



Board Summary Report

Date: March 25, 2019
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Relations Director
From: Sandra Bottoms, Grants Program Specialist
Subject: **2019 Open Space Grant Cycle Allocations Update**

Direction/Information

Open Spaces staff will provide an update on the 2018 Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations grant project; and request that \$500,000 in grant funding awarded for this project be reallocated to the 2019 Open Space Grant cycle.

Request and Recommendation

Request approval to move forward with the proposed reallocation of funds to the 2019 Open Space Grant cycle.

Background

South Suburban Park and Recreation District (SSPRD) was awarded a 2018 Arapahoe County Open Space Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations. The goal of this project was to renovate the park's 40-year old tennis courts, replacing the cracked asphalt surfacing with post-tension concrete and reconfiguring the court area to include two tennis courts and eight pickleball courts. The proposal had strong support from the community as evidenced by a well-attended public meeting and a support letter from local tennis and pickleball players including more than 100 signatures.

Sheridan Community Park is located on land that is leased from Sheridan School District #2. The current lease expires in 2027; however, at the time of the grant award, SSPRD was in negotiations with the school district to extend the lease an additional 11 years, through 2038. The grant application included a letter from the school district expressing support for the proposed project.

After six months of negotiations between SSPRD and the school district regarding the lease extension, the school district has denied SSPRD's request to extend the lease. SSPRD and County staff agree that the limited time remaining on the current lease does not justify the proposed investment of more than \$730,000 into the site. SSPRD maintained frequent and honest communication with Open Spaces staff throughout the lease negotiation process, and has submitted a letter to the County formally relinquishing the grant funds (attached).

Links to Align Arapahoe

Improve Services
Optimize Use of Financial Assets
Improve and Align Business Processes
Improve Park, Trail, and Open Space Opportunities
Improve Communication and Stakeholder Input

Discussion

Staff recommends reallocating the \$500,000 in grant funds awarded for the Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations project to the 2019 Open Space Grant cycle. Conversations with grant applicants over the past several months indicate that the current grant cycle will be highly competitive, with many large standard grant requests expected for high quality projects. Staff believes that increasing the amount of funding available for the 2019 grant cycle is the best way to ensure that we are addressing the current needs of our local agency partners and maximizing the positive impact of the Open Space Grants program.

In September 2018, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) approved an allocation of \$4 million for the 2019 grant cycle. If approved, this additional funding will bring the total available funding for 2019 to \$4.5 million to be awarded as follows:

- Seven or More (previously Six or More) Standard Grants: \$100,001 to \$500,000, 25% minimum cash match
- Up to Five Small Grants: \$1,000 to \$100,000, 10% minimum cash match
- Up to Five Planning Grants: \$1,000 to \$100,000, 10% minimum cash match

Alternatives

Recommend approval, approval with changes, or denial of request to reallocate funding.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the County. If approved, \$500,000 will be reallocated to the 2019 grant cycle making a total of \$4.5 million available for grants in 2019.

Concurrence

On February 25, 2019, the Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB) made a recommendation to the BoCC (attached) to move forward with the suggested reallocation of \$500,000 in relinquished grant funding to the 2019 Open Space Grant cycle.

Attorney Comments

None

Reviewed By

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 – February 25, 2019
Letter from SSPRD relinquishing Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations grant



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
PROTECT. CONNECT. ENJOY.

Date: February 25, 2019
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB)
Subject: **2019 Open Space Grant Allocations Update**

OSTAB Recommendation:

I move we recommend to the BOCC reallocation of \$500,000 in relinquished grant funding from the 2018 Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations project to the 2019 Open Space Grant cycle, bringing the total available funding for 2019 to \$4.5 million.

Motion by: Linda Strand

Seconded by: Grider Lee

Vote: 5 Yes

0 No

1 Absent and Excused

0 Abstain



6631 S. University Blvd.
Centennial, CO 80121
303.798.5131

December 28, 2018

Shannon Carter, Director
Arapahoe County Open Spaces
6934 South Lima Street Unit A
Centennial, CO 80112

Re: Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations 2018 Standard Grant Relinquishment

Dear Shannon,

South Suburban was awarded a \$500,000 Standard Grant in the 2018 grant funding cycle for the Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations. As you are aware, the District holds a lease for the Sheridan Community Park with the Sheridan School District which expires in eight years. For the past six months the District has tried to negotiate an extension to the lease for 15-years, but the School District denied the request without any explanation behind their decision.

Due to Sheridan School District's decision to not extend the lease, South Suburban has eliminated all capital funding for facilities within Sheridan Community Park due to the uncertain future public access to the park.

South Suburban is formally relinquishing the 2018 \$500,000 Standard Grant for the Sheridan Community Park Court Renovations.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Collins". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brett Collins, Director of Planning and Development

cc
Rob Hanna, Executive Director
Josh Tenneson, Grants and Acquisitions Manager