

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President, Nick Sartori, in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present: Nick Sartori
Joel Dudley
Andrew Palmasano
Melissa Smeins
Cooper Trahern

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Kyle Logan Randi Esquibel
Travis Payne Ashley Sack
Lance Timmons Kevin Post
Tony Adamic

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Andrew Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to accept the consent agenda as written on the May 14, 2024 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:

Kyle has spoken with Amy Nasta, City of Florence Manager, about the inclusion of Florence into the Recreation District.

Randy Pringle has resigned from the parks crew for health reasons. A Parks Worker II position was opened today.

A baseball tournament scheduled at Rouse Park was hampered due to heavy rain, creating a water retention problem on the fields. The reservation for the fields was paid, and volunteers from the Naturals and staff member Cody Bennett worked to try and make the fields usable, but the tournament was cancelled due to the weather. Kyle stated that he believes District staff could have done more to help. A brief discussion followed on where the responsibilities end for the Recreation District in this type of situation.

Kyle requested that the board make sure to read Tawny's report.

Dan Slater:

Dan Slater stated that he has received an okay from the County's attorney for the connector trail to Dawson Ranch.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kyle Logan from Logan and Associates reported on the financial audit for 2023. Board members were given copies of the 2023 audited financial statements. Mr. Logan completed onsite work at the end of January which included reviewing financial samples, financial analysis, and reviewing minutes, contracts and agreements to issue an opinion on the financial statements of the District. At the conclusion of the audit, the District received an unmodified opinion, which is the best that can be received from an independent auditor.

He reviewed some items from his report with the board. The balance sheet is a snapshot of the assets, liabilities and net worth of the District at the end of the year. The liabilities are minimal for a District of our nature, and the District has no debt. The balance in the general fund would cover ten to eleven months of operations, as would the balances in the business type funds. The expenses for 2023 were comparable to 2022, however there was a reduction in pool expenses due to its closure. Interest revenue increased from 2022. He also spoke on the required notes included in the audit report and pointed out the required supplementary information and budget comparison.

Kyle Horne asked him if the District could find \$15 million to fund the pool based on the financials. Kyle Logan responded that based on the net position of the District, he doesn't know where it would be.

There was discussion about the newly signed property tax legislation and whether it would put a 5.5% cap on the District's growth.

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to accept the 2023 financial audit report. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

There will be a pool committee meeting tomorrow at 3:00 p.m., and a joint meeting between the Recreation District board and City Council next week on May 22nd. The Citizens for a Pool fundraiser is on May 31st. The next public meeting for the pool is scheduled for June 6th. Via Teams, Lance Timmons and Kevin Post gave an interim report on the results from the community input to the online engagement tool. Participation on the website increased after the first public meeting and after a social media push in March. 1,700 contributors provided over 4,000 contributions. The quick poll showed support for a new aquatics center with a recreational pool being most desirable. Also showing high support were swim lessons and recreational swimming. There was support for deep water activities and lap lanes as well. Concerning funding preference, tax revenue was the lowest supported and user fees scored higher. The Icabone pool site location polled highest. There was an open-ended question and the feedback received showed mixed sentiment to the pool project with concerns about funding and tax increases. Other comments included: that a swimming pool is a vital resource, an indoor facility is popular, the Icabone site was chosen for its accessibility, and suggestions to explore funding beyond taxes. Board member Melissa Smeins asked about the difference between the positive response in the quick poll and the negative sentiment shown in the responses to the open question. In an answer, it was pointed out that the open question was optional and the summary on sentiment was gathered only from those who chose to complete it. In summary everyone really wants a pool, they just don't want to pay for it. Operational revenues, through user fees, if priced higher can help minimize the subsidy burden on the taxpayers.

Board member Nick Sartori asked about the indoor or outdoor options. These are still being explored, and the project could result in a combination of both.

There will be a scientific survey in June/July and if the Recreation District plans to go to the voters, the County needs to be notified in July. Kyle told the board to plan for a special meeting in July.

Board member Nick Sartori requested a copy of the list of comments from the open-ended question.

Randi Esquibel with Citizens for a Pool spoke to the board. They are having their first fundraiser on May 31st at White Water Bar and Grill, please share the flyer about the event and attend. There will be a silent auction. They are working on a promotional video with Galaxy Media, and they had a float in the (Blossom Day) parade.

Kyle recorded five different videos on the District (which are available on the pool website) and will be speaking to the Chamber.

NEW BUSINESS

The process to demo the ropes course has started. Some of the materials will be used in the lean-to. Black Hills Energy has agreed to move the large poles. Ashley Sack and Travis Payne of FAR gave a presentation on a suggested use to repurpose the ropes course space. They would like to install a bike park where riders can learn and practice mountain biking skills in a low stakes' environment. The Yard is good for those with higher skills. This area could be used for beginning learners and skill sessions for school athletes. They showed examples of possible features including skinnies for balance, rock sections, berms to teach cornering, seesaws and small ramps.

An estimated cost is \$3,500 per feature for a total of \$20,605. They are not asking for any funding from the District, and they would help provide volunteer labor. Attorney Dan Slater asked about the risk involved and the potential for major injuries. The District is the property owner, and it may be liability issue. A brief discussion followed. Board member Cooper Trahern views the project as a great use of the space. It was pointed out that these features can be moved should the water project in John Griffin Regional Park move forward in the future. Board member Andy Palmasano stated that logistically it makes sense. There was board agreement on the project. The Recreation District received approximately \$180,500 in backfill funding and it can be used to address some of the District's needs. Staff recommends replacing the roof on the office building (approximate cost \$60,000), shoring up the network at the office (waiting on a quote from Second 61) and programmable time locks for trail and park bathrooms to reduce vandalism (approximately \$1,000 per bathroom). ADA trail work is also an option. Board member suggestions included keeping some in reserves, patch work for the Rouse Park parking lot, and potential year-end bonuses if the goals are met. There was discussion about the need for bond underwriting. It is needed if there are to be general obligation bonds or certificates of participation for the pool. An IGA with the City is also needed. The Recreation District does not have a bond rating. Working with a bond underwriter will help determine the needed increase in mills for property tax and/or sales tax and the cost to homeowners and taxpayers to fund the project. Kyle Horne stated that the firm RBC has worked with the School District. Todd Snidow of RBC has worked with the Recreation District in the past and he would like to see this happen for us.

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Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Cooper Trahern to have a letter of engagement with RBC. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Along with bond underwriting. Bond counsel is also needed to write the ballot language. Kyle Horne interviewed Tom Peiltz of Kutak Rock and recommended him for this professional service. Mr. Horne stated that both Dan Slater and the City's attorney know Mr. Peiltz.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to engage Kutak Rock as bond counsel. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to move into executive session for legal advice under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and negotiations under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) regarding a letter of intent-negotiations with Canon City Schools.. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

The executive session started after a short break at 9:05 p.m. The executive session ended at 9:20 p.m. and the regular session resumed.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green
Dawn Green, Finance Director

/s/ Nick Sartori
Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair

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EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
May 14, 2024

Executive Session was called at 9:05 p.m.

The substance of discussion during executive session was legal advice under C.R.S. section 24-6-402(4)(b) and negotiations under C.R.S. section 24-6-402(4)(e) regarding letter of intent negotiations with Canon City Schools.

The executive session adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green
Dawn Green, Finance Director

/s/ Nick Sartori
Nick Sartori, Chairperson