

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

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
November 8, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER** The Canon City Area Metropolitan Recreation and Park District Special Board meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. by President Nick Sartori in the board meeting room located at 575 Ash Street.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Member:

Present: Nick Sartori  
Greg DiRito  
Brett James  
Joel Dudley  
Melissa Smeins

Staff: Kyle Horne Executive Director (*attended via Zoom*)  
Dawn Green Finance Director

Attorney: Dan Slater

**NEW BUSINESS**

- The agenda item for this special meeting was a workshop for the 2023 draft budget.

Finance Director Dawn Green highlighted aspects of the proposed 2023 Budget. The salary scale for permanent employees was adjusted to reflect a 2% COLA on the entry level. Salaries for 2023 also included a 2% step increase.

The District's medical insurance will be increasing 4.5% for 2023.

The invoices for property and liability and workers' compensation insurance for 2023 have not been issued yet, so the amounts may need adjusting.

The temporary wage line in parks was raised to accommodate both a "full-time" and part-time position. Health insurance costs in Parks increased due to elected dependent coverage.

Certain lines are seeing increased amounts from 2022 due to inflation including utilities, athletic field supplies, and petroleum products.

Based on the preliminary assessed evaluation from the County, the District's property tax revenues will decrease next year due in part to the TIF.

The board discussed the percentage of all expenses that go towards labor. Board member Greg DiRito asked how this compares to industry standards. Kyle stated that when reviewing the District's salary scale, staff has looked at the salary scales of other recreation districts in the state. The ability to hire replacements should someone leave factors into the scale the District sets each year. He went on to state that in these comparisons, the salaries of the top four positions for the District are behind others in the state.

Board member Nick Sartori had a question about the Ropes Course. Kyle believes the best option is to repurpose that facility as ropes challenge courses are declining in popularity as recreation trends pivot to ziplines. The increasing expense to hire facilitators makes the activity cost prohibitive to run. Kyle has emailed GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado) about grant opportunities to look at options for the site. Attorney Dan Slater said the contracts regarding how the ropes course was funded will need to be reviewed - should there be anything that relates to potential site redevelopment.

Board member Greg DiRito asked about the lines in the general fund for capital outlay. The machinery and equipment line increased from last year as the board previously approved the purchase of a new mower and the higher amount leaves room for additional equipment.

Before moving to the capital projects fund the board approved the 2023 salary scale.

In the Capital Projects Fund there are amounts in the budget to repurpose the ropes course, for shade structures at Rouse Park, for the dog park and trail development. There is also an amount to update the site audit on the pool. Kyle stated that in speaking with board member Melissa Smeins, it seems that even some advocates for the pool don't understand its current condition. Melissa stated that some don't believe the replacement of the pool would cost in the range of \$8,000,000. The board discussed how best to inform the public about the state of the pool and the costs to replace it. Kyle said an updated site audit report needs to be blunt, straight forward and easy to understand.

Board member Greg DiRito questioned the food cost at the pool. Part of the issue, which he learned, is that pool employees believed frozen concessions were a benefit. Kyle stated that free food for employees from concessions is not a District practice. Further discussion was held on this year's expenses for wages and chemicals. Kyle mentioned that the private lessons initiated this year were a new source of revenue. Another possible revenue source mentioned is to reserve the shade shelters and chairs. Admission costs were also discussed. Board member Nick Sartori would like to see the shade sails put out at the pool in 2023.

The Programs Activity Fund, as an enterprise fund, is a way to generate funds for the District. Adjustments were made to several line items in the draft budget presented to the board in October. After reviewing current spending levels, inflationary pressures and the projected increase in minimum wage, increases were made to wages, meals & snacks and recreation services in the Kids Klub program. Due to a continuation of the grant for childcare from the state, the bonus line in Kids Klub was also increased. Other specific line items discussed by the board were soccer uniforms and supplies in adult softball. The board discussed softball revenue, with Kyle pointing out that the program

has not seen a price increase since 2017. He would like to increase the cost from \$550 to \$600 per team. Board member Nick Sartori believes that this would be a good time to do it as the District is investing in improving Rouse Park. The increase in minimum wage and electricity costs will also affect the cost recovery of the program. There was board consensus to increase the fees to \$600 per team.

Other items discussed included a possible league for pickleball, and one for cornhole. A cornhole league could include pairing it with a local establishment, like adult sand volleyball.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Board President, Nick Sartori adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved as written or amended:

*/s/ Dawn Green*

Dawn Green, Finance Director

*/s/ Nick Sartori*

Nick Sartori, Meeting Chair