

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 14, 2025**

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
Cooper Trahern

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Tony Adamic Angela Evagash

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Andrew Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Cooper Trahern to accept the consent agenda as written for the January 14, 2025 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Board members Cooper Trahern and Andy Palmasano are both coaching teams in the youth basketball league and spoke about the practice times for the young group. The District does not have a lot of leeway in scheduling times due to the lack of school district gym space. This should improve as construction projects at McKinley and Lincoln will be adding gyms.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

There will be intermittent closures of the dog park due to the improvement project. It is closed January 14th-16th as District crew members work on installing fence posts and expanding the walking track. The equipment is ordered and should be installed at the end of February. Holcim donated 12 boulders which will be placed in the park for dogs to climb on. The District is not addressing the water issue. City water is not available at the site, and it would be expensive to bring in. Installing a cistern would also be difficult. The District does not have the funding to solve the water issue.

On January 9, 2025, the Bighorn Roundtable hosted an informational open house with several recreational agencies in attendance. It was well attended, and Kyle spoke to members of the public asking about the pool.

Kyle met with Kalem Lenard regarding a youth programming grant through Generation Wild. The grant focuses on individual recreational activities.

The District should hear the results about the CPW grant application in early February.

The annual audit is scheduled for January 27th through the 29th.

The Abbey sale closed, and the buyer is John Paul Ary.

Self-nomination forms are available. The District has three open seats. The forms are due on February 28th. Board member Melissa Smeins has turned in paperwork.

The \$50 million for water projects in Fremont County referenced by Brittany Petterson's office goes through the US Army Corps of Engineers. There is no time limit for its use and a swimming pool does not qualify. Kyle will be meeting with Luke Javernick on January 29th regarding the water project in John Griffin Regional Park. Mr. Javernick is in contact with CPW, the Corps of Engineers and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Kyle would like to see about potentially using the funding for riverbank stabilization at Pathfinder Regional Park.

The annual FEDC banquet is January 24th at Pathfinder and the banquet for the Royal Gorge Chamber Alliance is February 22nd. If board members would like to attend, please let Kyle know by Thursday.

The District's community room can be used for different functions, and with the room's upgrades, District staff plan to market it more. Rental revenue for the room did well in 2024.

Board member Nick Sartori mentioned that the Daily Record should be called when the Dog Park Improvement project is complete.

Dan Slater:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on IGA with the City of Canon City

A copy of the IGA with the City was included in the board packets. Kyle thanked attorney Dan Slater for reviewing the document. Kyle asked for comments from the board members. He stated that board member Joel Dudley expressed reservations about the limit of two mills. Mr. Slater discussed the City's language in the IGA regarding the two mills. It is his impression from the City representatives that they are firm on the two-mill language. Board member Melissa Smeins has the same concerns as Mr. Dudley and doesn't like to see it spelled out in the document. Board member Andy Palmasano stated that the District should not ask for less. Kyle shared a perspective of Mr. Slater's that the District is looking at two separate issues: the underfunding of the District and the need for a pool. The District tried to address both, and it did not work.

Kyle stated there is an estimated \$320,000 to \$360,000 subsidy needed for the pool. That is approximately 1.3 mills. There have been four property tax changes by the state in the last 2 years. The District needs to be prepared for another cut. A two mill ask would be for pool operations and would leave the District wiggle room for other projects and costs.

Board member Melissa Smeins pointed out that the messaging last year talked about 1.5 mills for pool operations. There was further discussion about the amount to ask.

Kyle stated the District will not know until August how the newest tax cuts will impact the District.

Board member Cooper Trahern asked if the District has quantified what would be cut to help subsidize the pool.

Dan Slater commented that it is important to realize that the pool has run at a deficit in the past.

Kyle has spoken to Todd Snidow. The District does not have an existing bond rating. Mr. Snidow believes that the rating will be affected by the lack of operating mills. Both the bond insurance cost and the interest rate would go up – the interest rate potentially to 6%. Kyle summarized that if this is the case, the District could not afford the project as proposed.

The board discussed the IGA and mill levy further, including the timeline. Board member Nick Sartori mentioned the effort of the volunteers for the pool and that two of the questions for the facility did pass. The IGA does not preclude the District from asking a second question for general operating mills. Although it was questioned whether asking two questions would result in them cannibalizing each other. Attorney Dan Slater stated the Board can ask a question that limits the authority on how the funding can be spent.

There was board consensus that the draft of the IGA is okay.

Update on Pool Process

In meeting with Todd Snidow, Kyle asked the limit of how much of the sales tax revenue collected should the District spend for the pool project in 2025. Mr. Snidow suggested not more than \$750,000.

Kyle spoke about the need to have an owner's rep for the project. He had initial discussions with representatives from Wember and Accenture. Both have worked with Canon City schools. Both would be happy to provide a proposal. They would help the District with the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) and RFP (Request for Proposal) process, construction documents and staying on budget. Kyle asked the board how they would like to proceed. This is a professional service, and the District is not required to go out to bid. Board member Melissa Smeins would like to have a third company submit a proposal as it helps with transparency and a competitive process. Board member Nick Sartori stressed the importance of working with a firm that knows the community and can provide local references (also, that they have worked on pool projects). The board would like staff to make a recommendation.

Kyle stated that the District is waiting to hear from CPW on the grant application for the outdoor portion of the pool before demo can start on the old pool.

NEW BUSINESS

Designation of Location for Posting Notice of Public Meetings

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE LOCATIONS FOR POSTING PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETINGS FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Board member Andrew Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to adopt Resolution 2025-1. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

Designation of Official Paper for Legal Postings

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-2

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF RECORD FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Andy Palmasano to adopt Resolution 2025-2. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

Designation of Election Official

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-3
A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL FOR THE
CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT'S 2025
ELECTIONS**

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to adopt Resolution 2025-3. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman, Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green
Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Nick Sartori
Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair