



**Team Highlands Ranch
Minutes
September 15, 2008**

Attendees:

Rochelle Logan
Dorothy Hargrove
David Starck
Cliff Stahl
Wendy Holmes
Steve Herzog
Carolyn Schierholz
Nancy Smith
Vicky Starkey
Terry Nolan
Gary Debus
Jeff Wasden
Krista Simonson
Steve Dyer
Doug Debord
Dave Weaver
Jill Repella, visitor

Burning Issues (one minute per member)

HRMD – They are likely to go to market next week on 19 million on bonds, with the intent of saving a million in interest. Paintbrush Park, near Southridge Rec Center is almost completed.

Douglas County – Wednesday at 10am Comm. Worley and Clerk and Recorder Arrowsmith will be in press conference with Governor, re large voter turnout. Please vote early or via mail in ballot. There will be a water summit Oct 1. On Oct 2 at 9am there will be a transportation funding forum. On Nov 15th 7:30a to noon there is a shred-a-thon in the Justice Center Parking lot.

Library – Mill levy proposal is now official. Major Steve Howry is giving a presentation on Afghanistan. There will be a Literacy Summit Friday at 9am at Castle Rock Library.

DCSD – Opened 8 new schools in the last 18 months. Several new schools are in the plans. Bear Canyon and Summit View are currently under renovation. Several other schools will be under renovation in 2009.

Chamber – They are continuing work with partners on Economic Gardening. They are hosting a Business Expo Oct 4 at Southridge. The annual Turkey run is Nov 27 at Shea Center.

HRCA – They had a productive meeting with the HRMD board. They are making progress on survey. They are knee deep in budgeting process. They are expecting a potential dues increase in the 2% range, going to delegates in Oct. PIC is going to hear Library and School bond proposal.

Sheriff – They are still looking at local substation locations. He attended a great course on child abductions.

2008 Goals Progress Discussion

1. Environmental Sustainability – Vicky - She had a handout with latest compellation of what is going on. The committee is meeting tomorrow to review.
2. Cultural – Gary – HRDays had a big turnout of 4th graders. They are still encouraging people to run their funding through HRCAA

November Election Issues

1. Douglas County School District – Board Member Cliff Stahl – Gave handout. The school board voted 6 to 1 to submit 3A and 3B to the voters. If it doesn't pass, the impacts will start to show on the kids. Values programming, responsible citizenship and leadership will likely be the first things reduced. They are expecting a growth of 2400 kids in 2009. Classrooms will get more crowded with more four track if the bond fails. Funding for security and technology is through bond issues. We are the lowest funded school district amongst the 13 surrounding counties. In an effort to manage resources wisely, they are working towards fewer, bigger schools – 680 is the prototype now, instead of 510 at elementary level. If there are more than 20 schools on 4-track, the financial return goes down. Getting out of 4-track will take several years. Decisions on Modified vs. Conventional will be on a school by school basis. HR and Central Parker are land poor where new schools are needed. They are looking for 3 more schools in HR and adding on to Rocky Heights MS. They are hoping to have full day Kindergarten for half our kids in 4 years. They are worried about retirement funding issues due to other school districts increasing funding. They are hoping to build a WAN (wide area network) to increase communication between schools. If the bonds pass, we will only move 2 or 4 steps up the ranking in funding. The Sheriff asked about any closing of schools in the 30 year range. None or minimal are expected. Any closing would be driven by the buildings to far gone to repair. Sheriff asked if the school districts would ever host a library in their buildings. They have had conversations about this.
2. Douglas County Libraries – Mark Weston and Demetria Heath from the Library Board presented. The ballot question asks for 1 mill, which is less than last year's ballot question. 40% of the new mill levy increase, 0.4 mills, sunsets after the new library buildings are paid off. They are proposing to build new library in Parker. The current 20,000 sq ft is insufficient. A free parcel of land is available from the City of Parker. They would be co-located with a cultural center. A similar facility in Lone Tree would be built on land donated by the developer. If the ballot issues does not pass, the donated land in Lone Tree will revert to the developer. In the HR Library, they will finish the unused space. The deck on the 2nd floor could be converted to small meeting rooms.

Castle Rock will get minor work. Responding to a comment from the school district, Mark also mentioned that combined school/public library is not planned and may work best in more insulated areas. DCL checked out more children's material last year than anyone else in the state. They checked out more children's material last year than total materials in 2001. Programs that the library has had also increase preschool literacy.

3. Ballot Initiatives – Bill Clayton, of Lombard and Clayton. Has been a lobbyist for the county for 3 years. He had a handout of 18 initiatives. Several Amendments focus on Union issues, definitions of when life begins, gaming regulations, disabilities, highway revenues, campaign contributions when contactor, business law, health insurance, tax on oil and natural gas (87.5% tax credit), TABOR rebates vs. Education funding. Referendums cover age requirements in State Legislatures, removes outdated language in the Colorado Constitution, and change the process to change the state constitution and statutory initiatives.

Administrative

1. Future Meetings
 - a. October – FasTracks & Local Service – Jeff Case & RTD
 - b. November – RTD Newly elected Board Members, Goal Wrap Up
 - c. December – Suggestions leaned towards a smaller group of people for a holiday celebration. Terry offered his home for a party early in December.
2. Next meeting/food provider – October 20th, School District

Ranch Wrap

Nothing to communicate through the media.

Adjourn

6:40 p.m.