

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of Directors of the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District (NFPPRD) met in person on July 15, 2024.

Board Members Present: Rebecca Ela, Michelle Pagone, Scott Shishim

Others Present: District Administrator - Stephanie Bureau, Water Aerobics & Water Safety Instructor – Glenda Young, District Resident - Jane McGarry

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

II. President’s Review of Agenda

No New Agenda items.

III. Roll Call & Excuse Absent Board Members

Sven Edstrom and Dan Ihnot were absent and excused.

IV. Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes

Michelle Pagone made a Motion to approve the minutes. Scott seconded. The Motion passed.

V. Pay Bills

Becky made a Motion to pay the bills. Scott seconded. The Motion passed.

VI. Public Appearance

Glenda Young has taught water aerobics and provided swim instructions at the North Fork Pool for 15 years. Out of respect to Glenda’s contributions to the pool and community as well as the annual iterative request by residents to expand pool operations, this discussion was longer than a typical public appearance.

- Reason for appearance: Glenda stated based on her conversations with individuals who initiated the construction of the pool, the original intent was to create a year-round pool requiring the current outdoor pool be covered.
- Background: Glenda collected letters from local orthopedic physicians Dr. Huene and Dr. Knutson conveying the benefit of exercising in the water post-surgery as well as general well-being and joint health. Glenda conveyed that as a local educator, she is aware that student participation in team sports is declining. She believes a swim team, in Hotchkiss, may be an attractive option to parents who currently drive their children to Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta. Glenda is willing to explore grant opportunities, funding opportunities such as the CO Marijuana Excise Tax and the lottery fund. Glenda stated she believes Delta County has not received any funds from the CO Marijuana Excise Tax.
- Request: Glenda asked if the Rec District Board is open to the idea of covering the pool and creating a year-round water resource. Glenda researched the cost of constructing an inflatable dome pool covering, such as one she located in Lafayette, CO and indicated that cost between \$4-8K.
- Board Response: The ensuing discussion focused on the ‘plausibility’ versus the ‘possibility’ of a year round pool. Glenda and the Board reviewed the Profit and Loss statements for the pool from 2022, 2023 and 2024 expenses to date (attached to these minutes). Year over year, the operating costs for the pool exceeds the revenue, which requires the use of general funds

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(garnered from the mill levy on property taxes) to cover the deficit. The deficit is typically \$70-90K. While it may be feasible to obtain funding for the capital cost of a pool cover, the more significant challenge is funding the operating costs for the pool operation including labor, chemicals, gas, electric and maintenance. The pool was constructed in 1995 and is aging. The impact of year-round use is unknown.

It is likely an increase to the mill levy is required to achieve expanded pool operations.

Further discussion raised the possibility of a compromise where the pool remains open longer through the fall. Glenda asked if that is an option for 2024. The response is no, given the budget for 2024, which was developed in 2023, based on a pool season from June – August.

The Board suggested Glenda pursue the model used to create the Crossroads Ballfields. A committee of individuals came together to complete necessary research, garner public support and donations, and work with the Rec District. Those efforts resulted in the completion of the ballfields. The Board asked that Glenda come back in September with additional comments/requests.

Following Glenda’s exit, Jane asked if the Rec District has cost/operational data from other community pools, in our area. Stephanie responded that we do not and does not hold that data to be of value. Unless we find a pool built in the same year, operating the same equipment, in the same geographic conditions, the comparison would not be relevant.

VII. Presentation of Staff Reports

The Board reviewed the Staff reports documented in the Agenda. The below items were highlighted in discussion.

- Program Coordinator – Max Heepke attended the Cherry Daze Skatepark contest held at the Paonia Skatepark on July 6th and noted it was a very exciting and well attended event. Scott also attended and attested to the community enthusiasm and positive energy of 45 second competition rounds during the contest. Out of town attendees as well as the contest organizers complimented the features of the skatepark.
- Aquatics Manager – Mary Smith
 - i. Junior Lifeguard Training conducted on July 13th was attended by 12 individuals.
 - ii. Pool activity continues at a very busy rate with changes in the pool schedule starting August 1st, based on the Delta County Fair and back to school schedule.
- Facilities Manager – Chris Straub
 - i. Extreme weather on Sunday, June 30th, followed by more heavy rain on Monday, July 1st stressed the District’s water/mud flow paths. Chris and Sven conducted a lot of reconnaissance on July 2nd to review flow paths (see below flood mitigation item).
 - ii. Planning for wader and therapy pool repairs must be prioritized for fall 2024 (see below capital project item).
- District Administrator – Stephanie Bureau
 - i. Stephanie attended a meeting for Pickleball court construction in Hotchkiss. Two pickleball players from Crawford attended along with Dan Burke of the Delta County School Board. The Delta County representative scheduled to attend did not. The outcome of the meeting was a statement that site determination is key. Stephanie was asked if the

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Rec District would move the item on the master plan earlier. Stephanie’s response was the District continues to support pickleball play and if a unique opportunity for a location arose, the Board would be responsive. However, the District master plan will not be formally adjusted at this time.

- ii. Following the June Board meeting, Stephanie did find an MOU between The Nature Connection, dated 2017. The MOU indicates a \$1 fee for TNC camp admissions to the pool. Stephanie and Jess Finnigan, Executive Director of TNC, will meet in September to revise the MOU for the 2025 season.
 - iii. Stephanie explained the results of research she conducted relating to the difference between Title 32 Special Districts and Non-Profits. A Special District is constrained from many activities available to a non-profit (donations, fund raising, providing financial aid, etc). For this reason, many Special Districts partner with or create a non-profit to further their missions. This may be a consideration for a valuable alliance for future activities.
- Committee Reports (no activity this month)

VIII. Old Business

- Potential land purchases – (T.W. Stites), no activity to report.
- Miners Trail – construction of abutments for pedestrian bridge underway.
- Flood mitigation – Excerpts from the Initial Mudflow Evaluation, prepared by Wright Water Engineering in January 2023, were reviewed. The photos in the report closely reflected the water/mudflow observed on July 2, 2024. The full report provides solutions for flood mitigation (e.g. concrete basins, expanded culverts, numerous berms, additional and expanded swales) when an extensive budget exists. However, it is feasible to extract specific solutions and complete them over time, leveraging the budget on hand.
 - i. Becky motioned to allocate \$50K to complete the top 3-5 flood mitigation projects during summer/fall 2024, referencing the Mudflow study. Chris will lead the identification and completion of the projects. Scott second. The Motion passed.

IX. New Business

- Discussion of capital projects (non-flood mitigation) for fall 2024.
 - i. Paonia Skatepark (1): The District received a request to correct the ‘uneven’ layers of concrete at the skatepark. This condition has existed for a long time and is not related to the construction of the new features by Phantom Concrete, LLC in November 2023. The Board approved the action of acquiring bids to complete this update.
 - ii. Paonia Skatepark (2): As planned, in August, the Board will review the \$17K project proposed by Phantom Concrete, LLC to polish the features constructed in November 2023.
 - iii. Wader & Therapy Pool: Becky motioned to allocate up to \$50K for the completion of repairs/updates to the wader and therapy pools in fall 2024. Michelle second. The Motion passed.
 - iv. Gaga pit: Do not proceed at this time, given the priority of flood mitigation activities.
 - v. Seed/Sod East Ballfield: Postpone activity until 2025, given the priority and potential impact of flood mitigation activities.
- Discussion of House and Senate bills listed in Agenda ensued with the following highlighted.
 - i. Board will review a new policy developed for SB 24-113: Safer Youth Sports during August Board meeting.
 - ii. Board will review a new policy developed for SB 24-131: Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces (for the District Office) during August Board meeting.

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X. Marketing

- July is National Park and Recreation Month. Planned giveaways are simple but fun and patrons seem to enjoy. Giveaways will wrap up on July 25th.
- Mary created an engaging competition program for children aligned with the Paris Olympics which will begin on July 26th.

XI. Treasurer’s Report

Scott presented the financials in Dan’s absence.

XII. Next Meeting – August 19

XIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Bureau, District Administrator

Approved* _____ Dated _____

*Original signature on file at District Office at 333 Miners Way, Hotchkiss CO 81419