

HIGHLANDS RANCH SENIOR CENTER

Site Evaluation - Summary of Public Comments

**Presented to Metro District Board of Directors
October 23, 2019**

BACKGROUND

- Staff presented Senior Center Site Evaluation Report to Board on September 24, 2019
- Of the 23 sites identified, the following three sites met the site criteria:
 1. Highlands Ranch Parkway, east of Broadway
 2. Plaza Drive and Erickson Boulevard
 3. Toepfer Park, future school site

PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT SITES

- The District solicited public comment about the sites via:
 - E-Messenger notices to Active Adult Program & Services and Water Conservation distribution lists
 - Next Door and Facebook posts
 - Chamber of Northwest Douglas County membership newsletter
 - Website Hot Topics
 - Article in Herald
- Public comment open through October 18, 2019

Thank you to everyone that provided input

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Over 240 individuals provided comment in four categories:
 1. Highlands Ranch Parkway site
 2. Plaza Drive site
 3. Toepfer Park site
 4. Other Comments

COMMENTS ON HIGHLANDS RANCH PARKWAY SITE

Pros:

- The majority of respondents (124) favored this site due to central location, visibility, proximity to bus route, shopping, restaurants, and medical services

Cons:

- Of the 124 comments in support of this site, several shared concerns about traffic, safety and increased congestion

COMMENTS ON PLAZA DRIVE SITE

Received 31 comments in support of the Plaza Drive site

Pros:

- Less impact on traffic, congestion, easy to get to
- Less impact on surrounding neighbors
- More opportunities for outdoor recreation at Fly'n B Park, Johnny's Pond and High Line Canal

Cons:

- Too far away
- Confusion with Wind Crest

COMMENTS ON TOEPFER PARK SITE

Received 12 comments in support of the Toepfer Park site

Received 4 comments opposed to this site

Pros:

- Central location

Cons:

- Impact on neighborhood and traffic, not enough space, already heavily used park
- Would like to see expanded park amenities

OTHER COMMENTS

Wide variety of over 60 comments ranging from:

- Questions about funding for capital and operations
- Desire for additional pickleball courts
- General support for senior center
- Opposition to senior center as we have four recreation centers
- Questions about amenities in facility and proposed programs
- Concerns about need for future expansion

OTHER COMMENTS

Wide variety of over 60 comments ranging from:

- Desire for active programs, fitness, Silver Sneakers
- Concerns about delays to projects
- Questions about partnership with County
- Confusion about difference between Metro District and HRCA
- Several people wanted more information

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion:

- Majority of comments supportive of senior center
- Highlands Ranch Parkway site appears to have the most support with concerns about safety, traffic and congestion
- Plaza Drive site suitable second option
- We need to continue to educate community about intent of senior center, funding proposed program, facility amenities, demographics, partnerships and the options we researched
- Not everyone who provided comment sees the need for, or supports, a senior center

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

