



CENTENNIAL COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

In Person Meeting

Koelbel Library, meeting room A
5955 S. Holly St., Centennial, 80111

www.cencon.net

October 24, 2022

Minutes

1. Call to order: President Cummins called the meeting to order at 6:49pm.

- Attendance (A quorum was present.) Members:

Algonquin Acres	Chapparral	Cherry Knolls
Hanover Place	Heritage Greens	Heritage Place
Mill Creek	Nob Hill/Ridgeview Hills South	Palos Verdes (2)
Ridgeview Hills North	Smoky Hill (2)	Southglenn
Tiffany	Village @ Centennial	Village Cooperative
Walnut Hills	Willow Creek 2	

- Guests: Arapahoe Library Dist., Centennial City Council (2), Centennial City Manager, South Metro Fire Rescue, Guests - Homestead Farm, Southglenn, one other
- **Highlighted areas below are good information for neighborhood newsletters.**

2. CenCON Business

A. President's Report, Gerry Cummins

- She attended the Centennial Housing Workshop on 4 Oct. with Livingston & Suhaka.
- She also attended the Dist. 2 mtg last Thurs. with Livingston & Suhaka.

B. Secretary, Andrea Suhaka

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the Aug. minutes on 26 Sept. There was not a quorum to vote. We started over, tonight. A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. (Seymour/Manning)
- Then, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the 24 Oct. minutes. (Doyle/Manning)

C. Treasure's Report submitted by Jill Meakins

Balance Forward:	\$2,659.28
Deposits (none):	0.00
Expenses (none):	(0.00)
Interest Income:	0.00
Ending Balance:	\$2,659.28

Notes: 35 paid members
The bank is Wells Fargo

3. Special Districts

A. [18th Judicial District](#), Aurora Ogg, Dir., Community Engagement (She couldn't attend.)

- Beforehand, she provided a press release from the DA. „Grand Jury returns 54-count indictment in crime spree involving aggravated robberies, shootings, and motor vehicle thefts“.
- B. [South Metro Fire Rescue](#), Kristin Eckman
- Oct. was Fire Prevention Month because that’s the month when the Chicago fire took place, in 1871. Fire won’t wait, plan your escape
 - Cooking fires are the #1 fire in the District.
 - Station 15 on Dry Creek east of University will be rebuilt: scraping & rebuilding. It should start next year in the spring. We’ll be having a community meeting on the station & a ribbon cutting when it’s done.
 - Fire Marshall Anthony Valdez inspects buildings for fire codes. He has been named Fire Marshall of the Year of Colorado.
 - All fire apparatus has an end of life. We just received 4 new medic units; we reserve one decommissioned one for emergencies but, the old medic units will be donated to Ukraine. They’ll ship with a whole lot of other donated equipment,
 - SMFR collected over \$100K during Fill the Boot for MDA on Labor Day.
 - SMFR is updating the Memorial Plaza in front of their HQ. We’ll be adding a piece of steel from one of the World Trade Center towers
 - Maurer: What area does Station 15 serve? Eckmann: We’ll get a map of the area from them. You can follow the progress of the project on our website. There’s also a Q&A.
- C. [Arapahoe Park & Rec.](#), Delos Searle (Delos couldn’t attend but emailed a report.)
- APRD is currently winding down the year and working on next year’s budget. No major changes or events to report on at this time, some big ones coming up, but nothing official that I can report as of today.
- D. [Arapahoe Library District](#), Holly Whelan
- We’re at Koelbel tonight because the Admin. building is training vote center personnel for the first time. Smoky Hill and Southglenn are polling centers. Koelbel is a ballot drop off. Smoky won’t be open on election day for patron services, all other libraries will be open.
 - Sheriday Lib. will be remodelled, starting in 10/31.
 - **Featured Artist Danielle SeeWalker**
 - On 11/10, 6-8pm, at Koelbel Lib. there’ll be a reception for featured artist Danielle SeeWalker.
 - The event will kick off with an artist talk followed by a reception and viewing of the gallery. Light refreshments will be served.
 - Danielle SeeWalker is Húnkpap̄ha Lak̄hóta and a citizen of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in ND. Danielle is an artist, writer, activist, & mother of 2 based in Denver.
 - Her visual artwork often incorporates the use of mixed media and experimentation with traditional Native American materials, scenes, & messaging.
 - She is passionate about redirecting the narrative toward an accurate & insightful representation of contemporary Native America while still acknowledging historical events.
 - Danielle serves as co-chair for the Denver American Indian Commission and recently published her first book [Still Here: A Past to Present Insight of Native American People & Culture](#).
 - A collection of Danielle’s artwork will be on display at Koelbel Lib. during Nov., Native American Heritage Month.

- The Arapahoe Libraries Featured Artists program showcases the work of local artists who use their art to shed light on diverse communities, discuss history and social justice and spark important community conversations.
- For more information, visit [here](#) or call 303-LIBRARY.
- **Geek Out is Back for Teens!**
 - Teens ages 11-18 are invited to share their geekiness and submit their favorite fandom creations during November's Geek Out contest.
 - Teens are asked to submit entries at their favorite library location or electronically, Nov. 1-30.
 - Looking for ideas? Previous entries submitted fan-fiction, poetry, song lyrics, videos, cosplay, fan art, and more.
 - Entries will be accepted November 1-30.
 - For more information, visit [here](#).
- Go to the ALD website, under Events, for lots more stuff
- Rosser: Do you still do the Alzheimer meetings? Whelan: Yes, [Neighborhood Memory Café](#), at Koelbel is ongoing. It's run by the Senior Services librarians
- E. [City of Centennial](#), Council Members Dist. 2, Tammy Maurer, Christine Sweetland
 - Maurer, tmaurer@centennialco.gov: Traffic projects:
 - There was an Xcel gas line leak at Arapahoe & Holly which has been fixed and now Xcel is making sure the line will have no future problems. The intersection is to be open by tomorrow.
 - Arapahoe Rd. Bridge: 1/2 of the bridge deck is poured, the elevation of the new bridge is higher to accommodate Big Dry Creek flows.
 - Broadway/Arapahoe Rd bike/pedestrian underpass (High Line Canal): the City will work with Littleton and Arapahoe County (ArapCo) for funding, design and construction.
 - Sweetland, csweetland@centennialco.gov:
 - The Affordable Housing Working group met today. They had a developer talk about affordable & market rate housing
 - Homelessness has increased 50%. A Homelessness Navigator will be hired by Centennial who will work with ArapCo to address the homeless problem. S/he will be reaching out to other agencies, looking at all programs available and then work with individuals to address their needs and how to make a change.
 - Whelan told us that the ALD has 3 social workers for all sorts of people when in a library.
 - Biniek: How do we contact that Navigator; check if they've gotten in touch with a person. Sweetland: That person isn't hired, yet, but we'll keep you informed.
 - For the holidays, Centennial is sponsoring the **Holiday Artisan Market** on 3 Dec., 1-3pm, by Centennial Center Park. There'll be free cocoa & hot cider, and musical entertainment.
 - The District Centennial, adjacent to I-25, south of the Dry Creek RTD station, is the new development that includes apartments, housing, condos, townhomes, hotel, commercial and retail space. A fitness center is also included and on top of it there will be a greenhouse that will grow and distribute local lettuce. They will use hydroponics versus soil.
 - Council has met with US Representative Crow, State Representative Ortiz, and State Senator Chris Kolker. Two areas of concern the Council shared are unfunded mandates and having local control.
 - Centennial 101 just wrapped up. There were about 30 graduates this year.

4. Meet Centennial City Manager Matthew Sturgeon

- He's been with Centennial for 5.5 years and has enjoy his time.
- Sturgeon did a good presentation on the City Budget for 2023-24, a 2-year budget.
- This is the first year for a 2-year budget (Golden, Ft. Collins, Arvada all do the same). It gives us a broader perspective and we're better able to plan for large projects that span more than 1 year.
- Our Budget Committee contains 3 citizens, 2 staff, the Mayor, a Council member. That committee brings a recommendation to the City Council. Our Home Rule Charter requires the Council to have a draft budget in Nov.
- We're proud of being strong stewards of citizen dollars. Public Works & the Sheriff are the biggest parts of the budget.
- On the City website you can find a revenue guide which explains where the money comes from but, primary is sales tax at 60% of the budget and property tax at only 16%.
- In 2023-24, Street rehab expenditures were originally \$7.5M, because of inflation, staff asked for \$13M (\$26) for 2 years. We need to pay special attention to poor and very poor streets so they don't fail.
- Doyle: Can we find out a street's condition? Sturgeon: You probably have to speak with someone in Public Works. We try to coordinate with utilities. (We have a standing rule that they can't dig into a road for 2 years after it's been rehabbed.) Tied to that is concrete replacement, curb & gutter.
- Traffic signals & IST (Intelligent Transportation Systems): We'll be placing 2: Kenton & Easter & Arapahoe & Clarkson. There will be more. We're adding battery backups to our minor signals and blinking yellow signals for left turns. ITS continues to evolve, all of our infrastructure is ready for this.
- Traffic team & the PW Dir. have been good getting grants: \$37M, (City's contribution is \$5.7M) for County Line widening from University to Broadway & the signal at Clarkson. Holly & Easter will get a HAWK light. We're working to get traffic signals in various municipalities to talk with each other & to get rid of span wire signals. ArapCo is working on a micromobility study county-wide. We're working with Aurora, GWV, & ArapCo to complete the sidewalk along Arapahoe Rd. from I-25 east to Parker.
- Open Space Fund: We're using this money to finish Centennial Center Park. It's taking a bit longer than planned but, it should be mostly done by Nov. We're working with ArapCo to complete the Lone Tree Creek Trail from Broncos Pky to Cherry Creek State Park: we got a grant to help with an underpass under Arapahoe Rd. More projects: Centennial Link Trail from E-470 to South Platte River Trail, Piney Creek Trail, and the trail between Krameria & Caley.
- City Initiatives: We're working with the ACSO on their co-responder program, where a mental health car may be dispatched instead of a deputy and a fire engine, depending on the circumstances.
- We're starting up a partnership with the Y for older adult programming & for teens around STEM & e-gaming. This would meet needs.
- Neighborhood Grants have been highly successful. They meet a need for social interaction in a neighborhood. This year had 111 engagement opportunities. The Large Community Grants are for landscaping & place making, to get the community to work together, without controversy, get to know your neighbor. We're currently exploring opportunities to offer mediation on neighbor-to-neighbor issues.
- Talk to City Hall: Sturgeon, staff, Mayor, your Council members, talk to your representatives about what you want to see. The Mayor has hours most Tuesdays.

- Manning: Can we get more info on Neighborhood Grants? Sturgeon: Speak with Ryan Thompson about those grants (rthompson@centennialco.gov)
- Budget increasing: In 2022 our budget was \$57M+, 2023: \$60M+, 2024: \$63M+. The Street Fund has dedicated money.: 2022-only spending \$27M of \$41M budgeted; 2023-\$52,432M, 2024: \$37,108M. Council is setting aside money not spent on projects for future projects.
- Doyle: A question about Ting: Ting held a meeting in May telling us Chapparral was to be built out by Nov. Now, Ting is telling us that they aren't going to do Chapparral because of the sizes of the properties & distances between the houses. Sturgeon: Ting has no contractual obligation with us to complete the whole City.
- Berliner: Legislation has begun strangling HOAs, can HOAs get some help from the City for violations of code. Sturgeon: If there is a City Code violation, we can help but, we don't enforce covenants. We're here for the code violations.
- Rehm?: Heritage Greens had a very successful neighborhood event & invited fire, ACSO, and first responders.
- Rehm?: The City seems to be overly focused on expanding residential, not the retail base; is this a concern? I'd hate to see taxes increase because of all the housing.
- Sturgeon: We are concerned about retail but, the paradigm is strange right now. Sales tax is coming in from online sales. The City is working with retail property owners to get them fixed up & inviting. There are more service-type uses & less retail. We're trying to figure out what our place is in the housing spectrum. We need more discussion on housing.
- Biniek: With the proposed supermarket merger issue, will our markets close? Is the City talking with them about that? Sturgeon: Yes, we're trying to interface.
- Uriel: There is almost a complete lack of diversity in the City Managers in Colorado. Sturgeon: That's true in the industry. It will start to change.
- Biniek: What's the word on snow removal on residential streets? Sturgeon: When the weather is forecast for 6" or more of snow, we go into the neighborhoods. We do more work on sidewalks, too.

5. Plans, Rhonda Livingston, 2nd Vice President

- Community Meeting for a Site Plan, 7503 S University Blvd., located on the SW corner of Dry Creek & University, next to Chipotle. The applicant is proposing a 2,413 sq.ft. restaurant with a drive-thru on the property. Questions, comments and feedback can be found on the City's website at www.centennialco.gov/birdcall.
- *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.*

6. Adjourn: Cummins adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Suhaka

We'll have a Nov. Meeting on Nov. 28, 2022
There will be no December meeting!