

TEAM HIGHLANDS RANCH
MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 17, 2007

The meeting was convened at Team Highlands Ranch on September 17, 2007 at approximately 5:10 p.m., after some socialization and dinner provided by the Douglas County Libraries. Members were represented as follows:

Douglas County – Dave Weaver, Cocha Heyden, Wendy Holmes
Douglas County Libraries – Pam Nissler, Dorothy Hargrove
Metro Board – Terry Nolan, Nancy Smith, Rick Owens, Sherri Eppers
HRCA – Gary DeBus, Jeff Wasden, Paul Meyers
Douglas County School District – Steve Herzog, Jerry Goings, Debby Novotny
Chamber of Commerce – Krista Simonson, Glenn Hagen

Wendy Holmes on behalf of the County reported that Tuesday, September 25, 2007, at the Wildlife Experience, there would be the 2007 Water Summit. She also stated that the County IT Department was in receipt of the Team Highlands Ranch “A-Z” materials and in the process of converting the PDF format to HTML so as to allow for the Google search mechanism for topics/results specific to Highlands Ranch. Jerry Goings on behalf of Highlands Ranch High School noted that the enrollment had stabilized; they are now in the process of the Homecoming and bonfires. Steve Herzog reported that 2,496 new students had moved into the District, bringing the total to approximately 53,000, with boundary meetings anticipated.

It was reported that Douglas County, the HRCA and Shea, had entered into a Letter of Intent relative to an ice arena being constructed in the “back country” near the Wildcat area of Highlands Ranch. Should funding be achieved, from outside sources, the 3 groups are willing to move forward with construction and completion of the ice rink facility. Discussions continue as regards The Mansion, with a potential historic park designation, working between HRCA, Metro Districts and Shea. Sherri Eppers reported that Team Highlands Ranch materials, specifically the A-Z project, were already “live” on the Metro District website.

Nancy Smith was acknowledged for her tireless work in developing the “A-Z Project”, which will be updated periodically by the Metro Districts. Krista Simonson representing the Chamber stated that the organization had almost concluded its search for a new “President” to serve as administrator. She stated that the Team Highlands Ranch concept has been well received by small business. Dave Weaver reported that he anticipates regular stories to be published in “My Hub” a periodical published by the Denver Post mid-week. He introduced Cocha Heyden, the Public Information Officer for the Douglas County Sheriff’s Department, attending the meeting for the first time.

Wendy Holmes then began her presentation to attendees as regards legislative initiatives being raised by the state organization for counties, as well as being independently promoted by Douglas County through legislative representatives. There are 6 proposals to be introduced during the next session of the legislature:

- A. Douglas County is seeking permissive legislation which would allow, as an option, for Douglas County to collect and retain its own sales tax instead of having the business community transmit the tax to the State Department of Revenue, which eventually reissues the tax receipts back to the County.
- B. At present, municipalities can develop their own ordinances; however, the state mandates general ordinances and fine structures to be imposed upon and enforced by the counties. Douglas County wishes to be allowed greater discretion in enforcement of the ordinances, with an emphasis compliance more so than penalties.
- C. Douglas County would like the opportunity to be afforded the option of recording and maintaining land use plats and records electronically, as an official means of preserving records.
- D. For community service organizations, the County prefers to allow the individuals involved to be able to pursue enforcement remedies against violators rather than requiring or mandating District Attorney intervention as the sole power of enforcement.
- E. Douglas County has now located 11 off-road “dirt-bike” tracks, which triggers enforcement of the noise ordinance, an ordinance defined by the state without allowing discretion for enforcement to the counties. This needs to be changed.
- F. At present there is no competition for mandatory publication of legal notices in the Douglas County Free Press. The County would like to amend the law to accommodate legal notices in “Your Web” and other papers or periodicals with significant circulation, or on the internet itself.

Concluding the presentation, Wendy and Terry Nolan made a brief presentation that the County is ready to proceed with hiring, on a part time basis, a Senior Service Coordinator, with Metro graciously providing office space/housing for the individual at the Metro District offices.

There was also presentation of the concept of a “snow angel” to assist with future snow storms. Individuals could volunteer to shovel sidewalks in case of heavy snow; and, perform other matters of community service. The snow ordinance mandates sidewalks clearance within 24 hours, primarily affecting Stonegate and Highlands Ranch. This is extremely difficult for seniors or those with disabilities. The “snow angel” concept would provide a community service project for high school students, with Jerry Goings reporting that there is a 20 hour requirement of service for graduation. Paul Meyers noted that neighborhood groups should be able to handle this internally, accepting responsibility for

their neighbors. Cocha Heyden reported that there are over 350 Neighborhood Watch Areas which could also act as volunteers. Glenn Hagen raised concern as to liability issues, with possible claims coming from the homeowners; neighbors; and the volunteer who may be injured or harmed by performing the well intentioned services. Wendy Holmes indicated that this would be reviewed carefully by legal counsel and risk management for the County. Dave Weaver also noted that it was critical to clear the area around fire plugs and the mail boxes as well.

The group then proceeded into a brief discussion of governance for Team Highlands Ranch. Consensus was reached that Metro provided an excellent location for meetings, with attendance improving in that there is a stable location for each meeting. It was suggested that leaders be selected on an annual basis, with rotation among the members much like the partnership model of Douglas County governments. The staff of the 6 participants (HRCOA, Metro, Chamber, Douglas County, School District and Libraries) would meet to determine which organization would provide a Chairman for Team Highlands Ranch for the next 6 years. It was agreed that meetings would continue on the third Monday of the month, on a monthly basis, except for November/December which would be combined into a holiday event. The participants discussed and approved Wendy Holmes remaining as the Media Consultant for Team Highlands Ranch given the lead role which the County had taken during this past year. It was agreed that the monthly agenda would be established by the managers or executive staff of each of the organizations, with deference to revisiting the survey as among the members, and then focusing on those core issues which have been determined for the year 2007. These are tangible deliverables which can be developed and expanded. Glenn Hagen agreed to generate a summary document.

During the year in which a particular organization is selected to serve as the Chairman of the group, that organization will use its own internal policies to determine who will serve as the Chairman/Manager for Team Highlands Ranch. The organization to be selected for the following year will in like manner select a Vice Chairman to assure continuity from one year to the next. It is anticipated that the Chairman will manage the meeting, set the agenda and meeting locations, and assure that formal Minutes are distributed to all members. The organization will operate on a calendar year. Team Highlands Ranch will realign its priorities on an annual basis. Decisions will be made on a unanimous and formed consent basis.

Final issues of business were the ballot issues scheduled to be voted upon in November 2007. Pam Nissler reported that favorable presentations have been made by the Douglas County Libraries to groups throughout the County, with positive responses to approve the 1.25 mills to be levied against property owners to provide for additional library facilities and upgrades to the programs already available. This initiative will be referred to as "5A".

Sheriff Weaver provided a report on the Initiative "1A" which will allow continuation of the sales tax set to sunset in the year 2010. Much of the funding for this sales tax comes from individuals outside of Douglas County who are shopping or doing business in the County. The intent is to extend this sales tax for an additional 10 years. Doing so at this

time would provide an opportunity to initiate a planning process for improvements to offices for the Sheriff, District Attorney, prisons, courtrooms and Coroner, including a possible sub-station for Highlands Ranch. Douglas County is expected to double in population by 2025. At present 2500 – 3000 individuals visit the Justice Center on a daily basis.

There was also a brief report on the Road and Bridge initiative, recognizing that the roads within Highlands Ranch are up to 25 years old; the sales tax needs to be extended for maintenance and improvements; and, without passage, funds are so difficult, given the state crisis, that the County will only be allowed to “maintain” existing roads. There was a discussion of these 3 proposals by members of Team Highlands Ranch; and, it was suggested that Team Highlands Ranch not take a position on any of these initiatives absent full approval from each of the 6 participating groups.

The collective body requested that the Mission Statement be added to the bottom of the agenda on a monthly basis so as to keep all organization focused on the purposes of Team Highlands Ranch.

The next meeting was announced for October 15, 2007. Douglas County government will provide the dinner. Thereafter, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn W. Hagen,
Recording Secretary