

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 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
Andrew Palmasano
Cooper Trahern

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Luke Javernik
Travis Payne
Tim Payne

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 September 19, 2023 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Board member Joel Dudley, who was at a Marine Corps league tournament at Rouse Park, complimented the fields and lights. Board member Andy Palmasano stated the park is packed at Rouse during youth football.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- The Recreation District is renewing the medical insurance plan at CEBT for 2024. The increase to the PPO3 plan for 2024 is 3.5%. The District's GAP plan through American Fidelity is ending as the plan is leaving the state at the end of the year. Staff are looking at a comparable option through Transamerica which would keep the benefit in place.
- The recent Archery Shoot raised \$1,800 in donations for the range. The District is looking at potentially adding additional 3D targets.
- Kyle and Dawn spoke to a representative from the El Pomar foundation about a possible grant for the dog park. Upgrades discussed included a small dog area and adding play equipment. Solving the issue of providing water to park users is hampered by trying to find a viable source.
- The District has spent over \$9,000 in resources to clean up homeless camps this year. There is a camp on Forrest Island that needs addressed. A break-in at the Nailor House was discovered. There are also termites near the house and the cost to remove them is estimated at \$1,800. District staff are looking at ways to enhance security for the property.
- Kyle and Dawn attended the annual SDA Conference in Keystone. Recordings of the sessions are available online for conference attendees. If a board member would like to view one, please let Kyle know. There was a lot of focus at the conference on wellness and working with different generations. During the sessions on elections, the importance of getting your message across was stressed.
- Kyle recognized District staff: maintenance for facility upkeep, programs for a healthy income statement (with the District's largest event happening soon) and for dealing with angry members of the public.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater stated he is making incremental progress on the trail connection and has drafted deeds to share with the Whitneys and the County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Luke Javernik provided a recap and update on the stream channel project in John Griffin Regional Park. The levy that was built in the 1950s (and on which the Riverwalk Trail sits) cut off flood plain access to the side channels in the eastern part of the park. Restoring those channels would improve recreational value and habitat-mostly for fish.

The grant requested for a feasibility study was not awarded. The Recreation District provided funds for the first step-looking at water rights. The District's one CFS may not be enough to increase habitat, but Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has water passing through.

In a new development, there was a discussion with Canon City representatives about water storage in a potential reservoir in the area around the Ropes Course. It could be a way to have sustainability for the flow of water. Information about this option was included in the board packets. Travis Payne, from the City of Canon City Water Department, provided additional information. The reservoir, at 20 ft. deep, would hold about 400-to-500-acre feet of water. It has recreational value for boating and the City could control the releases into the side channels. The multi-use aspect of this idea opens it up to more grants. As it includes the Sanitation District owned property in the area, Kyle spoke to their Executive Director about the project at the SDA conference.

Attorney Dan Slater stated that in the history of the park, previous proposals to change the park were contentious. There is a likelihood of litigation to stop such a project.

There was further discussion about the project. Mr. Payne stated there is a funding potential with the Colorado Water Conservancy Board, but it would be a five-, ten- or fifteen-year project with many steps and obstacles, such as the cost to remove the old sanitation infrastructure and the installation of piping under the trail system to send the water back to the City's treatment plant.

Board member Nick Sartori asked about next steps. A meeting with Mr. Sartori, Mr. Horne, Mr. Javernick and Mr. Payne with representatives from the Sanitation District will be scheduled.

- Members of the committee for the pool feasibility study met with representatives of the companies associated with the two proposals. There were seven members of the committee representing the Recreation District, the City of Canon City and the Citizens for a Pool group. A copy of the committee's report was sent to the board via email. The recommendation is to choose the proposal by OLC. If the estimated reimbursables are included the study will cost approximately \$81,000. A line item in the proposal to analyze the existing facility at a cost of \$3,500 should be removed. Ryan Stevens stated that the City approved \$25,000 and an IGA between the City and the Recreation District will need to be signed. Representatives from the City will be involved in drafting the contract for services. There was discussion about funding for the project. Kyle stated that \$30,000 of the funds the District allocated to subsidize pool operations could be used towards the study. Kyle has approached the County for matching funds and the Royal Gorge Bridge and Park for a donation. After the failed recreation center election, REC (the campaign committee) donated the remainder of their funds to the District to move forward with a pool. Kyle stated that it can be used for the feasibility study and attorney Dan Slater agreed.

RESOLUTION 2023-7

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF CAÑON CITY AND ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY WITH OLC ARCHITECTURE INTERIOR AND ARCHITECTS

Board member Melissa Smeins made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to adopt resolution 2023-7. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

- Proposition HH will be on the ballot this year. It is the third senate bill in recent years to address property taxes. Senate Bill 238 from last year still applies, which means the assessment rate for residential property is 6.765% and the exemption rate is \$15,000. If Proposition HH passes the exemption rate will increase by \$35,000 and the assessment rate will drop to 6.7%.

When Kyle previously spoke to the Fremont County Assessor, she expected a 30% increase in assessed value during this assessment year. When the District received its preliminary evaluation notice, the increase was only approximately 15%.

Kyle relayed that at a session at the SDA, presenter David Flaherty said a layman's way to describe Proposition HH is that it "defunds" special districts. Kyle Horne continued by saying that backfill is unlikely as school and health districts get it first. Proposition HH is not supported by the SDA, CML (Colorado Municipal League) or the CCI (Colorado Counties Inc.) In polling, the informed voter votes no and the uninformed votes yes. The SDA has sent out communication asking their members to pass a resolution against it.

Board member Cooper Trahern would like to know if other districts are passing resolutions. Board member Nick Sartori gave guidance to call other recreation districts. It was also suggested to reach out to the Canon City Fire Protection District.

- As the Recreation District is working on the budget for 2024, the staff salary schedule needs to be reviewed. Kyle asked which two board members would like to help. He said that Montrose Recreation District sent out a salary survey, our District participated and received a summary of the results. Board members Nick Sartori and Andy Palmasano agreed to help review the schedule. Board member Cooper Trahern suggested tying a bonus to programs that finish under budget.

- The board was given a copy of the 2023 goals and a discussion of the goals for 2024 followed. These goals impact the budgeting process. Some items suggested by staff include a lean-to shed for equipment at the Ash Street property, turning the east handball courts into storage space at Rouse Park, purchasing a turf tank to line fields, a new mascot costume for programs use, a new software module for W-2s, dog park improvements (and seeking related grant funding) and possible improvements to the archery range. Board member Nick Sartori has a goal to remove the ropes course.

Kyle mentioned that if Proposition HH passes the budget calendar changes. The Assessor has until December 29th to provide the final evaluation and the deadline to certify the mills is January 15th. The budget approval deadline does not change.

- There was discussion about the rental house at Pathfinder Park. The renter paid the balance required and the eviction process stopped. The District is still on track to find a new renter for the house when the lease expires near the end of the year. Attorney Dan Slater stated that he will inform the renter that the lease will not be renewed. The Board agreed that this notification should take place after the October rent is paid (and still within the time frame required.)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Nick Sartori, adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green
Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Nick Sartori
Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair