



CENTENNIAL COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

August 22 - In Person Meeting

Arapahoe Library Services bldg.

12855 E Adam Aircraft Cir., Englewood, 80112

www.cencon.net

Minutes

1. Call to order: President Cummins called the meeting to order at 6:47pm.
 - Attendance (A quorum was **not** present.) Members:

Algonquin Acres	Chapparal	Cherry Knolls
FoxRidge	Greenwood South	Nob Hill/Ridgeview Hills South
Orchard Valley	Palos Verdes (2)	Southglenn
Smoky Hill (2)	Tiffany	Village@Centennial
Village Cooperative	Walnut Hills	
 - Guests: 18th Judicial Dist., Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, Arapahoe Library Dist., Arapahoe Park & Rec. Dist., Centennial City Council, Centennial City Staff, South Metro Fire
 - **Highlighted areas below are good information for neighborhood newsletters.**
2. CenCON Business
 - A. President's Report, Gerry Cummins
 - Cummins spoke briefly about last month's field trip to the new South Suburban Sports Complex.
 - She also handed out some swag she had left from her neighborhood's National Night Out.
 - **CenCON's upcoming meetings include discussing the affordable housing survey in Sept. and a "Meet the City Manager" with City Manager Matthew Sturgeon in Oct.**
 - Cummins then spoke about the settlement with the Southglenn Civic Assoc. CenCON paid the SGCA \$800 because we wouldn't hand them the CenCON roster.
 - B. Secretary, Andrea Suhaka
 - There were no minutes from the July meeting because July was the field trip.
 - A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the CenCON minutes of 6/27/22. (Stone/Hamilton)
 - C. Treasurer, Jill Meakins

• Balance Forward:	\$3,149.28
• Deposits (10 members)	400.00
• Expenses (payment to Southglenn Civic Assoc. Lawsuit)	(800.00)
• Interest Income:	0.00
• Ending Balance:	\$2,749.28

- Note: 34 paid members
- Submitted by: Jill Meakins
The bank is Wells Fargo

3. Special Districts/Guests

A. [18th Judicial District](#), Aurora Ogg, Dir. of Community Engagement

- Today is the first National Fentanyl Awareness Day.
- DA Kellner has gotten 2 fentanyl convictions: 1) death by fentanyl (3 yr.old child picked up a pill off of the floor and 2) I didn't get the information on the second one.
- Parents want to warn the public about the danger.
- DA Kellner was present at the FBI's press conference for Operation Cross Country, human trafficking operation. There were 10 investigators from our office who volunteered for the operation. The FBI Denver's Child Exploitation & Human Trafficking Task Force joined with some 40 agencies across the Front Range, Aug. 4-6, in Operation Cross Country, a national, intelligence-driven FBI initiative focused on identifying and locating child victims of sex trafficking. The operation also investigates and arrests individuals and criminal enterprises involved in the sex trafficking of both children and adults.
- The DA's Citizen's Academy will be starting soon.
- All security forces are working on protecting houses of worship, with a grant from FEMA, to harden targets.
- Delos: Car thefts are numerous. Is there anything further on that issue? Ogg: I can only report that Aurora passed further penalties for car theft.
- Meakins: Are extended stay hotels a factor in fentanyl? Ogg: There's no data on that.

B. [South Metro Fire Rescue](#), Kristin Eckman

- Another fire academy has been scheduled for April.
- South Metro has 20 capital improvement projects scheduled as SMFR checks all of its infrastructure.
- Station #15, Dry Creek & University, will probably be scraped and rebuilt.
- South Metro has received a piece of one of the World Trade Center towers in NYC. It will be incorporated into our Memorial Plaza at South Metro's HQ. We'll be redoing the plaza.
- We can't keep up with hiring right now; we've had 3 firefighter academies; 2 more will be scheduled next year. Pass the word that if there's an interest in being a firefighter, apply now so you can attend an upcoming fire academy.
- Q: What is the starting wage? Eckmann: I'll have to get back you with that info.
- Of the 4 top fire risks in our district, residential/cooking fires are #1.

C. [Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office](#) (ACSO), Capt. Ken McKlem (SWAT, K-9, Horse unit, etc)

- A [Sheriff's Citizen's Academy](#) is starting soon.
- Upcoming Sheriff's events:
 - 8/31, 8-10am, Coffee with a Cop, Starbucks, 21900 E Union Cir. (*This address appears to be in a neighborhood.*)
 - 9/24, 9am-noon, Sheridan Celebrates Parade, City of Sheridan
 - 10/4, 6-8pm, ACSO Citizens Academy Starts, ACSO HQ/Various Locations
 - 10/5, 9-11am, National Coffee with a Cop, TBD
 - 10/8, 8am-noon, ACSO Shred-a-Thon, ACSO HQ
 - 10/9, 11am-2pm, Faith & Blue Event, Summit Church, 7200 S. Clinton St.

- 10/22, 11am-4pm, Treat Street, Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
 - 10/22, 10am-2pm, Treat Street, Cherry Creek State Park
 - 10/29, 9am-2pm, Drug Take Back Day, Various Locations
 - #1 crime site in unincorporated ArapCo is off of Evans-Iliff-Syracuse
 - The ACSO has started a full time group of 10 officers to go after fugitives.
 - The most common crime is theft from motor vehicles: lock your cars, don't leave valuables in your car!!!
 - Klutho: Where do they take the cars they steal? McKlem: First, I want to tell you that the ACSO has steering wheel locks to give-away, contact the Sheriff's Office. Some cars are used in other crimes, some are chopped (air bags are worth money), and some just disappear. If it's not found in 7 days, it's gone.
 - For wildfire mitigation, the ACSO will do home assessments. (One can go on the website & do your own.) They'll attend HOAs and do a program.
 - Oct. is Fire Prevention Month. (South Metro will have a PSA online on cooking fires.)
 - We had a Board election and Rich Sokol is representing Centennial.
 - Year to date response data, through the end of June, 4500 calls, 66% of which are medical.
- C. [Arapahoe Park & Rec.](#), Delos Searle
- APRD is hiring. Since Delos has been booted upstairs to Exec. Dir., he needs to be replaced. It's hard doing 2 jobs.
 - APRD has been successful with 3 grants from Centennial: Fox Hill Park, master planning of Copper Leaf Park, and trail/sidewalk rehab.
 - Piney Creek Trail needs to round the corners & widen. We need to put some soft trail alongside the sidewalk.
 - On 10/1, at Spring Creek Park, APRD will have a Touch-a-Truck event from 10am-2pm. (Rain date, 10/8)
 - The Terrace project at Look Out Pool is now complete.
- D. [Arapahoe Library District](#), Holly
- ALD urgently needs volunteers for the **Used Book Sale** at Koelbel Lib., see: [Volunteer KO UsedBookSale 2022 8.5x11.pdf](#)
 - The sale will run from 9am-7:30pm on Thurs.; 9am-4:30pm on Fri. & Sat.; and Noon-4pm on Sun., 9/8. Sun. is bag day, all the books, etc., you can fit in an ALD-provided bag for \$8.
 - Through book sales, the Friends of Arapahoe Libraries raise funds to support library events & services. Become a Friend today at arapahoelibraries.org/friends for early access to the used book sale on Wed., 9/7, 4-pm
 - **Parent Nation: Unlocking Every Child's Potential**
 - On Thurs., 9/8, 7-8:30pm, parents and caregivers of children ages 0-8 are invited to learn how to best support a young child's brain development in a Zoom presentation featuring Dana Suskind, MD
 - Suskind is the founder and co-director of the TMW Center for Early Learning & Public Health, director of the Pediatric Cochlear Implant Program, and professor of surgery, pediatrics, and public policy at the University of Chicago.
 - She is the author of the book [Thirty Million Words](#), which explores the importance of talking to young children as a key to a child's success later in life, as well as the newly released [Parent Nation](#), which discusses how neuroscience of early childhood development can guide us toward a future in which every child is able to fulfill their full potential.

- The first 125 registrants for this virtual event will receive a free copy of *Parent Nation* and everyone who registers will have a chance to receive 1 of 5 gift baskets.
- Spanish and Russian language interpreters will be available.
- For more information, call 303-LIBRARY or visit [here](#).
- ***An Eyewitness to Infamy: Reporting on 9/11***
 - On 9/15, 6pm, at Koelbel Lib., you're invited for a special presentation from Catherine Underhill Fitzpatrick, who was a midwestern fashion columnist on assignment in New York in Sept. of 2001 to cover glamorous runway shows when the unthinkable happened; 3 planes crashed into the World Trade Center towers.
 - Fitzpatrick will share her personal story about the chaos and terror she experienced that day as she found herself reporting a gripping minute-by-minute, first-hand account of the now infamous 9/11 attack to readers 1,000 miles away.
 - For more information, visit [here](#).
- ALD is still having staffing issues, some libraries are not back to regular hours. You can check the website for your library's hours.

E. [City of Centennial](#), Candace Moon, Council Member Dist. 1

- On 7/31, the Public Arts Committee had the Arapahoe Philharmonic and others in Centennial Center Park. Moon is on committee to develop public art policy.
- On 8/17, City Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission had a joint session on the ongoing Centennial Housing Study.
- A Centennial 101 class started last week; it goes for 8 weeks.
- For budget concerns, the Council will start budget meetings in Sept., 9/12.
- Dry Creek Rd. has a lane blocked from Quebec east while their new fence is being built.
- Biniak: Will the City go to a single trash collector for trash collection? Moon: No, not at this time.
- There is a new business opened in the Streets at SouthGlenn: TGX is a clothing store. Another new business has opened in Dist. 3.
- Tinkey: When will Ting get to Chaparral? Moon: It's coming.
- The old Ramada Inn at Centennial Airport has been sold to Sheraton and will re-open soon.
- There will be a Dist. 1 meeting on 8/29 at 6pm at Southglenn Lib., Eddy will be there

4. Centennial **Lodging Tax**, potential ballot question, discussion.

- Eric Eddy, Assistant City Manager
 - This is on the Nov. ballot because it's a TABOR question and the City Home Rule Charter requires that all taxing questions must be put to the ballot.
 - Being considered is a sales tax on all lodging of less than 30 days, including short term rentals, 3 ½ - 5%.
 - This would raise between \$1-1.5M. Council is considering earmarking the money for public safety.
 - Go to the website, centennialco.gov/lodging, for a survey targeted at residents
 - Arapahoe County will coordinate this election.
 - Council will be considering the ballot question on **9/6, Tues.**, 7pm.
 - Limke: Why were we so conservative on the rate? Eddy: This rate would be equivalent to Greenwood Village's & Lone Tree's.

- Limke: What about car rentals? Eddy: I'll have to get back to you on that; it's not part of the question.
- Black: Are the funds proscribed for public safety? Eddy: Yes, that & any other legal item.
- There are 55 short term rental properties in the City and 14 hotels.
- Livingston: Is that 30 days consecutive? Eddy: Yes.
- Please, go to the website for more info.
- Cummins: Is the tax rate meaningful? Moon: It helps to have that extra money.
- Meakins: Hotels locate in Centennial because we don't have a lodging tax. My hope is that this might slow down hotel development in Centennial.
- Black: Talk about inflation. How does Centennial react to 8% inflation? Eddy: We're under the same pressures as everyone else. Major projects are saved or take place over several years. Black: If this is 1% of the budget, what about the other 7%.
- Akiva: Isn't the City responsible for the Southglenn Urban Renewal Authority? Eddy: No, that is a separate government entity.
- Giese: I would support not being too narrow in how the ballot issue is worded.
- Biniek; This is a tax we won't be paying; the money will come from out of the City.

5. **Plans**, Rhonda Livingston, 2nd Vice President

- No plans at this time.
- **Rhonda can email site plan details to anyone who requests them. Her email is we4liv@aol.com.** You can also check www.centennialco.gov/Residents/Have-Your-Say-Centennial to see what's happening.
- Public hearing notices: Landry's will be becoming My Neighbor Felix. They are asking for sign changes. P&Z heard that on 8/24.
- Fulton & Easter, a change is changing public open space to business. P&Z heard that on 8/24.

6. **Adjourn**: Cummins adjourned the meeting at 8:20pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Suhaka.

Next Meeting: Sept. 26, 2022