

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 8, 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
Andy Palmasano
Cooper Trahern

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

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Pat Grette
Tony Adamic

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Cooper Trahern made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to accept the consent agenda as written on the October 8, 2024 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Board member Joel Dudley stated that the Marine Corps League held a fundraising softball tournament, and he thanked staff members Cody Bennett and Kyle Horne for coming out day of to try and get Field A ready for play due to weather related issues.

Board member Cooper Trahern asked for an update on the tree situation in John Griffin Park along the Riverwalk. Kyle spoke with Matt Koch who will get the survey of the area on his schedule, and he estimates the cost at \$500. Kyle has had no further contact with the resident who spoke at the last board meeting. Kyle confirmed that Justin Scott will come and estimate the value of the trees once the property line is verified. Kyle stated the issue is in process.

Board member Melissa Smeins said that she has been to a couple of Kyle's presentations on the pool project, and he is doing a good job.

In mentioning Aftermath, KRDO did a story on the haunted house and once they post it, Kyle will share it on the District's Facebook page. Last Saturday was a slow start as only 150 people attended.

Boad member Nick Sartori suggested expanding the age division in the Turkey Bowl to include those over 45. Kyle suggested Nick speak with Cody (Bennett) about this idea.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

There was a cleanup of homeless camps near the old DeWeese dam (in the Schepp Open Space). Representatives from BLM and law enforcement joined the Parks Maintenance staff. 3,400 pounds of trash was removed.

Two pickleball players requested permission to paint pickleball court lines on the basketball courts at Rouse Park. The pickleball courts are heavily used, and with portable nets, this would allow more players to play. Kyle wanted to let the Board know about this request, and he will be speaking with staff.

Ashley Sack was selected to be the Director for the Bighorn Round Table. (an interagency group to organize recreation projects and grant seeking.)

The annual CPRA (Colorado Parks & Recreation Association) conference is at the end of October. Staff members Tawny McCall, Cody Bennett and Jaimee Southern will attend. Kyle will attend one day for the Directors' lunch.

In programs, Aftermath is rolling, and the Turkey Bowl and Turkey Trot are coming up as is the Toy Bowl on November 2nd. There are three Saturdays left in soccer and two regular season days for youth football, followed by the Toy Bowl. Adult Softball should finish by October 24th.

Dan Slater:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on Swimming Pool Process

Staff are working on an additional document for the election that must be posted on the District's website.

When making comments online, Kyle is focusing on providing factual information. Kyle requested that If Board members have any questions on his posts, to please let him know. Kyle stated that many of the comments online about the project are positive, however more negative comments are found on the sites- Next Door and Chant, Rant and Rave. Kyle listed his upcoming presentations this week including a Pool Chat at the Bean Peddler, at Rotary, the Booster Club, Harrison School, Lincoln School, Pool Chat at the Owl and at the Royal Gorge Association of Realtors. Next week on October 15th there is a candidate forum and a public meeting on the 16th at City Hall. The schedule of presentations is on the website.

Kyle received the final report on the pool feasibility study, but some accessibility issues need to be fixed before the electronic version of the 125-page report can be placed on the District's website.

The District has applied for a LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund) grant for the pool. Kyle recognized Dawn Green for her work on the application. The budget submitted was not as detailed as they wanted, but the District was encouraged to apply. The District asked for the maximum amount, \$1.25 million. With a yes vote, the District will also look to apply for a GOCO grant. A brief discussion on the LWCF grant followed.

Discussion on IGA with City of Canon City

The City would like to start discussions with the Recreation District on an intergovernmental agreement related to the pool project. The City representatives would be Ryan Stevens, the City's attorney, and 2 council members. The Recreation District would be represented by Kyle Horne, Dan Slater and two board members. Kyle stated that there are things to be negotiated should the ballot measures pass and gave water fees and stormwater fees during construction as examples. The board representatives will be Nick Sartori and Andy Palmasano. There was discussion regarding next steps if the ballot measures don't pass. Kyle stated that questions 2A and 6B are "married" and need to pass in tandem. If only question 6A does not pass, he questioned can the District go back to the voters, as was done in other Colorado communities. Both board member Nick Sartori and Attorney Dan Slater suggested waiting on scheduling a discussion with the City until after the election.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of 2025 Draft Budget

The board was presented with the draft budget for 2025 for their review. The draft budget with the orange cover was developed assuming the ballot questions don't pass. There is an additional draft budget with a green cover including the pool if the questions pass. Kyle and Dawn met with board members Andy Palmasano and Cooper Trahern

regarding the salary schedule. In the draft budget, the salary schedule includes a 2.7% COLA, and budget amounts include a 2% step. Kyle stated that this was set as if the pool questions do not pass. If they do pass, the salary schedule will need to be revisited as to benchmarking, and new staff will be hired. Board member Andy Palmasano stated the 2.7% COLA is in line with other local agencies. During the salary schedule discussion, board member Cooper Trahern raised the idea of offering bonus pay based on performance instead of locking in higher salaries. This would require more conversation and may have to be phased in over a number of years. Kyle stated it is a different way to look at salaries and is something to discuss for the future. Kyle encouraged the board members to look at the budget and to contact staff if they have any questions.

The budget workshop will be held at 5:00 p.m. on November 12th, before the next regular board meeting. The District will provide dinner from DiRito's. There will be a public hearing on the budget at the meeting that night.

Discussion of 2025 Draft District Goals

A copy of the 2024 goals was included in the board packet, along with a draft of the goals for 2025. Those that concern the pool project are listed separately as they depend on the ballot questions passing. Other items on the list include work on ADA accessibility, covering the handball court at Rouse for additional storage, and recognition of volunteers. Next year is the Recreation District's 60th anniversary and will be celebrated in ways to be determined throughout the year. The board discussed the goals for next year, including John Griffin Regional Park restoration and the river project; sponsorships and working with the school district on volunteer background checks; having discussions with Florence; and ways to enhance the Riverwalk.

Executive Session

Although an executive session was listed as an agenda item, there was none. After reviewing the email received from Attorney Dan Slater, the board members agreed to not contest the quiet title action (by Joy Farmer and Estate of Carolyn Javernick).

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman, Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Nick Sartori

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair