

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

**District Board at the City of Canon City Vision Committee Meeting
July 23, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Preston Troutman, in the meeting room located at 128 Main Street.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

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

City of Canon City:

Present: Preston Troutman Kathy Worthington Tim Dennehy
 John Hamrick Gerald Meloni Emily Tracy
 Remotely- Amy Schmisser and Andrea Stein
 Ryan Stevens-City of Canon City Administrator

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
 Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Beth Katchmar Chris Moffett

Discussion on Pool Operational Funding

The meeting started with a brief overview of the pool replacement project to date by Kyle Horne. In November, the voters passed ballot questions 2A and 6B which authorized construction of the pool. Measure 6A to fund its operations failed by 3.7%. However, the project is moving forward with planning, and various taxing options were explored, some of which did not meet state statutes. A mill levy is a last case scenario as it is a much harder ask, as evidenced by polling results from other mill levy questions being explored by entities around the state.

Three consulting firms have been engaged to start the plans with the goal of replacing the Icabone pool with a year-round option: Owner’s Representative-Wember Inc., Architect-Barker Rinker Seacat (BRS), and Construction Manager at Risk-G.H. Phipps. The Recreation District, City of Canon City and Canon City School District are communicating well as part of this process.

City Administrator Ryan Stevens talked about an idea for an alternate taxing method—an excise tax on amusements and attractions. The percentage rate asked would be at the best point to cover pool operations. Moving forward with this option has a really tight time frame. The City requires two readings of ballot language.

Kyle Horne stated the Recreation District has contracted with Magellan for a survey so that the Recreation District Board could make an informed decision about going to the ballot. Surveying the question for the City can be included.

Ryan Stevens explained that an excise tax is like a sales tax, but on something that doesn't generally have a sales tax attached. The focus on amusements and attractions would mostly impact visitors. Board member Andy Palmasano described it as a use tax that won't all fall on residents. Board member Kristina Post said we have listened to the voters to not raise property taxes, but to find another option. Board member Melissa Smeins appreciates that partnership with the City to find an option.

Beth Katchmar, who is a long-term member for the Fremont County Tourism Council, spoke. She explained that the council is the administrator of the lodging tax which is used to market the community. They have never had a problem passing the lodging tax. She believes an excise tax is a perfect solution.

Mayor Preston Troutman expressed concern about whether it would raise enough money, if it could be voluntary and could businesses outside the scope of the tax contribute. Ryan Stevens answered that other businesses could contribute. Beth Katchmar stated that this would likely collect more than what is collected by the tourism council as the lodging tax is only on hotels for tourists.

John Hamrick stated the City would enter into an IGA (intergovernmental agreement) with the Recreation District which would include periodic reporting and definitions of operations.

Chris Moffett thinks this is a great idea. He expressed a concern and asked if the major parties have been brought into the discussions, so they don't fight the issue. Ryan answered that reaching out to the organizations is the next step.

Amy Schmisser commented that as they are tied together, the IGA should be finalized along with the ballot language.

Board member Cooper Trahern, through a text to Kyle, thanked the City for the collaboration on the effort and believes the tax has momentum and support.

Emily Tracy asked if the City would collect a small fee for the administration of the tax. She believes the larger issues are easier to agree on and can be settled by August.

Attorney Dan Slater said that at an earlier meeting, the Recreation District and the City have started to look at the IGA. He can put together a shell of the IGA to see the direction of the agreement and the areas that might need more discussion. Amy Schmisser followed up by saying that the Council and the Recreation District Board need to understand the broad strokes so that everyone is on the same page.

Kyle spoke about public pools being a service that does not have full cost recovery, and a subsidy is required. They do generate revenue (through admissions, rentals, concessions etc.) but that only covers approximately 50% of the costs of

operation. Now that the project is in the design phase the pro forma is being redone with the final schematic design. He will provide updates on this to Ryan. He stated that reserves are part of operations.

It is believed that we can get there with the excise tax to subsidize the pool.

In response to a question, it would not be levied on the Bridge as it is not in the City.

Board member Sean Rodgers asked how much work went into deciding what the number is (for the tax rate). Ryan stated that they are dialing in the assumptions.

Board member Kristina Post stated that it would be for operations of the pool only.

Kyle stated that the reserve is important, referencing that aquatics are expensive, and having elements break can affect revenues. He used the Icabone pool's removal of the slide in 2018 as an example. Emily Tracy agreed on the need to plan for a reserve to fund for things that will need replacement. Board member Andy Palmasano said that the reserve is critical to extend the life of the pool facility.

Ryan stated that the excise tax will be proposed at the next council meeting.

Board member Kristina Post liked Chris Moffet's idea of talking to the businesses that will be impacted and the idea of other businesses donating. Chris Moffett commented that knowing the IGA would make it more palatable to business owners and assuage their doubts. Emily Tracy said it needed to be done by October for the campaign.

Attorney Dan Slater cautioned that it is not feasible to have the IGA ready to vote on by the end of August. He believes we will get there, but there are a lot of steps and theoretically it would last for 50 years. Both Ryan and Dan believe the major points can be worked through to set both organizations up for success.

Kyle mentioned that the next community design/open house meeting will be on August 26th at 6:00 p.m. at the Canon City Middle School Auditorium. He encouraged everyone to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Cooper Trahern

Cooper, Trahern Meeting Chair