



Planning for open space, parks, recreation and trails now underway

The master plan for Centennial's open space, parks, recreation and trails is one of the City's next big accomplishments.

WENK Associates Planners & Landscape Architects has been selected to develop the plan in partnership with the citizens of Centennial and the newly appointed Advisory Board for open space, parks, recreation and trails. WENK will provide an inventory of assets, survey the community and provide the City with ideas for enhancing and protecting the City's natural resources and for recreation and community activities.

Centennial receives a portion of the Arapahoe County Open Space Tax each year. The amount received annually amounts to about \$2 million. Projects identified in the master plan could be funded through these "shareback" moneys. In addition, the City Council wants to award part of each year's allocation through a City grant program.

Advising the City Council and WENK Associates is the Advisory Board, selected to represent the four wards of the city. Nine members were sworn-in at a special ceremony July 19. Five are regular members and four serve as alternates.

Mayor's Representative: Chad Klever
Ward I: Mike Keables (Member) and Wayne Nelson (Alternate)
Ward II: Teri Hjelmstad (Member) and Malcolm Parks (Alternate)
Ward III: Sue Rosser (Member) and Geri DiPalma (Alternate)
Ward IV: Stephanie Piko (Member) and Jay Ledbetter (Alternate)

A Public Meeting on the Master Plan is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Thursday, September 6, at the City Building, 12503 E. Euclid Drive.

For more information, please go to the City's Website at www.centennialcolorado.com.



Centennial citizens begin process to create a vision for the City's next two decades



The City of Centennial, the largest incorporation of its kind in U.S. history when it was created six years ago, is bringing the same kind of intensive citizen involvement to its growth plans as it did to its formation.

Our Voice. Our Vision. Centennial 2030, will be a citizen-led effort to chart a course for the next two decades. We will formally launch August 10 and will run through April 2008.



Mayor Randy Pye said he believes the new visioning process is needed for two reasons: first, because residents' expectations have changed as the city has evolved and, second, because citizens will be asked this November to decide if they want to

change their form of government to a "home rule" type that provides more flexibility and autonomy.

"Planners have a nice phrase for this," Mayor Pye explained in his State of the City speech earlier this year, "creating the 'intentional city' -- a purposeful and thoughtful city that grows not only from opportunity, but from people's dreams, and what they are willing to do as partners with their government to make those dreams happen."

Mayor Pye and members of the Centennial City Council, who unanimously support the visioning process, also believe the vision has to come from the same place as the city's origins—a broad coalition of energized and engaged citizens who take part in a deliberate effort.

Spanning the next 10 months, *Our Voice. Our Vision. Centennial 2030*, will begin with an intensive month of opportunities for community members to make their voices heard—through meetings in each City Council ward, through a random-sample telephone survey, through opportunities to contribute ideas and opinions at (*continued on page two*)

A short history of Centennial, with an eye to the future



Residents voted to incorporate the City of Centennial on September 12, 2000 and elected its first officials on February 6, 2001. Centennial officially became a city the next day, February 7.

The quest for a new city took almost two and a half years, with victories in the state legislature and the Colorado Supreme Court. More than

three-quarters of voters approved what was the largest city incorporation in U.S. history.

As described in a November 2001 edition of *Governing Magazine*, “the City remains largely an abstraction to many residents. There’s no industry to give it identity in the way that steel, automobiles or ports have created a sense of uniqueness for other cities. It has no downtown, no Main Street, no civic center and no monuments to local heroes. Although its neighborhoods are all handsomely upscale, and

its commercial areas are modern and well maintained, it has no distinctive architecture or special features that set it apart in the sprawling urban region southeast of Denver.”

While that assessment might be seen as mostly a litany of negatives, it also could be read as a new page in the formation of cities—Centennial as a place with a chance to redefine what a city might be in a modern era, when steel, automobiles and even ports are no longer the most relevant defining elements of an urban environment.

The two positives—handsome neighborhoods and modern, well maintained commercial areas—are increasingly relevant in attracting residents. And, without aging city physical structures and perhaps overly bureaucratic governmental structures to undo, citizens have a greater chance of incorporating new thinking about what makes an effective and sustainable city.

