

Notice of Regular Meeting of the

Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors

Thursday, February 24 at 11:30am

Montrose Community Recreation Center

16350 Woodgate Road

Montrose CO 81401

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call** 
   1. **The meeting was called to order at 11:30am**
   2. **Present – Board members: Amy Warthen Christina Files, Megan Maddy, Mark Plantz. Paul Wiesner present by Zoom Director Allison Howe joined by Zoom at 12:33pm. Kylee Smith joined the meeting by phone at 12:45pm. Staff members: Mari Steinbach, Debby Zarkis, Jeremy Master, Justin Mashburn, Miguel Lopez, Abby Glaysher, Cindy Moreno.**
2. **Open Forum:** Call for Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person)
   1. Community member Joelle Racaldespoke. She stated that she lives on the North side of Montrose. She spoke about the possible expansion of the MRD to the North side of town. She is concerned about the location being close to the jail and is also concerned about the possibility that children would have to cross the highway to reach the facility if it was housed in Colorado Outdoors. She asked that the Board consider these issues as they discuss the possibility of this expansion.
   2. Community member Michael Carroll spoke about having a casino activity night for the seniors. Our president stated that this topic was not on the agenda so it cannot be discussed but can be considered for a future date.
3. **Staff Recognition:** 
   1. **Anniversaries:** Liz Gracesun, 14 yrs; Mike Shelton, 7 yrs; Jeremy Master (missed in January), 3 yrs
   2. **Awards:** Core Staff of the Month – Core staff award went to Abby Glaysher.
4. **MRD Board appointments to the Montrose Recreation Foundation** 
   1. No formal action was taken. This agenda item will be moved to the next Board meeting.

1. **Adjustments to Board meeting calendar**
   1. **Consider revising April meeting from April 28 to April 21 –** Board chair Mark asked that the meeting be moved due to scheduling conflicts. Director Paul moved to change the meeting date and Director Christina seconded. A vote was taken, all were in favor of moving the board meeting. The motion passed.
2. **Capital Projects and Purchases** 
   1. **Comprehensive Master Plan –** the MRD is currently about 2/3 of the way through the process. PROS Consulting meets with MRD project staff team on a regular basis. Logan Simpson’s assessment of facilities is in process. The classes of parks are being tabulated and include Montrose City Parks as well as local state and federal land and school district facilities. The project team is also comparing the statistically valid survey results to the online survey. PROS Consulting sent a report to the MRD admin team yesterday of the two survey results. The Board had previously decided upon the values of: Inclusive, Community-focused, Innovative, Excellence and Fun. Board Chair Mark encouraged the Board to consider these values as the MRD is considering the results of these surveys.
   2. **ADA Self-Assessment & Transition Plan –** The consultant (Jennifer Skulski) will be coming on-site to do training and meet with MRD staff, possibly May 16-18 2022.
   3. **Ute/McNeil Irrigation Project –** Maintenance SuperintendentMiguel stated that trenching and electrical will be done once the ground has thawed.
3. **Colorado Outdoors Flex Building lease** 
   1. **Presentation** – ED Mari stated that a lot of information has been shared over the past several months. A question that has come up recently is about timing and funding. Funding the expansion might have been included in the 2022 budget; had it, this would have forced the Board’s decision 3 months earlier which would not have given the Board time for thoughtful consideration. The second question is related to who this facility would serve. There are 10,000 residents and employees who live and work in the North end of Montrose who could be served. Another question was about annual operating investment strategy. 2022 capital costs are currently estimated to be $440,000. The City and Colorado Outdoors (CO) have agreed to cover $390,000 of this amount. FFE is estimated to be $125,000. The gap is $109,000. The ED proposed using capital reserve funding for this. There is also the possibility of getting capital grants to help cover the gap. Operating costs are based on the assumption that this facility would operate as the other two MRD facilities operate in raising revenue to pay for operations, and operating between 40 – 60% cost recovery. Average Annual subsidy of $32,000 is expected. This will diminish in future years as revenue is made. Programming for this space is being developed. There is also the possibility of developing/building a facility in the North end of Montrose in the future. CO is a short-term application that allows us to move into the North end. Director Mark commented that we need to take our money (revenues) and put it where it will make the biggest impact. Director Christina questioned if we should be subsidizing this facility or another facility. Director Mark stated that the Board does want to expand to the North end of town. Director Amy commented that equity across Montrose is a goal not just in the North end. Director Mark stated this is a very low barrier entry to get to the North end of Montrose and stated that one of our values is being innovative. He also commented that this is a very low-risk endeavor. Director Amy said there are still questions related to the Community Focus value as the community in the North is not aware of this possible venture. Director Mark stated that offering a satellite facility is what Montrose Community members expressed a need for in the surveys through the Master Planning process. The City, the MRD and Colorado Outdoors are working on a partnership to make this happen. Director Paul stated there will be a 50,000 square foot medical facility in this area, there is housing and a hotel, etc. that are being developed therefore many possible patrons of a new facility. Paul agreed this project will enhance our community. Director Amy stated also that access to this facility will be difficult for many people who already live in this area. She stated that this new project will be for a new community. Director Paul believes that the City and CO are offering substantial funds and we should not turn this down. Director Allison asked if the board was done with questions. The Board indicated that they were done with questions.

Director Mark asked legal counsel Bo Nerlin if he (Mark) has any conflict as he is on the MURA board. Mark stated there is no personal financial interest. Bo stated that his serving on the MURA board was stated. Mark stated he would abstain from the vote.

Director Mark asked for a motion, Director Allison made a motion to vote on whether to move forward on Resolution 2022-3. Director Paul seconded this motion.

Roll call vote:

Paul Wiesner – yes

Allison Howe – yes

Kylee smith – yes

Amy Warthen – no

Megan Maddy – yes

Christina Files – yes

Mark Plantz – abstained

The vote passed with 5 board members voting in favor and one voting against and one abstention.

* 1. **Resolution 2022-3** – the resolution was signed by Board Director Mark and Secretary Amy.

1. **Committee Updates and Assignments** 
   1. **Exec. Committee of Board** (Board: Mark, Christina. Staff:Mari, Jeremy)
      1. Mari and Christina met last Friday. The Agenda was discussed.
   2. **Administrative** (Board: Allison, Megan Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Lisa, Debby)
      1. Some changes to the employee handbook on PTO and a couple of other items will be brought to the Board meeting in March. 2022 Committee objectives are being worked on and will also be brought to the Board in March.
   3. **Foundation** (Board: Amy, Kylee, Megan. Staff**:** Mari, Cindy, Jeremy)
      1. The committees were reassigned. They have a couple of new board members. The MRF is talking about adding additional fundraisers.
   4. **Growth** (Board: Christina, Amy. Staff: Mari**,** Liz, Justin, Miguel, Jeremy)
      1. Will be meeting in March
   5. **Finance** (Board: Paul, Allison. Staff: Mari, Jeremy)
      1. Did not meet this month
   6. **MURA** (Mark)
      1. There are several new flex building occupants.
2. **Executive Director Update** 
   1. Deadline for board member applications is tomorrow. The ED has received 4 letters of interest. If one more is received there will be an election May 3.
   2. Finance – total sales tax for 2021 19.9% over 2020. Grand total of 2.38 million collected.
   3. HR – Open core positions: Recreation Leader Aquatics, Recreation Leader Fitness, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor. Outreach Coordinator position and Grants and Data analyst recruitment is coming soon.
   4. Grants review –
      1. The 2020 NRPA Parks as Community Nutrition Hubs grant period has ended. This 18-month grant awarded $80,000 to help decrease food insecurity and increase access to healthy foods and nutrition education in Montrose through the MRD. The objectives were met. Jeremy stated that this program was a great success.
   5. CRC attendance numbers, saw a great increase in memberships. Current numbers are 5,514 members, an increase of over 500 members since the beginning of the year. Over 1 million visits have been counted since the opening of the CRC 5 years ago.
   6. The MRD Activity Guide is being redesigned. The MRD is looking to standardize the format as well as provide a new fresh look.
   7. Summer 5 year anniversary celebration will be held in 2022. A committee will be meeting to plan this event and will provide details to the Board.
   8. It was suggested that the employee appreciation banquet, which had been postponed due to Covid, be held before 2 board members leave.
   9. Mountain bike youth development program is progressing well.
   10. Middle school spring break camp is being planned. A grant has been received to assist with expenses.
   11. The MRD continues to work with Weehawken and has entered further discussion on program expansions.

1. **Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes: 01.27.22** 
   1. Director Amy made a motion to approved minutes with the correction of clarifying who is up for election on the MRD Board. Director Megan approved. The motion carried unanimously with a vote with the exception of Director Mark who abstained as he was not present at this meeting.
2. **ADJOURN –** The meeting was adjourned at 1:31pm.

**Next BOD Meeting**

March 24 at 11:30am

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