

**Canon City Area Metropolitan
Recreation and Park District
575 Ash Street
Canon City, CO 81212
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**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2019**

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 Chairman, Kalem Lenard, in the auditorium of the Canon City High School located at 1313 College Avenue.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present: Kalem Lenard
 Jim Johnson
 Scott Johnson
 Mike Sallie
 Nick Sartori

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director
 Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

Guests: Marc Sindler Burl McCullar
 Julie McCullar Dr. Icabone
 Melissa Smeins Ed Rodenbach
 Scott Harrell Rick Harrmann
 Chris Harting Jurhee Hill
 Patty Schlesinger Karen Sartori
 Lisa Rowe Mike Banker
 Other community members who did not address the board

PRESENTATION ON ICABONE POOL STATUS

- The meeting started with Executive Director Kyle Horne giving a Power Point presentation on the Icabone pool. He gave a short history of the facility which opened in 1967 and discussed the defeat of three subsequent ballot questions to either repair the pool or build a recreation center. In 2018 a site audit was completed at the pool, which anticipated the need for expensive repairs in the near future. The mechanical issues experienced this season necessitate repairs estimated to cost approximately \$140,000 in order to potentially operate the pool in 2020. These repairs do not address other issues including: the age of the liner;

only having one body of water with no zero entry; and an outdated bath house. Based on his research public pools are not financially self-sustainable. One slide showed how they are subsidized by local governmental agencies in southern Colorado. A slide showing the last three years of revenue and expenses for the District's pool illustrate this point.

Throughout the history of the District, the recreational programs and facilities offered evolved with the changing interests of the community.

He discussed current programming standards for pool designs and used the pool under construction in Rifle as an example.

The board then requested public comment.

The public hearing on the budget was opened at 7:36 p.m.

The following members of the public addressed the board:

- Marc Sindler understands that the decision concerning the pool is difficult for everybody. Canon City enjoys 90-100-degree days during the summer and an outdoor pool is an asset. Although he is a vigorous supporter of a recreation center, there is no comparison for a child being able to swim outdoors. The repairs are the quickest way to patch the pool so it can remain open while waiting for one to be built.
- Burl McCullar is a 35-year resident who uses the therapy pool at St. Thomas More Hospital. He wanted to make sure the disabled community is represented and that ADA standards are followed.
- Julie McCullar has voted for the past community/rec center proposals. The community needs a pool so that people can learn to swim. A pool is needed this summer and we need to look to the future to a community/rec center as well. She suggested a media blitz and information campaign possibly engaging school children to talk to their parents to get a more positive outcome for a new center.
- Dr. Icabone was a member of the committee to get the pool built. He stated that when the District started the mill levy was 2.0. He wore many hats dealing with the construction of the pool, which is built in an area with expanding clay soil. He agreed that pools do not make money. He questioned whether there is a cap on the mill levy that the District can ask for if a new pool or rec center was to be built.
- Melissa Smeins spoke as a representative of the Piranha Swim Team, stating it is her entire life in the summer. This year the team had about 30 participants ranging in age from 5-18. She would like to see it open next year.
- Ed Rodenbach spoke and requested options of things we could do regarding the pool.
- Scott Harrell believes we need to do the rec center, one that has two pools with different temps and a slide. We need to spend money on something that can be open year-round. He did say the way you word a ballot question is important.
- Rick Harrmann is a member of the REC committee. He realizes that it is a tough decision. A pool is a component of the services a recreation center could provide.

He urged the board and those attending the meeting to think in terms of economic growth and development.

- Chris Harting used the pool five to six days a week this summer to stay in shape for his work. He encouraged the board to spend money to keep it open if you can open it. The dire situation at the pool should wake up voters to the need for a rec center.
- Jurhee Hill is involved with the Piranhas Swim Team and stated many kids are impacted by learning how to swim.
- Patty Schlesinger shared ideas to go to local hotels that have pools or look to add a pool to the new schools being built to provide public access to pools. She asked if the County and City of Canon City could provide financial help for the issue.
- Karen Sartori is part of the REC committee and encouraged those present to look to the future. The population the pool is currently serving is small. Perhaps transportation to the Florence pool or hotel pools could be arranged as the community looks to the future. The repairs are a temporary fix. A rec center would provide year-round access to a pool.
- Lisa Rowe asked if public pools in our state are owned by cities and counties or special districts. Kyle replied that it is a mixture of both. She stated that cities and counties have extra revenue streams to support pools, realizing that they are not money makers. She said that the community should not miss out on an opportunity to get something by shooting for the moon. She stressed that learning to swim is important.
- Mike Banker said this issue has an emotional and practical side. We need a pool in this community as it is situated in a place where a river runs through it. We should refurbish the pool and make it work. An upcoming rec center question may not pass, but a pool in a community with a river is necessary.

These individual comments were followed by a general conversation. Topics covered included: accessible locations for a pool, asking local concrete and plumbing companies for free help to demolish the pool and then construct a new one, and supplementing the water supply with a mineral spring.

The public hearing on the 2020 budget closed at 8:28 p.m.

Board member Kalem Lenard stated he did not want this to come as a surprise to the community. He is calling to the community to help as the Recreation District, being a special district, is limited in our options, even as it concerns fundraising. Next steps include the second reading of the budget at the regular board meeting on November 20th. At the meeting on December 10th will be the approval of the 2020 budget, and for the District to decide if those funds will be transferred to keep the pool open.

Board member Scott Johnson thanked those that attended. Partnerships are important in looking to the future. He agreed that learning to swim is a life skill. It is a difficult decision for the board.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by:



Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:



Meeting Chair