

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

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 19, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board met with City of Canon City Council members in a work session held at the City Council Chambers on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at 128 Main Street, Canon City, Colorado.

**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

Canon City Council and Staff:

John Hamrick Preston Troutman  
Tim Dennehy Gerald Meloni  
Amy Schumisseur Andrea Stein  
Kathy Worthington Emily Tracy (virtually)  
Ryan Stevens

**Work Session on Swimming Pool Options**

The meeting began with a presentation by Kyle Horne, Executive Director of the Recreation District about the pool project to date. The Icabone Pool was closed in 2023. Citizen led steps have been taken to find a way to replace the pool, including the formation of a citizens committee, public presentations and surveys, stakeholder meetings, and a dedicated website. The project has the support of the School District, County (through the donation of ARPA funds with voter approval of the project), the City of Canon City and the Recreation District. Two options were presented in a scientific study. The first (Option A) would be seasonal, all outdoors with two bodies of water. It is 50% larger than the Icabone pool, would see three months of use a year and cost \$12.8 million. The second (Option B) would be a year-

round option, two bodies of water with the lap/recreational pool indoors. This would require adding a building, mechanical room and HVAC system to the project, driving the cost to \$24.8 million. The facility is expected to last 50 to 100 years, providing an increased return on investment. In the community survey the year-round option ranked highest.

Kyle showed slides of the survey results conducted by Magellan Strategies. The goal of this scientific survey was to utilize the voter rolls and match the demographics of the community. The response rate was high -1,027, and respondents were required to leave a comment. Included in the survey were trust questions of the Canon City Area Recreation and Park District. Of these, 83% approved of the job the Recreation District is doing, with 65% agreeing that the District is fiscally responsible. There is 74% support for a pool project. The survey continued by asking about the level of support for three tax questions: a sales tax increase, going into debt through general obligation bonds, and a mill levy increase. The questions were asked twice for each option, both before and after the respondent was informed about the District's history and operations. The seasonal option would be a shorter term .25% sales tax increase, and a three mill levy increase. The year-round option would be a longer term .30% sales tax increase, and a four mill levy increase. Kyle went over the approval/disapproval numbers of each question for each option for both the uninformed and informed voter. Generally, the approval numbers went up once the respondent was informed. He also summarized the comments. This included a preference for sales over property taxes, support for a year-round option (including some stating they would vote no if it was only seasonal), concern for those on a fixed income, the longevity of construction and the need to make it simple and affordable, (the concepts showed standard/modern pool designs). The survey demographics match the electorate in our community.

Amy Schumissseur asked if the survey showed a preference between the two options. Kyle responded that although a separation between the two options was hoped to be seen, it was not.

A public comment period followed. Chris Moffitt asked about user fees and the need to meet the socioeconomic needs of our community. Kyle responded that the consultants set the rate for 2027 (in the pro forma), and it lines out with other fees in the area and is under what the YMCA would charge. Randi Esquibel with Citizens for a Pool spoke about the fact that a pool would restore a resource and community gathering spot. She went on to state it is important for the health, safety and future of our community. It can attract new residents, provide swimming lessons to keep people safe around water and would be an opportunity to make a lasting difference in the community.

It was asked if all three questions needed to pass for the pool project to move forward. The mill levy question is not required for the bond, but the pool cannot open without it. The District would have some time to ask that question again but cannot continue to pull from reserves to operate without the mill increase. The District already operates with a tight budget to provide services. The sales tax would be

pledged to the general obligation bonds, and an intergovernmental agreement would be needed to pass the money to the Recreation District.

Nick Sartori, speaking for the Recreation District Board, stated that with the positive survey results the Board felt that Option B would best provide for the community with a greater return on investment and the ability to use it throughout the year. The four-mill levy ask breaks down to \$80 annually (\$6.70 per month) on a home valued at \$300,000. Board member Andy Palmasano reviewed the 31 pages of comments and a minority wants Option A. He wants to make sure the project and the Recreation District are successful. The Recreation District has never had a mill levy increase and the people are asking for more, but the District runs lean so there is a ceiling as to what it can provide.

Every Town Needs A Pool committee is working with a political consultant.

It was mentioned that it is important to educate the community and get the facts out there.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

*/s/ Dawn Green*

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Nick Sartori*

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair