

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

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 12, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Special Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 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

**2026 Budget Workshop  
General Fund**

The board was given a worksheet showing the proposed line-item changes in the general fund budget from those listed in the October draft budget. Kyle spoke about the updated salary scale – the entry level was increased 6%. Board member Cooper Trahern said it was important to catch up to other entities. Kyle said that now the Parks Worker II entry level is about a dollar off from the City’s, making the position more competitive. The Kids Klub Director’s full salary has been moved to the general fund freeing some funding for the Kids Klub staff within the programs fund. The proposed salary schedule was approved by the board.

The board wanted the election line funding removed.

The lines for travel/trainings/meetings and contributions were increased.

The phone/internet line increased as the District will be looking to change internet service to Visionary Broadband.

**Capital Projects**

Kyle has spoken to a representative from Black Hills Energy, and he urged Kyle to request \$50,000 for the mini-pitch project at Harrison Park. Installing this lighted amenity in the park may help with the homeless issue. Kyle will be going to the Lions Club next week for a grant request.

At the Ash Street property staff would like to install an HVAC system in the office building and replace the roof at the Nailor house.

Next year there will be a feasibility study for the big JGRP project.

The ADA trail at Eagle Wing is finished.

### **Pool**

The fund is still earning interest with the investment at the Colo Trust pool.

There was discussion about the cost to operate a pool and the salaries required for the employees. The need for capital replacement in the subsidy and the impact the removal of the slide had on revenue was also discussed. Looking at prior budgets, attorney Dan Slater reviewed the transfers made into the pool fund to subsidize its operations. Kyle reviewed the opinions from the pool consultants hired in 2019 and 2023.

The direction from the City after Monday's meeting was to keep collecting the sales tax.

### **Pool Development**

Kyle shared (from his meeting with Todd Snidow and board member Andy Palmasano) that without a dedicated source of funding (which doesn't require annual fundraising) our bond rating would drop, increasing the interest rate to 6% on the low end. Board member Kristina Post said a 501(c)3 is not a viable option. She said one option is using funding from the bridge for a seasonal pool. Kyle said the City is going to continue to collect the sales tax. Board member Andy Palmasano shared that if we do a moratorium it will set us back and lower the bond rating, increasing the interest rate, and we won't be able to build what was proposed. Both BRS and Todd Snidow said this campaign was unprecedented. Our partners- Wember, BRS and GH Phipps - are still all committed to the project. There was discussion about the tax moratorium.

BRS and GH Phipps both said the phased approach is the worst idea due to the small site. Phased construction would disturb work already done, close the facility down for a season and increase permit fees – all insanely increasing the cost.

Board member Kristina Post asked about scaling down to an outdoor only facility using money from the bridge and a subsidy of \$70,000. There was discussion about funding. Kyle relayed two pieces of good news. The City is still collecting the tax, and the School District is still on board with a seasonal option.

### **Programs**

To get more qualified staff the wage line for Kids Klub was increased. Currently the District is seeking a waiver from the state due to having difficulty finding director qualified staff.

Youth sports are seeing cost increases across the board. Staff benchmarked with Recreation Districts in other communities, and instead of raising registration fees, the seasons will be shortened to six weeks. This is being done across the board in youth sports.

This year ticket sales for Aftermath dropped. So, the budget lines for the event's revenue and partner costs were reduced from the amounts listed in the October draft budget.

Kyle stated that Cody Bennett and Tawny McCall worked to bring participation in camps up.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman, Cooper Trahern adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Dawn Green*

*/s/ Cooper Trahern*

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Cooper Trahern, Meeting Chair