



**Minutes from the Regular Meeting of the
Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors
Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 11:00am
Montrose Community Recreation Center
16350 Woodgate Road
Montrose CO 81401**

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call** – Meeting called to order at 11:00am by Board President, Mark Plantz
- a. **Directors Present:** Mark Plantz, Kylee Smith, Amy Warthen, Paul Wiesner, Megan Maddy, Allison Howe, Christina Files
- II. Open Forum:** Call for Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person)
- a. No public Comment
- III. Staff Recognition:**
- a. Anniversaries: Brad Distel, 4 years FT
- b. Employee Awards: October Core Staff of the Month, given to John Wagner and Jeremy Master
- IV. Proposed Board meeting schedule and Holiday Schedule, 2022** – Director Paul made a motion to approve the schedule and Director Kylee seconded with the adjustment of changing the document to say 2022 instead of 2021. The vote was unanimous in favor of approving the document and the motion was carried.
- V. Policies**
- a. **Prohibiting of Weapons Policy – Resolution 2021-02**
- i. This policy was presented at the last meeting, it was suggested by legal counsel that there be a resolution for this policy. A Board member asked where the signs would be posted and Mari stated they will be posted in all MRD parks and facilities. Director Amy made a motion to pass the resolution and Director Paul seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor of passing the resolution and the motion was carried.
- VI. Budget Planning**
- Presentation of the second review of the 2022 Budget Presentation, discussion
- a. **Highlights** – The 2022 budget was presented. This budget had been reviewed at the last meeting. A couple of minor changes were made to the CIP.
- b. **Operations** - Director Amy asked about the vaccine incentive. She stated that she did not think that an incentive would cause someone to get a vaccine. Director Paul agreed with that assessment. It was asked if the amount suggested for the incentive be reallocated to the MRD Health and Wellness fund. The board decided that the vaccine incentive be struck from the budget. Director Christine asked about the Consulting budget and if staff were satisfied with the work being done by the Consulting team, Mari stated that they were. A Board member asked what services Our Town Matters provides, staff reported on all of their duties. Director Christina asked about the 3 new positions proposed. It was asked if those roles were being performed right now. Mari said minimally. Some of these duties are not being done and some duties are being divided up by existing staff with limited time and limited capacity. Each proposed position was discussed in detail.
- c. **Capital Improvement Plan and other Funds** – includes plant operation cost and fitness equipment replacement costs. This amount can be retained in the general Fund to be used for CIP. These can be funded from our operating funds.
- d. **Property Tax & Sales Tax Revenues** – The Board discussed the need to ensure there are funds to continue the smooth operations and upkeep our facilities and parks. Sales tax and property tax are up because in part of

the influx of people to this area. Amy made a motion to move item VI d. to continue discussion after item VIII Kylee seconded the motion.

VII. Capital Projects and Purchases

- a. **Comprehensive Master Plan** – Pros Consulting presented the findings from the Master Planning surveys to the Board. Philip Parnin, Jason Elissalde and Neelay Bhatt presented.
 - i. The Master plan process goes over where we are today, where are we going tomorrow and how do we get there.
 - ii. Demographics and trends: Total population of district was considered. The population of Montrose is growing higher than the national average. The population is also aging gradually. 2 out of every 5 community members will be over 55 years old in the year 2035. One out of 5 people in our district are Hispanic/Latino. The average income in Montrose is below the national average.
 - iii. Trends: Montrose District enjoys golf and loves to walk for exercise. Also, many outdoor activities are very popular.
 - iv. Site Assessment findings by Kristina Kachur from Logan Simpson. A rating to each park and facility was given. Holly Park and Community Recreation Center had the highest ratings. Lower ratings went to Ute Park/McNeil Fields because of upgrades needed.
 - v. Marketing – Stakeholder meetings were conducted. QR codes were given out and advertising was done. Multilingual/ADA Accessible website, Makemymontrose.com was another way to give input. The first HAPPiFEET app in Colorado is also being offered. This app allows the public to give input on MRD facilities and MRD and City parks. Discoveries; strengths include admin and staff of MRD, partnerships, the CRC, programs and the trail system. Opportunities included accessibility and inclusion, community awareness, expansion of facilities and amenities, and an outdoor aquatic facility. Top priorities included: Expansion of trail system increase awareness and access, adding an outdoor aquatic facility and more pickleball courts and playground improvements. 19% of people participating in the survey were Hispanic/Latino.
 - vi. Surveys: The online survey had 819 surveys submitted, this is the highest percentage in the country that Pros has seen. The goal was 500 surveys. The mailed survey was sent to 3,000 people and 382 surveys were returned.
 1. Results; overall quality of programs considered good and excellent were total 75%. 80% of the community learn about programs through the activity guide. Website use could be higher, it was at 38%. One question asked: Why don't people come? The number one answer was not enough time. Another common answer was that program times not convenient and the class is full. What actions do people want the MRD to take? Top result was to develop new walking trails and to improve existing trail system. Improving or adding Restrooms as well as adding shade were also a priority. How did value of parks, open spaces, trails changed during COVID? 59% said the value has increased. High satisfaction of the MRD overall is over 74% among district residents.
 2. Top priorities for investment according to the survey: Trails, restrooms, recreation center, parks, shade structures, picnic areas and shelters. Programs priorities; Adult fitness and wellness programs, nature programs, senior programs, outdoor adventure programs and adult art, dance, performing arts.
 3. Board visioning process:
 - a. The Board discussed values. Values that were considered were: Inclusion, Community Focused, Fun, Innovative. Excellence.
 - b. Big moves, what are our next steps? Create an award winning trail system, construct outdoor aquatic facility, create the MRD Way, Increase Program Participation, financial sustainability.
 - c. Next Steps: Inventory and levels of service standards, GIS based equity mapping, CIP, Visioning workshop, action and implementation plan
 4. The Board reviewed the results of the Master Planning Process. They agreed this was a valuable process.
- b. **ADA Access Audit and Transition Plan** – The update; the ADA consultant was on site this week. The site assessment was completed and the consultant met with all program and facility managers. She will now work on her assessment and send the MRD policy templates so we can start work on those.

VIII. **Colorado Outdoor Flex Building space lease** – Status update: The lease has been reviewed by MRD legal. There were no issue with lease items. The MRD is working on a business plan and will present to the Board when completed. No Board action required at this time.

IX. **Budget** – complete the budget discussion referring to VI d.

- a. Director Mark stated that the Board, in the Strategic planning discussion, identified that an outdoor pool and upkeep at the Field House was identified as future needs. He also stated that the board needs to decide if the additional, proposed packages are approved. If so, it can be funded through the mill levy or through sales tax surplus. Director Christina proposed that one position would be stricken from the proposal. Director Mark proposed that the budget amount be approved and the ED, Mari, decides which position is stricken if the Board decides to move in that direction. Director Mark proposed that we need to grow as a District and related to the proposed projects from the results of the Strategic Plan, these positions are needed. If the Mill Levy is increased, it will fund the proposed increase in the three positions. Mari stated that all three positions will also increase revenue. Director Megan asked if the new proposed lease with Colorado Outdoors would be funded. Mari stated that is yet to be developed. Director Paul made a motion to approve all of the new positions. Kylee seconded the motion to fund the new positions. The board carried the motion by a unanimous vote. Director Paul made a motion to raise the mill levy. Director Kylee seconded the vote. A majority of the Board voted to approve, minus Director Amy who voted Nay.

X. **Committee Updates and Assignments**

- a. **Exec. Committee of Board** (Board: Mark, Christina, Amy. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) – Committee met and discussed agenda.
- b. **Administrative** (Board: Megan, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Lisa) – has not met since last board meeting
- c. **Foundation** (Board: Amy, Kylee, Megan. Staff: Mari, Cindy) – has not met since last board meeting. Director Kylee stated that Montrose Realtors Association is working to form another committee and met this month. The association stated that the Foundation let the realtors know that they were very grateful to receive donations and voted to donate twice a year.
- d. **Growth** (Board: Christina, Amy. Staff: Mari, Liz, Justin, Miguel) – The committee did not meet this month
- e. **Finance** (Board: Paul, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) – The finance committee did not meet this month

XI. **Executive Director's Update** – HR: the pool has been closed some because of staffing challenges. This is due to COVID and other staffing challenges. Mari stated that CMU Montrose has signed on as a corporate partner. NRPA information was given to board members. Other updates from the ED have been presented throughout the meeting.

XII. **Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes:**

- a. **10.28.21 Regular Meeting of the Board** – Kylee mentioned that there was a mistake on the next meeting date on the October minutes. A December board meeting date needs to be adjusted. Kylee moved that the minutes be approved minus that correction. Paul seconded the motion.

XIII. **Adjourn** – the meeting was adjourned at 4:01pm

Next BOD Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 9, 2021 at 11:30am
Community Recreation Center
16350 Woodgate Road
Montrose CO 81401