

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President, Nick Sartori in the Canon City High School Auditorium located at 1313 College Avenue.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present: Nick Sartori
Joel Dudley
Melissa Smeins
Andrew Palmasano (*arrived at 8:01 p.m.*)
Cooper Trahern

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Members of the public concerned about the pool

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to accept the consent agenda as written on the July 11, 2023 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No citizen addressed the board at this time.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Board member Nick Sartori stated that the youth baseball season is going well.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

Citizens for a Pool will be holding an event at the pool on July 16th from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. for those who would like to attend and see the facility.

The grass at Rouse Park has turned brown as the irrigation pump died. District crew members will be watering by hand until the pump is replaced, hopefully this week. We can only water on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Kyle recognized Black Hills Energy for sponsoring a free hotdog night at Rouse Park tonight. They donated \$1,000 for hotdogs, and Kyle spoke about the impact their in-kind work had on the Rouse Park Improvement Project.

Information on the changes to sick leave by the state is included in the board packets.

District staff have been researching grant opportunities for the dog park.

There will be a 2-D Archery Shoot to benefit the range on Saturday August 12th. Funds raised can be used to purchase additional 3-D targets.

Shelby Woolsey, the new Receptionist/Recreation Technician, is off to a great start. Tashena McIntosh resigned to accept a position at the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Kyle will be attending a Directors' meeting in Brighton on Friday where they will be discussing trends in athletic field design.

The Special District Association conference is September 12th-14th. Kyle asked that if any board member would like to attend, to please let him know by the end of the week.

Dan Slater:

Dan Slater had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Kyle stated that the pool has become a hot topic of discussion. The Recreation District is trying to be as transparent as possible by making the audit report available on the website and through postings on social media. When built it was estimated to have a 25–30-year lifespan, and this was the 57-year mark. It is simply time for the pool to close. Now it is time to start to look forward.

Within its first year, the Recreation District looked to expand beyond the pool, looking at increasing programming and acquiring parks, and the District continued with that moving forward. Kyle showed a short presentation on what the Recreation District does, closing by saying recreation creates the color of the community and provides a positive impact.

He went on to show the two pool design concepts provided by Councilman-Hunsaker to start the conversation regarding what we can potentially do to replace the pool. Pool

designs have evolved from the designs in the 1950s and 1960s to include zero entry and multiple bodies of water. Technology has improved as well. The high-level pool designs shown meet current leisure, lap and multi-generational programming needs for a community our size. The concepts are shown overlaid on the current pool site and extend to use the sand volleyball area.

Concept One has zero entry, a floatable walk play feature and a double slide. The 6-lane, separate, lap pool shown on both concepts has a deep end of 12'6" to meet compliance requirements. There is a vehicle drop off lane arching between 12th St. and College. Concept 2 has a different leisure component- a vortex pool and a larger lazy river. The single slide goes into the body of water and the lap pool is oriented differently on the site. The concepts shown are expected to last 50 plus years.

Connor Riley of Counsilman-Hunsaker could not attend tonight's meeting, however Kyle reviewed responses given by Mr. Riley to questions raised about the pool.

The cost: For the pools alone, the cost would be \$2.5 to \$3 million. The entire cost, which would include demo, prepping the site, permitting and building, is expected to be \$10 to \$11 million in 2025. As a comparison, Kyle reviewed Carbondale's current experience with replacing their aged pool. They raised their sales tax to generate \$8 million but had to scale back the size of their lap pool due to rising costs.

The size: As shown the pools will serve a community our size.

The concept: They show current typical pool designs, not Rolls-Royce level options. Having two bodies of water creates more programming possibilities.

Using commercial pool builders: Commercial pools are expensive to build. It is a niche market with very few builders as the cost of necessary equipment and materials is expensive. The cost to build a commercial pool has risen to \$350 to \$450 per square foot, doubling in the last nine years.

Life expectancy: The projected life expectancy of a commercial pool built today is 50 plus years, with some equipment needing to be replaced every 10 years. A pool built by a backyard pool builder is only expected to last 20 years.

Why can't builders here do it: There are standards that a community public pool must meet, the codes (a minimum of 10) are highly regulated and complex.

How much more would it be to make the pool open year-round: To cover the pool it is an estimated \$100 per square foot (approximately \$500,000) with different cover options available. Another choice would be to build a heated lap pool, like those found at mountain resorts.

Board President Nick Sartori, then opened the floor for public comment.

Randy Esquibel with the group Citizens for a Pool spoke. She is the president of the newly formed non-profit. They are trying to educate the community and get the facts out about the pool and find creative ways to fundraise for it. For a \$10 donation you can receive a pink flamingo. A CCHS student whose capstone project is tied to the pool efforts even came dressed as a flamingo tonight to accept donations. Ms. Esquibel shared the group's email and Facebook contact information.

Steve Wilson stated that he grew up here and has recently returned from living in Brighton. He is embarrassed that we don't have a pool.

Angela Evagash, who is the president of the local swim team, stated that a new competition pool is desperately needed, and she thanked everyone for their support.

Chris Moffett, the president of Royal Gorge RIO, a river based 501C3 which has a local lifejacket lending program on the river and teaches kids how to raft. The group used the pool to teach SUP and kayak lessons. He stated it is important to teach people how to swim safely before they get into the river, and he strongly supports the pool and would push for a year-round option.

John Zimmerman/Buffie McFadyen stated that the government agencies in the community need to come together to partner and find a solution.

Dave Schoweiler spoke regarding his preference to see a year-round aquatics center/pool.

Jeff Shepherd thanked the District for all that it does. He said that he is the target audience as a voter, continuing that even though he is pro recreation, the previously proposed recreation center was too much. He lives near the Icabone pool and supports these concepts.

Bill Wiseman thanked the Recreation District for moving forward on this much needed amenity to teach swimming, and he supports considering a year-round option.

Renee Hawn asked questions on where the \$9 million in federal funding the community received was spent and regarding accountability for the state of the pool. Kyle responded that Special Districts did not directly receive ARPA funding, but that Fremont County did “spread the wealth” to special districts. In addressing her accountability concerns, attorney Dan Slater provided a history on the District’s efforts to replace the pool, including a close vote on a ballot question in 2000. During his 23-year tenure as the District’s attorney, he has been present when Boards of Directors over the years have been on the verge of closing the pool. He stated that the staff has done a good job of keeping it open.

Further public comment and discussion about the pool included the need for lift(s) for the lap pool to meet ADA requirements, acknowledging that area neighbors need to be kept in the loop, and whether the basketball court will remain. Dr. Sindler spoke about the importance of polling to see what the public wants and what it would vote for and to bring the public’s views into the project.

Kyle stated that the next steps for the pool include an RFP (Request for Proposals) for a feasibility study which would include public meetings and polling. He has spoken with a representative from Magellan Strategies who stated that polling should not take place until after the November election. Proposition HH will be on the ballot, and it impacts property taxes. Kyle estimates a feasibility study may cost between \$25,000-\$60,000. He is requesting permission from the Board to write and release the RFP.

Kyle has also spoken to bond counsels to discuss financing and has looked at grants. A GOCO grant has a \$1 million max, and could fund projects at a lower level, but it needs to be demonstrated as a number one priority for the community. The National Parks Service has a reimbursement grant option that matches dollar for dollar. The Recreation District is not eligible for the next cycle, but the timing may potentially line up with the following cycle and a tax question in 2024. The Gates Foundation has a \$30,000 maximum. USDA grants are not an option. The El Pomar Foundation may have grant options to help with soft costs, but not construction. He also investigated Colorado energy/clean energy grants. There are limited options for grants for commercial public pools. In most cases, it is up to the community to build pools and tax questions are needed.

Next steps include a Recreation District Board/City of Canon City Council joint work session scheduled for next Tuesday.

Board member Nick Sartori stated that it is important that we get this right and to find out what the community wants and will support. Board member Andrew Palmasano stated there is no reason to wait to get the RFP process started.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to start the process for the feasibility study for the swimming pool. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

The Rouse Park Improvement Project has been closed out. Financial information on the project was included in the board packets.

Pathfinder Regional Park is a joint venture between Fremont County and the Recreation District with the boundaries established in 2005. Kyle has been approached by representatives from Fremont County who would like to have a water crossing on Chandler Creek, either a bridge or low water crossing. The County is also placing an electronic sign near the entrance and would like to hook into the Recreation District's electric in the roundabout. They are also interested in paving the entryway and roundabout. These issues will be discussed at a future meeting between the County Commissioners and Recreation District Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Nick Sartori, adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Nick Sartori

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair