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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Board meeting was called to order at 7:01 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:	Travis Payne	
	Dan Francis	

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Andy Palmasano made a motion, seconded by board member Melissa Smeins to accept the consent agenda as written for the October 13, 2026 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Board member Andy Palmasano spoke about a parking issue at Rouse Park when both a softball tournament and youth football were taking place. Kyle said it should not be an issue the rest of the year as no more softball tournaments are scheduled.

Kyle was contacted by a high school student who would like to hold a run which follows the Blossom Day route. Kyle agreed to the portion that is on Recreation District property, he just needs the date. The student will have to work with the City for use of Duck Park (Centennial Park).

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

There will be a change of representation for special districts on the URA Board as Tim Payne from the Fire District is stepping down. Kyle spoke about the method to select a replacement. A board discussion followed. Board member Kristina Post will agree to do it if no other district wants to represent. Board member Sean Rodgers stated in his opinion it would work if the Fire District wanted to name a successor.

The construction team at Musco is running way behind schedule and the Mini-Pitch won't be installed until March. United Companies is unable to make a full donation, and Kyle is still looking for potential sponsors.

Kyle reported on an equipment theft. Someone cut the cables on three of the four light towers rented for the Aftermath event and stole the batteries and a hydraulic part. For the next weeks of the event, Devin Everhart will transport the towers back to Canon Rental on Saturday morning, and District staff will lock down entry into the area. The cost of the loss is $2,700. Kyle has notified the Sheriff's Department of the theft and given them video from the security system.

Dare Print will present their ideas for District branding at the November meeting. They are set up for t-shirt sales at Aftermath and the Turkey Bowl/Turkey Trot.

There have been major issues with parking at Pathfinder Regional Park during youth soccer, as people park in no parking zones, in entries and exits and double park. The District does not have the staffing levels to monitor the lots, but staff are working on a solution, including using cones.

The Big Horn Roundtable is working on an accessibility event to include displaying a track chair and terrain hopper. It is scheduled for November 14, 2026 during the day.

The District had to replace the automatic locks on the toilets at Harrison Park and the Riverwalk Sells location.

Kyle met with law enforcement officer Danica Cupp regarding homeless issues. Camping overnight on District property is not allowed. The police are monitoring Harrison Park in the evenings.

The board discussed the questions the District received regarding the youth soccer program, including team sizes and league set up. Kyle stated that a lot of thought goes into setting up the leagues considering coach availability. There was also discussion on the Recreation District's role regarding the level of teaching the sport.

Dan Slater:

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Report on JGRP Project Feasibility Study – Travis Payne

Travis Payne provided a short update on the project. Canon City contracted with the company, GEI, on October 5th for the feasibility study work. The study should be completed in 18 months. The work on the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is moving forward. One of the high points of the MOU is that the Sanitation District wants to be made whole for the use of their property.

Updated and Discussion on Community Pool Project

Dan Francis spoke. He appreciates the effort put into the process to replace the pool, even when he "overstepped a line." He is going to support the pool.

A report on the pool's potential timeline was included in the board packet. To have the pool open in the summer of 2028 is a challenge. The District could not expend any funds on the project until a yes vote, thereby losing two months of planning. If the District receives a yes vote work will begin on schematic design. There will also be meetings with local excavation companies to discuss demolition of the old facility and the potential for this work to be donated. Included in the report were emails from Ralph Kasper of GH Phipps and Zach Bisek of BRS regarding their thoughts on the timeline. Both emphasized the need to move forward wisely to build a solid facility. Board member Cooper Trahern commented that the Recreation District has been working on the pool replacement for five years and is not sacrificing quality at this point. The project partners told Kyle not to make any promises on the timeline.

There was a question forwarded to Kyle from No New Tax Pool asking if the pool could be covered to make the pool year-round down the road. Kyle responded that it would double the cost of the project. There are other ramifications to this including parking needs. Kyle stated that if there is an indoor pool in our future, it will be at another location. Board member Sean Rodgers commented that this is too far out to discuss.

