

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2023 REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE PUEBLO CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Directors Present: Carl Elley, Corinne Koehler, Dennis Maroney, Jerry Martin, Donna Phillips,  
Jim Pioreschi, Ron Serna, Paul Willumstad

Also Present: Attorney Don Banner  
Attorney Lisha Coultrip  
Administrator Rick Kidd

Guests: Mike Cuppy, NorthStar Engineering  
Cynthia Ramu, Mural Art Coordinator

The regular meeting of the Pueblo Conservancy District was called to order by President Koehler at 10:00 am.

**Minutes:** A quorum being present, the Minutes of the December 21, 2022 meeting were reviewed. It was moved by Willumstad and seconded by Phillips to approve the minutes. The motion to approve the minutes was approved. The minutes for the January 10, 2023 special meeting were reviewed. Martin moved to approve them and Willumstad seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

**Public Forum:**

Mike Cuppy, Pueblo Downtown Association. Mr. Cuppy notified the Board that the Pueblo Downtown Association is planning for a walk on the Levee this June. They are hopeful that the District will allow them to stage classic cars along the top of the Levee, like was done last year. There will not be any food trucks or driving on the Levee.

**Levee Mural Project:**

Ramu said that she had four mural proposals for consideration.

The World Tree, Henry Pounds. Ramu said that this mural would be 25x25. It represents the seasonal changes of the year. Martin moved to approve the mural and Pioreschi seconded. The motion passed.

Old Monarch, Tia Monson. Ramu said that this mural is 24x48. This 88-foot tall cotton wood tree was cut down on June 25, 1883. It was in South Union Avenue and between C and D streets. Accounts at the time it was cut down put the age of the tree at 388 years. It is proposed to be painted in the historic mural area of the Levee. Phillips moved to approve the mural and Pioreschi seconded. The motion passed.

Autobee Legacy #1 and #2, Celeste Velazquez. Ramu said that the Autobee family has commissioned Celeste to paint a mural which would recount the Charlie Autobee legacy. She has proposed two pictures for the family to choose between. Either mural would be 24x36. The request is to have both approved and then the family will choose the one that they want. Willumstad moved to approve both proposals and that both could be painted on the Levee depending on Autobee family decision. Only one could be in the current designated historic section. Martin seconded and the motion passed.

Serna said that he had talked to Tia Monson about painting the exposed part of the modified HARP Diversion control structure. She has proposed scenes to depict the four seasons on the four sides of the structure, plus a sundial or directional mural for the top. Willumstad moved to approve the proposal and Pioreschi seconded. The motion passed.

Ramu reported that she is working with CSU-Pueblo to prepare documentation for the murals and mural project. Martin said that more needs to be done to promote the murals as part of what to do in Pueblo. Ramu said that there had been several media blasts in the last few weeks. There have been articles put out by KRSC-Pueblo, the Pueblo Chieftain, and television station KOAA TV 5&30. Ramu said that she is working on a series of podcasts.

City of Pueblo Sculpture. Cuppy said that he had talked to Andrew Hayes and reviewed the District's sculpture policy with him. Hayes said that he is in agreement with the policy. Cuppy said that he expressed concerns with the power lines overhead at the City's requested location. Cuppy said that he has also provided a copy of the sculpture policy to Eric McCue.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Pioreschi said that he had reviewed the December accountant's compilation report. It appears that the balance is down about \$3,000,000 from the prior year. Pioreschi said that the bills appear appropriate and he has no further comment on them. Willumstad moved to receive and file the reports and pay the bills. The motion passed.

The following bills were posted:

BSJ Operations and Maintenance Account:

\$ 500.00	Black Hills Energy, Lake Runyon Lighting
\$ 500.00	MGPM, Monthly Accountant fees
\$ 500.00	B&B, PC, Attorney Fees
\$ 12.26	B&B, PC Court filing fees
\$ 3,955.00	B&B, PC 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter Attorney Fees
\$ 2,500.00	Kidd Engineering, Administrator/Engineer fees
\$ 175.00	Kidd Engineering, December Exec Com Meeting preparation
\$ 134.63	Kidd Engineering, December meeting refreshments
\$ 350.00	Kidd Engineering, January Exec Com Meeting preparation and attendance
\$ 1,500.00	Cynthia Ramu, Levee Mural Art Coordinator Fee
\$ 200.00	Elley, Director's Fee
\$ 500.00	Koehler, President's Fee
\$ 200.00	Maroney, Director's Fee
\$ 200.00	Martin, Director's Fees
\$ 200.00	Phillips, Director's Fee
\$ 300.00	Pioreschi, Director's Fee
\$ 300.00	Serna, Director's Fee
\$ 33.13	Serna, 53miles
\$ 300.00	Willumstad, Director's Fee
\$ 150.00	Tia Monson, Graffiti Paint Over

\$ 21.05 Signs by Scott, Lake Runyon locked-in sign

BSJ Construction Draw Account:

Through December 31, 2022

\$ 350.00 Kidd Engineering, PCD/City IGA #1B Meetings and CA/CO

\$ 560.00 NorthStar Engineering, Maintenance Assessment Support, Consultations, Artwork and Recreation, Attend meetings and reporting

\$ 4,104.00 NorthStar Engineering, PCD/City IGA#1 Revision, Main Street Bridge and reimbursables

January 1 through 20, 2023

\$ 656.25 Kidd Engineering, PCD/City IGA #1B Meetings and CA/CO

\$ 480.00 NorthStar Engineering, Maintenance Assessment Support, Consultations, Artwork and Recreation, Attend meetings and reporting

\$ 444.50 NorthStar Engineering, Supplemental Interior Drainage Analysis per FEMA request

\$ 249.00 NorthStar Engineering, PCD Trail Extension and reimbursables

\$ 5,613.00 NorthStar Engineering, PCD/City IGA#1 Revision, Main Street Bridge and reimbursables

\$ 14,317.87 Front Range Welding and Fabrication, Lake Runyon Gates and Railing

\$ 285.00 Front Range Welding and Fabrication, Setting of Lake Runyon Closure Sign

\$ 595.00 Banner and Bower, PCD/City IGA#1A-Main Street Bridge legal council

Old Business:

**Lake Runyon Entrance.** Kidd said that Serna saw cars driving west from the parking lot and driving around back. He is working on getting pricing for a gate and boulders, to replace the gate and railing that was installed by the City years ago.

**Administrative Assistant Position.** Kidd prepared a position description and passed it out at the Retreat. He requested approval of the description with compensation at the rate of \$25.00 per hour. Phillips so moved and Willumstad seconded it. The motion passed.

**Colorado DPW Contract.** Banner reported that the draft prepared by CDPW was incomplete. It was discussed in a Zoom call which was attended by himself, Mike Brown, Corinne Koehler and Rick Kidd. Banner has modified it per that discussion and sent it back to Mike Brown, CDPW Area Manager.

**Levee Exit Ledge and Diversion Signage.** Board of Water Works was supposed to put up signage for the diversion structure. They have not done it yet. It was agreed that Kidd would get signs to put up at the stairways to the Exit Ledge. He is to use the wording that Banner suggested.

**Hyde Park Properties.** Prioreshi reported that he met with Jerry Pacheco and some of his staff. Pacheco said that they would discuss it and may have it considered at the PURA March meeting. Prioreshi said that they are interested.

**Levee Event Guidelines.** This was tabled until the February meeting. Banner is to make changes to address vehicles on the Levee.

**New Business:**

**Downtown Association Request.** Consideration was given to Cuppy's earlier request for approval of a classic car display during the DTA Levee Walk. It is to be held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Phillips moved to approve this request and Willumstad seconded. The motion passed.

**Black Hills Energy Donation.** Koehler said that she has sent out a series of requests for funding. Black Hills Energy has provided an \$11,000 donation to use \$6000 for the purchase of trash receptacles and the balance to support clean-up work. Maroney suggested looking at the concrete receptacles stored at the City Parks yard.

**Sculpture Donations.** Koehler said that Pam Parks has made a \$2000 donation a year or so ago. It was originally meant as a contribution toward a specific sculpture. She has notified Koehler that it may be used in anyway to support sculptures on the Levee. Martin moved to approve used of this donation to support engineering work or additional sculpture pads. Pioreschi seconded and the motion passed.

**Frost Bite Fish Off.** Koehler said that Alex Trip had requested support for this fund raiser event again this year. The funding is to help improve fish habitat along the Arkansas River. The sponsorship request is for \$500. There was no motion. Willumstad said that they need to come to the Board and explain how the funding is used. Martin moved to approve the \$500 sponsorship with the stipulation that they come to a future Board meeting to explain their work. Elley seconded and the motion passed.

**Board Vacancy.** Koehler said that Alyssa Parga, with the Mayor's office, said that one application has been received. Two more are pending. The one received is by Marissa Lopez. She is a member of the Mural Arts Committee.

**Banner and Kidd Independent Contractor Agreements.** Banner explained that these have been updated to insure compliance as independent contractors engaged by the District. Serna moved to approve the format of the agreements. Phillips seconded and the motion passed. The second part for consideration is the amount of compensation. After discussion, Phillips moved to increase Kidd's compensation to \$3000 per month, which is to include the costs for the Executive Committee meetings. Elley seconded and the motion passed. Banner said that he was willing to maintain the Banner and Bower rate at \$500 per month. Serna so moved and Maroney seconded. Willumstad said that this was not enough in consideration of Banner's time and normal hourly rate. He suggested \$1000 per month and this includes attendance at the Executive Committee meetings. Phillips seconded this amendment to the motion. Maroney and Serna agreed to the amendment. The motion passed. Both fees are to be retroactive to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Bridge Lighting.** Pioreschi said that he met with Chavez and Smead, with Black Hills Energy. There will be power close to the south end of the Charles Lee (4<sup>th</sup> Street) bridge because of an extension planned for the City's project. So there will not be any problems with providing power to this bridge. Power supply to the George Harvey Nuckolls (Main Street) bridge is more of a problem. The access point from their power lines is a further distance and there would have to be easements for a line extension to this area. Black Hills will not participate in the actual lighting. That will be up to the City and an independent contractor.

**Meeting Notices.** Kidd said that it is a requirement that the District annually determine, in January, the locations for meeting notice postings and the dates of the meetings. Three posting locations are required. Currently the designated locations at the Southeastern Colorado Heritage Museum, City Hall, and the County Courthouse. Martin moved to continue postings at these three locations and Phillips seconded. The motion passed.

**Meeting Dates.** Kidd said that the packets include a calendar with the proposed dates for the Executive Committee meetings and the Regular Board meetings. The proposed calendar maintains what we have been doing, with the Executive Committee meetings being on the second Tuesday of the month and the Regular Board meetings being on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The exceptions would be that the November and December meetings will be on the third Wednesday to avoid the holidays. Willumstad moved to approve the proposed dates and Phillips seconded. The motion passed.

**President's Report:**

Koehler said that she had given a talk at the Lions Club and has been interviewed for various articles. She has sent multiple emails to Andrew Hayes about trash coming from the City Stormwater drains and cleaning up trash in the River. Koehler said she had prepared a PowerPoint presentation, which she used in her request of the City Council to approve naming of the Lee and Nuckolls bridges.

**Administrator's Report:**

Kidd suggested closing out the Vectra money market account and deposit the balance into the reserve account at Bank of the San Juans. He said that the monthly service charge is more than the interest being paid. Kidd reported that the total Maintenance Fund Assessment proceeds for 2022 was \$2,346,928.27. Front Range Welding is scheduled to start on rehabilitation of the Thomas Phelps Creek flood gates next week.

**Board Member Retreat Reports:**

Bathrooms. Elley said that he is working on some plans.

Water Works Low Head Dam. Kidd is to forward the reports from the testing.

Planters. Maroney said that Steven Meier said we could use the concrete trash receptacles that the City has. It would just be the logistics of getting them transported and set in place. He is working with Meier on the planting and maintenance of them.

County Lake Runyon Purchase/Lease. Banner said that Rasso is to have more information on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Upper Lake Elizabeth. Banner said that HARP may be interested in the small parcel at Elizabeth and 1<sup>st</sup> Streets. We are to schedule a time for Clark, Banner, Kidd, and Cuppy to look at the area in question.

**PFAR:**

Koehler said the group had applied for a 501.c.3 designation the end of the year. About eight months ago she sent out requests for people or organizations to adopt a mile of the River Trail for trash cleanup. Mike Taft has signage ready. They continue to hold monthly clean-ups on the first Saturdays of the month. They are working on a fund raiser "Trout on the Route".

**George Harvey Nuckolls Bridge and Trail Report:**

Pioreschi reported that the towers are up. Bridge Brothers will be back in to assist in positioning of the anchor tie-backs when the anchor blocks are to that stage. The old round house retaining wall has been removed. Swerdfeger screened to reuse them for backfill. There will not be any more work done on the trails until after the heavy work on the bridges is completed.

**Levee Amenities:**

Cuppy passed out a spreadsheet with trail extension construction cost estimates. NorthStar is to bring a proposed design services agreement and a construction contract for consideration.

**Fountain Creek Report:**

Martin said that Terry Hart is to come to the meeting next month to talk about what they have been doing and plans they have been discussing for future improvements and maintenance.

**Other Business:**

Koehler said that a homeless camp that had been off of Main Street down by the ne Fuel and Iron facility has been cleaned out.

Cuppy reported that as of January 1, 2023 Kim Koch is fully retired from NorthStar Engineering.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be on February 22, 2023.

APPROVED:

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Corinne Koehler, President

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Ron Serna, Secretary