

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:02 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
Melissa Smeins
Cooper Trahern (*via Teams*)

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Luke Javernick
Members of Citizens for a Pool

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Melissa Smeins made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to accept the consent agenda as written on the November 14, 2023 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Board member Nick Sartori stated that from his perspective, youth fall soccer went great.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- Kyle informed the board members that if they should choose to reach out to our state legislators regarding the upcoming special session, he can provide contact information.
- The District will be holding its last special event for the year, the Turkey Bowl/Turkey Trot, on November 18th. At this point, 53 football teams have signed up and approximately 40 participants for the trot.
- The District’s annual Toy Bowl was a wonderful event. The District collected approximately \$800 in cash, toys and food in donations. Tay Jefferds ran the music, and as a capstone project the ladies running the cheerleading camp had participants perform at the game. The food collected will be taken to a local food bank, and the toys to the Catalyst Church for distribution.
- District staff continue to cleanup homeless camps. Additional camps have been found on Forrest Island, near the Ropes Course and on the Schepp property. Board member Nick Sartori suggested hiring a drone operator to periodically patrol the Schepp Open Space to locate potential camps. Kyle stated the District is working with the Canon City Police Department and the Fremont County Sheriff’s Office with these issues. He did say that the District has a 4-wheeler that staff could use to patrol the Eagle Wing area.
- The District has completed the process to renew its insurance for 2024.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The board received an update on the John Griffin Regional Park project. Kyle Horne and Travis Payne met with the Fremont Sanitation District board, and the board members and the Executive Director liked the idea. Currently they are using the sanitation yard within the park for fill, and they may want a land exchange somewhere south of the river if the yard is converted for the project’s use.

Kyle, Travis and Luke Javernick also had a meeting with the water committee. As this was an open meeting, the potential project is out to the public. Currently the water treatment plant is doing a feasibility study for storage and other properties, as well as the location in John Griffin Regional Park, are being considered.

Luke Javernick spoke about hiring Kristie Nackord to develop a brochure about the project for the public, to “get ahead of the rumor mill”. Copies of her communications proposal were given to the board. A discussion followed and the board was hesitant as the project is

in a preliminary stage. Luke responded that this is just an idea. Kyle also mentioned an option for a possible 3-D rendering of what the project would look like.

Funding assistance from the Water Conservation Board for a feasibility study may be requested for 2025.

Prior to this, the District will have to wait and see what the City of Canon City decides on their water storage sites.

- Kyle stated the contract has been signed with OLC for the pool feasibility study. The grant application from El Pomar received a recommendation for approval. It requested \$15,000 for the study and the grant would be a pass through from the City of Canon City. Kyle stated the District should hear around December 5th about the final decision. The District has received other funds for the study: \$13,000 from the Royal Gorge Railroad, \$5,000 from the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park, \$1,000 from the Newmont Mine Legacy Fund, \$25,000 from the City of and Canon City and approximately \$6,400 from REC. The District has budgeted \$30,000 for the study.

Joni Stevens is doing pro bono work to help the District tell its story to the public. She is currently working with Kids Klub. Citizens for a Pool is working with Joni as well.

There is no kickoff date for the project yet, but Board involvement during the study is crucial.

Citizens for a Pool will be working on fundraising next spring.

Kyle said that other local business owners mentioned helping with the campaign.

During the feasibility study, OLC will have to do three large community meetings as well as two to three smaller community engagements, including going to the schools.

- The goals for 2023 as shown in the board packet handout were reviewed. Some have been completed, others are in progress, and some will be moved to the list for 2024. Board members had suggestions for the list of 2024 goals. Board member Melissa Smeins requested that number #2 be broader and include an action verb such as “implement”. Kyle stated that he is working with Kit Axton from Star Playgrounds about potential designs for an updated dog park, which is on the list of goals.

Also on the list is a metal lean-to structure in the archery range near the office building to secure maintenance equipment. Staff discussed converting the east handball court at Rouse Park to storage.

Board member Cooper Trahern would like the goals to be more actionable and specific. He mentioned changing #5 to “Removal of the Ropes Course” and to remove the word “potential” from #3 concerning a tax question.

Using these recommendations, Kyle will have the list of 2024 goals at the December board meeting for board approval.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Public Hearing on the Recreation District’s proposed 2024 budget was opened at 7:55 p.m. There were no comments from the public and the hearing was closed at 7:56 p.m.

- The board discussed the Executive Director’s annual evaluation process. In the past, Kyle completed a self-evaluation and three board members met with the department heads. Each board member will complete an evaluation form, copies of which were included in the board packet. Board member Nick Sartori will compile the responses and

requested that they be returned to him by December 4th. Andy Palmasano will meet with Dawn Green (Finance), Cooper Trahern with Tawny McCall (Programs) and Joel Dudley with Devin Everhart (Parks).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Nick Sartori, adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

/s/ Nick Sartori

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair