

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 20, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Nick Sartori, in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members:

Present: Nick Sartori  
Brett James (*via Zoom*)  
Greg DiRito  
Melissa Smeins

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director  
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Judith Brightman and Members of the public interested in the dog park  
Luke Javernick

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion, seconded by board member Melissa Smeins to accept the consent agenda as written on the September 20, 2022 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- No citizen addressed the board at this time.

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- Board member Greg DiRito stated he was excited about the upcoming Aftermath event. Kyle Horne responded that CO Haunted Houses ranked this haunted house first in 2021.

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- As part of the special districts pool, the increase for the medical insurance portion of the District’s employee insurance coverage through CEBT is 4.5% for 2023. It is expected that the Recreation District will be receiving a dividend in 2023.
- The next edition of the Activity Guide will experience a change. The District was informed that the fee will increase to \$3,500 to publish the guide and the staff will have to provide a camera- ready document to the publisher. The staff does not have the software, time or skill set to lay out a camera-ready product. The Shopper has agreed to publish a pull-out insert in place of the traditional Winter-Spring guide. District staff will take out ads to inform the public to watch for the pull-out and direct traffic to the District’s website. There was discussion on including QR code(s).
- The Lincoln Park Crooked Ditch is on water call. District staff are doing what they can to water the turf at Rouse Park. The water will end on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Included in the board packets are the onboarding and communication plan documents completed by staff. A brief discussion followed, and edits were suggested. The documents address the need for consistency and accountability.
- The pollinator garden is completed.
- In reviewing the paid holiday schedule, Kyle informed the board that two federal holidays (MLK Day and Juneteenth) are not listed. He would like the board to consider adding these and hold a discussion in October.
- Kyle Horne, Dawn Green Nick Sartori and Dan Slater attended the annual Special Districts Association conference where information affecting districts was shared. Topics included the effect on property tax by Senate Bill 228, the need for website ADA compliance, and the removal of government immunity and the statute of limitations regarding sexual abuse by Senate Bill 88. This latter bill will affect the District’s record keeping and require more robust background checks. Nick and Dan commented on their experiences at the conference.

Dan Slater:

- No report

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Luke Javernick addressed the board about a river channel project. This project was previously brought to the board’s attention and grant match funding for a feasibility study was requested from the District, but the grant was not awarded. Mr. Javernick reviewed the project stating that the river has channelized over time, but side channels could be reconnected to the river in John Griffin Regional Park (JGRP) to create more habit for fish, increase the biological diversity in the area and strengthen the health and vitality of the river. Other recreational outcomes of the project include boosting the potential for gold medal waters, increasing the aesthetics of the park and creating more ADA accessibility

for fishing. (His presentation included slides showing aerial views and elevation profiles of the river on the east end of the park.)

He went on to detail the three phases of the feasibility study and the projected cost of each.

Task1 (estimated cost = \$16,588): Look at the water rights and review the opportunities and limitations. The Phelps Ditch is the District's water right.

Task 2 (estimated cost = \$20,350): If the project passes task one the next step would be to go out and review the area and complete a land survey and hydraulic analysis looking at remanent channel depths and connections.

Task 3 (estimated cost = \$11,500) If it passes task two this next step would involve community/ stakeholder engagement with outreach to the public with renderings depicting the project.

With the feasibility study complete, the project would be shovel ready and grants focusing on wetlands and fishing access could be sought to help fund it. He estimates the cost of the study to be \$55,362 including expenses and contingencies.

The board discussed the project, the potential timeline and its tie to recreation and the enhancement of the JGRP experience. The Recreation District budgeted \$20,000 for JGRP restoration in 2022. The electronic presentation will be emailed to the board, and the project revisited at a future board meeting.

- Judith Brightman shared with the board the results of the dog park survey in a handout. She stated the survey was done by interviewing people in the park and online. She also stated that the Friends of the Dog Park group has grown considerably. People appreciate the additional seating, tables and new trash barrels at the park.

The survey results show the priorities to be following: water for the dogs (she stated that members of the group have leads on cisterns); improve the agility course and increase signage for it stating "dogs only"; add places where dogs can climb or tunnel through culverts; more shade (perhaps by seeking grant funding for canvas shading over benches as trees require maintenance and time to mature); and ground cover (and the problems with weeds and goat heads).

She stated there is a volunteer clean up day this Saturday to work on the park, including refreshing the trails and filling the holes. Board member Greg DiRito complimented the group on the work they have done.

- Attorney Dan Slater is reviewing the contract with Berwick regarding the lighting project at Rouse Park. Kyle will be arranging an onsite meeting with representatives from Berwick, Black Hills and Musco to review the project and develop a coordinated timeline. He received notice that the District was awarded a \$13,000 grant from the Black Hills Foundation and that the Black Hills Energy local office will complete \$30,000 of in-kind work on the project. The District is still expecting a \$30,000 donation from the Noon Lions. Kyle is working on a Request for Proposals for the shade structures and a Request for Bids for the backstop.

Board member Greg DiRito asked if Martin Marietta has been approached for help with the Rouse Park parking lot.

As the components for this project will span into next year, it will have an impact on the budget for 2023.

- Kyle informed the board that currently the pool fund is approximately \$35,500 "in the hole" with most of the revenues accounted for. He outlined issues with the facility

including old pipes which have caused a green tint to the water and requiring treatment with extra chemicals; a leak in the baby pool which maintenance staff is attempting to fix. (This component may need to close as the continual refilling of the baby pool increases the water cost); more cracking of the pool's liner. (The 9 ft. crack repaired at the beginning of the season is reappearing); the need to use more chlorine, the cost of which is increasing; and the expected life of the sand filters. When an engineer evaluated the pool facility, it was estimated that the remaining life of the filters was three years. Next year will be that third year.

Kyle spoke to David Flaherty from Magellan Strategies at the SDA conference regarding the pool, the need for its replacement and asking a tax question. A discussion by the board followed. Board member Greg DiRito commented that until the facility is dead in the water the community won't realize the value of it. He does not want to spend money on a study. In the timing to ask a tax question, attorney Dan Slater stated that the higher turnout at a presidential election is needed. Board member Melissa Smeins said that the pool is near and dear to her heart and that asking a question regarding a recreation center is different than asking for funding for a pool only. There will be further discussion on the pool at the budget workshop.

- There was a session on FAMLI at the SDA conference attended by Kyle and Dan Slater. This Colorado program provides paid family and medical leave and every employer in the state will participate, but local governments have the option to opt out. Dan reviewed the District's three options: to fully participate, collect the fee from the employees who want to participate and remit it on their behalf or opt out. Kyle stated that when he attended the managers' lunch, he found that the local governmental entities are opting out. A brief discussion on the program followed. A resolution will be ready for next month's meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- With the current rate of inflation and the increase to minimum wage, Kyle would like to have two board members work with the administrative staff to review the District's salary schedule. Board member Brett James agreed, and Joel Dudley will be asked. If Mr. Dudley cannot do it, Nick Sartori stated he will fill in. Kyle will set up the meeting in the next couple of weeks.
- There was an introductory discussion about the District's 2023 goals and a review of what has been accomplished on the list for 2022 and what needs to be carried over. Items discussed include improvements to the dog park, the river project in John Griffin Regional Park, repurposing the ropes course to create a family friendly open space, equipment needs like a grader, and the need to replace the roof on the office building. These potential project goals will affect the budget for 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Board President Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Submitted by:

*/s/ Dawn Green*

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Greg DiRito*

Greg DiRito, Meeting Chair