

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2026

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

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present: Cooper Trahern
Melissa Smeins
Andrew Palmasano
Kristina Post
Sean Rodgers

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Andy Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Melissa Smeins to accept the consent agenda as written for the August 11, 2026 regular meeting. 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:

Kyle reported an accident occurred at the bridge. The driver suffered a medical issue but was not hurt. However, there was damage to the walking bridge

off the Ash Street Trailhead. Kyle is working with the driver's insurance company on the claim. The District sent an estimate of the cost of repairs, including the parks crew "in-house" labor hours, with a total shy of \$5,000. The insurance company offered \$3,900. Kyle sent the information to Dan Slater to review.

The final agreement on school facility fees went well.

The Recreation District will hear soon from Black Hills Energy regarding the grant application for the Harrison Mini-Pitch. Kyle will let the Board know when the District receives an answer.

Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers were here today to review the project in John Griffin Regional Park and met with Luke Javernick and Travis Payne. The grant for the project is moving forward, and the MOU is being finalized. City Council has information on the prospective companies vying to do the feasibility study.

The Recreation District is looking at a youth corps grant with the Mile High Youth Corps (through GOCO) including a possible partnership with the BLM to remove invasive trees. The grant is due on August 19th. The District is requesting three weeks of assistance from a youth corps crew.

The District is waiting to receive the draft ordinance on E-bike and E-motorcycle use from the City.

The 2027 budget starts this month with worksheets distributed to District staff. In September, two board members will meet with Kyle and Dawn Green to review the salary schedule. Board members Andy Palmasano and Sean Rodgers volunteered.

Later this month Dawn and Kyle will meet with representatives from CEBT (the District's health insurance provider). A significant increase is expected for next year and the District has been looking at other options moving forward.

Dan Slater:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Pool Project

Kyle reviewed the project schedule.

A ballot language meeting was held today with the attorneys, Kyle and City Administrator Ryan Stevens. Attorney Dan Slater said that the meeting concluded with all parties on the same page. The City's attorney will provide draft language to the City Council. When it comes out in the Council's meeting packet Ryan will send the information to Kyle who will forward it to the board.

Kyle will meet with Paul Wember and Dusty Black from the Wember team tomorrow.

The City Council meeting is on August 17th at City Hall. If more than two Recreation District board members would like to attend, Kyle will post it on the District's website. Three board members indicated they will not attend, so it does

not need to be posted. At the meeting, City Council will decide if they want to put the question on the ballot.

Next Thursday a work session for the City and Recreation District IGA (Intergovernmental Agreement) is scheduled. Kyle clarified who will be attending - including Council members Fred Toney and Amy Schmisser, the attorneys, Ryan Stevens, Kyle Horne (and two members of the Recreation District board).

Kyle stated that the tax is a pass through to the Recreation District.

On August 25th there will be a meeting with Ryan Stevens, the pool partners and District staff.

Kyle is currently working on factual information regarding the status of the project for the Recreation District's website. There have been a lot of recent meetings on the project.

Mr. Mike Banker, with assistance from Gwen Ferguson, will be leading the citizens' group supporting the project. Individual board members can provide their own opinion about the project.

Board members discussed the project. Board member Cooper Trahern asked if any of the previous pro-pool groups would help with funding. Board member Melissa Smeins stated the remaining campaign money raised last year was donated to the non-profit Citizens for a Pool.

Preliminary information about the project was provided to the School District. With a seasonal option of this size, BRS estimates that approximately 50 parking spaces would be needed. It was asked if the Recreation District could, through an agreement with St. Michael's Church, use the lot near the pool. If the parking lot is on school property, an IGA will be needed. Board member Cooper Trahern asked if striping the street would count as parking spaces (since 12th Street may not be vacated.) Attorney Dan Slater replied that it probably would not count. Parking needs are based on the size of the building. Ryan Stevens has said it is up to city staff to determine the number of spots needed. As 12th Street will remain, the City does not need to be involved in the IGA. Kyle Horne suggested that paying for the parking lot could be part of the project, but the School District and Recreation District will need agreements on use as well as responsibilities for maintenance and liability. He commented that this project is moving fast.

Discussion on Streaming of District Board Meetings

At last board meeting, the Board requested staff provide information on streaming Recreation District board meetings. Kyle worked with the District's IT provider for a recommendation. The District could purchase an Owl with a tripod and mic extender to record the meetings as part of the existing Microsoft Teams bundle. It would include a tablet to control the equipment. The meetings could then be uploaded to SharePoint; the District has enough space. The next day the meeting could be uploaded to YouTube. Kyle recommends turning off the comments as there is a requirement regarding having to maintain them. Attorney Dan Slater agreed that it is a bad idea to turn them on.

The one time payment for the equipment is approximately \$4,700. In addition to the board meetings, this equipment could be used for conference calls, etc.

Kyle stated that based on his research, most special districts do not stream their meetings.

A board discussion followed. Board member Kristina Post asked if there would be an annual cost associated with this option. There would not be as it integrates with our current Teams account. Board member Melissa Smeins asked if a voice recording of the meeting could be put online. There was discussion about the viability of this option and whether it would meet accessibility requirements. A question was raised on whether posting it afterwards addresses concerns raised by citizens that we have not been live streaming the meetings. Board member Cooper Trahern stated the Recreation District is doing everything legally now and it would be an unnecessary expense to satisfy a small group of citizens. He wondered if draft minutes could be posted on the website, and this was discussed briefly. Board member Melissa Smeins asked if it would be helpful to the public perception of the District to use the Owl. Kyle pointed out that with the Owl, the audio quality would be better, and viewers could see who was talking, including any guests. There are pros and cons either way. He went on to say that the District is meeting legal requirements, and the Owl system was not budgeted for in 2026. He will see what systems the fire and sanitation districts use.

Board member Cooper Trahern suggested tabling this issue until after the November ballot and revisit it during next year's budget discussion. Board member Sean Rogers shared some of his thoughts. The Recreation District deals with taxpayer funds and the fact that there are no guests at this meeting is not a reflection of the importance of what we do. He asked, what are you incentivizing by recording or streaming the meetings. Kyle said a recording does not allow people to be proactive. Board member Sean Rodgers agreed that it may not be constructive - if you are just viewing the meeting are you helping to make the District function better. Board member Cooper Trahern expressed concerns that posting may do more harm than good as social media comments could be negative, untrue or taken out of context. People need to be invested in the process. Mr. Trahern suggested using platforms to provide education (about the District), and to also encourage people to come to meetings. Board member Kristina Post asked if getting a better microphone would allow the District to post the audio. Kyle will research this option. Board member Andy Palmasano sees no need to rush this as it isn't in this year's budget. There was a consensus to discuss this at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Cooper Trahern adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

/s/ Melissa Smeins

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Melissa Smeins, Meeting Chair