



## CENTENNIAL COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Arapahoe Library Services Bldg.

12855 E Adam Aircraft Cir.

[www.cencon.net](http://www.cencon.net)

April 24, 2023, 6:45pm

### Minutes

1. **Call to order:** President Cummins called the meeting to order at 6:47pm.
  - Let it be noted that we had banner attendance with 21 member associations present.
  - Attendance (A quorum was present.):

Algonquin Acres	Arapahoe Highlands	Chapparral (2)
Cherry Knolls	Fairways at S.Suburban	FoxRidge
Hanover Place	Greenwood South	Heritage Greens
Hunters Hills	Mill Creek	Nob Hill/Ridgeview Hills South
Orchard Valley	Palos Verdes (3)	Southwind
Smoky Hill	Tiffany	Village @ Centennial
Village Co-op of Centennial	Walnut Hills	Willow Creek 2
  - Guests: 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial Dist. (2), Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, Arapahoe Library Dist., Centennial City Council, City of Centennial, South Suburban Parks & Rec. Dist.
  - **Highlighted areas below are good information for neighborhood newsletters.**
2. **CenCON Business**
  - A. President's Report, Gerry Cummins
    - Board Election: We took a few minutes for the candidates to introduce themselves.
      - Cummins called for any nominations from the floor. There were none.
      - The candidates were:
        - President: Andrew Spaulding (Southwind), C.J. Whelan (Smoky Hill)
        - Vice President, Plans: Rhonda Livingston, incumbent, Algonquin Acres
        - Vice President, Membership: None
        - Secretary: Andrea Suhaka, incumbent (Walnut Hills)
        - Treasurer: Jill Meakins, incumbent (Village at Centennial)
      - As we had no candidate for VP, Membership, and upon agreement between Spaulding and Whelan, the loser would take that position.
      - The vote for President was very close, Spaulding - 10, Whelan - 11.
      - The gathered group gave Gerry Cummins a standing ovation for her years of service as the CenCON President (12 yers).
    - Cummins received a letter from the lobbying arm of CAI asking for members (CenCON is one.) to attend a webinar of a legislative update: 4/27, 1pm. The letter also included a brief update on 2 bills. Register in advance for this webinar: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Z-t\\_xZ6YTC2CdBBCRlcD8A](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Z-t_xZ6YTC2CdBBCRlcD8A)
  - B. Secretary, Andrea Suhaka
    - Rosser proposed corrections to the minutes: South Metro's fire crew was in Wisconsin not Wyoming. The support came from Centennial Airport & South Metro.
    - A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimous to approve the March, 2023, minutes as amended. (Hamilton/Spaulding)

C. Treasurer, Jill Meakins

- Please, see the Treasurer's Reports attached to the email. Ending balance as of this meeting: \$2,552.28 going into our next membership year.
- We added five members to the 12 noted in April report. Dues are due **NOW!**

D. 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Announcements, Rhonda Livingston

- Livingston attended a presentation from the City on the [Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan](#) (NTMP). There have been no applicants for it so far this year.
- The City has begun a [Yard Sign Community Education Program](#).
- There are some neighborhoods where school busses have no good place to stop to pick up children. Contact the City Traffic Engineer, Anna Bunce, if you want help with this. ([abunce@centennialco.gov](mailto:abunce@centennialco.gov) or 303-325-8000)
- Spaulding wanted to call our attention to the fact that the City has changed the residential speed limit from 30 mph to 25mph. Many neighborhoods have "Speed Limit 30" signs. If you call the city (above phone number), they'll consider changing out your signs.
- Berliner asked what the regulations for golf carts on public roadways are. Capt. McKlem indicated that most small motorized vehicles are prohibited on public rights-of-way. Call the ACSO (303-795-4711) for specifics.

3. **Special District Presentations**

A. [18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District](#), Madison Lengel, SART Coordinator/Victim Witness/Legal Assistant; Aurora Ogg

- Lengel is the lead for the District's Sexual Assault Awareness Team. This is a multidisciplinary group that works on the problem.
- There are 2 teams: Arapahoe/Douglas Counties and Elbert/Lincoln Counties.
- They are working on a way to bring the Clothesline Project to Colorado (put white T-shirts on a clothesline & encourage people to write their stories on them). There will be 15 displays.
- Law enforcement does investigation, Advocates help the victim through the system, forensic nurses collect evidence.

B. [Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office](#) (ACSO), Capt. Ken McKlem

- A Sheriff's Academy is in progress. The next one should be in Oct. Go to the website for information.
- 5/20, 8am-noon: ACSO will hold their annual Shred-a-Thon in the ACSO HQ public parking lot (13101 E Broncos Pky - across from this library building where we meet)
- 6/3, 8am-Noon: ACSO Annual Open House, above location. 2,000 attended last year. McKlem does a history tour (*Andrea: an excellent* tour). There will be police dog demos, meet the new therapy puppies, equipment demos, (maybe) tour the Coroner's office.
- 6/17, 9am-1pm: Arapahoe Community College will host its annual Fire Muster. Come see historic fire engines and some ACSO equipment and a lot more.
- McKlem reminds us: Please call, if you see something, say something. You're not bothering us! 9-1-1 or the nonemergency phone is above.
- ACSO has 2 new therapy dogs, 8-wk old puppies: one has trained to scent gun casings, powder, guns, etc., and the other can scent electronics. They are Otis & Bear.
- There will be a 5-day [Sheriff's Youth Academy](#) in June for teens ages 14-18.
- Auto theft & theft from motor vehicles are still the prime crimes in Centennial.

- McKlem reminds us: Take valuables out of your car & lock it, close & lock garage doors!
- C. [South Suburban Parks & Rec. District](#) (SSPRD), Michelle Kitchens, Community Engagement Liaison
- An SSPRD Board election for 2 spots will be held 5/2. It may be too late to mail a ballot now. You may vote in person at the Goodson Rec. Center, 6315 S. University Blvd., 80121.
  - SSPRD has a new golf tee time software system. If you're already a registered golfer, your info will be moved over to the system, others will need to register.
  - 4/29, 8am-noon, at the War Memorial Rose Garden on Bemis St in Littleton: a rose pruning workshop will be held. Please, see the flyer linked at the bottom of the email for more info & activities. There is more than the previous flyer.
  - The Game Plan area of the website has all the info on construction projects for the district.
- D. [Arapahoe Library District](#), Holly Whelan, Mgr of Community Relations & Commu relations
- **Artist Reception: Meet Artist Casey Kawaguchi**
    - Attend an opening reception for the Arapahoe Libraries 2023 featured artist Casey Kawaguchi on Wed., May 3, 6-8 pm at Smoky Hill Lib., 5430 S. Biscay Cir., Centennial.
    - Denver-based artist Kawaguchi will give a presentation followed by a reception and viewing of the gallery featuring his artwork.
    - Casey Kawaguchi is a Japanese American artist based in Denver. His work revolves around a recurring character that reflects his identity as an Asian American artist while representing the power of the creativity that he feels resides within each of us.
    - Drawing from his earliest inspirations of comic books, illustration and his Japanese heritage, his work conveys a simplicity and balance, where the contemporary meets tradition in a powerful display.
    - Kawaguchi's work has been exhibited across the United States and can be seen in his murals across metro Denver.
    - A collection of Kawaguchi's artwork will be on display at Smoky Hill Lib. during the month of May, which is Asian American Pacific Islander 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.
    - Guests will enjoy light refreshments during the event. For more information and to register, visit [here](#).
  - **Meet Dr. Anna Malaika Tubbs, Author of 'The Three Mothers'**
    - Join us for a special event in honor of Mother's Day on Thursday, May 11, 6pm, with author and activist Dr. Anna Malaika Tubbs via Zoom.
    - Dr. Tubbs will share her TED Talk, "How Moms Shape the World," and discuss her *New York Times* bestselling debut, *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King Jr., Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation*. The presentation will be followed by an audience Q&A.
    - *The Three Mothers* celebrates Black motherhood by telling the stories of three women – Alberta King, Louise Little and Berdis Baldwin – and the essential role they played in shaping America. These mothers taught their sons about resistance and instilled in them a fundamental belief in the worth of Black people,

even when these beliefs flew in the face of America's racist practices and led to ramifications for the safety of all 3 families.

- Dr. Tubbs holds a doctorate in sociology and a master's in multidisciplinary gender studies from the Univ. of Cambridge and a bachelor's in medical anthropology from Stanford.
- She has published articles on topics ranging from celebrating motherhood to addressing the forced sterilization of Black women as well as the importance of feminism, intersectionality and inclusivity.
- Her writing has been featured in *TIME Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, *CNN*, *Motherly*, *the Huffington Post*, *For Harriet*, *The Guardian*, *Darling Magazine* and *Blavity*. Her debut book, *The Three Mothers: How the Mothers of Martin Luther King, Jr, Malcolm X, and James Baldwin Shaped a Nation*, is a *New York Times* best seller as well as a *New York Times* Editor's Choice and Amazon Editor's Pick.
- Books will be available for purchase online from The Bookies.
- For more information and to register, visit [here](#).
- **Meet Stephanie Kane, Author of *True Crime Redux***
  - Join award-winning Denver-based author Stephanie Kane for a presentation on her new nonfiction murder-mystery thriller, *True Crime Redux* on Wed., May 17, pm, via Zoom.
  - The book recounts Kane's personal experience with an Arapahoe County murder 50 years ago. The presentation will be followed by an audience Q&A.
  - The murder of Betty Frye had gone unpunished for decades when Kane, ex-wife of Betty's son, first decided to tell her story by fictionalizing the homicide. The result was the novel *Quiet Time*, which helped bring a forgotten cold case roaring back to life. In her newest book, *True Crime Redux*, Kane depicts the events leading up to the murder and its fascinating, decades-long aftermath. It offers a raw, revealing look at the criminal justice system from the vantage point of a lawyer with the shoe suddenly on the other foot – thrust into the role of witness in a cold case investigation and prosecution.
  - Stephanie Kane is a lawyer and award-winning author of 7 crime novels. After graduating from law school, she was a corporate partner at a top Denver law firm before becoming a criminal defense attorney.
  - She has lectured on money laundering & white-collar crime and given workshops across the country on writing technique. Her crime novels have won a Colorado Book Award for Mystery and two Colorado Authors League Awards for Genre Fiction.
  - Books will be available for purchase from The Bookies.
  - For more information and to register, visit [here](#).
- **High Line Canal Cleanup Volunteer Day**
  - Join us for a morning of cleanup in partnership with the High Line Canal Conservancy on Sat., May 20, 8:30-11am.
  - This volunteer day is a great way to give back to the treasured High Line Canal trail & waterway. We will meet for breakfast at Eloise May Lib. at 8:30 am then head out to the canal to enjoy nature and remove trash and debris. All supplies will be provided.
  - Volunteers of all ages can participate; however, minors must be accompanied by an adult. We recommend bringing sunscreen and water, as we will be outside for most of the event.

- The High Line Canal is one of the nation's longest urban trails. It is not only a popular recreational area but an important ecological corridor for the region.
  - The Conservancy's independent cleanup program gives community members the opportunity to learn about the importance of environmental stewardship and actively participate in enhancing the ecological health of the 71-mile canal.
  - To learn more, visit <https://highlinecanal.org/> or [here](#).
  - **Touch-a-Truck**
    - Wed., May 24, 9-11am, Smoky Hill Lib.
    - Honk the horn, turn the wheel and touch the buttons at Touch-A-Truck! In celebration of National Public Works Week, construction trucks and other cool vehicles are taking over the parking lot at Smoky Hill Lib. This is a chance for kids to climb on and explore some awesome trucks in person.
    - Cosponsored with the City of Centennial.
- E. [City of Centennial](#), Don Sheehan, Council member for Dist. 4
- Marlo Alston was originally scheduled to meet with us but was ill.
  - There are 4 Council meetings in May,
    - **May 1-** City Council meeting joint with Planning & Zoning Commission, 6pm, at Eagle St. on housing. Eagle St., 7272 S. Eagle St., off of Jordan Rd.
    - **Regular May 2-** City Council Meeting, 6 p.m., Centennial Civic Center
    - **May 8 & 9-** again at Eagle St. on housing, 6pm.
  - 5/4, 6-8pm, Centennial Airport's Wings Over the Rockies, Arapahoe County Youth Achievement Awards.
  - 5/6, Chipping & mulch event, 8-noon, at Eagle St. & Willow Spring Open Space.
  - 5/11, State of Our City, 11am-1pm, Wings Over the Rockies, tickets [here](#). Looks like its sold out.
  - 8/12, Centennial Under the Stars, 5-9pm, Centennial Center Park. They may not do the laser light show.
  - 9/16, Chalk Art Festival, Streets at SouthGlenn, 10am-4pm. We anticipate 30+ chalk artists, live music, local food vendors.
  - 10/21, 1-5pm, Centennial Center Park, NEW! Sip in Centennial. This event combines the City's Brew-N-Que & Whiskey Warmer events into one afternoon of beer and liquor tastings, food trucks, yard games, & live entertainment.
  - 12/2, Holiday Celebration, Centennial Center Park, 1-3pm. This year's event will host local youth choirs, Santa, free cookies & cocoa, and family-friendly activities.
  - **Centennial District Summer Socials:** Dates and locations are still being finalized. The Communications Dept. will follow up once details are confirmed.
  - YMCA of Metro Denver & the City of Centennial have announced the soft opening of a new *Centennial YMCA Center of Generations*. The 6,345 sq.ft. center, is located in the Streets at SouthGlenn, 6851 S. Vine Street. Ribbon cutting soon. It's a senior/youth center with Y programming.
  - Vanessa Gates was hired to fill the new Homeless Outreach Liaison position, joining the Arapahoe County staff in March. City Council approved a *3-year agreement* with the County for the liaison position in Nov. 2022. Ongoing costs for the position are \$100,000 annually for salary/benefits & a one-time cost of up to \$40,000 for the purchase of a vehicle.
  - Centennial has a new MyCentennial app (available for both Android & iOS) with lots of general info. You can report problems (pot holes, snow removal, barking dogs, etc.) on it.

- Meakins: The Y puts on drag queen shows, will that happen there? Sheehan: Probably not because Centennial is sponsoring the site.
- Grants for Centennial: Our Public Works Dir., Jeff Dankenbring, is a whiz at grants. We've almost received \$43M for streets & intersections.
- Initiative 25 is out there; it proposes to shrink the legislative session from 120 days to 90 days.
- SB23-213 now has about 60 pages of amendments. It may die in committee.

4. **Centennial Housing Study Update**

- Melanie Ward, Manager of Development Foresight and Infrastructure Readiness
- The City will be working on 3 housing strategies to become policy:
  - ADUs (granny flats)
  - Inclusionary zoning
  - Land banking
- Throughout May, housing will be doing public outreach: ADUs will be available [online](#) for public comment, 5/1-5/12. (HOAs can always be more strict than City rules.) Public comment on the other 2 strategies will open on 5/15. (Check the same link.)
- An HOA survey on ADUs will be sent out around 5/8 to your presidents/chairs. Please, make sure to answer and return it!!!
- 5/1 & 5/8, Council discuss the other 2 strategies in City Council. See Sheehan's report.
- Meakins: May I suggest a grant program to offset the cost of building? Ward: No, the City will not do that. Meakins: The City should partner with groups like CenCON to support Centennial in their call for updating the condo defects law.

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

- None at this time.

6. **Adjourn**: President Cummins adjourned the meeting at 8:55.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea Suhaka, Secretary.

**Next Meeting: 22 May 2023**