

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 9, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Board President, Cooper Trahern, in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members:

Present: Cooper Trahern  
Melissa Smeins  
Andrew Palmasano  
Kristina Post  
Sean Rodgers

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director  
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Dustin Black (*virtually*)  
Tim Payne Amy Schmisser  
Ryan Stevens John Hamrick  
Jim Windham

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board member Andy Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Sean Rodgers to accept the consent agenda as written on the September 9, 2025 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

None

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS:**

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

The District will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a bonfire on Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. It is also a coach appreciation event. Sponsors for this free event are Atmos and Canon Rental. Food for 300 will be provided. Steel Street Band will be performing and there will be a vendor if people would like to purchase drinks. It will be a fun, low-key event.

The District's parks crew is close to finishing the storage area at Rouse Park. They are waiting for the doors to arrive.

Russ Carson from Community Contact Collaborative sent a sample statement of work on District messaging. Copies were distributed to the board for review.

Fall sports have kicked off. There are 399 children signed up for soccer, and over 200 for youth football. Adult Softball and Adult Soccer are also underway. The District's special event, Aftermath, is in October and the turkey event is in November. Kyle encouraged the board members to participate in these events.

Steve Thomas will be working on the Dawson connector trail later this month, as well as the ADA trail from the parking lot to the pavilion at Eagle Wing.

Signage for the Riverwalk Bike Park has been ordered. Kyle thanked Ashley Sack and Travis Payne for their work on this project for mountain bike beginners. There will be a ribbon cutting on September 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

The Bighorn Round Table met to discuss their charter. Kyle thanked PPORA who worked on a grant to secure some funding for Fremont County.

The District is sending four people to the annual SDA Conference later this month.

Kyle will be out of the office October 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> to attend the CPRA conference.

Attorney - Dan Slater:

With budget season coming up, Dan pointed out that legal expenses are not going over budget, but he would like to make a new fee agreement. The current agreement was made in 2012.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **Update and Discussion on Community Pool Project**

Dusty Black from Wember stated that they are working through the budget and design. It will be three weeks until the next round of pricing from GH Phipps. He gave a quick site update. The School District work at the High School is funded by a BEST grant, and they are looking to see what parts of the pool project, such as the curb and gutter and sidewalk, can be funded by the grant. This is looking promising, and the school is excited about the road. The timeline has slowed down on DD (design development) for budgetary reasons. GH Phipps budget is not within striking distance, so they have hit pause and are looking to find efficiencies and cost savings. The project is still looking to open on Memorial Day (2027). Dusty said that things are

not getting cheaper and we have got to design something we can afford before we move forward.

Kyle met with Todd from RBC regarding the selling of the bonds. If the excise tax passes, there is the potential for an AA Bond rating. The question as to where the market is at is challenging.

The Canon City Council had a general government meeting regarding the excise tax. Representatives from the City are here at the District board meeting tonight. Board member Cooper Trahern thanked the City for their partnership on this project. Board member Sean Rodgers thought the Council was brave to hang tight through their meeting. The pace of the project has made it challenging. Board member Melissa Smeins stressed the need for communication. Board member Andy Palmasano said that they (the Council) are listening to the community, this is leadership. An excise tax makes sense as it is an attempt to not burden the community. Board member Kristina Post believes that many people are appreciative, but quieter voices are not heard. Attorney Dan Slater said there were questions about reevaluating the scope of the project, but that is not on the table, we are talking about operations. City Manager Ryan Stevens said the legal opinion on the excise tax was part of an executive session. The first reading of the ordinance will be on the City's agenda for their meeting next Monday. Kyle would like someone from the board to attend this meeting. It is September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Council member Amy Schmisser stressed the need to have as much transparency as possible between the two boards as well as accurate public information. Board member Cooper Trahern agreed that unified information is necessary. The City will have two questions on the ballot- 2A for roads and 2B for the pool. Kyle stated that the Recreation District is the beneficiary of 2B.

