

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2022**

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, Nick Sartori, in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

ROLL CALL

Board Members:

Present:

Nick Sartori
Brett James (*via Zoom*)
Joel Dudley
Melissa Smeins
Greg DiRito (*arrived during Executive Director report via Zoom*)

Staff:

Kyle Horne Executive Director
Dawn Green Finance Director
Tawny McCall Programs Director
Cody Bennett Sports Coordinator

Attorney:

Dan Slater

Guests:

Judith Bridgeman John Moore
Mikel Wright Jennifer Wright

ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA

Board member Melissa Smeins made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to accept the consent agenda as written on the December 13, 2022 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Ms. Bridgeman with the Friends of the Dog Park Committee thanked the board for their support of the dog park and brought to the board's attention a safety issue where the underlying fabric on the walking trail at the park is pulling up and creating a tripping hazard. The parks crew will have to go in and add crusher fines.

ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- There were none

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- An amended document from River Science was included in the board packets. The total project cost has lowered. In a meeting with River Science, Dan Henricks, the District Water Commissioner, believes that there may be a sustainable water share for the project. The accounts payable includes an invoice to pay for Task 1 with a 10% contingency. The task deliverables will be presented at the February board meeting.
- Homeless camps continue to crop up. There is another in the Schepp Open Space near Gloria's Groove. Kyle showed photos of the camp taken by the BLM today. It is in a difficult location to bring in equipment. A brief discussion on homeless camps followed.
- There is increasing vandalism at Rouse Park. A large section (70 ft.) of fencing was knocked down on December 3rd. A sheriff's report has been filed. There was discussion on the options to repair it in a manner to discourage further access to the turf by vehicles. The options include stem walls, using boulders or replacing the fence using metal posts. The parks crew is now locking the gates at Rouse Park as there is a construction project in progress. Board member Brett James suggested bringing in jersey barriers until a solution is decided upon and he offered to haul in the barriers.
- The Recreation District is expanding its marketing by having videos produced by Ground2Air Productions. Kyle showed one from this year's Turkey Bowl/Turkey Trot. These videos can be linked to social media.
- The City of Canon City contacted Kyle about E-bikes on the trails. Meetings on this issue will occur in 2023.
- Board member Nick Sartori suggested tracking the expenses, including staff time, spent on homeless camp clean up.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater had no report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Copies of the District's 2023 goals were included in the board packet as adjusted after the November board meeting. The goals are in line with the 2023 budget. Kyle read the list of goals.

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to approve the 2023 District goals as written. Motion carried unanimously, all aye vote.

- Kyle showed pictures of the work being done on the Rouse Park Improvement project. Black Hills Energy inserted conduit underground as an in-kind donation. The old light towers (47 years old) have been demoed. The electricity supply for the lights for the fields has been reduced to one meter, which should never get to 50 kw, which leads to higher utility pricing. The lights from Musco will hopefully be tested next week. They can be controlled and programmed remotely through an app, by computer or by calling Musco.
There was a change order for wiring in the proximate amount of \$14,000 for new 3-phase copper wiring to the fields.
Kyle reviewed the warranty periods on the lights with the board and will inform them when the lights will be tested if they would like to attend.
Kyle is ordering backstop pads that will be customized with the District's name and logo.
- Included in the board packets was a list of the proposed activity fee changes. They include the following increases: \$30 in Adult Soccer; \$50 in Adult Softball; \$20 in Youth Baseball Uniform Deposit and \$50 in Youth Football Uniform Deposit. The cost of football helmets has increased dramatically in two years to a current cost of \$178 each. The board discussed the fee increases, the need for each activity to reach cost recovery and the possibility of seeking team sponsorships to cover uniform costs and the ordering issues or delays that might result.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to approve the proposed program activity fee increases for 2023. Motion carried unanimously, all aye vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- The board received in their packets an itemized list of the changes made to the 2023 budget since the last board meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-14

A RESOLUTION SUMMARIZING EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES FOR EACH FUND AND ADOPTING A BUDGET FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT, CAÑON CITY, COLORADO, FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR AND BUDGET YEAR BEGINNING ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY 2023 AND ENDING ON THE LAST DAY OF DECEMBER 2023.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Melissa Smeins to adopt Resolution 2022-14. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15

A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY TO THE VARIOUS FUNDS IN THE AMOUNTS AND FOR THE PURPOSES AS SET FORTH BELOW FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT, CAÑON CITY, COLORADO, FOR THE 2023 BUDGET YEAR.

Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Melissa Smeins to adopt Resolution 2022-15. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

- Kyle answered a board member question on the calculation of the mill levy for 2023 based on the assessed valuation received from the County.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-16

A RESOLUTION LEVYING GENERAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2023 TO HELP DEFRAID THE COST OF GOVERNMENT FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT, CAÑON CITY, COLORADO, FOR THE 2023 BUDGET YEAR.

Board member Melissa Smeins made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to adopt Resolution 2022-16. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

- 2023 is an election year as special districts moved to odd year elections. The Recreation District board has two seats that are up in 2023. Self-nomination forms to be on the board can be accepted starting the first of the year.

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-17

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING A DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIAL FOR THE CAÑON CITY AREA METROPOLITAN RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT'S 2023 ELECTIONS

Board member Melissa Smeins made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to adopt Resolution 2022-17. The resolution was adopted with all members present voting aye.

- Before Mr. Mikel Wright presented his appeal on his volunteer coaching suspension, attorney Dan Slater informed the board of the District appeal policy. In the policy, an appeal hearing takes place at least 10 days after submitting a written appeal. Mr. Slater gave Mr. Wright the option to wait until the January board meeting or continue.

Choosing to continue, Mr. Wright provided the board with copies of the suspension letter he received with annotations on his points of contention. He spoke about his eleven years of volunteering coaching for the Recreation District, his coaching style, and addressed and disagreed with the conduct issues mentioned in the letter. He then asked the Board to reinstate him as a coach.

His wife, Mrs. Jennifer Wright, then spoke on his behalf. She stated that Mikel is passionate about coaching the kids. She characterized the things in the letter as either hearsay or untrue. She stated that in 11 years things can happen, and she was tired of defending our innocence.

A discussion by the board with input from staff followed. Board member Nick Sartori thanked Mr. Wright for providing his perspective and for coaching. Board member Melissa Smeins thanked them for putting time into the appeal.

Executive Director Kyle Horne stated that Mr. Wright does step up to coach, that he is organized and knowledgeable about sports. However, he has witnessed Mr. Wright's poor and confrontational communication style. As Programs Director, he recalls meeting with the prior Executive Director in 2016 about having Mr. Wright continue coaching. He was notified by staff of the incidents cited in the letter on Mondays after the games. He wrote the suspension letter and stands by everything that is written. He went on to state that officiating is difficult, and a number of officials have expressed that they do not want to do the games where Mr. Wright is a coach. Also, parents ask to not have Mr. Wright as a coach for their children. Mr. Horne has an issue with the Wrights calling into question Cody Bennett's character as he has been officiating for the District since 2010.

At some point during this discussion, Mr. and Mrs. Wright got up and left the meeting.

Staff members Cody Bennett and Tawny McCall also spoke about their interactions with Mr. Wright and his conduct as a coach.

Board member Greg DiRito stated that it is unfortunate that it has escalated to this point, but staff needs to be allowed to do their job.

Board member Joel Dudley commented that the board and staff remained silent while the Wrights spoke, but they got "huffed up" and left when staff spoke.

Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Melissa Smeins to affirm the staff decision on the suspension. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

Board member Nick Sartori stated that in his conversation with Mr. Wright, Mr. Wright agreed that his coaching style is displaced from the Recreation District's. Mr. Sartori suggested that if staff starts to see a downward trend in coaching behavior, written documentation should be kept.

Mr. Slater stated that Kyle Horne should send a one sentence letter to Mikel Wright stating the appeal was denied.

- Board member Joel Dudley made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to go into executive session for a personnel matter- the Executive Director's annual review. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

The regular session ended at 9:21 p.m.

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

The Board exited from the Executive Session at 10:45 p.m. and reentered the regular board meeting.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Greg DiRito to approve a step increase and the 2 % COLA (in the 2023 salary schedule) for the Executive Director. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to approve a \$300 bonus for the Executive Director. The motion passed with all members present voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Board Chairman Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 10:49 p.m.

Submitted by:

/s/ Dawn Green

Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Nick Sartori

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
December 13, 2022**

Executive Session was called at 9:21 p.m.

The substance of discussion during executive session was a personnel matter: the Executive Director's annual review under C.R.S. section 24-6-402(4)(f).
The executive session adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

/s/ Dawn Green
Dawn Green, Finance Director

/s/ Nick Sartori
Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair