

North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District
Board Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2023

The Board of Directors of the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District (NFPPRD) met in person on Monday, July 17, 2023.

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

Others Present: District Administrator Stephanie Bureau, Board Clerk Niki Richardson, Program Coordinator Max Heepke and Pool Manager Mary Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Review of Agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved.

Excuse Absences: Becky Ela and Dan Ihnot were absent and excused.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of June 19, 2023– Michelle made a motion to approve minutes; 2nd – Scott. The Motion passed.

Pay Bills

Michelle made a motion to pay the bills as presented, Scott 2nd. The motion passed.

Public Appearances – There were no public appearances.

Staff Reports

Chris Straub-Facilities Manager Pool maintenance and grounds maintenance constant. Chris is working daily on the various projects relating to flood clean up. The newly purchased Kubota tractor is in daily use for moving dirt, cleaning debris from fence lines, moving boulders and otherwise tackling projects which have waited in abeyance since the flood. Awaiting start of safety fence/gate installation in front of pool slides. We have the gate, but the fence is delayed in delivery from FedEx. Sven commented that it was great to see Chris take on the ball field parking lot. We won't have mud in front of the office anymore!

Mary Smith-Pool Manager Aquatics Club is a well-received addition to pool activities. It is so busy! Margeux is going to work on making the workouts available – possibly on the website. We hired 5 WSI Aides to help with lessons, upon need expressed by WSI instructors due to class sizes. Lifeguards are working well as team in both safety and customer interactions. Attendance hit 5,000 on July 14. Notable event - Pool reached capacity at 2 pm on June 29th. Please support events such as Kids Market and Splash and Dash throughout the community. Pool schedule for balance of season identified. We will publish to provide plenty of notice to patrons.

Facilities Committee developing recommendations for physical changes to pool for safety. Dan will provide more information at August Board Meeting.

Tim Tittes, a disabled patron who regularly uses the pool, offered to buy the guards pizza to thank them for their assistance to him. Mary thanked him profusely but politely declined.

Key dates for upcoming pool activities:

- July 29 - Teen movie night (new event).
- July 22 and 29 - Junior Lifeguarding course (new offering, might change and have them during the week)

- July 24 - close early at 3PM for Lifeguard in-service
- July 30 – 3rd Annual Splash and Dash
- August 4 - last day of Pool Bus
- August 5 - Pool closed all day and guards will participate in parade with float
- August 13 - last day of regular pool schedule
- September 2 - last day pool open to public for 2023 season

Max Heepke-Program Coordinator

Swim Lessons – sessions 1 & 2 of swim lessons completed. Session 3 is underway with 83 kids. Session 4 ends on August 3. Addition of WSI Aides allows Max and Mary more of an oversight role. Parent & Tot benefitting from Lifeguard **Treyvan Stevens'** adeptness as both instructor and in interacting with parents/guardians.

Junior Lifeguard Training - Mary and Max are offering Junior Lifeguard training on 2 Saturdays (8 hours total) to teach 11–14-year-olds. Excellent gateway to attracting new Guards.

Soccer - Registration for Hotchkiss Youth Soccer is underway with games beginning September 9. Based on feedback from other organizers, we anticipate fall attendance will be lower than spring levels. We had 90 in the spring and currently have only 22 signed up. Max would like to do an ad in the Shopper and use our Merchant Herald ad to advertise fall season registration.

Pickleball - Paonia Pickleball Tournament re-scheduled to October 14th. Max is working with Calla Rose, a consultant but likely new member of the Learning Council. The Learning Council will take over the administration of the full event with NFPPRD acting purely as the hub for registration and hosts for the tournament on the 14th. If we can avoid money exchange between our two groups, we can avoid the need for a legal event agreement. Max Initiated new partnership with The Learning Council and is working through responsibilities and finances of each organization.

Skatepark - Jay Canode, a veteran community advocate for an enhanced skatepark emailed Max on July 17 to inquire about progress on the skatepark. Max brought Jay up to date on the funding and on the District working with the Town of Paonia, including mention of the new Town Administrator, Stefan Wynn. Max emphasized the Board's request that any activity relating to the skatepark pend a clear 'go forward' position statement from the Town of Paonia.

Volleyball Court Revitalization Grant - Elevate grant for \$10,000 to revitalize beach volleyball court on Rec District campus completed and submitted. No word on grant award yet available.

Pool Safety - Sven wondered if there was any resolve about the entryway/bathrooms etc. This session we started opening the gate for swim lessons so kids can go back to the grass. Dan Ihnot with several other patrons have formed a Facilities Review committee and will report back at August Board meeting.

Stephanie Bureau-District Administrator

Operating the pool is an all consuming effort with the volume and pace of activity requiring constant attention and focus. The month of June was an exercise in endurance, particularly for Mary. There are challenging patron interactions, unattended children, as well as the elevated attendance numbers which require constant vigilance. Mary is agile in responding to each challenge. Stephanie emphasized the gratitude we hold for Chris' competence as he manages the pool maintenance to such a degree it does not become a task for others.

Stephanie researched other outdoor pools in Colorado and discovered most pools close when kids return to school. We need to increase our messaging regarding our seasonal schedule, so patrons understand it is a bonus for our small community to stay open past the return to school schedule.

Several gaps in necessary signage and policy exist. We are addressing as rapidly as feasible, to minimize the distraction to Guards who must currently verbally convey policy and then enforce it. The benefit of published policies and signage is to reduce time and energy expended in subjective interpretation with pool patrons. While a variety of conversations occur regarding possible changes to staff, a wholistic conversation with a budget component will be required to assess the most effective solution, once the pool is closed for the season and before the 2024 budget is submitted.

Operational matters such as upgrading dated security systems and the internet are underway. The security system is being replaced because it can be triggered by even birds flying by the security beam stanchions. Elevate is also adding internet to the pool. We will have 4 networks – pool, office and two guest networks. Elevate offers a seasonal price package for the pool network.

Office reconfigured to include Pool Manager.

Transfer of signatories on bank accounts, credit cards, operating accounts still underway.

Old Business

Kubota tractor purchased, delivered, and insured. Projects underway in addition to Chris' activities. It has been used to install culverts on the back side of the property and a red crusher-fines pathway to The Nature Connection.

We need to create storage and shade to keep it from getting direct sun. Michelle suggested we ask Chris if we still have the baseball structure tarps as they are quite large and may suit immediate cover.

Update on solar shade structures. Timeline requested by Empowered Energy to ensure November 1st deadline is achieved. Sven talked to Brad Burritt today. Date to ask to extend is October 15. Sven noted we could request an extension to December 1st. The pool parking lot will be open for construction starting August 14 when kids go back to school. Chris wants to know what kind of things he can do to prepare. Sven's part of the solar project will take a couple weeks. It would be *nice* to have the county do the upgrade on the parking lot before they begin. If it isn't done, Sven will account for it in the construction of the shade structure that the panels will be on. Stephanie will reply to Arch Coal as they've been inquiring as to our timing.

Pool Shade Structure roofing – per Sven, the four roofs, for structures in the pool park area, will be handled AFTER the shade structures are completed.

Climbing Program - Madeline Sorkin met with the managing board of Paonia Teen Center. She will not pursue a climbing wall at that location. Madeline is asking for next action steps by our District. She is ready to take measurements at Heritage Hall. The Board discussed the NFPPRD Model: When a group or individual come to us, we help with either grant writing or funding and possibly construction management under the umbrella of grant management, then the group or individual runs the program separate from NFPPRD and we maintain the facility. We wouldn't traditionally be interested in staffing the development or the implementation.

A response to Madeline should include that if a program is on our facility, we can participate in driving the program. If it is off our property, we would need to partner with the entity who owns the property. Also, we will communicate that we don't have the budget to hire her to create the facility or program, but we would welcome a proposal with a program like this. We want to convey interest but make it clear our resource capacity is stretched in the summer months. We'd also recommend she put a

proposal together and approach the County. Scott expressed willingness to communicate with Madeline on this matter. Stephanie will consult with Lenore about our model and develop a form we can extend to like inquiries for NFPPRD attention/resources.

Stephanie asked that consideration of any inquiries be balanced against the Master Plan items, including initiating programs for trail activities/events so we leverage existing personnel and infrastructure resource.

New Business

- Chris provided notice that the cottonwood tree adjacent to pool fence by hot tub creates a great deal of debris and does not increase the shade provided by umbrellas. Should we consider eliminating the tree?

The Board discussed the pros and cons of the tree. The Board would like to trim it rather than pull it out.

Refer to attached Decision Sheets

1.) Adopt policy governing use of District equipment (e.g. Polaris, Kubota Tractor);
Sven presented the background of an ask of his to use the tractor on School property. Sven discussed policy with Mari Steinback, the Executive Director at Montrose Recreation District. She reported that they CAN use the tractor off-property. We would need an agreement with the entity. We would have to be additionally insured. We would need this agreement and insurance to take it even to properties we manage. Stephanie explained the conversation she had with the insurer – they asked many questions about how the machine will be moved, who owns the trailer, who drives the tractor. Stephanie said that because of the capacity of the staff, she would like to table this.

Scott made a motion to restrict equipment usage per coverage limitations of the insurance [to employees or Board Members of the District doing District activities on Crossroads Park property.]
Michelle 2nd. Motion passed.

2) Adopt refund policy for District programs
Michelle made a motion to adopt the attached recommended refund policy. Scott 2nd.

3) Adopt inclement weather policy for aquatic activities.
Scott made a motion to adopt the recommended inclement weather policy outlined on the attached two pages. Michelle 2nd.

Marketing – Niki Richardson

Merchant Herald ad completed, one or two e-blasts, graphics for Splash and Dash, Jr. Lifeguard Training, Kids Market. Niki is going to support Max and Mary in using Canva to do their own marketing if they want. Niki will maintain control of signage. We should use a NFPPRD account so that the next people can access those assets.

Treasurer's Report – Stephanie presented the financials in Dan's absence. Stephanie presented the P&L and Budget vs Actual. She and Dan will work to give more descriptive financial reports.

Next meeting August 21st!

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Niki Richardson, Board Clerk

Approved: _____ Dated: _____