



Board Summary Report

Date: November 6, 2017
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director
From: Sandra Bottoms, Grants Program Specialist
Subject: Fall 2017 Open Space Grant Cycle Award Recommendations

Request and Recommendation

Request a resolution to approve the Fall 2017 Open Space Grant Cycle Recommendations. Staff/OSTAB joint recommendation is to fund the highest ranked and qualified Active Recreation Grants (total of 4), totaling \$906,500, as presented in the attached Fall 2017 Grant Cycle Ranking Sheet for Open Space Grant Proposals. This topic was heard by the Board of County Commissioners at a study session on November 6, 2017.

Background

In furtherance of the County Open Space Resolution, Open Space grant funds are invested throughout Arapahoe County communities using 12% of the annual sales/use tax revenue. The goal is to fund eligible, high quality projects that address urgent local needs for open space, parks, and trails. Eligible entities for grant funding include all incorporated municipalities within the County and outdoor recreation-oriented special districts.

At the study session on September 6, 2016, the BoCC gave direction to staff to run a Fall 2017 Special Grant Cycle for Active Recreation projects, such as playgrounds and ballfields, and allocating a maximum of \$1 million for the grant cycle. The grant categories for the Fall 2017 cycle are as follows:

- Large Active Recreation Grant Awards: \$101,000 to \$450,000, 25% total project cost minimum cash match
- Small Active Recreation Grant Awards: \$1,000 to \$100,000, 10% total project cost minimum cash match

Links to Align Arapahoe

Optimize Use of Financial Assets
Improve Park, Trail and Open Space Opportunities
Improve Communication and Stakeholder Input
Improve Customer Experience
Enhance Quality of Life

Discussion

By the deadline of August 25, 2017, five eligible agencies submitted a total of five eligible grant proposals, requesting a total of approximately \$1.3 million, with matching funds of about \$780,000. The County has \$1 million available for the Fall 2017 Grant Cycle.

The evaluation process involved: 1) initial staff review for eligibility and minimum qualifications; 2) evaluator group tour of project sites; 3) individual evaluation and ranking of each grant proposal by evaluators based on specific objective criteria; and 4) merit ranking of projects. The evaluation team consisted of six OSTAB members and five County staff members. Evaluators ranked each project based on the following criteria:

- scope of the project;
- need and urgency of the project;
- leveraging dollars/cash match provided;
- ability of the applicant to achieve the proposed results according to budget in a two year timeframe;
- supporting documentation; and
- capacity of the applicant to maintain the project site in future years

Individual rankings from participating evaluators were averaged to produce a final ranking (attached). Both large and small grant proposals were ranked in the same pool for the available \$1 million. The evaluation team recommends funding the four highest ranked proposals, listed below. One proposal is not recommended for funding at this time due to readiness concerns.

Active Recreation Grants:

- \$300,000 to City of Aurora for ***Olympic Ballfield Complex Lighting Upgrades***
- \$182,000 to Arapahoe Park and Recreation District for ***Spring Creek Park Playground Equipment Replacement & Enhancements***
- \$97,500 to City of Greenwood Village for ***Carson Skate Park Expansion***
- \$327,000 to Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation District for ***Lakeview Park Fields & Playground Renovation***

Alternatives

Recommend approval, conditional approval, or denial of each grant project.

Fiscal Impact

Twelve percent of annual revenue from the County Open Space Tax Fund is dedicated to funding competitive grants pursuant to the County Open Space Resolution. Recommended grant awards total \$906,500. The fund balance exceeds this amount.

Concurrence

On October 23, 2017, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) and Open Spaces Staff discussed the results of the grant evaluation process and made a joint recommendation to the BoCC (attached).

Attorney Comments

None.

