

NORTH FORK POOL, PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
September 16, 2024– 6:00PM  
Location: District Office at 333 Miner’s Way, Hotchkiss CO 81419

The Board of Directors of the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District (NFPPRD) met in person on September 16, 2024.

**Board Members Present:** Rebecca Ela, Dan Ihnot, Sven Edstrom, Michelle Pagone

**Others Present:** District Administrator - Stephanie Bureau, Members of the Crawford Pickleball Club: Tony Vervloet, Therese McGraw, Kim Burke

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. President’s Review of Agenda**

Approved

**III. Roll Call & Excuse Absent Board Members**

Scott Shishim was absent due to illness and excused.

**IV. Approval of Last Meeting’s Minutes**

Dan Ihnot made a Motion to approve the minutes. Sven seconded. The motion passed.

**V. Pay Bills**

Michelle made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Sven seconded. The motion passed.

**VI. Public Appearance**

Members of the Crawford Pickleball Club (CPC): Tony Vervloet, Therese McGraw, Kim Burke presented a request to use a portion of the Crossroads Park property to construct 3 tennis and 4 pickleball courts. The construction includes a raised pad, fencing and sidewalks. CPC members provided a packet of materials which is attached and posted with these minutes. CPC members stated they have the support of the Delta County School District and Delta County for this project. CPC members identified a location on the east side of the ballfield parking lots, behind the maintenance yard at Crossroads Park. CPC members stated the County submitted a grant request to GOCO on September 12<sup>th</sup> for work on the courts, the Miners Trail and additional funds for the playground at the Delta County Fairgrounds. CPC feels this is a opportunity for NFPPRD, the school district and the county to work together on a project to bring courts to Hotchkiss.

- CPC members obtained a quote (+/- 20%) of \$595K from Evergreen Tennis Courts located in Fort Collins, CO for the construction of the courts, fencing and gates. No estimate for lighting or grandstands researched.
- CPC estimates the cost of a 5’ elevated pad at \$164K; and
- Estimated cost of sidewalks around the court at \$78.5K.

Members of the NFPPRD Board asked questions and stated that the current priority for NFPPRD capital outlay is flood mitigation as well as costs for repairing the therapy and wader pools. They stated having the courts at Crossroads Park is a logical placement but the priority of flood mitigation and repair of existing assets as well as a limited operating budget must be considered. All parties agreed the next step is understanding the response to the County’s grant submission to GOCO, which is anticipated in November.

**VII. Presentation of Staff Reports**

The Board reviewed the Staff reports documented in the Agenda.

- Program Coordinator – Fall soccer underway. Paonia Pickleball Tournament registrations underway. Background check for Soccer coaches completed per Safer Youth Sports legislation.
- Aquatics Manager – Pool closed August 31<sup>st</sup>. Planning underway for 2025 hours and staffing.

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- Facilities Manager – Chris Straub
  - i. Flood mitigation projects underway. A delivery of rock from Benson Brothers is anticipated in the next 10 days.
  - ii. Therapy pool and wader pool consultations underway.
    - The first consultation was from a company based on Golden. The sales team was focused on up-selling to an entirely new pool, splash pad and mechanical equipment. The scale of their recommendations and cost were far beyond NFPPRD’s budget.
    - The second consultation was with a foreman based in Glenwood Springs. He is very reasonable and understands the limitations of our budget. Chris and Sven obtained a timeframe for work in hopefully three weeks’ time. The priority is pressure testing the therapy pool to understand the possible issues. Tiling, plastering and other repairs are also targeted up to the capital expenditure approved by the Board in August.
- District Administrator – Stephanie Bureau
  - i. Attended SDA conference 9/10 through 9/12. The conference was not as content rich as that in 2023 but still offered worthwhile presentations. The SDA and Assessors provided a brief update on the impact of the passage of HB24B-1001 on property taxes.
    - The compromise bill is intended to quell the barrage of activity surrounding property taxes for the next 6 years.
    - The bill ‘de-coupled’ schools from other local governments for assessing property taxes. The Assessors are working to update multiple software applications to accommodate two assessment rates (one for school districts and the other for non-schools).
    - A caution was raised the likely outcome of de-coupling is efforts to adjust property taxes will become focused on non-school entities as they will leave schools alone.
    - DOLA is hosting a webinar with a more in-depth review of the changes on September 18<sup>th</sup>. SDA is hosting additionally hosting a webinar on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - ii. Financials updated to accommodate presentation of initial budget for 2025.
  - iii. Staffing models and wage increases analyzed for initial budget for 2025.
  - iv. Met with Jess Finnigan to revise MOU with Nature Connection. Terms voted upon during the August meeting were incorporated into the revision. Stephanie will provide Jess with the signed revision and Jess will present to NC’s Board for approval and signature.
- Committee Reports (no activity this month)

