



Arapahoe County

5334 South Prince Street
Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-4630
Relay Colorado 711

Board Summary Report

File #: 24-554

Agenda Date: 10/8/2024

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To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: Gini Pingnot, Director, Open Spaces

Prepared By:

Michele Frishman, Grants and Acquisitions Manager, Open Spaces

Subject:

Local Government Partner for High Line Canal Conservancy Grant

Purpose and Request:

Open Spaces requests that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopt a resolution authorizing the Director to co-sign a grant agreement between the High Line Canal Conservancy (Conservancy) and The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund (GOCO), indicating the County will serve as the Conservancy's local government partner for the purpose of meeting GOCO's funding eligibility requirements for a grant made to the Conservancy.

Background and Discussion: The Conservancy received a \$7 million grant from GOCO in 2024 to fund a variety of High Line Canal improvement projects in Arapahoe County, Adams County, and the City and County of Denver. GOCO requires the Conservancy to partner with a local government in order to meet its funding eligibility requirements for the grant, and the Conservancy has requested that Arapahoe County serve as its local government partner. Arapahoe County took ownership of the respective sections of the High Line Canal in June 2024; however, the County will not be the recipient of any of the GOCO funds, nor will it manage or maintain any of the proposed projects.

Open Spaces is willing to co-sign the GOCO grant agreement as the Conservancy's local government partner so long as the agreement specifies that Arapahoe County (i) is not subject to the terms, conditions, requirements, or obligations of the agreement; (ii) has not approved any of the proposed projects as the owner of the respective sections of the High Line Canal; (iii) has not committed any funding to any of the projects; (iv) has no responsibility for management, construction, or maintenance of any of the projects; (v) has no responsibility for activities of any other parties; and (vi) has no responsibility to receive, disburse, or reimburse any GOCO funds. GOCO and the Conservancy have agreed to include these conditions in the grant agreement.

In the interests of allowing the Conservancy's large grant to proceed and encouraging improvements to the High Line Canal, Open Spaces recommends that the BOCC authorize the Director to co-sign the GOCO grant agreement on the conditions listed above.

Alternatives: If the BOCC chooses not to authorize the Open Spaces Director to co-sign the GOCO grant agreement, the Conservancy will be required by GOCO to find another local government partner.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ Be fiscally sustainable
- ☐ Provide essential and mandated service
- ☒ Be community focused

Concurrence: None.

Resolution: Attach a copy of the draft resolution.