

Elizabeth Park and Recreation District

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors MEETING MINUTES

April 21, 2026 – 7:00 pm

Meeting to be held at:

Casey Jones Pavilion – Casey Jones Park
4189 Highway 86, Elizabeth, CO 80107

- I Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance
Kelly Moffatt called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Other board members present included Kurt Prinslow, Dondi Connelley, Aleta Jeffress, and Zac Craig. Mike Barney was present from staff. Kevin Whitacre and Leanne Russell were present representing the Elizabeth Stampede Board. Jim Marshall was also present from the public.
- II Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting on March 17, 2026
Aleta motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting on March 17, 2026 and Kurt 2nd. All approved.
- III Approval of Agenda
Dondi motioned to approve the agenda and Kelly 2nd. All approved.
- IV Communications to the Board
 - Citizen Comment (citizens may address the Board on any topic for up to 2-minutes – additional time may be granted at the discretion of the Board President)
 - Elizabeth Stampede Board to provide event updatesKevin shared that they are currently doing some bleacher repair and have a volunteer work-day scheduled for this coming Saturday to complete that work and do other grounds preparation. Leanne stated that they are raising the height of the arena panels to increase safety for attendees due to some recent incidents of livestock leaping into the crowd at other rodeo arenas. Kevin informed the board that they have purchased a trailer from the county that was previously used for emergency management at events and requested that the trailer be allowed to be kept within the park year-round. He said the trailer will be used primarily as an emergency shelter and to support event management operations. There was some discussion about where the trailer could be stored throughout the year and it was suggested that it be kept along the existing Stampede yard or along one of the existing trailers. Kelly asked what would be stored in the trailer and Kevin said that it will most likely be empty when not being used for the Stampede.

Kurt asked if the Stampede intended to use the Evans Park parking lot during the event and Leanne responded that they did not. She suggested that the District staff the lot and charge

a parking fee as a fundraising initiative. Mike acknowledged that he has been thinking about the logistics for staffing the lot as a fundraising effort and will continue to assess opportunities and keep the Board updated. Aleta suggested that the digital display board be used to help inform people in the area of parking procedures and restrictions and Mike said he will work with Leanne to get something up prior to and during the event to help educate the public.

Kevin then shared a recent scheduling conflict for the arena between a park district horse riding lessons program and the Blazing Saddles flag team and asked how we can best avoid future conflicts. Mike expressed that the MOU does include procedures for how the District will schedule and permit the rodeo arena including a provision that the District and Stampede will jointly review and approve use permits. He said that he believed District hosted programs to be in its own category however as the District does not create permits for its own programs and activities, and that is why approval was not requested from the Stampede. Mike stated that going forward however, the District will certainly let the Stampede know when it has scheduled an event or program as a courtesy and will continue the practice of jointly reviewing permit requests from external groups.

Leanne then shared some information about equine viruses and potential spread through the use of shared facilities such as the rodeo arena. There was some general discussion and the Board then committed to working collaboratively with the Stampede to manage this risk as best as possible including the implementation of quarantine periods and arena closure as may be needed to minimize the risk to livestock at events.

Mike introduced the MOU between the two entities for 2026 renewal and it was signed by Kelly and Kevin.

- V Executive Session pursuant to Sections 24-6-402(4)a, C.R.S., concerning the potential purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of property interest.
- Kelly made a motion at 7:38pm to enter executive session pursuant to Sections 24-6-402(4)a, C.R.S., concerning the potential purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of property interest. Aleta 2nd the motion and all approved.

Kelly made a motion to exit the executive session at 7:52pm. Aleta 2nd the motion and all approved.

- VI Continued Business
- Discuss Recreation Center Campaign Efforts
Mike shared that he and Melanie have outlined the content for the website and that she is working on getting it up and running. He said she is also developing content for print materials. Kelly asked about timing for the website and said that he wants it up as soon as possible. Mike said that he understands and will get that message to Melanie tomorrow.

Kurt asked if the advocates group would be meeting again on the 28th as was mentioned at their last meeting and Mike said he believes he and Melanie need to make some more progress on a few things before pulling the group together again. Kurt then expressed a concern that the current FAQ and perhaps other information that we are putting out there to the public should be less detailed at this time due to the many unknowns. He suggested Mike review current information sources and edit them to better align with the current conditions as they are developing. He cautioned that we need to be careful not to overpromise on what we may be able to actually deliver should an initiative pass in November. The other Board members were in agreement and Mike stated that he would review everything and complete edits as needed to account for the current unknowns. He noted that information can be updated as we identify answers to those unknowns.

Mike then commented that he did have growing concerns with the high gas prices, the war, and other economic and political factors and how it will impact voters willingness to support increasing taxes. He said we certainly do not know what things will look like in October and November, though he expressed hope that things will improve by then.