Reviewed By:

Sandra Bottoms
Grants Program Specialist

Josh Tenneson
Grants and Acquisitions Manager

Shannon Carter
Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director

Tiffanie Bleau
Assistant County Attorney

Janet Kennedy
Finance Director

Attachments:

OSTAB Recommendation to the BoCC
Fall 2017 Grant Cycle Ranking Sheet for Open Space Grant Proposals

MOTIONS
(THIS PAGE WILL BE ON GREEN PAPER)

MOTION: I move to approve and authorize a total of \$906,500 in grant awards from the Arapahoe County Open Space Sales and Use Tax Fund, for the four Open Space grant projects listed below, as presented on this date of November 21, 2017:

Active Recreation Grants:

- \$300,000 to City of Aurora for Olympic Ballfield Complex Lighting Upgrades
- \$182,000 to Arapahoe Park and Recreation District for Spring Creek Park Playground Equipment Replacement & Enhancements
- \$97,500 to City of Greenwood Village for Carson Skate Park Expansion
- \$327,000 to Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation District for Lakeview Park Fields & Playground Renovation

RESOLUTION NO. _____ It was moved by Commissioner _____ and duly seconded by Commissioner _____ to approve the Fall 2017 Open Space Grant Cycle Award Recommendations, funding the highest ranked and qualified Active Recreation Grants (total of 4), totaling \$906,500, as listed below:

Active Recreation Grants:

- \$300,000 to City of Aurora for ***Olympic Ballfield Complex Lighting Upgrades***
- \$182,000 to Arapahoe Park and Recreation District for ***Spring Creek Park Playground Equipment Replacement & Enhancements***
- \$97,500 to City of Greenwood Village for ***Carson Skate Park Expansion***
- \$327,000 to Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation District for ***Lakeview Park Fields & Playground Renovation***

The vote was:

Commissioner Baker, ___; Commissioner Conti, ___; Commissioner Holen, ___; Commissioner Jackson, ___; Commissioner Sharpe, ___

The Chair declared the motion carried and so ordered.



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
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OSTAB Recommendation

Date: October 23, 2017
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB)
Subject: **Fall 2017 Open Space Grant Cycle – Ranking of Proposals & Recommendation**

OSTAB Recommendation: After reviewing the results of grant proposal evaluations and rankings for the Fall 2017 Grant Cycle as an action item on this date, the evaluation team composed of five County Staff and six OSTAB members recommends to the BOCC that the County approve grant funding for the Fall 2017 Grant Cycle as follows: Fund the highest ranked and qualified Active Recreation Grants (total of 4) totaling \$906,500, as presented in the attached Fall 2017 Grant Cycle Ranking Sheet for Open Space Grant Proposals. All grant awards are subject to available funds and the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) within 60 days of award notification, unless otherwise approved by County Grants Program Specialist, between the County and each grant applicant for each project.”

Motion by: Dala Giffin

Seconded by: Grider Lee

Vote: 7 Yes

 0 No

 0 Absent and Excused

 0 Abstain

Fall 2017 Active Recreation Grant Cycle Ranking Sheet

Applicant	Grant Request	Cash Match	Total Project	Project Description	FINAL RANK
City of Aurora	\$300,000	\$265,000	\$565,000	Olympic Ballfield Complex Lighting Upgrades	1
Arapahoe Park and Recreation District	\$182,000	\$60,780	\$242,780	Spring Creek Park Playground Equipment Replacement & Enhancements	2
City of Greenwood Village	\$97,500	\$32,500	\$140,000	Carson Skate Park Expansion	3
Cherry Creek Vista Park and Recreation District	\$327,000	\$109,173	\$441,448	Lakeview Park Fields & Playground Renovation	4
South Suburban Park and Recreation District	\$450,000	\$312,700	\$762,700	Progress Park Playground & Restroom	
Fall Grant Cycle Total Requests	\$1,356,500	\$780,153	\$2,151,928		
Total Awards Recommended	\$906,500	\$467,453	\$1,389,228		

Allocated Funding for Fall Cycle: \$1 Million

Recommended Awards: 4/5 Active Recreation Grants