

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 14, 2022**

**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  
                                  Greg DiRito \* *arrived at 7:17 p.m.*  
                                  Brett James  
                                  Joel Dudley \* *attended via Zoom*  
                                  Melissa Smeins

Staff:                     Kyle Horne       Executive Director  
                                  Dawn Green     Finance Director

Attorney:                Dan Slater

Guests:                  Members of the public interested in the dog park

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board member Brett James made a motion, seconded by board member Melissa Smeins to accept the consent agenda as written on the June 14, 2022 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- The Recreation District was thanked by those attending for the work recently done at the dog park: mowing, spraying weeds and filling the holes. They are working on a survey to be reviewed by Kyle Horne to help with the needs assessment for the park. Copies of the survey were distributed to the board members. In reference to the water issue, they stated that park visitors are bringing gallon jugs and volunteers are refreshing them. Other requested items, such as fixing the bulletin board, need to be incorporated into the maintenance calendar when feasible.

## **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- Board member Nick Sartori commented that Opening Day was great, and that Cody Bennett did a good job. There was a short discussion on the treatment of umpires, which Kyle did mention during Opening Day.

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- He has received clearance to return to work full-time.
- There are multiple homeless camps that need to be removed from the Schepp Open Space. Kyle has put up notices in the area as to the date and time of the cleanup. It is scheduled for Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 am. Deputies from the Sheriff's office will be on hand. The District is taking heavy equipment. Kyle estimates it will take staff and volunteers approximately four to five hours to complete. Board member Nick Sartori asked if this type of work is something the District can contract out.
- So far the pool is running well. An experienced swim lesson instructor was hired to oversee lessons. Kyle appeared on Channel 5 regarding the statewide lifeguard shortage.
- With the upgrade to Active Net's user interface, District staff has decided to stay with this registration software and add Team Sideline to aid league management. The District is looking at a 3-year renewal with a few things to negotiate on price. Dan will need to review the contract. The District needs to renew the contract by October.
- Kyle requested that the board review and prioritize the list of items to request from the County should additional ARPA funds become available. He needs to send the list to the commissioners.
- There is an open canoeing competition on the Arkansas River that would like to relocate from Buena Vista to Canon City at the suggestion of RG Rio. Kyle was contacted to see if there was a way to allow camping at the Nailor property. Kyle stated the event would give exposure to our section of the river. Organizers would be responsible for port-a-potties and trash removal. In speaking to representatives of AHRA, they have never had an issue with this event when it was in Buena Vista. Although organizers requested the camping permit begin on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kyle recommends avoiding the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and issuing the permit from July 5<sup>th</sup> to July 10<sup>th</sup>. There was a brief discussion, and a permit will be issued. The camping permit from Pathfinder will be modified and reviewed by attorney Dan Slater.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater stated that he has the legal descriptions for the property exchange.
- He will not attend next month's Recreation District board meeting in person

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Kyle, Parks Supervisor Devin Everhart, and board member Greg DiRito met at Rouse Park with Chris Churchich of Churchich Recreation to discuss options for the improvement project. After reviewing the area and the drainage issues, it was suggested that the two picnic pavilions remain and an additional small one be added between Fields A and B near the fence along Park Ave. Shade structures over the bleachers on the two fields could be added. Mr. DiRito commented that these revisions to the project would address the need (for more shade/picnic area) with more “bang for your buck.”

Kyle has spoken to Judy Lohnes, who is on the El Pomar board, about the project and she is willing to provide feedback on our grant application to the foundation.

- In the board packets were copies of the draft RFP (Request for Proposals) for the lighting improvement project at Rouse Park. Kyle stated that the project needs to be done right the first time, so the RFP includes specifics on type of lights, coverage and warranty. There is an 8-to-12-week timeline for the materials and work.

The board discussed any concerns with the RFP. Attorney Dan Slater recommended removal of the reference to the app for Blackberry on page 5 (section 2.3 F).

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion to send out the RFP with the corrections to section 2.3 F, seconded by board member Brett James. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Kyle will issue the RFP on BidNet.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Information on SB22-238 was shared with the board. Two 11-page documents detailing the bill and its explanation were emailed to the board members. The Special Districts Association (SDA) hosted a conference call on the impacts of the passage of this bill. Taxpayers will see a lower property tax rate for 2023 and 2024 and excess revenue collected by the state will be used to backfill local governmental entities. A one-page document explaining how revenues are backfilled was included in the board packets. Fremont County is projected to be made whole by the State of Colorado.

- Kyle updated the board on the Family and Medical Leave Insurance which will go into effect in 2023. Local governmental agencies like the Recreation District will have three options. The options were listed on handouts included in the board packets. One option is for the District to fully participate in the program. Another is to decline all participation in FAMILI. The third is to decline employer participation in the program. At a recent managers’ lunch attended by Kyle, most local agencies are declining participation. The SDA will be hosting a webinar on the topic this Friday. As attorney Dan Slater pointed out, the District will have to decide which option to choose before October as it will affect the budget. He suggested that the board be provided with a document showing the projected costs prior to a decision being made. If a local government declines all participation, the FAMILI division needs to be notified prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

- Kyle attended a School District meeting which addressed the facilities at CCHS, McKinley Elementary School, Lincoln and CES. The School District has eleven mills coming off the property tax next year but would like to use it to go after BEST grants to update these facilities by building separate gyms for Lincoln and McKinley, updating cafeterias and the track/stadium at CCHS. The School District has four plan options to use these mills, two of which would require a tax increase. They are in the planning stage and may be going to the voters in November of 2023. Kyle asked if any of the board members would like to attend the planning meetings. The board discussed the timing of the tax questions by the school and potential future tax questions by the Recreation District. Board members Melissa Smeins and Greg DiRito volunteered to attend the planning meetings.
- District Programs Staff originally expressed interest in running concessions at Rouse Park this year but have realized the amount of work that requires. Brandon Smith has stepped up and would like to take over the concession lease, a copy of which was included in the board packets. It is similar to the lease used last year with James McDaniel. However, the guaranteed amount the District would receive is the higher of \$1,800 or 24% of gross sales. It does not include the football season or tournaments. Mr. Smith has been at the park and Kyle stated he is running it well. The board discussed the lease and the wording changes needed – changing “manpower” to “staffing” and keeping the \$1,800 amount consistent.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-4**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ENTRY INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR CONCESSION SERVICES AT ROUSE PARK WITH BRANDON SMITH**

Board member Melissa Smeins made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to adopt resolution 2022-4 with the changes mentioned. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

- Kyle has been contacted by AHRA regarding the permit for a non-profit to conduct learn-to programs on the Arkansas River. He received a copy of the cooperative agreement on Thursday, June 9, 2022. RG Rio has concerns about the short time frame of the permit and limiting it to youth rafting and kayaking only. Kyle exchanged emails with Tom Waters of AHRA and they see this as a trial year for the permit and are willing to extend the period but do want to limit the use. A copy of the cooperative agreement for the permit was included in the board packets. Dan Slater has reviewed the document. The Recreation District would house the permit and a separate agreement would have to be made with RG Rio regarding what they would provide. The permit would cover use of the river from the Centennial Boat Ramp to the McKenzie take out. Kyle suggested a good starting point would be for the District to work with RG Rio’s youth program- the Gargoyles. He stated it is a one-year pilot program. The board members discussed the agreement and the potential for related programming to learn river related activities and water safety.

Board member Brett James made a motion to sign the cooperative agreement with CPW (Colorado Parks & Wildlife) for the permit, seconded by board member Greg DiRito. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Board President Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Dawn Green*

Dawn Green, Finance Director

*/s/ Nick Sartori*

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair