

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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 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
 Joel Dudley
 Melissa Smeins
 Cooper Trahern

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
 Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Molly Eaves
 Pat Grette
 Randi Esquibel

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Cooper Trahern to accept the consent agenda as written on the September 17, 2024 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Molly Eaves read a letter she composed to the board regarding the trees a homeowner on the bluff cut down near the trail. Copies of the letter were provided to the board. She witnessed the cutting and expressed her concern that it was done in an unsafe manner. Kyle has made Dan Slater aware of the issue. The people cutting the trees jumped a curb at Sells Ave. and drove onto the trail to cut down three to five trees. The District's property line needs to be verified. The District was never called about the cutting. Kyle has met with a Sheriff's Deputy onsite. The homeowner on Tyrolean Way was told by her realtor that she owned all the way to the bluff trail. The Sheriff stated that a survey was needed.

Dan Slater believes that it was on District land and the surveyor needs to be contacted. If it is on District property, then there could be a charge of destruction of public property. In Kyle's discussion with the Sheriff, a value will have to be assigned to the trees. The board discussed the issue. Board member Melissa Smeins asked about the cost of the survey and arborist. In response, Dan stated that it wouldn't be a full survey, just the section in question. Kyle showed photos of the site and stated that the bluff is steep, and the trees provide stabilization.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Board member Nick Sartori gave kudos to Citizens for a Pool.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

House bill 24-1001 passed in the special session. It is a property tax reduction, the fourth in 16 months. At a panel discussion at the SDA conference regarding the new law, the panelists stated that they can't tell how much it will drop in 2026. In the bill, property tax was decoupled between school districts and all other government entities. One panelist stated that the value of a mill in 2024 is worth 23% less than it was in 2015, and that gap is expected to be 30% in 2026. Board member Nick Sartori stated that it is important not to overextend the District's finances next year.

Kyle met with representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and the City about the project in John Griffin Regional Park. The Corps is excited about the concept, especially the stream channel aspect. This is a long-term project with a 10-to-15-year timeline. The next hurdle is dealing with the EPA and a brownfield grant.

The upgrades on the network are mostly done, and we are waiting to see when the fiber optic project is complete. The new automated locks at Harrison Park and John Griffin Regional Park are ready to install on the bathrooms. Staff have been working with the Police Department on vandalism issues.

Board member Nick Sartori, Kyle, and Dawn Green attended the annual Special Districts Association Conference (SDA). Dan attended partially. A lot of information was shared, even on ballot initiatives. The Recreation District was part of the discussion in a panel hosted by Magellan Strategies. Board member Nick Sartori stated there were good keynote speakers and he attended a session on onboarding new board members.

Dan Slater:

Dan Slater stated that today he walked over the plat map for the Whitney land transfer. It has been recorded and the District now owns that section of land so the trail project can move forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Final Report on Pool Feasibility Study

Bob McDonald presented the final report last night at the City Council meeting. Kyle recapped this presentation for the board. Eight copies of the report will be delivered along with a digital copy by the end of the month. If it is ADA accessible this will be made available on the website. Kyle also logged onto the District's website and showed the board all the pages dealing with the pool replacement project - to provide factual information.

Kyle has thirty presentations to various community groups scheduled. He will share the calendar with the board.

Board member Cooper Trahern stated that Ed Norden spoke at the City Council meeting, including about property tax in our area, and Mr. Trahern was glad he did so.

Randi Esquibel, with Citizens for a Pool, told the board that the first text about the project will be going out to approximately 13,000 residents. Citizens for a Pool is running ads in the paper. The first mailer is designed, and the group will start door knocking and sign waving. She stated there is a campaign kickoff event this Friday at the Rooftop Social. Yard signs are coming. There will be a fall themed event at Pathfinder Park on October 19th. The softball tournament was a huge success. She stated that at the event she heard that it is easier to find the facts about the project.

Next Steps in the Pool Process and Election

The Tabor notice is due on Monday. Comments on the ballot measures are due on Friday. The UOCOVA list is due on Thursday and the property owners list will be turned in soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Application

District staff are working on the grant application now. We are requesting the maximum amount, \$1.25 million, for the pool project. The grant funds can only go to the outdoor pool as it is for outdoor recreation. We can't move dirt until the grant is approved. If the ballot questions don't pass, the grant application will be pulled. It requires BABA (Build America Buy America), but the District can request a waiver. The application requires that the board pass a resolution, and a draft copy was included in the board packets.

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-16

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to approve Resolution No. 2024-16. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

2025 Staff Salary Schedule

It is that time of year to select two board members to work on the salary schedule. Kyle asked which board members would like to do it. Board members Cooper Trahern and Andy Palmasano will meet with Kyle and Dawn to discuss it.

2025 Budget and Goals

Kyle asked the board what needs they felt should be addressed as staff works on the goals for next year. Board member Nick Sartori suggested starting the talks with Florence to be part of the District. He also suggested finding ways to enhance the Riverwalk, planning around the potential reservoir and channel work in John Griffin Regional Park. Board member Melissa Smeins spoke about ways to show appreciation for the District's volunteers. Nick Sartori asked about the next steps for Pathfinder Park, which would go hand in hand with getting Florence into the District. Kyle can provide copies of Pathfinder Park's master plan for the board to review.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to go into executive session for legal advice under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) regarding the quiet title by Joy Farmer and the Estate of Carolyn Javernick. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

The board went into executive session at 8:32 p.m. The executive session ended at 8:53 p.m. and the board returned to the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman, Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

/s/ Nick Sartori

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair

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EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
September 17, 2024

Executive Session was called at 8:32 p.m.

The substance of discussion during executive session was legal advice under C.R.S. section 24-6-402(4)(b) regarding a quiet title by Joy Farmer and Estate of Carolyn Javernick.

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

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green

/s/ Nick Sartori

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Nick Sartori, Chairperson