Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Memorandum #17-2014

DATE: July 13, 2015

TO: Honorable Mayor Joyce Downing and City Council Members

FROM: David Willett, Acting City Manager
Amanda J. Peterson, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

SUBJECT: CR-90- Support for Adams County Open Space Grant Request for Northwest Open Space Design
CR-91- Support for Adams County Open Space Grant Request for Fox Run Open Space Improvements
CR-92- Support for Adams County Open Space Mini Grant Request for Honeybee Habitat Protection

RECOMMENDATION
Staff recommends that Council approve the attached resolutions, supporting the submission of three grant applications to the Adams County Open Space Advisory Board in the passive use category for the fall 2015 grant cycle. The three grant requests include asking for up to $120,000 for the design of improvements at Northwest Open Space; $80,000 for improvements at the Fox Run Open Space; and up to $2,500 for Honeybee Habitat Protection at E.B. Rains Jr. Memorial Park and Danahy Park.

BACKGROUND
There are two opportunities each year to seek grant funding from Adams County Open Space. Funding for these grants comes from the Adams County Open Space Tax, of which 68% is distributed through a competitive grant process. Adams County Resolution 99-1 and the Adams County Open Space Policies and Procedures manual outline eligible uses for these funds. The projects identified above are eligible requests.

The funding is divided into two categories – active and passive. A request for a passive project may be for up to 70% of the total budget, a request for an active project may be for up to 60% of the project. Although a request for 60% of an active use project is allowable, the Adams County Open Space Advisory Board has expressed a desire that active use requests are limited to 50% of the project costs. Projects that do not exceed a request of 50% of the total budget tend to be viewed more favorably. The three proposed requests are all within the passive use category.

Northwest Open Space Design: There is currently $120,000 identified in the 5-year CIP in 2015 (Capital Projects Fund, Adams County Open Space) for improvements at Northwest Open Space. The first step in this process is a completed design, including input from user groups. Northwest Open Space was identified over 15 years ago as being in need of improvements, though at least one design has been turned down due to impacts on local roadways and adjacent residential properties. The currently proposed project is not anticipated to have any negative impact to adjacent residents, and includes no realignment of any roadway. The proposed improvements include the addition of a permanent concession stand that can be used by youth sports organizations, with running water and proper electrical function; restrooms; replacement and minor realignment of the asphalt trails with concrete; and covered seating areas for team and spectator gathering. There is currently no potable water source on site, the design process will ensure that the needs of user groups are met, and accurate construction documents and construction estimates are developed. Up to $120,000 in grant funds will be requested through this grant cycle.

Fox Run Open Space: There is currently $80,000 identified in the 2015 CIP budget (Capital Projects Fund, from Suncor) for improvements at the Fox Run Open Space. Proposed improvements include resurfacing the crusher fines trail through the nature area; improving the trail in areas that are prone to wash out; rehabilitating the existing irrigation that has not been in service since its installation; replacing trees throughout the open space; and adding seating and way-finding signage. To complete this project, and to ensure that the funds provided through Suncor can be leveraged to provide open space users and adjacent residents with a significant improvement to the area, it is intended that funds will be requested in the amount of $80,000 this grant cycle.

Honeybee Habitat Protection: Honeybee populations have been declining due to a variety of known and unknown factors. There are six known honeybee hives on public land in the City. Two of those locations are in actively used park

spaces. This project will help ensure that the honeybee habitat is protected, while simultaneously decreasing the risk to park users of inadvertently disturbing the hives and providing educational information to passersby. Funds will be requested in the amount of $3,500 through this grant cycle to provide split rail fencing, educational signage and hazard tree pruning. This will be matched with funds allocated in the 2015 Parks operating budget for hazard tree removal and pruning.

These resolutions will serve as support for each of the applications, as required by the Adams County Open Space Advisory Board. A copy of the resolutions will be included with each of the final applications.

BUDGET/TIME IMPLICATIONS

Grant applications are due by August 3, 2015. Letters of support from the community, as well as the proposed resolutions, would need to be submitted to Adams County by that date.

STAFF REFERENCE

Please contact Amanda Peterson at apeterson@northglenn.org or by phone at 303.450.8950 for any further questions.

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR DOWNING

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-92
Series of 2015

_____
Series of 2015

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ADAMS COUNTY OPEN SPACE FOR FUNDING FOR THE HONEYBEE HABITAT PROTECTION PROJECT

WHEREAS, honeybee hives are located in actively used park spaces in the City of Northglenn, and projects, including the installation of split rail fencing, educational signage and hazard tree pruning, have been identified to ensure the protection of the honeybee habitats and provide educational information to the public about the hives;

WHEREAS, the Northglenn City Council believes the Honeybee Habitat Protection Project will decrease the risk to park users of inadvertently disturbing the hives, enhancing recreational opportunities to users of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to express its support of the submission of an Adams County Open Space Grant Application to obtain funding for the Honeybee Habitat Protection Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Northglenn is in full support of submitting a mini grant application to Adams County Open Space to obtain funding for the Honeybee Habitat Protection Project.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____day of _____, 2015.

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JOYCE DOWNING
Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney