



**Notice of Regular Meeting of the  
Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors  
Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 11:30am  
Montrose Community Recreation Center  
16350 Woodgate Road  
Montrose CO 81401**

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call – called to order at 11:31am. Ken, Suzi, Barb, Alli, Paul, Christina, Megan.**
- II. Open Forum:** Call for Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person). There was no public comment.
- III. Staff Recognition:**
- a. **Introductions: No new staff today. New Aquatics Coordinator will start next week and will be introduced next month.**
  - b. **Certifications:**
  - c. **Anniversaries:** Miguel Lopez, 15 years, Debby Zarkis 3 years (March)
  - d. **Awards:**
    - i. PT Staff of the Month: February 2024, Jimette Keenan. The other nominee was the Child Watch Attendant.
    - ii. Core Staff of the Month: February 2024, Alex Sutton. Julie Laube was also nominated.
- IV. Updates**
- a. **Baldrige Regional Park - presentation through Growth Committee and by BerryDunn project team.** Mari introduced our Project Management Team, Rich Neumann (BerryDunn) and Dan Payne. (City of Montrose Project Manager/ Parks Supt. Rich presented the work thus far that BerryDunn has done on the Baldrige Park Master Plan. The Plan purpose is to update the plan that was done in 1996 and will look forward the next 10-20 years. They are currently in Phase 2, Engagement. Over the next 8 weeks there will be a variety of engagement activities. Phase 3 will be Analysis and then Visioning. Visioning: Did we get it right? They want to hear from the community. Phase 5 is Draft and Final Plan and Phase 6 is implementation of the plan. Some methods used for information gathering: Meetings, go into the community, surveys (using a QR code, surveys on line), etc. They will be asking the community: What are the good things that are happening? How long have you been a resident? What needs and challenges need to be addressed? What opportunities do we have? Stakeholder meetings will be held to include everyone as possible. Identify the key partners. Are there underserved areas? Rich shared the QR code that is a tool to give feedback on the project. The BerryDunn team will be back in Montrose in April. There will be a career day event with high school students with Career Pathways. May, they will be participating in Cinco De Mayo at Colorado Outdoors. Rich asked that we share the survey with the community. Debby will be adding the QR code to the MRD monthly newsletter. It was suggested that the QR code is added to the City and MRD website as well. Signs will be posted around town encouraging community members to take the survey. Director Christina asked if anything stands out on the input that has been received. Dan stated traffic flow is a common theme as well as some other topics that has been mentioned several times. Director Suzi stated accessibility was a common theme in the Growth Committee discussion.
  - b. **Decision – making model BOD.** Mari presented a proposed Decision Making Model. ED Mari stated that this topic came up in discussions about Field House planning. Ken and Suzi discussed defining how the organization – staff and board - make decisions. Mari asked how the organization could best use the resulting model, and whether it should be formalized as a policy. Director Christina stated she would not like to have it written in a policy but would like it presented in the new onboarding BOD packet. Director Barb agreed with that sentiment. Mari gave an example of a cross cutting type of decision. Director Allison suggested a bulleted section in the BOD ED report to highlight important projects/issues.

Director Christina also recommended finance info be easily accessible. Could possibly label items as “priority decisions”.

**V. Request for Executive Session: Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e).** Director Christina asked people who were not on the board to leave the meeting room. Director Christina stated: “I MOVE TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION for negotiations under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4) (e)”; The Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session. The Board went into Executive Session at 12:31pm. Director Christina asked if the tape recorder was on for the session, Debby assured her it was. Director Christina then said “It's March 28th, and the time is 12:31pm. For the record, I am the presiding officer, Christina Files. As required by the Open Meetings Law, this executive session is being recorded, also present at this Executive Session are the following persons: Justin, Jeremy, ED Mari, Director Ken, Director Allison, Director Suzi, Director Christina, Director Barb, Director Megan, and Director Paul. I caution each participant to confine all discussion to the stated purpose of the Executive Session, and that no formal action may occur in the Executive Session. If at any point in the Executive Session any participant believes that the discussion is going outside the proper scope of the Executive Session, please interrupt the discussion and make an objection.” At the close of the session, Director Christina further stated, “I hereby attest that this recording reflects the actual contents of the discussion at the executive session and has been made in lieu of any written minutes to satisfy the recording requirements of the Open Meetings Law. I will hand the tape to the Executive Director Mari Steinbach to retain for a 90-day period. The time is now 1:28pm, and we now conclude the Executive Session and return to the open meeting.” The tape recorder was turned off and the Board and staff returned to open meeting. “The participants in the Executive Session were: Justin, ED Mari, Jeremy, Director Ken, Director Allison, Director Suzi, Director Christina, Director Barb, Director Megan and Director Paul. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record. Seeing none, the next agenda item is agenda item 6 Committee Updates.”

**VI. Committee Updates and Assignments**

- a. **Exec. Committee of Board** (Board: Christina, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) – Mari and Christina have met a couple of times about agenda and properties. Director Christina stated that the expectation of the Board is that the Board presents a common front outside of the meeting, regardless of action items and related voting results.
- b. **Administrative** (Board: Alli, Barb. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Lisa, Debby) – Director Barb stated that they met and the conversation was extensive concerning the updates to the employee handbook. It will be addressed in next month’s packet.
- c. **Foundation** (Board: Megan, Barb. Staff: Mari, Astro, Debby) – Director Megan stated they are moving forward with a 501C3 application. The bookkeeper will be managing this process. This will allow the Foundation to operate more independently rather than using the MCF as a pass through / fiscal agent. The Trail Tri is on June 15. Around 30 people are signed up so far. It is being advertised. MADA is doing a 5K with the MRD at Cinco De Mayo and is asking for volunteers.
- d. **Growth** (Board: Ken, Suzi. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Justin, Miguel) – The Growth Committee has met twice since the last board meeting. Conversations were centered on the Field House. The Growth Committee’s recommendation was to table the Field House discussion for now. The Board agreed with this recommendation. A formal vote was not needed.
- e. **Finance** (Board: Paul, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) – Director Allison stated they were able to review all funds – revenues and expenses. She also stated that we are behind collecting property tax revenues for February, we are still waiting on some revenues for 2023 and for 2024. ED Mari stated the State Legislature has taken the commission’s recommendation to level the property tax growth. Also, the change in home sales, has further implications for Special Districts. The result is a loss in property tax funds for the MRD.
- f. **MURA** (Board: Alli) – Money has been awarded to MURA from the City of Montrose. Additional financing options are being looked at. New projects include 2 more hotels, the pediatric clinic is on hold for now. Director Allison stated that she is glad that the MRD is still participating in MURA.

**VII. Executive Director’s Update**

- a. **Month update** – Mari was elected to the MEDC Board. She is interested further engaging MRD into the community economic development issues. Progress was made with the City on collaboration and monthly meetings are occurring; current topic is on trails and connectivity. The City will focus on inside the city and the District will support that effort and the District will focus on regional partners including the County to ensure we can “get everybody out there” (improve access for all). Programs continue to grow and increase in participants. After school and summer enrichment programming conversations continue, although the school district is no longer running its programs beyond this summer.
- b. **2024 Strategic Action Plan** – ED Mari stated that staff continue to move forward on the written goals, which align with the Master Plan. Goals from the 2022 Master Plan have been carried forward to the annual 2024 Strategic Plan.
- c. **Petition and gathering** – In 2019 the Board passed a Resolution allowing signature gathering on MRD property. This is a citizen right that the district honors. In the past month, staff recognized a need to update the Resolution into an improved policy. Last month a group from the Front Range was in front of the CRC for 3 days to collect signatures. The group had been turned away twice before they were allowed because staff did not understand the process. The resolution from 2019, 2019-2, was transformed into a policy which is in the Board packet for information.
- d. **Questions / Answers:** Director Barb asked about the gift card question. Jeremy stated that our passes are not defined as a gift card and therefore do not follow those rules regulating gift cards. Director Allison asked about follow up on the Strategic Plan, ED Mari stated that this will be reported on the annual report. Director Paul asked about government funds that may be available for EV charging stations. Suzi said it was recommended last month that the Board walk through facilities and she would like to do that. Mari stated a tour can be scheduled in May.

**VIII. Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes**

- a. Regular Meeting of the Board 03.22.2024 – Director Allison entertained a motion (Director Christina left the meeting). Paul made a motion, Barb seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**IX. Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 1:53pm.

**Next BOD Regular Meeting**  
**April 25 at 11:30am**  
**CRC 16350 Woodgate Road**  
**Montrose, CO 81401**