no word on the predicted severity of an H1N1 outbreak. It is anticipated the first push for the H1N1 vaccine for high risk individuals will be mid-October and late October for everyone else.

Fran reported that Operation Neptune is being organized for a large hazmat exercise that will include all local emergency personnel, state, federal and Homeland Security personnel and the public, as well.

- A prescribed low-risk burn will take place in Bayou Gulch to enhance the bio-diversity of the park and to provide a valuable training opportunity. There will be media outreach to provide awareness of the planned burn.
- The 2003 Arapahoe-Douglas Hazmat Authority agreement provides training, equipment and exercise capabilities to the hazmat firefighter technicians for both counties for the last six years. Budget items have been heavily scrutinized and the costs for this agreement should be evaluated for effectiveness by all. The Douglas County Sheriff has decided to opt out of the agreement for lack of control over available funds. It is recommended that everyone work through the same process and take the necessary steps to opt out as well, where appropriate, by the end of September. Douglas County will provide a Douglas County Hazmat Authority for all entities in Douglas County. The County will decide upfront how the money will be spent.
- The costs paid to the Arapahoe-Douglas Hazmat Authority per entity are:
 - Littleton \$2400 (split between two Authorities)
 - Town of Castle Rock \$2600
 - Larkspur \$18
 - Town of Parker \$2300
 - Douglas County \$12,000
 - Lone Tree \$1700
 - Arapahoe County \$4400
 - Centennial \$6700

David Casiano requested an email be sent to all entities with the shared information to present to the respective Town Councils so that action can be taken by the end of September.

Wendy reported that Douglas County was in the national news in the Business Journal with a Nielson Company ranking of No. 5 in the United States with a population of ages between 25 through 34 who make at least a \$100K year. The headline reads: Colorado a Haven for the Young and Rich. This shows that what is being done toward economic development is working.

Bonnie Osborn, from the Douglas County Housing Partnership reported:

- Down payment assistance has doubled this year due to the increase in foreclosures.

- The \$8K stimulus package for home buyers has provided good support and a huge success for the housing market.
- It appears the foreclosure rates will continue into 2010 and 2011 before the price of homes will increase again.
- CDBG is about to run out of money
- The cash-in-lieu program for working with developers has the Commissioners working to bolster funds.
- The State has awarded \$1M toward the County Stabilization Project to purchase foreclosed properties within the boundaries of Highway 86 on the North, Plum Creek Ridge on the South, I-25 on the West and Highway 83 on the East. The Commissions are ready to sign the contract that will provide money until September of 2010.

Douglas County Human Services – Doug DeBord introduced Barbara Drake and offered her services to the Partnership.

Barbara reported on:

- The increased demand for services
- The ability to leverage the local Douglas County funding
- The attached document highlighting Human Services

Bonnie Osborn thanked Barbara for the work she does toward saving her organization about \$1K a month.

David Casiano thanked Barbara, as well.

Wild Cat Regional Park Update

Doug DeBord and Terry Nolan provided a general overview on the attached Wild Cat Regional Park document.

- Historical time-line
- Partners
- Common Goals
- Potential for the Park
- Map of the Park
- Concept facilities for the Park

The need for swim facilities was discussed and Doug said that this need would be considered for further research. The ball fields are planned to be synthetic turf.

Roundtable Discussion on Direction of Compensation and Healthcare for 2010

Douglas County - Jack Hidahl reported:

- There is a draft budget considering compensation, but not yet approved.
- Mountain States said compensation in the region is 1.7%
- There are no plans for furloughs or lay-offs
- Looking at a 15.6% increase in health insurance.

Highlands Ranch Metro - Terry Nolan reported:

- Member of Colorado Employer Benefit Trust that was formed in 1980
- There are 240 Public Employers in the Trust supporting 16K employees
- In the last six years there has been between 5 & 9 percent increases in healthcare.
- This year there will be a 5.5% increase
- Medical cost are less than last year with a premium holiday
- Is available to all government agencies in Colorado
- The Metro District pays 100% medical, vision and dental for employees
- Compensation of up 4.2% is being considered
- Mill levy may be down
- May spend more on Fire and emergency services
- May not have pay raises
- Not planning on furloughs or lay-offs

Castle Rock – Mark Stevens

- No employee raises
- No new dollars for compensation in 2010
- Three unpaid furlough days
- Self-insured for health insurance with a 9% increase in 2010
- Restructured health care plan for employees to pay more in co-pays and limit Town costs

Larkspur – Matt Kimmer

- Hasn't begun budget process yet
- Not anticipating any changes
- Planning on small pay increase
- Town provides monthly stipend for health care

Douglas County Libraries - Jamie La Rue

- We have balanced through attrition and reorganizing to prevent job loss
- Attempting to request a 3% increase for merit for the remaining employees that have taken on additional responsibilities and reward productivity
- Use PERA for our healthcare and plan to maintain current structure

Castle Pines – Doug Gilbert

- Private/Public partnership with CH2MHill on a pay-as-you-go process for city administration
- May be a problem with dissolution of the Castle Pines Metro District later on in the third or fourth quarter

Town of Parker – Jeannene Bragg

- Still working through budget process
- Put out bids for health care plans- may be a 20% increase - there may be plan changes with raised co-pays

- Compensation will be directly affected by the cost of the health care plan
- No formal presentation to Town Council for merit increases yet, but may propose a 0 – 2% increase depending on health care costs
- Have discussed furloughs and hope to not have to do furloughs or lay-offs

Douglas County – Doug De Bord

- Benefits plan year runs July 1 to June 30
- Tough plan design changes made three years ago
- Looking at a 6 – 10% increase in health care costs and plan to pass some on to employees
- Looking to reward employees that have had to take on more
- Cut 12% of full-time workers already

MONTHLY UPDATE

Jeannene Bragg

- The Melanie Worley Award is ready for nominations.
- The Economic Development Subcommittee suggested having a CEO Roundtable comprised of local CEOs to discuss business needs in the areas of recruitment and concerns under the banner of the Partnership

Jamie La Rue

- Public Engagement Process Results (*Please see attached*). Outcome was supported by both positive and negative words used to describe government.
- Jamie recommended follow-up training with staff - making a shift in the words we use when we describe government to be more positive.
- Suggest a coordinated public message campaign, choosing a theme

Sustainability Update

Elizabeth Marchetti, AICP, Senior Planner, Douglas County reported on:

- Scope of work from the Green Partners Group (*Please see attached*)
- The Group is available to facilitate efforts for goal setting to craft a document for the Partnership to sign-off on
- Douglas County has kicked-off the Sustainability Initiative with anticipation of having members on an advisory committee with representatives from the Green Partners Group
- Looking to have advisory committee seated by the middle of October
- Applications are on the County's website for business representatives and county residents that are interested in dealing with social and economic and environment issues

LISTING OF ACTION ITEMS FROM MEETING

- CEO Roundtable to move forward by the Economic Development Subcommittee
- Fran Santagata will send out letters regarding opt-out of Arapahoe/Douglas Hazmat Authority

Acting Chair Jeannene Bragg adjourned the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Sietsema
Executive Assistant
Town of Parker

NEXT MEETING:
Pony Espresso Coffee and Tea Café
9080 Spruce Mountain Road
Larkspur, CO
October 21, 2009