Contract Amendment for Wember

As the Recreation District has changed the scope of the pool project, there is work that is needed on the pool partner contracts. Wember would like to do an add additional services to the contract. Then they will work with GH Phipps and BRS on their contracts. The board has copies of the agreement. Attorney Dan Slater said that it needs language added stating it only takes effect if the ballot measure passes.

Kyle stated that up to this point, the work done by the partners has been pro-bono.

Board member Sean Rodgers feels their rates are very reasonable.

Board member Sean Rodgers made a motion, seconded by board member Kristina Post, to approve the contract amendment for additional services with the additional language that the ballot has to pass. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Discussion on MOU with Canon City Schools

Dan Slater is reviewing this. He may have something early next year. Kyle stated that as the project no longer includes vacating 12th Street, the City does not need to be a party to the MOU.

The board discussed the size of the parking area needed, school use of the lot, and who would be responsible for maintenance. Dan Slater said the MOU mentions repaying the BEST grant, which would only have to repay for the land impacted. The School District would sell the Recreation District the land needed. There was discussion on the timeline of who would use the lot and the (2024) ballot language impact on the MOU.

Health Insurance Plan Change

Recreation District staff looked at options for health insurance coverage for 2027. Staff met with Bill Wilson, whose plan offerings required 25 employees. The District never received a quote from him. Staff also met with a representative from Benefits Broker, but as they were also with United Health, the Recreation District could not switch brokers. However, Benefits Broker will be switching to Blue Cross-Blue Shield next year. Information comparing the Blue Cross-Blue Shield and CEBT plans was provided in the board packets. The plan offered by CEBT is more expensive by approximately $27,000. Staff recommend moving to Benefits Broker. A brief discussion followed.

Board member Kristina Post made a motion, seconded by board member Sean Rodgers, to switch from CEBT to Benefits Broker for employee benefits. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of 2027 Draft Budget

Copies of the draft budget for 2027 were distributed to the board. Kyle thanked Board members Sean Rodgers and Andy Palmasano for their help in setting the proposed salary schedule. The updated schedule would increase the entry level for all positions 3.6%. This COLA amount matches the inflationary number used by the state to increase minimum wage for 2027. Kyle spoke with other agency managers at their monthly meeting about expected wage increases in 2027 for their entities. By increasing the Recreation District wages by the proposed amount, at least the District won't be falling further behind.

There is an opportunity for the District to purchase a 2015 Toyota Tundra with 13,000 miles on it for $20,000 in January. The seller would like to help the Recreation District. This item is in the proposed budget.

Also in the budget is an amount to replace the scoreboard for Field B to match the one on Filed A. The District would like to purchase it from Daktronics.

Potential additions to the 2027 budget are a GPS program for the District's fleet of heavy equipment. The estimated expense is $2,400-$2,500. The Property and Liability Pool may have a program to address this. Another item would be a GIS system to safeguard the institutional knowledge as to where District equipment is located. Kyle is looking at two vendors-IM GIS and Grid Base. Board member Cooper Trahern said that there are companies that do both-GIS and GPS - and he believes that option is worth exploring. Combined, these two options would cost approximately $6,000. There was board consensus for this.

The pool construction amounts in the draft budget will depend on the election.

The Special Districts Association strongly encourages special districts to "debruce." This would require an election question. Dan Slater explained the term and the effect of the 2024 state legislation on tax revenue. Kyle stated there is a thought to have both the Fire District and the Recreation District put the question on the ballot next year.

The furnace in the front office will be checked out to see if it needs to be replaced, and this item may be added to the budget.

Discussion of 2027 Draft District Goals

Included in the board packet is a breakdown of where the goals for 2026 are now as well as a potential goal list for 2027. Board member Cooper Trahern would like to add establishing an endowment for the Recreation District to the 2027 list.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Cooper Trahern adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Submitted by:	Approved as written or amended:
/s/ *Dawn Green*	/s/ *Cooper Trahern*
Dawn Green, Finance Director	Cooper Trahern, Meeting Chair