**VIII. Old Business**

- Potential land purchases – (T.W. Stites), Stephanie has not yet reached T.W. to provide the update that the purchase is on hold, given the priority of the flood mitigation and limited resources.
- Miners Trail – The Board approved a request received from Delta County to provide a letter of support for the grant submission for \$599K for additional funding for the Miners Trail.
- Paonia Skatepark – Phantom Concrete staff tentatively scheduled a return visit to Paonia in November to complete the Board approved estimate for conditioning and surface work at the Paonia Skatepark.

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- Property Tax legislation: November ballot issues #50 and #108 removed from ballot. HB24B-1001 signed into law.

IX. **New Business**

- Nature Connection Requests (Ben was unable to attend meeting but provided details to Stephanie prior to the meeting):
  - i. Support for Wilder Bunch in 2025: CPW Stewardship Grant to support the Wilder Bunch in 2025. Include 3 weeks of maintenance on NFPPRD property. Require: letter of support for application and a commitment letter for a cash contribution (~3K) and in-kind use of tractor/atv on site.


-Michelle made a motion to provide the requested letter of support for the CPW Stewardship Grant and the cash contribution of \$3K for budget year 2025. Becky seconded. The motion passed.
  - ii. Miners Trail Capital Request: Based on rough numbers from the Paonia River Park Repair in 2023, supplies for a crushed gravel trail between NC and the pool will cost around \$5500 (\$5000 in red "trail mix" \$200 for a culvert and \$300 for weed barrier.) This assumes that the County donates road base. Budget another \$2500 for road base/gravel. Most of the \$\$ in ordering gravel is for trucking. We would put construction labor (and Project Management by Ben Graves and Sven) in our CPW request and we also are hoping for the GOCO/CYCA grant to cover labor with the youth crew.

-No motion is required but this is a consideration for inclusion in the 2025 budget.
- CORA Policy: Requires an update based on fee increase passed under 24-72-205 (6), C.R.S., effective July 1, 2024. (Tabled until the October meeting.)
- Annual Valuation Received: Delta County Treasurer provided updated valuation for 2025 budget. Property tax funds in 2025 will decrease as compared to funds received in 2024 as no backfill funds are anticipated for NFPPRD.
- Review Budget items related to developing 2025 budget (Pool Fees, Wage Increases, Election, Capital Projects, Programs [Master Plan attached])
  - i. The Board reviewed a recommendation to increase the cost of 6-day and 20-day punch cards, effective January 1, 2025. Becky called for approval for a Resolution to Increase Pool Fees. Dan seconded RESOLUTION 2024-09 Increasing Pool Fees. The resolution is adopted and part of these minutes.
  - ii. The Board reviewed a request to update the published Pay Bands to address two new positions in the 2025 budget. Becky called for approval for a Resolution to add positions to Pay Bands. Michelle seconded RESOLUTION 2024-010 Pay Bands by Position. The resolution is adopted and part of these minutes.
  - iii. The Board discussed various options for items to include in the 2025 budget for capital outlays and operational costs. The Board referred to the Master Plan during this discussion considering the best use of funds for the largest district population. How do we expand services or assets to ensure the most use, given such limited funds?
  - iv. The Board will estimate capital project outlay in October for the 2025 budget.

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- X. **Marketing**  
No activity to report.
- XI. **Treasurer's Report**  
Dan presented the financials.
- XII. **Next Meeting** – Scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> but must be moved as the 2025 budget must be approved for publication for public comment no later than October 15<sup>th</sup>. Meeting re-scheduled to Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- XIII. **Adjourn**  
The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Stephanie Bureau, District Administrator

Approved  Dated 10/9/24