

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

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
May 10, 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 Secretary Nick Sartori, in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Members:

Present:                   Nick Sartori  
                                  Greg DiRito  
                                  Joel Dudley  
                                  Melissa Smeins \* *attended via Zoom*

Staff:                     Kyle Horne       Executive Director  
                                  Dawn Green     Finance Director

Attorney:                Dan Slater

Guests:                 Margene Martin  
                                  Members of the community interested in the dog park

- Board member Jim Johnson was acknowledged for his eight years of service on the Canon City Area Recreation and Park District Board.
- Incoming board members Joel Dudley and Melissa Smeins were recognized.
- The board discussed positions and the following motions were made to elect the positions by acclamation.

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to elect board member Nick Sartori president. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to elect board member Greg DiRito vice-president. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Greg DiRito to elect board member Brett James treasurer. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Greg DiRito to elect board member Joel Dudley secretary. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

Board member Nick Sartori made a motion, seconded by board member Joel Dudley to elect board member Melissa Smeins for assistant secretary/treasurer. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion, seconded by board member Nick Sartori to accept the consent agenda as written on the May 10, 2022 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

## **CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

- None

## **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- Board member Greg DiRito stated that he and Jim Johnson were present when the District received the check for the Rouse Park Improvement project from the county. He thanked Fremont County for the funds.
- Board member Nick Sartori is coaching youth soccer and stated that the kids are having fun and that everyone working the program is doing a good job.

## **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

Executive Director – Kyle Horne reported:

- He has been dealing with an eye issue and was out for three weeks. He is returning to work part-time. He thanked Tawny, Dawn and Devin for their work in his absence and appreciates their help.
- He is still working to find a new IT company for the District. He had to reschedule a meeting with Second 61.
- The maintenance crew is still short-staffed. Five positions are filled and three are open - one full time and two seasonal. They are not filled through a lack of trying as finding parks maintenance personnel is a nationwide issue. Devin and his crew are working hard, with Devin even prepping fields.
- Two homeless camps in the Schepp Open Space need addressed. One is located near Sand Hill and the Smooth Criminal Trail, and the other is behind the old DeWeese dam. Kyle tries not to bring in volunteers to clean up the camps due to potential hazards.
- The pool is fully staffed for the summer. Lydia Bright resigned as manager, but the two assistant managers agreed to step up.

- At next month's board meeting there will be information on the IGA with the Canon City School District. The school district received a grant which can be used to help their students participate in Recreation District programs, perhaps even receiving free swim lessons.
- The District hosted successful events in April including a cornhole tournament, Clean-Up/Green-Up and Sons & Mums. Kyle recognized the programs staff for their work on the Activity Guide. The distribution of the guide in the Shopper experienced issues based on work done by the Pueblo Chieftain.
- Programs staff is continuing to experience sporting equipment back orders. The staff is trying to upgrade the baseball equipment by cycling out the older pieces, but the order may not come in until October.
- The board discussed the impact from the grant awarded to the Canon City School District on program participation. The three-year grant is for children enrolled in the Canon City RE-1 school district. There is no requirement to be a school district enrollee to utilize the St. Thomas More Hospital Fund Scholarship. Kyle stated that this scholarship, which covers 50% of the cost, makes the parent have "some skin in the game" which influences the child's participation in the program.

Dan Slater:

- Dan Slater had no report.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Margene Martin, on behalf of the dog park advisory committee, presented a list of concerns about the park to the board which deal with safety, improvements and information sharing. She stated that though the dog park has high usage, it is a degrading facility. The list of concerns include: more signage listing rules such as owners staying with their pets and picking up after them; provide a way to bring in potable water- the water from the garden is not; increase the number of waste cans with lids and emptying them more frequently; repair/cover the fabric underneath the walking track; fill holes; provide an additional entrance gate; fix the A-frame in the agility course; remove the donation box; plant a low maintenance grass to discourage weeds from growing; install a small dog area with an additional entrance; repair the informational sign inside the park; and install a bulletin board, a suggestion box with pens and a sign-in sheet for users. She stated that the group has grant writing resources and could administer the grants but would not be a fundraising committee. She said that there should be a line item in the budget specifically for the dog park. She also stated that the committee would briefly report each month at the board meeting.

A discussion followed. Board member Nick Sartori thanked the committee for their passion. He reiterated the point that the District's maintenance crew is short staffed. Attorney Dan Slater pointed out that the committee's request to report to the board is going over the head of the Executive Director. The District has more to deal with than one park with a limited staff and budget to do so. The board's job is to set policy. Board member Greg DiRito stated the District provides a public service that has finite resources but

unlimited need. He hears the concerns about the dog park from his family and wants to address them, but it should be done with the resources the District has available in terms of time and money. Some of the concerns need to be addressed in the longer term.

There was further discussion regarding the committee's role. Board member Greg DiRito stated that there needs to be proper expectations on both sides. There is a need to find a way to be partners and work together. Dana Horne raised a concern with grant funding through the committee, stating that grants should go through the Recreation District for financial accountability. Kyle Horne used recent examples of how citizen groups and local organizations have worked with District staff to improve facilities, citing the work done by the pickleball club, FAR with the South Canon Trails and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the archery range. The groups went to the board with their vision, then worked with staff on planning and funding before returning to the board. Some of the improvements were planned in stages.

The next step is to arrange a meeting with Kyle, Devin Everhart and the group to look at options for moving forward with the list of requested items. A member of the group stated they wanted assurance they are taken seriously.

- The Recreation District received \$300,000 from Fremont County for the Rouse Park Improvement project. The lights are the first priority. Other project items include redoing the backstop on Field A, covering the dugouts, installing one large pavilion (replacing the two current, smaller pavilions) and repaving the parking lot off Park Ave. Kyle met with Julie from the Black Hills Foundation, and although their in-kind budget was recently slashed, the foundation is interested in providing some in-kind donation for installation of the lights.

Dawn Green has written a draft application for an El Pomar Grant. The ARPA funds from the county and the Lions donation can be listed as match. The repaving of the parking lot is an expensive item and may require additional grant funding, perhaps from DOLA, if it fits within their infrastructure guidelines.

An RFP (Request for Proposals) for the lighting will be included in next month's agenda. Devin Everhart met with a representative from Musco lighting recently.

A brief discussion on the project followed regarding the pavilion location and the drainage/irrigation issues in that area.

- The District budgeted \$30,000 for a piece of equipment in this year's budget and has the opportunity to purchase a Toro mower from LL Johnson for \$27,323 utilizing a municipal discount. The District has been buying Hustler brand mowers which, according to Parks Supervisor Devin Everhart, only last one to two years. The District does have a 1997 John Deere diesel mower it has maintained and is still in service. This Toro model is a four-cylinder diesel that will last longer with blades that are easier to change. It would be used at Pathfinder Regional Park. There is a warranty and Toro has a service plan where the technicians travel around the state to service the machines.

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion to authorize the purchase of the Toro mower from LL Johnson for \$27,323.72, seconded by board member Joel Dudley. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

- Kyle spoke to County Commissioner Kevin Grantham about the possibility of a second round of ARPA funding. The county commissioners would like the Recreation

District to provide a list of items ranked by preference with estimated prices should additional funding be made available. District staff has started a list, a copy of which was included in the board packets. Kyle would like to get the board's input. The board discussed the list. Board member Greg DiRito asked if this would be a good time to ask for something for Pathfinder Park as the county just recently completed their new building there. It was requested that the board members send their ranked list to either Dawn or Kyle by May 24<sup>th</sup>, and it will be weighed with the staff ranking.

Board member Greg DiRito made a motion to move into executive session under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(a) regarding property, seconded by board member Joel Dudley. Motion carried unanimously, all present voting aye.

The executive session started at 8:40 p.m. and ended at 8:47 p.m. The board then returned to the regular meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Board President Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 8:47 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  
May 10, 2022**

Executive Session was called at 8:41 p.m.

The substance of discussion during executive session was a property transfer under C.R.S. section 24-6-402(4)(a) for a trail connection.

The executive session adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by:

*/s/ Dawn Green*  
Dawn Green, Finance Director

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Nick Sartori*  
Nick Sartori, Chairperson