

NORTH FORK POOL, PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT
March 18, 2024 – 6:00 PM
Location: District Office at 333 Miner’s Way, Hotchkiss CO 81419

BOARD MEETING Minutes

The Board of Directors of the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District (NFPPRD) met in person on March 18, 2024.

Board Members Present: Becky Ela, Sven Edstrom, Michelle Pagone, Scott Shishim

Others Present: District Administrator Stephanie Bureau, Board Clerk Nan Romane

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

Introduce Nan Romane, Board Clerk

II. President’s Review of Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

III. Excuse Absent Board Members

Dan Ihnot was absent and excused.

IV. Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

Scott made a Motion to approve the minutes, Michelle second. The Motion passed.

V. Pay Bills

Becky made a Motion to pay the bills. Michelle second. The Motion passed.

VI. Public Appearance

No public appearances this month.

VII. Presentation of Staff Reports

a. Program Coordinator – Max Heepke

- 117 registrants for Hotchkiss Youth Soccer 2024 Spring season: a very large number of registrants as compared to 89 last spring.

b. District Administrator – Stephanie Bureau

- Revised website launched, accessibility compliant with enhanced content.
- Performance appraisals and wage increases provided to Chris Straub, Max Heepke, Mary Smith. Each expressed appreciation for the process, increases and increased structure. This is positive feedback for the first time adding this procedure to the District.

c. Committee Reports: no activity this month.

VIII. Old Business

a. Installation shade structure(s)/solar – Fully functional on March 01.

- We will monitor the DMEA bill for impact. This item was a priority on the Master Plan so it is great to see it completed.

b. Select program(s) for 2024

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- As a follow up to last month's meeting, each Director identified their top 3 priorities from the Master Plan.
 - A discussion of priorities ensued.
 1. One item considered critical is safety at the pool. Given the large volume of patrons using the pool, anything that we can do to improve safety is a critical action.
 - I. We will add a painted red line around the pool deck which allows guards to provide a specific instruction to patrons to move behind the red line when necessary.
 - II. We will also add some type of painted 'footprint' to the pool deck to provide visual instruction to children when traversing from the locker rooms to the park. These may be images of footprints or ducks or some other recognizable yet fun imagery to encourage safe passage during peak use.
 - III. While we plan to add further items of this nature to assist with safety, without altering the footprint of the pool complex, the primary additions to safety will be procedural rather than structural.
 2. One item garnering consensus is identifying a multi-use property for varying activities. While there could be activity on this, by the County, no specific information is available around such an initiative.
 3. Several other items were discussed involving flood mitigation, improving habitat, identifying a space for tennis & pickleball courts and enhancing the pumptrack.
 4. The discussion also highlighted the many diverse activities currently in motion from the Master Plan making the identification of any specific priority challenging.
 - The conclusion of the discussion was to pursue two concurrent activities:
 1. Submit a request for a Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) planning grant. These grants exist to provide entities, like a Special District, funds for planning. Stephanie will prepare the grant to include as many of potential enhancements based on the Master Plan as feasible. As an example, we need external assistance to advise us on how to further utilize Crossroad Park's footprint for the various activities the community is requesting and to expand/enhance the pool.
 2. Move forward with actions relating to habitat improvement and flood mitigation. Regardless of enhancements, these two items require attention and completion.
 - I. Stephanie will contact Jake Hartter in completing the contracted habitat improvement plan.
 - II. Research of previously identified flood mitigation plans will continue (Kelly Spadafora, Randy Fender).

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- c. Potential land purchases (T.W. Stites)
 - TW estimated value of property is \$150,000
 - All are amenable to potentially acquiring the land but the District does not have the funds to do so.
 - Stephanie will contact T.W. and provide this feedback. If T.W. is amenable, we will pursue contacting possible funding agencies.
- d. Miners Trail – per Delta County administrators, the ideal schedule is for contractors to begin work on bridge abutments before spring run-off.
 - Ben Graves is spearheading the pursuit of at least two grants for signage and outdoor classroom at the North Fork High School.
 - We will act as stakeholders on a capital fund request to DMEA; and
 - A grant request to another funding agency.
 - The DOLA Planning Grant request will also identify the need for ‘safe passage’ from The Nature Connection parking lot to the pool entrance.
- e. Hotchkiss Home Plate – still pending discussion of division of responsibilities
- f. Paonia Skatepark – needs additional work to condition surface
 - Phantom Concrete provided responses to the questions posed at the last meeting:
 - The estimate provided is good for one year.
 - Conditioning should be done. The sooner it is done, the less likely cracks will have the opportunity to grow into safety hazards.
 - Once complete, conditioning should be completed approximately every 10 years.
 - The consensus is this activity needs to be completed to protect our investment. However, as it is not a budgeted item, it will come out of unallocated capital funds. Note: The Town of Paonia will contribute only ‘in kind’ work, not actual funds.
 - We will put the item on the August agenda. At that time, we will examine budget and determine if we can contact Phantom Concrete to complete the conditioning during fall of 2024.
 - Stephanie will alert Phantom Concrete of this decision.

IX. New Business

- a. SDA Regional Conference, Clifton, Tuesday, June 11, \$35/person
 - Stephanie will attend, Directors electing not attend to this session
- b. Cherry Days schedule related to pool closure
 - The existing pool schedule policy is to align pool closures with Cherry Days which is typically 2 days. This year, the Festival runs from July 4-6th, possibly the 7th. A motion is required to alter the pool schedule to close fewer days as it goes against the written policy. After discussion, all agreed it would be satisfactory to close July 4 & 5th and re-open on the 6th. Michelle motioned to close Pool on July 4 & 5th and reopen July 6th. Scott second – Motion passed.
- c. New agenda item – Jake Canode approached District about a Skate Contest during Cherry Days, with a punk band show.
 - District’s liability insurance covers the use of the skatepark for a skate contest.

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- District will host a skate contest only. Any music event should be held elsewhere as that is not a District activity.
- The District will assist with advertising and promoting the skate contest.
- Max will be asked to manage his involvement, so it doesn’t mushroom into time expended that is required by his other duties.
- d. Technology & Website Accessibility Policy
 - Required for compliance with HB21-1110 (CO Laws for Persons with Disabilities) and 8 CCR 1501-11 (Rules Establishing Technology Accessibility Standards) in alignment with updated website. Becky made motion to adopt and publish Technology & Website Accessibility policy as written in NFPPRD’s policy manual and on website. Scott second – Motion passed.
- e. Social Media Policy
 - Becky moved to adopt and publish Social Media policy. Sven second. Motion passed.
- f. Swim Attire Policy
 - Michelle motioned to adopt and publish Swim Attire Policy. Scott second – Motion passed.
- g. Crawford Pickleball – request for additional portable net and storage trunk
 - Board approved the expenditure of an additional \$700 toward Crawford Pickleball expenses.
- h. New agenda item – Should District provide volunteer coaches (6-10) \$25 gift cards each season?
 - Acknowledging the coaches is considered a positive gesture but does it cause an issue in the larger community if no other organization does so? The discussion concluded with the agreement it is a positive gesture and very minimal considering the volunteer time.
- i. Partners Mentoring Youth donation request.
 - In accordance with District policy, the donation of 2 – 6 punch passes for the 2024 season will be donated to Partners Mentoring Youth program.
- j. New agenda item - Food Director of Delta County Schools asked if we would like them to offer free lunches during June/July. They are providing lunches to The Nature Connection participants and could do the same for swim lesson kids. The Board agreed this is a great opportunity.
- k. New agenda item – could Max add his contact hours to his outgoing e-mail signature? Several members of the soccer community expressed difficulty in getting in touch with Max. As Max’s position is part-time, it could ease communication if his hours were made known.

X. Marketing

- Mary Smith and Max Heepke are representing NFPPRD at the Second Annual Wellness Expo on March 23. They have the 2024 pool brochure and several other flyers.
- Email campaign (late March) will feature Max and website launch.
- NFPPRD ad placed in High Country Shopper Local Living Guide.

XI. Treasurer’s Report

Sven read the March 18, 2024 Balance Sheet

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XII. Next Meeting – April 15, 2024

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nan Romane, Board Clerk

Approved* Rebecca Elna Dated March 18, 2024
*Original signature on file at District Office at 333 Miners Way, Hotchkiss CO 81419