Kyle said that work is still being done on the survey, they are waiting on the ordinance definition. Factual presentations by the District will be reviewed by Ryan (Stevens).

Board member Sean Rodgers asked, "how can we support the City?"

Amy Schmisser suggested answering an FAQ on why we are not relitigating the pool design, or another letter to the editor on why this project matters. Board member Cooper Trahern is working on a draft letter. Kyle stated that it is appropriate to respond to Mr. Greksa's letter. There was further discussion on letters and public information.

Jim Windham asked who does the excise tax apply to? Ryan Stevens responded that it would apply to attractions, scenic rides, amusements and recreational excursions. This does not include hotels and restaurants but does include the railroad. He said there was outreach to businesses by leadership of the City, council members and the Recreation District before and after the council's general government meeting.

A brief discussion about the design of the pool followed. Mr. Black said it fulfills a need and is both beautiful and utilitarian.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Urban Renewal Authority Report-Tim Payne**

Tim Payne, chair of the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) and representative of special districts on that board, spoke about the URA's history and purpose. They have three reimbursement grants available for local business – life and safety, facade and building systems. He said the URA is working, and small businesses are grateful for the assistance. Ryan Stevens gave examples of fire suppression lines and making renovations more feasible. Kyle stated that the pool is not in the footprint of the URA. Board member Cooper Trahern asked about the boundaries and Mr. Stevens responded that they include the entire city, the commercial corridor of Highway 50, Dawson Ranch, the Abbey, St. Scholastica, the area around Field & Central and parts of Four Mile.

### **Discussion about 2026 District Budget**

The board will receive a draft of the 2026 Budget in October.

District staff met with our health insurance representatives from CEBT. If the District stays with a PPO3 plan the increase cost for next year is \$27,200 at a PPO4 level it is \$12,300. Staff recommend moving to a PPO4 plan, this will save money both for the District and those employees paying a portion of dependent coverage. Kyle said that the School District shopped their health insurance out and stayed with CEBT.

The District received the preliminary assessed value, but the State has not yet set the assessment rate. In 2024 the District received backfill. As the State got rid of every District's previous de-brucing measures, the Recreation District will have to pay attention to the limits on revenue growth. In prior presentations, it was stated that backfill can count as base revenue. As the budget is being developed, staff are using a conservative estimate of revenues until the calculation can be verified.

Regarding the salary schedule, two will be developed one for the worst case for revenue projection and another for the better scenario. District staff and two board members will meet during the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss salaries.

A copy of the 2025 District goals was in the board member packet. Projects staff are looking at for 2026 include planning for the pool, a mini court at Harrison Park (which is part of a high school capstone project), replacing the van and replacing the roof on the Nailor house.

### **Discussion on moving October and November Board Meeting Dates**

On the second Tuesday in October, Kyle will be away at the CPRA conference. The board decided to move the meeting to October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

The regularly scheduled meeting for November lands on Veterans Day. The board moved that meeting to November 12<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board member Kristina Post made a motion, seconded by board member Sean Rodgers to go into executive session for negotiations under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) to discuss the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Canon City, and for negotiations under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) to discuss the Urban Renewal Authority with the City of Canon City. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

The board went into executive session at 8:42 p.m. The executive session ended at 10:28 p.m. and the board returned to the regular meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Cooper Trahern adjourned the meeting at 10:28 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Dawn Green*

*/s/ Cooper Trahern*

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Cooper Trahern, Meeting Chair

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES  
September 9 , 2025**

Executive session was called at 8:42 p.m.

The substance of discussion during the executive session was negotiations under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) regarding both the intergovernmental agreement with the City of Canon City and the Urban Renewal Authority with the City of Canon City.

The executive session adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Submitted by:

*/s/ Dawn Green*  
Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Cooper Trahern*  
Cooper Trahern, Meeting Chair