The visioning process, *Our Voice. Our Vision. Centennial 2030* will provide an opportunity to define the Centennial of the future.



Our Voice. Our Vision. Centennial 2030



Next two decades, cont.’d.

such community gathering places as recreation centers and libraries...and, from their own homes, through a special website set up for this process—www.Centennial2030.com.

After the initial broad gathering of information, those who would like to be more deeply engaged can volunteer for sub-committees that will consider the following areas: city services, economic health, the environment, and community quality of life. These groups will meet for about three months to further develop the vision voiced by citizens and to create a roadmap of actions that will bring the vision to life.

The vision report, including action plans, will be prepared in spring of 2008 and available to citizens in late April.

Join Centennial in exploring Home Rule

After six years as a “statutory” city, Centennial’s mayor and city council will be asking residents of the City if they want another form of city government to take the community into the future. The first step will require the election in November of at least nine people who want to be on the Centennial Home Rule Charter Commission. A “home rule” city government is more customized to the community’s needs.

On November 7, voters will be asked to support exploration of home rule status for Centennial. Currently, Centennial is a “statutory” city. The city’s authority to act, even on solely local matters, must come from statewide laws or statutes. As Centennial has evolved, finding state statutes that cover every local situation is becoming more difficult. No other equally large city in Colorado retains its statutory status, having opted instead for the more flexible and customized status of “home rule.” While certainly all cities must continue to comply with federal and state laws, on local matters, home rule cities are guided by charters much the way states are guided by constitutions.

November’s vote will initiate the home rule process by approving the formation of a Centennial Home Rule Charter Commission and electing members to the Commission. The Commission will have the exciting task of exploring home rule status for the City and, within a quick 120 day timeframe, drafting a proposed home rule charter.

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Home Rule, cont.’d.

Voters will ultimately decide whether the proposed charter is acceptable at a second election tentatively scheduled for next spring.

A ‘yes’ vote will not affect taxes because no city, not even a home rule city, can increase or adopt new taxes without first obtaining voter approval. Voting against formation of a Commission means that Centennial will remain a statutory city.

Mayor Randy Pye has noted that home rule status supports the principle that “the best government is the one closest to the people. Voting for formation of a Commission opens up the possibility that Centennial may become a home rule city with increased citizen control and empowerment of our local government.”

All registered electors of the City are encouraged to consider participating in framing this important document. Persons interested in seeking election to the Commission should contact Brenda Castle, Deputy City Clerk, at 303-754-3302, to obtain a nomination petition. Petitions require the signatures of 25 registered electors and are due back to the City on or before September 4, 2007.

Take part in a citizen-led effort that will chart our City’s future

Spanning the next 10 months, this visioning process is a chance for all of us to dream and hope together, but also to help plan the actions that will turn dreams and hopes into reality. *Our Voice. Our Vision. Centennial 2030* provides citizens with many opportunities to make your opinion heard. We hope you will choose at least two of the following ways to add your voice to this exciting process.

- ◆ Attend a community meeting in your ward and speak out.
- ◆ Fill out a short questionnaire at www.Centennial2030.com.
- ◆ Pick up a questionnaire at area businesses, libraries and recreation centers.
- ◆ If you are chosen for a random phone survey about your vision for Centennial, say YES!
- ◆ Attend a community meeting in late September.
- ◆ Join one of these sub-committees that will work through October, November and December to turn all of our voices into one vision:
 - City Services
 - Environment
 - Economic Health
 - Community Quality of Life/Citizen Engagement

Let’s join together to create a shared commitment to a clear vision for an even better community for ourselves and our children.

Community Visioning Meetings and Ice Cream Socials

August 22	Ward I	Southglenn Library, 7500 S. University, #101	6 p.m.
August 16	Ward II	Koelbel Library, 5955 S. Holly	7 p.m.
August 26	Ward III	City Council Chambers, 12503 E. Euclid Dr., #200	4 p.m.
August 22	Ward IV	Smoky Hill Library, 5430 S. Biscay Circle	7 p.m.