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

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 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 (v*ia Teams*)	
	Andy Palmasano	
	Cooper Trahern	
Staff:	Kyle Horne	Executive Director
	Dawn Green	Finance Director (*via Teams*)
Attorney:	Dan Slater	
Guests:	Randi Esquibel	
	Cody Bennett	

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Andy Palmasano to accept the consent agenda as written on the November 12, 2024 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 Recreation District is waiting on the property line information on the bluff from Matt Koch, who received access approval from the neighboring property owner.

The Aftermath event was good, but attendance was not as hoped. The District invested money into the house this year. Jaimee Southern is looking at other ways to find volunteers. The District made over $16,000 on the event. Board member Nick Sartori asked if the District could look at selling tickets online, perhaps utilizing the Active Net software.

The District has one more special event this year- the Turkey Bowl and Turkey Trot on November 23rd.

The Toy Bowl went well, and all the donations and money received will go to families in need.

Programs staff members who attended the annual CPRA conference enjoyed their time.

The Recreation District has renewed the health insurance plan with CEBT for 2025.

Dan Slater:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of Election Results regarding Swimming Pool Ballot Questions and Next Steps

Kyle sent the Board information on the election results. Question 2A has a 602-vote lead and it passed. Question 6A is down 481 votes and there is a slim chance it will flip to a yes vote once all the ballots are counted. Question 6B is up less than a percentage point. Kyle stated that this question is "in play." Questions 2A and 6B are married. If 6B goes down, the Recreation District can't go into debt to construct the pool. The final results will not be known until Thursday. If 6B is a yes, the District can build the pool but will not have the money to operate it. Going back to the voters would require one question only and the District can look at just operations for the pool or for the pool and other District operations. One option to go to the vote is in May or the other option is to go in November. Kyle has spoken to staff members at other Recreation Districts who have faced this issue, and their advice is not to go in May, but rather November of 2025. IF the District were to ask a question in May it would have to be a mail ballot election run by the District staff, which would be a heavy load. By going in November, that gives more time to get the message out. School Districts in Colorado have had success with this route.

In speaking with Todd Snidow, the District's bond rating will not be as strong as we don't have the mills to back it up (with 6A not passing). Mr. Snidow doesn't think that the interest rate would go above 5.5%.

The District could look at finding an Owner's Rep on contingency and getting the RFQs and RFPs ready to go and then selling the bonds next December. This would put us only a few months behind schedule, although it may lead to increased costs.

The District may have lost the LWCF grant because all three questions did not pass. GOCO funding could still be sought, and a capital campaign would need to be started.

In speaking with David Flaherty, he recommended not changing the 6A question, just change the messaging. The other Recreation Directors Kyle spoke with did not disagree.

A board discussion followed about next steps. Kyle spoke about the District's lack of reserves and need to be fiscally responsible. Board member Cooper Trahern asked what happens with the sales tax the City collects if the question fails. Attorney Dan Slater stated his interpretation of the results is that voters want the pool but were leery about the mill levy for general administration. He stated that next November will have more conservative voters. He suggested trying the question again, but for the pool only. It was suggested that more surveys may be needed. The old pool was operated at a deficit. There was a question regarding how many mills are needed to operate the proposed pool. Kyle responded 1.5 and Board member Andy Palmasano suggested asking for 2. Kyle stated that Mr. Flaherty will provide demographic data on this year's voters, and that the School District has done well with off-year elections. Kyle recognized the good work done by Citizens for a Pool and Every Town Needs a Pool. Randi Esquibel shared some of what she heard from voters. There were the no-new tax comments, and those that view recreation as a necessity, but were not sure where the money was going, and others were concerned the mill levy increase had no end date. Board member Melissa Smeins heard comments that the Recreation District is big enough, and the District was holding the pool hostage to get more money. She suggested paring back the question to just cover the pool. Board member Cooper Trahern asked if the one-million-dollar donation pledged for construction could be used for operations. He also questioned whether going to the ballot in 2026 would engage a different voting demographic. Randi Esquibel stated that Citizens for a Pool will continue to fundraise and are looking at creating an enterprise zone. Cody Bennett, speaking as a private citizen, questioned why question 6A failed and advocated only asking for a 1.5 mill levy increase next time to operate the pool, which he feels is a service to the community. Kyle stated that Bob McDonald will provide information on a construction timeline. At the end of this discussion there was board consensus to wait until the final results are in on Thursday before moving forward with next steps.

Kyle informed the board that the City meets on November 18th, and they are discussing collecting the sales tax, especially if Question 6B passes.

The Recreation District will have a special meeting on Tuesday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m. if Question 6B passes.

Update on 2025 District Goals

The goals will be modified depending on the results of the election. Goals include continuing to seek funding for the pool; work on an ADA trail to the Hecker pavilion; work with the District's insurance provider to provide safety training for the maintenance staff; plan a volunteer recognition event; onboarding for new District Board members; and plan ways to celebrate the District's 60th year. Board member Nick Sartori would like to add improving the Arkansas Riverwalk and exploring inviting Florence into the Recreation District and other possible District extensions.

Update on Proposed JGRP Proposal

A copy of a recent email from Luke Javernick was given to the board. Kyle met with him this morning and the next big step in the project is a feasibility study. The proposal is being looked at as a potential wetlands bank. Reservoir projects take a long time to complete. Luke Javernick and Travis Payne will come to a meeting in early 2025 to update the Board members.

The Recreation District budgeted $10,000 for the project in 2025.

Update of Dog Park Improvement Project

The District budgeted $35,000 for the project next year. The Request for Proposals will go out next week. Recreation District staff will be doing the trail and fencing work. Those that bid on the project will provide the equipment. The project is also being funded using Conservation Trust Fund revenue, the El Pomar grant and backfill. Staff will provide a recommendation on the equipment installer for board approval in December.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing: Proposed 2025 Budget

Board member Nick Sartori opened the public hearing at 8:29 p.m. There were no public comments, and the hearing closed.

Executive Director's Annual Evaluation

In prior years, board members met with department heads and completed an evaluation. The Executive Director also completed a self-evaluation. The board agreed to keep the same process. Board member Nick Sartori asked the members to complete everything by Sunday December 1st and return it to him so that he can compile the information. It was determined that Board member Melissa Smeins will meet with Devin Everhart. Board member Joel Dudley will meet with Dawn Green and board member Cooper Trahern will meet with Tawny McCall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman, Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by:

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

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ *Nick Sartori*
Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair