

**Canon City Area Metropolitan
Recreation and Park District
575 Ash Street
Canon City, CO 81212
(719) 275-1578**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 10, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Nick Sartori in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present: Nick Sartori
 Joel Dudley
 Andrew Palmasano
 Cooper Trahern

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
 Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: One member of Citizens for a Pool

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to accept the consent agenda as written on the October 10, 2023 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- None

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- There was a meeting with Brian Rupp and Kevin (Casper) with the Fremont Sanitation District regarding the potential reservoir project in John Griffin Regional Park. They were provided with photos for their board meeting on October 17th. Kyle informed the board that the meeting was positive.
- Kyle and Dawn spoke to a representative from Streamline about switching the District's website to their platform to assist with the upcoming requirement for 100% website accessibility compliance. When running a scan on our current site, 98 pages show an error that is difficult to fix according to the representatives from SIPA and Streamline Kyle spoke to. The cost of a Streamline hosted site is approximately \$3,000, the current one, hosted by SIPA, is free.
- District staff are reviewing insurance policies for 2024 renewal. The property and liability insurance has a hail deduction buyback option for a cost.
- District staff continue to cleanup homeless camps. Additional camps have been found on Forrest Island and near Eagle Wing.
- District parks staff will be addressing ADA compliance projects in November and December. On the list are crusher fine paths to each of the pavilions at Rouse Park.
- Krista Bernard has paid her rent for October. Kyle will call her to let her know the lease will not be renewed, and attorney Dan Slater will follow up with a letter.
- The District's Recreation Receptionist position is open as Shelby Woolsey left for another job. Interviews are taking place.
- The board members were given two handouts. One is a copy of the letter from the Director for the Activity Guide, which will be coming out in the Shopper on October 24th. The other is a letter regarding treatment of officials that will be sent to parents of program participants utilizing the Team Sideline software. The District is having trouble finding officials as they do not like the way they are being treated. Kyle stated that the culture has to change.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Kyle was asked by the Board of Directors at a previous meeting to find out if other Districts and local agencies are passing resolutions against Proposition HH. Kyle informed the board that the SDA (Special District Association), CML (Colorado Municipal League), CCI (Colorado Counties Inc.), Fremont Count, the City of Canon City and multiple recreation districts have done so. Kyle stated that Proposition HH "defunds special districts." The resolution before the board goes into further detail.

The board discussed the resolution. Board member Melissa Smeins submitted a question regarding point 3b in the resolution and the impact on service delivery. Kyle

responded that due to our wage scale the District has lost staff, and the District does not have the funds to increase staffing levels to organize new programs or accept new facilities. There was further discussion about the proposition's impact on funding and the potential backfill.

RESOLUTION 2023-8

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO PROPOSITION HH

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to adopt resolution 2023-8. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

- Kyle has spoken with Mr. Slater and Ryan Stevens with the City of Canon City regarding the contract with OLC for the pool feasibility study. The \$3,500 item for the study of the current pool will be moved to public engagement. The contract will have a deadline of April 30, 2024.

Kyle is working on securing additional funding for the study. A grant application for \$15,000 was submitted to the El Pomar Foundation with a notification of possible award on October 26th. Donations from the Newmont Legacy Fund and the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park are expected. The Royal Gorge Route Railroad is discussing a contribution. Kyle received notice from the Fremont County Commissioners that the County has declined to contribute to the project. Kyle let the Board members know that representatives from OLC are excited to get working, and to provide the District with the facts and information needed to move forward with replacing the pool. Board member Nick Sartori said the District needs to recognize the entities that have contributed to the project. Kyle intends to send out a press release.

NEW BUSINESS

- Draft copies of the District's 2024 budget were distributed to the board. Kyle pointed out that it includes a copy of the updated salary schedule discussed with Board members Nick Sartori and Andy Palmasano. It shows a 6% increase (4% COLA and 2% step) like what the City of Canon City and the County are doing for their employees. Board member Andy Palmasano commented that the proposed salary scale will get the District closer to the average with other Recreation Districts (whose salaries were included in a benchmarking project). Board member Nick Sartori commented that our people are the most important assets.

Kyle stated that the budget was drafted assuming Proposition HH passes, but if it fails, the District can look at other projects with the increased funding, such as additional ADA compliance items. Additional information will be provided at the budget workshop, on November 14th, a week after the election.

The workshop will begin at 5:00 p.m. with the board agreeing to order dinner from Nirvana.

- The board reviewed the draft District goals for 2024, copies of which were included in their packets. Kyle asked the board if there were any other goals the board would like included on the list. Board member Andy Palmasano requested that repairing the potholes

in the Rouse Park parking lot be added. Kyle stated replacing the pavement would be an approximately \$500,000 project, but District staff can patch the holes. They did restripe the lot this year. Board member Nick Sartori stated that goals 4 and 8 from the 2023 list should remain as standing goals (“Enhance the Arkansas Riverwalk Trail” and “Continue to find and implement new programming offerings”, respectively)

There was discussion about the goal on the list for 2024 to enhance background checks. Kyle stated that a new Colorado law, SB21-088, stripped governmental immunity and removed the statute of limitations on claims of sexual abuse. The District needs to show due diligence in doing background checks and to permanently keep the records. Currently the District goes through CO-courts, which is not a national database. These expanded background checks cost up to \$23 and one would have to be done every 12 months. District staff are considering looking for sponsorships. In providing these sponsorships, businesses could point out that they are trying to keep kids safe. The estimated cost of these background checks is shown in the draft budget in the admin line in the Programs Activity fund.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Nick Sartori, adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

/s/ Nick Sartori

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair