

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 10, 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
Andrew Palmasano
Melissa Smeins (*via Teams*)
Cooper Trahern

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director (*via Teams*)

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Tony Adamic Angela Evagash
Kari Hitner

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Andrew Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Cooper Trahern to accept the consent agenda as written on the December 10, 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:

District staff will make the end-of-year budgeted transfers this week. Not every available budgeted dollar was used in Capital Projects. CTF (Conservation Trust Fund) transfers are \$35,000 to the Capital Projects Fund and \$60,000 to the General Fund. There is also a transfer of \$10,000 from the Programs Activity Fund to the General Fund. The remaining CTF revenue earned this year will go into reserves.

Kyle will present to the LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) committee this Thursday at 3:45 p.m. The District's grant application asked for \$1.25 million for the pool. The Recreation District is one of 13 applicants and only five grants are slated to be awarded. Since the ballot question for operating mills failed, the District's project is a long shot to get funded. Other projects may be shovel-ready. In the presentation, the District will use the animation and other slides to emphasize the project.

The U.S. Senate approved the \$50 million funding for water projects in Fremont County. The funding sits with the Army Corps of Engineers, and we "are trying to get on their radar." A swimming pool is outside the scope for funding.

The annual FEDC banquet is January 24th and if board members would like to attend, please let Kyle know by January 2nd. The Royal Chamber Alliance banquet is scheduled for February 21st.

Kyle recognized all staff for their work on the Turkey Bowl/Turkey Trot event. Maintenance staff were manning the parking lot. There were 61 teams in the bowl and 80 runners in the trot. In a report from Placer AI, there were over 3,700 individual cell phones at the park that day. The District received nice comments about the event from participants.

There are over 300 kids registered for youth basketball this winter and others are registered for youth soccer.

The District raised \$770 dollars at the Toy Bowl, as well as toys and food items. The food items were donated to Loaves & Fishes.

Dan Slater:

Dan informed the Board that there is a surprise judicial opening, and he is on the short list. The Governor will make a decision next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Swimming Pool Options

At this point no decisions have been made, but Canon City has approved the collection of the sales tax starting on January 1st. The tax revenues will not be passed to the Recreation District until an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is in place. With two of the three questions passing, it is the will of the voters to construct the pool, but the question for operations did not pass.

One option is to go to the ballot in November 2025.

An IGA is needed between the City and the Recreation District so that they are on the same page. Representatives from the District - Board Members Nick Sartori and Joel Dudley, Kyle Horne and attorney Dan Slater, met with City representatives. The City's attorney is writing the IGA. Board member Nick Sartori stated that it was a good meeting and that the City is supportive but would like to lower the mill ask. If design were to start, the project timeline would not get too far behind. Attorney Dan Slater stated the IGA will include details regarding the release of the tax revenue. This would allow a start to the design phase. The IGA could possibly be ready by January 8th.

Kyle stated that with the operational mill levy not passing, the bonds would be rated lower, require higher bond insurance and a higher interest rate. Todd Snidow is working to get preliminary opinions on a bond rating looking at no mills, 2 mills or 4 mills. He suggested trying to not sell the bonds without the mill levy. A board discussion on bond financing followed.

Kyle also stated that not having the mill levy for operations makes the project less attractive to granting agencies. Kyle has discussed the District's situation with other executive directors of recreation districts who have faced similar circumstances. He also said that potential tariffs could negatively impact the cost of the project. Cost savings could be found if local companies donate towards the demolition of the existing pool.

The donation from the Biggerstaffs may be open for use to fund operations or potentially may be used for planning and design. Kyle spoke with a County representative who stated that the \$100,000 contribution of ARPA funds is no longer available, but the County does have other federal dollars that can be used if the tax question passes. Work is moving forward to establish enterprise zones to raise funds.

Kyle will continue to work with Todd Snidow and Bob (MacDonald) of OLC regarding questions about the bonds and construction budget. The District may start the RFQ/RFP process for an owner's rep on contingency of a November ballot question passing. The IGA needs to be completed.

Approval of 2025 District Goals

Kyle made the changes to the draft of the District's 2025 goals that the board requested. Kyle read the goals aloud and the board reviewed them.

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to approve the 2025 District goals. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

Dog Park Agility Equipment RFP Recommendation- RESOLUTION #2024-17

The District received five proposals for the dog park project. Two were curious as they were identical in price and scope and provided zero references. That left three, A to Z Recreation, Star Playgrounds and Playwell, all reputable in Colorado. In reviewing the proposals, A to Z Recreation and Playwell seemed to provide more

“bang for the buck,” but A to Z Recreation was less expensive. Staff recommend the proposal from A to Z Recreation. The money saved could be used to purchase boulders that the dogs can climb on and would be maintenance free. A to Z Recreation uses Burke equipment. Other funding for the project includes a \$10,000 grant from El Pomar, backfill, Newmont (Legacy Fund) and CTF dollars.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-17
A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR DOG PARK AGILITY EQUIPMENT
AT THE ARKANSAS RIVERWALK DOG PARK TO A TO Z RECREATION

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to approve Resolution No. 2024-17. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Adoption of 2025 Budget

There were changes to the draft budget after the November meetings, which included increasing the election line by \$20,000, adjusting property tax revenue down by \$640 after receiving the final certification of values, increasing water utility by \$1,200 and including the pool replacement project in the budget.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-18
A RESOLUTION SUMMARIZING EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR EACH
FUND AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN
RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT, CAÑON CITY, COLORADO, FOR THE
CALENDAR YEAR AND BUDGET YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF
JANUARY 2025 AND ENDING ON THE LAST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to adopt Resolution 2024-18. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19
A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY TO THE VARIOUS FUNDS IN
THE AMOUNTS AND FOR THE PURPOSES AS SET FORTH BELOW FOR THE
CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT, CAÑON
CITY, COLORADO, FOR THE 2025 BUDGET YEAR.

Board member Andrew Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Cooper Trahern to adopt Resolution 2024-19. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20

**A RESOLUTION LEVYING GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2025
TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE CAÑON CITY
AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT, CAÑON CITY,
COLORADO, FOR THE 2025 BUDGET YEAR.**

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to adopt Resolution 2024-20. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

Approval of Truck Purchase

Kyle reached out to three local auto dealers, Lindner, Auto Nation and Faricy, with specific needs for a truck for the District. The 2021 Silverado from Auto Nation is priced at \$27,197 has lower mileage, a work rack and a full crew cab. Parks Supervisor Devin Everhart likes the truck and staff recommend its purchase. A second truck from Lindner is a 2020 F150 with more mileage but it does not have a full crew cab. It is still a good option and if it is still on the lot in January, staff recommend purchasing it. Two of the District's current trucks are having transmission issues.

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to purchase the 2021 Silverado. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

The board discussed the purchase of the second truck. Board member Melissa Smeins questioned whether this fits in with the District's other equipment needs. Kyle responded that a chipper and a tractor are on the list.

Board member Andrew Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Cooper Trahern to purchase the Ford truck. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

Public Hearing

Board member Nick Sartori opened the public hearing at 8:05 p.m. There were no public comments, and the hearing closed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AND
APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES
IN EXCESS OF AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA
RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT'S 2024 BUDGET YEAR**

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to adopt Resolution 2024-21. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to go into executive session for legal advice under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f). Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

The board went into executive session at 8:07 p.m. The executive session ended at 8:53 p.m. and the board returned to the regular meeting.

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to approve a \$500 bonus for Kyle Horne. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Andrew Palmasano to approve a step increase and COLA for Kyle Horne. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman, Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

/s/ Nick Sartori

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
December 10, 2024**

Executive Session was called at 8:07 p.m.

The substance of discussion during executive session was legal advice under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) regarding the tree removal incident in John Griffin Regional Park and a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f) regarding the Executive Director's annual review.

The executive session adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

/s/ Nick Sartori

Nick Sartori, Chairperson