



**Notice of Regular Meeting of the
Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors
Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 11:30am
Montrose Community Recreation Center
16350 Woodgate Road
Montrose CO 81401**

- I.** **Call to Order, Roll Call** – the meeting was called to order at, 11:32am. Present: Director Barbara Sharrow, Director Allison Howe, Director Suzi King, Director Ken Otto, Director Megan Maddy (remotely)
- II.** **Open Forum:** Call for Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person) – there were no public comments.
- III.** **Staff Recognition:**
- a. **Introductions:** no introductions today.
 - b. **Certifications:** Jeremy presented the following certifications: Matt Brickey – Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO), Water Safety Instructor (WSI); Casie Miller – Servsafe Manager
 - c. **Anniversaries:** Tony Vila 1 year, Dwain Sherriff 1 year.
 - d. **Awards:**
 - i. Volunteer of the Quarter: Q1 2024. Anita Evans, FOYAN Board Chair.
 - ii. Patron of the Quarter: Q1 2024. Mike Brown, former MRD Board member.
 - iii. PT Staff of the Month: March, April 2024. March – Bri Taylor, who runs the Home School PE Program. April – Shaiteria Grothe, MRD Custodian. Other nominees, Ken Byard (MOD), Ramon Miranda-Flores (CSR), Gabriel Bailey (Life Guard), Danielle Musser (Adapted Programs.)
 - iv. Core Staff of the Month: March, April 2024. March – Hailee Wright (Head Lifeguard). April – Casie Miller (CRC Facility Leader). Other nominees, Lisa Lopez, John Loco, Miller Bowles.
- IV.** **Resolution 2024 – 5** Supporting, pursuing, and implementing a GOCO Generation Wild planning grant for up to \$105,000. Astro will apply this month for a GOCO grant, for outdoor programming. The first application that will be submitted is for the planning portion of the grant and the amount, if received is around \$100,000. If the full grant is received by the MRD, community stakeholders can ask for funds toward their programs. The grant is aimed at serving the lower income population. In June or July, the implementation grant will be due. \$175,000- \$200,000 for 5 years would be received if the grant is approved. HAP has shown interest in being a partner in this grant. Director Barb asked if it requires a match, Astro said it does not initially but it would be favorable to match if we receive the planning grant. We will know in October of this year if we received the grant. Director Barb suggested partnering with land management services, Astro said they will be part of the process. Director Allison asked for a motion to approve the submission of the grant, Barb made the motion, Ken seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and it passed unanimously.
- V.** **Resolution 2024 – 6 appropriating** an unanticipated property tax backfill reimbursement from the State of Colorado to MRD FY 2024. Mari stated that this reimbursement stemmed from a Colorado Senate Bill in 2022 regarding Property Taxes. All special districts in Montrose were eligible for back fill as our property taxes were greatly reduced. This will be the only backfill that we will be eligible for. The Resolution presented clarifies the technicalities and approves absorbing the funds into our budget. Mari recommends taking the \$201,000 received and putting it in the Capital Improvement Fund, for a jump start for the outdoor pool capital improvement project. The other option would be to put it toward operating funds. It could also be put in the Capital Reserve account. Director Barb asked when the statewide property tax decrease will take

effect. Mari stated it will take effect in 2025. This will decrease our income from property taxes. Director Suzi stated she believes the MRD should take assertive steps to help fund the pool project. Director Mari stated that it is the MRD policy to keep 25% (of annual operations) in reserve, and we currently have that on hand. She stated that money in the Capital Improvement Fund (CIF) must be spent on what it is appropriated for. Therefore, the funds are “safer” to be put in the CIF as it must be used on a specific capital projects. Director Ken, asked about earnings; in other words, is it advantageous to have the funds held in one account over another? Mari stated that both funds have the same interest rate. Mari also stated that in the coming year, the MRD should develop a public message about these funds. Director Ken made a motion to approve the Resolution, Director Suzi seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

VI. **Committee Updates and Assignments**

- a. **Exec. Committee of Board** (Board: Christina, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) – The committee did not meet. The draft of the Board agenda was sent out to the committee.
- b. **Administrative** (Board: Alli, Barb. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Lisa, Debby) – The committee did not meet. Mari asked if clarifications on the Employee Handbook changes from Barb were received. Lisa stated they were. Mari stated that the Handbook must be approved by the Board and will be done at the June meeting.
- c. **Foundation** (Board: Megan, Barb. Staff: Mari, Astro) – Director Megan stated she did not attend the Foundation Board meeting. Debby and Astro stated that they did attend and that the FFAM assistance program was discussed. There is a wait list for the program, the MRF and the MRD discussed how to fund this to ensure there will not be a wait list in the future. The MRD has discussed adding funding to the budget to support this program. The upcoming San Juan Tri planning process continues. The scholarship funds taken by participants have gone down this year, we are researching the reasons why. Director Ken agreed with providing funds toward this program. Director Suzi said this would be a good program for the MRF to raise funds for. Astro stated he is taking a fundraising course and will share this info with the MRF and possibly implement some ideas. Director Allison asked if any certain area have more participation (for scholarships). Astro stated we do have that data and it can be shared. Director Barb asked if patrons can access both the scholarship program and the FFAM program and Mari said yes.
- d. **Growth** (Board: Ken, Suzi. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Justin, Miguel) – This committee did not meet.
- e. **Finance** (Board: Paul, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) – Mari stated that we are waiting on financials from the City. We should be caught up by June.
- f. **MURA** (Board: Allison) – Director Allison said they met yesterday. They toured several businesses and areas at Colorado Outdoors. She stated that “Project Green Space” will be mixed use with small retailers and residential units. The committee had a tour of the new Fairmont Hotel and toured the site where a new hotel will be built. There will be a new restaurant, “Toasty” at Colorado Outdoors. Director Allison stated the better this area is developed, the more success for all of the businesses. She also stated that the physical presence of the MRD at Flex Rec is good. She also said the new Flex Park is making progress and is looking good. The MRD will be doing maintenance on this park, the city will own it. Mari stated she and Justin also toured the Fairfield Hotel.

VII. **Executive Director’s Update –**

- a. Mari discussed the process of salary analysis that is in process. A salary analysis was done for all full time staff in 2023 and this year, the team is working on an analysis for part time staff, using the same process.
- b. Mari stated that many summer hires have been made. School is out so the CRC is busy! We have had around 14 school groups at the CRC so far this season.
- c. Baldrige Park – surveys are still going out to the community. BerryDunn (the consultant) has found the Montrose community is very engaged, they have received a lot of input.
- d. The City and the MRD plan to collaborate on the development of the new Public Works building on Rio Grande. The city has offered for the MRD to house our maintenance building/equipment there.
- e. Mari said the MRD is partnering with the City to use some new software called Placer.ai, a web-based product to help capture visits to a particular space, demographics etc. to help gain insights and make decisions. The MRD has made an investment in this software.

- f. Accreditation – Mari stated that we have a Committee of topic leads who are guiding the process of Accreditation. One of the “Big Moves” from our strategic plan, is to achieve Accreditation. This is a two year process, with the intent to apply in 2025, planning to achieve accreditation by 2027. There are 156 standards in 10 chapters that must be met to achieve accreditation. Mari stated chapter leads have been assigned. Director Suzi asked what we achieve from getting accredited. Mari stated that this will help the MRD with Standard Operating Procedures, policies, and makes us a more finely tuned organization. Director Barb asked if this will help with Grants and Mari said yes, that grantors can be assured that we have standard practices.
- g. Mari stated that recreation services reports and performance metrics are on the Director’s Report for the Board to review.
- h. Mari stated that Christina wants us to be thinking about our ballot language for upcoming property tax issues. This discussion will be continued in future board meetings and growth committee meetings.

VIII. Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting of the Board 04.25.2024 – Director Barb made a motion to approved the minutes, Director Suzi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 1:02pm.

Next BOD Regular Meeting & Budget Hearing
June 27 at 11:30am
Field House, 25 Colorado Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401