

Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District
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SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2024

CALL TO ORDER The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board of Directors met with the City Council of Canon City during their Vision Committee Meeting in the City Council Chambers at 128 Main Street, Canon City, Colorado at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Board Members: Nick Sartori
 Melissa Smeins
 Andrew Palmasano

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
 Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Council Members: John Hamrick Andrea Stein
 Kathy Worthington Emily Tracy
 Amy Schmisser Gerald Meloni

City Staff: Ryan Stevens

JOINT MEETING

- The meeting started with a presentation by Rob Brown on the FEDC’s (Fremont Economic Development Corporation) work in the community.
- This was followed by a presentation by Kyle Horne, Executive Director of the Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District. His presentation stressed that recreation is an essential service for quality of life. The Icabone pool served our community for 57 years but has outlived its useful life. A new outdoor pool is estimated to cost between thirteen and fifteen million dollars. It will be built to serve a community of 30,000 and new construction designs are expected to last 50 years. Kyle showed results from the first community survey in which 92% were in favor of a pool, and the highest-ranking pool type was recreational. In programming, recreation and swim lessons ranked high. Taxes were the least favorite mode of funding. He stated that “People want a pool, they just don’t want to pay for it.”

The preferred site location is the site of the current Icabone Pool. In discussions with the School District and the City, it may be possible to come across 12th Street and onto the high school lawn area.

In the survey, 6% of the respondents left answers to the open-ended question, and those responses were mixed.

The slides on the results of the first community survey are available on the pool feasibility study website.

Kyle stated that the Recreation District has never had a mill increase. Slides in the presentation showed how a resident's property tax dollar is allocated among the taxing entities in the city and the county. In per capita funding, the Canon City Recreation District is the second lowest funded recreation district in the state.

However, even at this funding level, the District has added and improved facilities since 1966, as well as increased both the number of programs offered, and participants served.

The four previous tax questions asked to address the pool all failed.

This year, it is about replacing the pool. There is a current survey on the pool feasibility website as a next step. There will be a public meeting on June 25th at CCHS at 5:30 p.m.

In response to a question about when the next tax funding question will be asked, the answer was 2024. Attorney Dan Slater stated that it is critical to go in a higher voter turnout year.

The Citizens for a Pool group are working to get people involved in the project.

A discussion followed, touching on the following topics: bond counsel and bond underwriting; difficulty in finding grant funding for a public pool; possibly partnering with the City to fund the project through a small increase in sales tax and a small Recreation District property tax increase. (a .25 cent sales tax increase would generate approximately 1.25 million per year which could be used to fund the capital construction of a 15-million-dollar facility).

The deadline for a letter of intent to be on this November's ballot is July 25th.

Kyle Horne pointed out that if the community waits, the costs are only going to get more expensive.

The second round of surveys asks about preferred amenities which will then lead to pool concepts with associated price tags.

The Recreation District will be working with Magellan Strategies on a scientific survey of most likely voters. Next steps include professional service engagement for bond counsel and bond underwriting. There will also be more results from the feasibility study and surveys in June, July and August.

The importance of a pool as an economic asset for our community was discussed. City Administrator, Ryan Stevens, stated it is important to attract younger families and a workforce to the community.

A comment was made that in this current process the School District, the Recreation District and the City are all working together.

Randi Esquibel from Citizens for a Pool spoke about comments she has received from the public, including that the citizens like the idea of spreading the tax burden over

more people through the combination of a sales tax and property tax. She also stated that Citizens for a Pool will be hosting a fundraiser at White Water Bar and Grill on May 31st.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:26 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

/s/ Nick Sartori

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair