

North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District
Board Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2023

The Board of Directors of the North Fork Pool, Park and Recreation District (NFPPRD) met in person on Monday, May 15, 2023.

Board Members Present: Sven Edstrom, Dan Ihnot, Sara Sharer, Michelle Pagone and Becky Ela

Others Present: District Administrator Lenore Cambria, Program Coordinator Max Heepke, Board Clerk Niki Richardson, incoming Board Member Scott Shishim, Pool Manager Mary Smith, and Fran Hedley & Friend from Paonia

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

Review of Agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved.

Excuse Absences: There were no absences.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of April 24, 2023– Becky made a motion to approve minutes with the following change: 2nd – Daniel. The Motion passed.

Pay Bills

Lenore shared the bills and explained some of the money movement. She also provided the Credit Card statement for review. Sven made a motion to pay the bills as presented, Michelle 2nd. The motion passed.

Public Appearances – Brad Burritt from Empowered Energy was tentatively scheduled but didn't appear.

Pool Report

- Pool: Chris started filling the pool today. He's replacing faucets; fixing door handles and drains; anchored the pool slide to the deck. He met with Munro Pumps and they will send someone else out to examine the pumps.
- Admin: Lenore introduced Stephanie Bureau the new District Administrator.
- Pool: Joe Edmonson from Shadescapes has donated another umbrella. We'll need to buy the \$500 shade. Lenore and Chris thought it would be great in that open grassy area east of the pool which doesn't get much use because it is too sunny.
- Habitat: Jake Hartter has started planting trees with the middle schoolers.
- Ballfields: Bart Eller of Paonia Soil has been contacted. He'll donate 2 Yds and sell the other 4 Yds to us for cost at \$100/bundle. This is for the ballfields to improve the grass. Bart has been talking directly to Greg Hostetler. Sven is finding out about a compost spreader for a tractor. Greg will happily do it if we can find a spreader.

Mary Smith - Pool Manager Report

The Aquatics club will start on June 12. We don't need to have participants volunteer to be safety assistants because we have so many guards. Max, Mary and Margeaux are each coaching one day. There will be a group board to keep track of your workouts, post workouts. There will be goal setting as individuals and as a group.

Pool is filling, slides are in. We have a very-full lifeguard class. 10 lifeguards registered with one on a waiting list. Some of those graduates can help with swimming lessons.

Pool Opening: Kids get out of school on May 25th. They have the 26th off. Work on getting pool set up starts on 27th as well as swim-testing. Lifeguard training will begin on Tuesday May 30th, so the pool will open officially on Saturday, June 3rd. There will also be a recertification for 3 returning guards.

We're working with our relationship with the Nature Connection and we're meshing really well. Mary will go over pool etiquette there at TNC, train the counselors on games to play with the kids and do the swim test so the kids will have a wrist band to verify their level. The counselors will come over and have a tour the week before camp starts.

Mary also volunteered at the Nature Connection's event this past Saturday. Lenore asked if TNC has scholarships for lifeguards.

Max Heepke - Program Coordinator report – SportsEngine program for swim lesson registration

Soccer

Soccer has wrapped up! Things Max learned is that we still need to have some paper registrations. The age rule is a little confusing so that will need to be clarified to parents next year. Finding refs is hard so Max will host a training to get parents and older siblings to help in the U6 league, then they'll get hooked on it and go get certified.

Max ended up painting the lines more than Kris Crawford thought he would. Our machine is a little old, and we may need to replace it soon.

The only question Max has for the Board is if we would consider some kind of program for the 12-14 year-olds who fall into a gap where there are no teams for them.

Pickleball Tournament

We decided to take Dave Knutson's advice and postpone it until fall. There were several reasons including potential flooding. Harvest Fest is a consideration – either avoid it or piggy-back on it. The registrations hadn't even started really until the very last day or two before they changed the date.

Pickleball in Crawford

Terese McGraw from Crawford wrote Max an email to really thank the NFPPRD for donating the equipment to build the court in Crawford. Our cost for this equipment was \$732 and the Board had approved up to \$800.

Swim Program

Session 1 is almost full; the others are filling quickly. Max's goal for this week is to have all registration and season pass available on SportsEngine to purchase.

Trail building

Max will attend the Crew Leader training for trail building workshop this weekend.

Volleyball

Fran Hedley made a public appearance to request the NFPPRD support an outdoor volleyball facility in Paonia. Interim Town Administrator, Leslie Klusmire, said that if no permanent changes to the park were made, it is okay. The group would prefer a permanent court with poles, a net, and lockbox with balls but per Town stipulations we'll need to provide non-permanent equipment at this time. Apple Valley might be a good location to try to do a permanent location, with Town permission. The current abandoned court at Apple Valley is gravel. There is a lot of interest in Paonia. Sara suggested maybe a volunteer work day to clear the gravel. The Apple Valley location also has a lot of goatheads. Mary Smith suggested that maybe the temporary net inspires a permanent one when they can show

participation. Jamie Roeber's name came up as a person who may know something about the indoor game in Crawford school or the Middle school in Hotchkiss.

The Pool Sand Volleyball Court would take some thousands to revitalize the sand. Max thinks that would be a good idea to attract more teenagers to the pool. Max can research to get back with a better number. There is a DMEA grant we can apply for by the end of June that could cover this cost.

Old Business

Flood Mitigation Plan update

Kris Crawford from Wilmore & Associates came and surveyed elevations of the drainage and pool parking lot this week. Scott Schreiber from Wrightwater Engineers requested this survey for the entire drainage. Kris will supply that info to Scott who will do the modeling. Sven is meeting with Mike Pitt, the excavator, to assess the pool parking lot needs. Jake Tribble is just too busy to help with this one. The parking lot is a priority because it gets muddy, and the pool is about to open. Additionally, we will be building the Solar Project this fall so the elevation of the pool parking lot needs to be set.

Hazard Mitigation Meeting

Lenore explained that the main reason we couldn't get any help from FEMA was because we weren't listed in the Delta County Hazard Mitigation Plan. We must make a report to the County with our needs for flood mitigation on the Crossroads Property by May 31st. Their Hazard Mitigation Plan with the whole county's input goes into FEMA for their approval. Then, in the future, we'd be able to apply for FEMA funds. Kris Stewart informed Lenore, however, that fields are seen by FEMA as a GOOD place for flood water instead of houses.

Commissioner Koontz meeting Miners Trail

Miners Trail has been pushed toward Fall because of a CDOT evaluation still pending. This will give the County grant writer more time to apply for another round of grants. It's likely there will be no actual trail construction until 2024. Easements and Short Ditch details are pending.

The Commissioner agreed to the change to the parking lot plan. The current plan has the lot in the wetlands. The plan now is to utilize either TNC or our small parking lot or both.

Sara Sharer - Action Plan Next Steps

Niki and Sara came to the meeting with a draft! Sara's questions were:

- Should we include the skatepark as a priority? Yes, but make general, not site-dependent
- Silver Sneakers? Yes, in process
- Do we want to list that we want to buy the property? YES

Comments:

- Becky would like the District boundaries to be described.
- Change the habitat mitigation to "Youth Conservation Corps Crew"
- Becky was concerned about listing a "indoor recreation space" because people will read "Rec Center." We changed that to a multi-use space.
- Lenore emphasized that the solar language needs to be used "The funding has come from a settlement by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment."
- Michelle suggested delay the skate park – it was agreed to remove the town location (consolidate those 2 lines into 1 and remove the town name.)
- Pickleball tournament is no longer scheduled so move it from now to 2023 on the timeline

Niki proposed that we have this ready to go next month and will send out pdf to the Board for feedback.

Sven Edstrom - Solar Shade structure update

Sven met with Brad Burritt and talked about sizes and shapes for shade structures. The one challenge will be the shape determined by how many panels we need. Sven's original plan was quite a bit larger than what we actually need to mount our panels. Sven suggests we should make some decisions about how much shade we want to build. Sven was thinking of two rows of shade. Brad will come do measurements to see how much loss there will be. It would be great to have 70-80% of our parking lot covered.

Roof Replacement project

Materials are on site. Yay! Work will commence according to Sven's schedule.

Relationship with the Town of Paonia

Lenore explained the history that in 2022 Lenore and Sara went to the town to talk about the MOU to lease, insure, maintain and improve the skate park. We had discovered that that agreement had expired during COVID although the NFPPRD has been continuously insuring it. The Tennis Court agreement is good for 25 years and has been in force for about 10 years. Sara and Lenore sent the draft agreement to the Town after having attorney Bo Nerlin look at it. The Town approved the Lease agreement as proposed. When Lenore went to talk to the Interim Town Administrator, she said that Corine Ferguson, the incumbent Town Administrator, hadn't been authorized to sign it. Lenore reiterated that The Town Trustees had voted on it and approved it as written, and we have the signed paperwork. Lenore has noticed that the Town discusses the NFPPRD at meetings in which we aren't in attendance, and we read about outcomes in the paper.

Lenore read that they wanted their attorney to send us a new MOU for the skatepark. Lenore asked Dave Knutson if we should be attending a Town meeting and he said we weren't on the agenda. Their attorney said 25-years is way too long of an agreement and they should all be 5 years. Lenore has not yet seen any draft agreement.

The Town of Paonia also complained that the NFPPRD brought the skatepark/townpark upgrade grant proposal too late to them. They also claimed that we were relying on the Paonia in Motion document which was confusingly "accepted" but not "adopted". Lenore provided the Interim Town Administrator with a timeline of every time through the last 2 administrations when we've talked about the skatepark in defense of the accusation.

The Skatepark project is at a standstill. There is about \$30K in the town accounts for it. NFPPRD has pledged \$20k. Delta County has pledged \$10k and an anonymous friend of Jay Canode has pledged \$20k.

Lenore emphasized we want to work for our constituents in Paonia but we're coming up against a block by the Town. Sara said it is like this group of trustees is wary of another entity having a stake in the town. Becky was concerned that we're doing most of the work when "collaboration" means working together. We agreed that we have to stay steady with the Town because this situation is temporary and we are interested in long-term impacts.

Lenore suggests that we have our attorney Bo Nerlin draft an agreement and have the lawyers hash it out. Lenore thought maybe she should talk to Mary Bachran and find out how we can work together. The Board seemed inclined to do diplomacy but no more work until there is a working relationship in place.

The Board expressed surprise that the Town isn't being proactive in protecting the Tennis Court from Minnesota Creek flooding. Sara suggested we write a letter to request they sandbag to protect the Tennis Courts.

Skatepark/paving pumptrack sidenote:

There is a DMEA grant for \$10k each due June 30 for kids and programs. It wouldn't be available for a capital project greater than \$100K, like the skatepark. The Board expressed an interest in applying. It could also possibly be used to pave the Pumptrack.

New Business

- Legislative Update , SB 303 ramifications, Harassment – possibly need new policy. Stephanie & Mary attending training Tues. for SB 303

There is a new Legislative Update. In last year's bill, SB268, based on the County's population, the State would backfill us for property tax revenue lost through the Residential Assessment Rate. The new bill states that if any district's assessed values went up 20% or more in 2022, they would not get backfilled. Because 2022 was an intervening year in Delta County, they didn't raise property taxes, so this should keep NFPPRD from being impacted by this change.

Sexual Harassment – There will be a webinar tomorrow and there may be a new policy we need to implement.

Lifeguard Wages

- The lifeguard wages were shared with the Board for feedback before the new crew are on-boarded later this month. Sven made a motion to accept the wages as presented. Michelle 2nd. The motion passed.

- Oaths of Office for Sven Edstrom & Scott Shishim

Sara Sharer, Board President, led Sven Edstrom and Scott Shishim through their Oaths of Office.

- Election of New Officers

President – Becky Ela

Michelle nominated, Dan 2nd. The motion passed.

Vice President – Sven Edstrom

Dan nominated, Michelle 2nd. The motion passed.

Secretary – Michelle Pagone

Sven nominated, Daniel 2nd. The motion passed.

Treasurer – Dan Ihnot

Sven nominated, Becky 2nd. The motion passed.

- Board members & new District Administrator for bank signature cards

All five members: Becky Ela (President), Sven Edstrom (Vice President), Michelle Pagone (Secretary), Daniel Ihnot (Treasurer) and Scott Shishim (Board Member) as well as Stephanie Bureau (District Administrator) will assume the responsibility of becoming signers or renewing their signatory privileges.

A motion was made to:

- 1) add these new signatories to all accounts at

- a. United Business Bank
 - i. General Fund
 - ii. Petty Cash
 - iii. Sports Complex
 - iv. Payroll
 - b. First Colorado National Bank
 - i. Lottery; and
- 2) Remove Sara Sharer from the signature cards at both banks for all accounts.

Motion Dan , Sven 2nd . Motion Passed.

- Vote on signatures for Safe Deposit Box.

The deed to our land donated by the Horvath family is in the safe deposit box (318) at First Colorado National Bank in Paonia, CO, along with the original papers of the establishment of the District.

Sven made a motion to remove Ulrich Lange from the signature card of our Safe Deposit Box. Michelle 2nd. The motion passed.

Becky moved that we add Stephanie Bureau and Scott Shishim to be signers on the Safe Deposit Box. Becky 2nd. The motion passed.

The Board will remove Lenore at the next meeting after the new signers have been added.

- Conflict of Interest registration w/ Secretary of State's Office

It was agreed that the conflict-of-interest registrations are long-acting and don't need to be renewed.

- Review whether to pay out PSL

Tabled to June.

– Review of 2023 Budget, Capital Improvements

Sven presented that Max and Chris would like to purchase a small tractor to help with light lifting around the property. They suggested we rent a small tractor from Western Implement - BX23S for a week to see if it would fill our needs. The purchase price will be \$25-\$27k. In the past we've had to rent equipment or hire subcontractor. Stephanie pointed out that contractors are hard to find right now! Becky asked who fixes them – Western Implement in Junction. 6-year warranty on a new one.

Daniel Ihnot made a motion that we allocate \$30k for a tractor. Michelle 2nd. The motion passed.

- Additional Storm Damage Coverage - Lenore hasn't heard back from the Insurance Company.

Administrator's Report

- Donated 10 – One Day Passes to NFHS Grad Night & One 6 Punch pass for River Fest
- MOU Signed for Solar Project
- Contract signed for Wilmore Surveying Co.
- SDA Regional Training registrations 6/13
- In Lieu of Surety Bond our Prop/Liab is insuring the Board members with Crime Coverage as allowed by State
- Event Insurance Pickleball Tournament

Marketing – Niki Richardson

Niki passed around a photograph of the near-finished mural in the reception area of the pool building.

Additionally, the regular Merchant Herald ads were completed and PR has been ramping up (with Mary and Max's help) for the pool and various programs.

Treasurer's Report – Daniel presented the financials.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Niki Richardson, Board Clerk

Approved: _____ Dated: _____