



Notice of Regular Meeting of the Montrose Recreation District (MRD) Board of Directors
Thursday, September 26, 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 11:31am. In attendance; Director Megan Maddy, Director Suzi King, Director Barb Sharrow, Director Christina Files, Director Ken Otto, Director Paul Wiesner, Director Allison Howe on Google Meet (left at 1:24pm). Also in attendance, Auditor Don Moreland, School District representatives Jim Pavlich and Matt Jenkins.
- II.** **Open Forum:** Call for Public Comment (limit of 3 minutes per person) – there was no public comment.
- III.** **Staff Recognition:**
- a. **Introductions:** none
 - b. **Certifications:** none
 - c. **Anniversaries:** Wade Ploussard 17 years, Astro Ball 2 years.
 - d. **Awards:**
 - i. PT Staff of the Month: July 2024. Ken Byard, MOD, was the recipient of this award.
 - ii. Core Staff of the Month: July 2024. Josh Pace, Maintenance Tech, was the recipient of this award.
- IV.** **School District Presentation High School Ballot Initiative** – Dr. Carrie Stephenson
- a. Jim Pavlich and Matt Jenkins presented. The high school has had 8 additions since the 1940s. They manage over a million square feet of properties. 200,000 is the current square footage of the high school. An architectural company was hired to assess the school district’s facilities. The top priority identified was a new high school.
 - b. Biggest issues: Safety and security check ins. Undersized, poorly configured spaces. ADA Accessibility issues. Aging infrastructure. Traffic issues. Problematic site logistics. Law enforcement and health and safety were involved in the planning of the proposed new high school.
 - c. Build new vs. remodel: Building new would end the cycle of Band-Aid fixes and further additions. It would also cost millions of dollars less to build new. Building new would takes less time to complete (2 years v. 5 years) and would limit need for portable classrooms. Less disruptive to daily learning. Fewer unknowns like asbestos/abatement.
 - d. The new building proposed would be 3 stories. There are currently only 2 staff bathrooms. There would be areas for collaboration and work for the teachers in a new facility. Public input indicated that the high school should stay in town. Auto shop and Agricultural shop would all be part of the main building. They are currently in a separate building. A performing arts center that will hold around 800 people would also be included. Athletic spaces would be consolidated into one wing. Will gain at least one more athletic practice field. The new design also includes additional parking.
 - e. The MCS D currently has the lowest tax rate compared to its peer districts. \$9 a month per \$100,000 value of home is the expense to the home owners in Montrose. 198M bond. Now is the time! Construction costs on the Western Slope typically increases over 10% annually. Every year we wait, the cost increases \$19.8M or more. Would be built to house 1450 students. The proposed climbing wall would be tall enough for competitions, current walls in town are not.

V. **Executive Director Report**

- a. Today we celebrated the 2 millionth paid visit! The “winner” is a regular visitor and he won a free year membership.
- b. Mari asked for any questions about her report. The Board did not have questions.

VI. **Program Report**

- a. **After School Program** – Justin Mashburn, Miller Bowles. Miller has taken on the Enrichment Program in the past year. In 2020 there were around 20 participants. The program has since expanded to 3 locations as the school stopped offering its program and the MRD stepped up fill that gap. Current participants: 50 at the Field House, 12 at Johnson, and 37 at Pomona. 11 total staff members work this program. It runs 3:15-5:30pm every school day.
- b. Summer enrichment program – Enrollment has grown from 50 in 2022 to 110+ this year. This program is staffed with 8-12 part time employees. A Full time Enrichment Coordinator may be needed/added if the program continues to grow.

VII. **Receipt of Annual Audit**

- a. Don Moreland, CPA presentation. The audit is year-end for 2023 and Don went over some details and asked for questions. There were no questions.

VIII. **Resolution 2024 – 07 authorizing Executive Director to execute contract documents for Flex Rec**

- a. Mari explained that this proposed Resolution brings 3 previous agreements together into one document. Bo Nerlin (District Attorney) as well as the Board Chair, agreed that a new Resolution would accomplish this. Director Suzi asked if this Resolution changed the lease length of Flex Rec. Mari said it does not. Currently the square footage of only one side of Flex Rec is represented in the resolution. Mari recommended that the Resolution be amended to reflect the correct square footage of the Flex Rec. Director Christina asked that the Board still be notified if changes are made. A motion was made by Christina to approve the Resolution with the modification, to authorize the ED to execute the lease. Ken seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. **Committee Updates and Assignments** *(soon working to develop new goals for 2025)*

- a. **Exec. Committee of Board** (Board: Alli, Suzi. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) – Director Allison stated they met since the last meeting but are still working on the Committee format.
- b. **Administrative** (Board: Barb, Christina. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Lisa, Debby) No meeting has been scheduled. Director Christina asked that this Committee meet about some items in the ED report. Mari agreed and stated that the District’s benefit plan as well as the budget be discussed.
- c. **Foundation** (Board: Megan, Barb. Staff: Mari, Astro, Debby) - The annual Black Canyon Triathlon is this Saturday, and 150 participants have signed up so far. The County is chip sealing the road where the bike course will be held. The MRF did receive its 501C3 status a few weeks ago. Director Barb stated that she was excited about the things the Foundation can accomplish as a 501C3. Colorado Gives Day is being discussed (December 10).
- d. **Growth** (Board: Ken, Suzi. Staff: Mari, Jeremy, Justin, Miguel) Met Sept 17. Jeremy presented needs for the 2025 budget. Capital Improvements were discussed. There may be another Growth Committee meeting scheduled before the next Board meeting. Mari said Oct 17 is the proposed date for that meeting. Director Suzi stated that the entire Board knows that they are invited to these meetings. Mari said there are presentation materials available to the Board from the meeting and they are in the Growth Committee Folder in Google. Director Christina said that the subject of paying off the bond was also broached. Mari stated she has met with the bond attorney about refinancing and data is being gathered as well as options.
- e. **Finance** (Board: Paul, Alli. Staff: Mari, Jeremy) Met 09.26.2024. Director Paul said the committee discussed a fraudulent check that was mailed, intercepted and changed. A police report has been filed. This was identified as sophisticated fraud. Bank accounts have been changed, and staff are looking at how many checks are issued; strides are being made to do more electronic transfers and payments. It was stated that the MRD has to issue, every month, refunds for a variety of things. Director Christina suggested credit be given rather than mailing refund checks. Mari stated that since June, Sales Tax growth is down from last year. Also on November Ballot for the City is the proposal to increase lodging taxes.

f. **MURA** (Board: Alli) – Director Allison said there is nothing new from MURA.

X. **Approval of BOD Meeting Minutes**

a. Regular Meeting of the Board August 22nd, 2024. Director Ken said the Baldrige Park meeting was in the pm, not the am. Director Christina made a motion to approve the minutes with the suggested change. Director Paul seconded the minutes and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. **Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 1:32pm.

Next BOD Regular Meeting

October 24, 11:30am

Field House, 25 Colorado Ave. Montrose CO 81401