

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 9, 2021**

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 Chairman, Jim Johnson, in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present: Jim Johnson
Mike Sallie
Greg DiRito
Brett James

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Melissa Smeins Jurhree Hill
Angela Evergash Tony Adamic
Carrie Canterbury

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion, seconded by board member Mike Sallie to accept the consent agenda as written on the November 9, 2021 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Melissa Smeins asked the board about the pool. She and other swim team board members were in attendance. They did a lot of work trying to get ballot questions 6A and 6B passed.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- Board member Jim Johnson stated that Kyle Horne did a fantastic job on the recreation center presentations. He did change some minds even though there were many voters who were not in favor of new taxes. The election results were very disappointing. Board member Greg DiRito stated Kyle “fought the good fight.”

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- Kyle recognized the District staff for their work while he dealt with the tax questions. The maintenance crew has been working short staffed. Programs staff learned they can work effectively.
- The Aftermath event was a success. Attendance increased from last year by 386. The Turkey Bowl and Turkey Trot are coming up. If a board member would like to volunteer, please let District staff know. Registrations are picking up for these two events.
- There is no board report from Devin Everhart as he is hunting in Kansas. Board member Jim Johnson reminded Kyle to take his vacation.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The two ballot questions for the recreation center lost: 6A by eighteen points and 6B by fifteen points. Despite thirty-eight public presentations, misinformation still circulated in the community. One example is that by voting for the measures the District could raise taxes whenever it wanted. The user fees were an issue, as was covering the projected revenue shortfall found in the pro forma. But as the Recreation District tries to serve the entire socioeconomic community, there has to be some subsidy. Full cost recovery would price people out as opposed to making it affordable to the whole community.

Board member Jim Johnson stated that based on what he saw on the Rant and Rave Facebook page, people are ignorant of the way government works. They are only looking at the bottom line. Board member Mike Sallie stated that there was a misunderstanding about who runs what. The Recreation District needs better P.R. He went on to say the District needs to be super transparent as there are people who think we aren't doing a pretty good job with our tax dollars. Kyle responded that in going through the cost recovery project, it revealed how much subsidy goes into the pool and programs. Cost recovery for adult softball (taking in true costs which include lights and mowing) is 48%. Youth soccer is approximately 50%. There is a subsidy built into the budget to serve the socioeconomics of our community. The St. Thomas More Health Foundation scholarship subsidizes our programs. The

messaging needs to become clearer as every recreation department in the state subsidizes their programs to some extent.

One argument against the project heard by board member Greg DiRito was – I am not using it, why should my tax dollars go up. His response is whether it affects you or not, you participate by allowing for the greater good of your neighbors, children, and the community.

Kyle stated that he did speak to some of the naysayers found on the Canon City Rant and Rave Facebook page. Greg DiRito commented that it takes a lot of energy to make something happen, but not much to tear it down. He continued to say that although the results were disappointing, we have to take our lumps and move forward and continue to do what we do.

Kyle reminded those in attendance, that the issues with the pool have not changed. Jim Johnson stated that the District is budgeting in 2022 to operate the pool. However, if there is any catastrophic failure in the facility, then it will close. He wondered if it was a misstep to open it last year.

Putting more money into an engineering study to replace the pool will not be in the budget for 2022. If the community would like that done, Mr. Johnson would like to see the community step up to raise the funds to pay for it. He used the example of the funds raised by pickleball players for the courts at Rouse Park. He does not believe it is prudent to go for another tax question next year as “we got a hard no.” Jim went on to state that until we have a hardship with the pool, it will not change their (the voters’) minds.

Kyle stated that the engineer made it clear that the pool needs to be rebuilt. That is a minimum \$6 million dollar process.

The District is subsidizing the pool every year and is looking at rising costs to operate it. Public pools do not make money. If it were to be rebuilt, the District would still have to go the voters to approve the mill levy increase necessary to build it.

Board member Greg DiRito suggested that the District pause on this project a little while. Kyle did point out that the last three times the District went to a question for the pool, all the pools were indoors and all three times it failed.

Kyle displayed some of the concepts engineers at Lamp Rynearson provided from other pools they designed superimposed on the current location of the Icabone pool. The designs shown would meet current programming standards. Grant opportunities may be possible to help fund it, but the project would still require going to the voters for tax questions. There was discussion about the next steps for the pool which included the members of the swim team board in attendance. Topics touched on included: should it be year-round or seasonal; cost recovery of aquatics only facilities; and school involvement and Best grant possibilities.

- Kyle went over the list of proposed Recreation District goals for 2022. In no particular order they include:
 - Explore options for the pool
 - Grant options for the stadium lights at Rouse Park
 - South Canon Trails-Ecology Park connection

Continue hiking and biking trails at the Schepp property (It was suggested to include installing a mechanical gate to the entrance, so that staff members would no longer need to open and close it each day.)

Continue dead tree clean up in John Griffin Regional Park pending a successful youth corps grant application

Work with Sol Vista to connect the Riverwalk Trail to the west side of 9th Street, and to help run the Ropes Challenge Course

Find and implement new programming

Explore new registration software options

Jim Johnson requested that the funds budgeted within the maintenance lines in the parks department for the ADA compliance projects be combined into its own dedicated budget line. He also requested that a goal be added to continue to work on ADA compliance.

NEW BUSINESS

- The public hearing on the Recreation District's Proposed 2022 budget was opened at 8:11 p.m. There were no comments from the public and the hearing closed at 8:12 p.m.
- Krista Bernard requested another year on the lease of the house at Pathfinder Regional Park. She paid \$900 a month in rent the last two years. Kyle spoke to board member Nick Sartori and it was considered to raise the rent to \$1,000 a month, but in the copy of the lease for the next year provided to the board, it is stated at \$950 per month. Kyle said she may pay late, but she does pay the rent.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-12

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A RESIDENTIAL LEASE FOR THE RESIDENCE AT PATHFINDER REGIONAL PARK

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion, seconded by board member Brett James to adopt Resolution 2021-12. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

- The board decided to conduct the Executive Director's annual evaluation in the same manner as last year. The evaluation questionnaire will be emailed to each board member. They will complete it and return it to board member Jim Johnson for compilation. Three board members will meet individually with the staff members who directly report to Kyle. Jim Johnson will meet with Dawn Green, Mike Sallie with Tawny McCall, and Nick Sartori with Devin Everhart. These meetings need to take place prior to December 7th as the next board meeting is December 14th.

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion, seconded by board member Mike Sallie to go into executive session for legal advice as well as instructions to negotiate under C.R.S. Sections 24-6-402(4)(b) and 24-6-402(4)(e) regarding the Schepp property. The motion passed with all members voting aye.

The board moved into executive session at 8:25 p.m. The executive session ended at 8:43 p.m. and the board returned to the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman Jim Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ James Johnson

James Johnson, Meeting Chair

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
November 9, 2021**

Executive Session was called at 8:25 p.m.

The substance of discussion during executive session was for legal advice as well as instructions to negotiate under C.R.S. sections 24-6-402(4)(b) and 24-6-402(4)(e), regarding the Schepp property.

The executive session adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green
Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ James Johnson
James Johnson, Chair