VII New Business

- Review draft 2025 Annual Report

Mike reviewed the draft 2025 annual report with the Board. Kurt requested that we add prior year program participation data so that readers can see year-to-year changes. Aleta noted that there is really no mention of campground operations or usage data and requested that we add a section in the report for the campground. Mike stated that he would incorporate those additions. Aleta then suggested that we try and identify a sponsor for the annual report that may be able to donate some funds for printing and distribution of the report within the community. She noted that we could identify the sponsor in the report and help to promote their business through some type of ad. The other board members were in agreement that there should be a concerted effort to get the report out into the community and help familiarize residents with who we are and what we do as a public agency.

- Financing Projections for Potential Recreation Center

Mike stated that he has recently updated some financial analysis on financing for construction of a facility and wanted to share some concerns with the Board. He said he has also reached out to Municipal Markets Capital Group (MCM) for them to complete some more detailed analysis to determine the best funding options, how much the District can afford to finance, and project future tax revenues with a consideration of continued community growth that is projected. He expressed that based on the updated cost estimates that were recently provided to the District from contractors, the \$26M facility that was designed in 2021 is now being projected to cost between \$33 and \$54M. He explained that the initial thought of doubling the mill levy does not seem like it will be sufficient to finance anything more than \$30M, and that will require lower payments upfront with growing payments over time as District revenues increase from community growth. He said that this will require the District to phase the recreation center and limit phase 1 to fit the budget. The Board acknowledged that they did not want to ask voters for any additional

funds than what has already been proposed and would need to identify exactly what they can get done with the funds generated from a 2.466 increase in the mill levy. They expressed that the design should be revisited and fit to budget once MCM completes their analysis so that we can be clear with residents about what will be included in the proposed facility.

VIII Report of Administrator and Staff

- Budget Report

Mike reviewed the budget report. He noted that most revenues and expenses are tracking as expected and said that he does not have any concerns about anything at this time. He reported that the District currently has \$904K in its cash accounts and that he projects to end the year with about \$700K. Dondi asked about an expense paid to Pioneer Turf Services, and Mike reported that it was for field paint and chalk for the year.

- Maintenance Report

Mike reviewed the maintenance report. He said some of the projects / tasks completed over the last month included: replacing a hydrant at the campground, fertilization of athletic fields, repair of windscreens, assembled the batting cage for the season, completed irrigation system repairs, worked with contractor to make concrete repairs at Evans Park, sprayed weeds, overseeded ballfields, and worked with contractor to install new concrete disc-golf tee pads.

- Programs Report

Mike reviewed the programs report. He shared that soccer season is about half-way through and is going really well with the new MLS GO partnership. He said volleyball has a couple weeks left and is also having a good season with 10 teams participating. He shared that baseball registrations closed at the beginning of April and that 210 youth signed up and that another 17 are on the waiting list, which is an increase in participation over last year. He said that games are scheduled to begin May 2nd.

In adult sports, Mike reported that kickball season is underway with 7 teams participating in the spring league which was cancelled last spring due to insufficient interest. He noted that pickleball leagues started last week with about 30 people participating. Mike then said that adult softball has already filled with 8 teams registered and that he was curious to see what kind of wait list may form. He said that unfortunately, the District would be really challenged to serve any additional teams due to limited availability of field space as we will have 36 total teams utilizing the 5 available game fields throughout each week.

In other programming, Mike shared that yoga classes designed for seniors start this week in the pavilion with 13 people signed up, Missoula Children's Theatre Camp has 19 of 50 available spots taken, and that horseback riding lessons has 10 participants meeting at the arena on Mondays.

- Childcare Programs Report

Mike reported that the District had a total of 57 total registrations for the week of Spring Break Camp at Running Creek and that we had 65 for Singing Hills. He said that direct expenses are recouped at 40 registrations per week and noted that the camps slightly exceeded the cost recovery target of 150% at 153%.

Mike then shared that registration is open for summer camp at both sites and that Running Creek is averaging 78 for the first two weeks while Singing Hills is currently lagging behind a bit at 42. He said Singing Hills has had higher enrollment in the past, so he expects that we will see numbers go up quite a bit prior to summer.

Mike also shared that the District will be hosting another Toddler Play Day with the inflatables at the Frontier campus gym on May 13th.

Kelly asked about promoting these activities and mentioned that he is not seeing District programs being included in the school district's *Good News Bulletin* that goes out on Fridays through email. He said that he has asked staff to utilize this free resource in the past and asked Mike to follow up and ensure that we begin sharing our programs with the communications director for inclusion in the newsletter. Mike apologized that he had not ensured staff were following up on this prior request. He stated that he fully understands the value of having our programs shared through the newsletter and stated that he would make it a priority to regularly provide our content to the school district for inclusion going forward.

IX Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

X Adjournment

Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:01pm. Kurt 2nd the motion and all approved.