

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 14, 2021**

**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, Jim Johnson, in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members:

Present:                 Jim Johnson  
                              Nick Sartori  
                              Brett James

Staff:                    Kyle Horne                 Executive Director  
                              Dawn Green               Finance Director  
                              Tawny McCall             Programs Director  
                              Jaimee Southern         Kids Klub Director

Attorney:               Dan Slater

Guests:                 Jamie Nelson

**ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Brett James to accept the consent agenda as written on the September 14, 2021 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- No member of the public addressed the board.

**ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- Board member Jim Johnson stated that he has attended three or four of the recreation center presentations by Kyle Horne, commenting that they were well received and gave the public a chance to get their questions answered. He thanked Kyle for getting the information out.

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- Work on the digital sign is continuing. It should be completed by Friday. There was an issue with the fabrication that needed to be fixed. The online component is working properly.
- The District renewed the health insurance plan for 2022, switching the eye coverage to VSP which offers a better plan. The health insurance portion increased 2% for next year. The cost to cover the full-time employees is calculated at \$129,248 for the year.
- The pool is officially closed for the season. At this point, prior to the transfers to revenue from other funds, there is a loss on the season of approximately \$45,000. The pump died on Labor Day – the only mechanical issue for the season. A reserve pump was installed.
- Kyle spoke to Ryan Stevens regarding the possible annexation of John Griffin Regional Park into the City of Canon City and splitting the cost of a ranger to patrol it. Kyle stated there will be impacts on adjacent landowners and further talks are needed. Without the annexation the ranger would not have jurisdiction to address infraction of the leash laws and homeless issues. Attorney Dan Slater suggested talking to the county officials, as the park is situated within the county.
- The District is dealing with homeless individuals staying in their vehicles in the parking lots at Sells and Rouse. The broken-down vehicle at Sells has until Thursday to move before it will be towed. The van at Rouse has been tagged and needs to be towed.
- There is no update on the river permits, but according to RG Rio one of the potentially available permits expired.
- The District applied for another Youth Corps Service Grant to continue the work in John Griffin Regional Park in 2022. Awards should be announced in December.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater had no report.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- REC (Recreation Enhances in our Community) is working on the recreation center campaign. Kyle is continuing to go out into the community to give informational presentations to groups. At some, members of REC were also in attendance. He is presenting to the Golden Age Center tomorrow and multiple other presentations are scheduled.

Kyle will be in a meeting with the site selector for the City of Canon City tomorrow. Recreation has an impact on business and the economic benefits will be discussed.

The ballot questions have been submitted. Kyle, Carly, and Dawn are working on the voter lists.

Board member Nick Sartori asked Kyle to provide the board some feedback on the presentations he has given so far. Kyle stated the open community sessions at the schools have had lesser attendance. Only one individual seemed to want to stir up emotions. He has been receiving good questions from the community and the concerns being voiced are similar to the ones outlined in the survey, such as the impact on taxes. He stated that people should look at it as an investment in the community - economic development will lead to a larger tax base which provides for more money for services such as roads. He did say that some people attending the presentations still confuse the District with the City of Canon City. Dan Slater pointed out that the District is not involved in advertising for the recreation center. If board members would like more information about this, it should be available from REC.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Kyle would like to have board members involved in the process of determining the 2022 staff salary schedule. The preliminary assessed property valuation within the District did go up. The City of Canon City recently updated their salary schedule, and a parks maintenance person is being paid \$3-\$4 more per hour than what the District pays. Kyle would like the help of two board members to establish the schedule. Board member Brett James agreed, and board member Greg DiRito was volunteered.
- As District staff works on next year's budget, Kyle requested from the Board input on the goals they would like to see in the next year. A copy of this year's goals was included in the packets and can be used as a road map. Board members can individually email their suggestions to him.  
The draft budget presented to the board in October will assume that the election questions did not pass, with supplemental spreadsheets provided to look at line-item changes if they should. He would like to schedule the budget workshop the same evening as the regular November board meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>.  
The results of the 110% Cost Recovery project will be used to look at a list of potential program fee changes.
- Jamie Nelson addressed the board to appeal her suspension from contacting District staff. She is married to a gentleman who has two children who participate in the District's programs. He is involved in a contentious child custody dispute with his former wife, Elizabeth. According to Ms. Nelson when she is contacting District staff regarding the children's participation in District programs, she is doing it at the behest of her husband. She spoke about contacting District staff regarding t-shirts and behavioral issues at Kids Klub. She claimed she hadn't been given a warning until receiving the letter regarding her suspension. There was discussion with board members regarding this situation. Board member Jim

Johnson stated that the husband needs to communicate more with the District. Board member Nick Sartori stated that he doesn't want the kids to suffer. Kyle Horne gave a summary of the issue from the District's standpoint, stating that there is not one staff member who wants to deal with Ms. Nelson. For example, she called seven times in one day. He stated that in his job as Executive Director he needs to listen to staff, who state that they have had to deal with Ms. Nelson more than all the other parents combined and it is affecting their work. The District does have contact with her husband, Aaron Hart, as he is a coach. There is a way to accommodate this family by dealing with Elizabeth, Aaron, and the children.


Board member Jim Johnson made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to uphold the suspension of Jamie Nelson. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman Jim Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

  
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Dawn Green, Finance Director

  
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Meeting Chair