

Date: 08/22/25

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ELOY CITY OF ELOY PARKS, RECREATION, AND LIBRARY ADVISORY
BOARD
CITY OF ELOY
595 NORTH C STREET
May 2, 2025
10:00 A.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ronda Olson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

I PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present: Chairperson Ronda Olson, Vice Chairperson Aurelia Saucedo, Board Member Anita Hunt, Board Member Tanya Cruz, Board Member Jerry Olveda, Ex Officio Member, Jose Garcia.

Board Members Absent: None

IV. REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Member Announcements:

A. There were no announcements from Board members.

B. Staff reports

1. Capital Projects Update:

A. Director Paul Anchondo welcomed new Ex-Officio Board Member Jose Garcia.

B. The next project, the Recreation Building Enhancement, was finished with the installation of artificial turf, along with stucco and interior painting improvements.

C. The Council recently approved the installation of a 16x16 metal Ramada structure at Maddox Park. We will also be installing a park bench and BBQ grill.

E. An automatic pool scrubber was purchased, which will greatly enhance the parks staff.

- F. Bench replacements at Trekell Park have been bought and will be installed soon. They will be bolted to the ground for security.
- G. Pickup truck was purchased for the Parks division and has arrived.
- H. The City Council approved HVAC upgrades to replace outdated AC units within the city.
- I. City Hall Generator has been purchased; we are just waiting for the generator to be installed.
- I. Facility improvements at Troy Thomas Center have been completed. This project included new drywall and acoustic panels in the building.

UPCOMING CIP PROJECTS FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR

- A. Replacing all signs at Parks.
- B. Park: pick-up truck to be purchased
- C. Exterior improvements at Troy Thomas
- D. Jones Park improvements

Board Member Jerry Olveda asked if there are any plans to replace playground equipment in the parks. Mr. Anchondo explained the CIP project plan for the next five years. The upcoming playground equipment will be at Shumway Park. We will also be installing shade structures at Trekell and Jones Parks.

1. Fall Activity Review: Presented by Chad Price.
 - A. Chad informed everyone about the Veteran's Day Celebration; the event received a partnership with Pinal Hispanic Council, and we have a luncheon at the park.
 - B. The 75th Anniversary Christmas in Eloy event was by far the largest we've had. It included many activities such as a photo display, a time capsule, a drone show, an electric light parade, and two concerts. It was a huge success; we handed out over 500 shirts and more than 1,000 challenge coins. The community response was very positive. Although we weren't sure of the exact attendance, Chad estimated well over 700 people. Chad also praised the Parks & Recreation staff for how the event turned out. The staff distributed about 400 cupcakes during the event. The event hours were extended, which helped accommodate the rides.
 - C. Father Daughter banquet was also a huge success. The event sold out with 285 participants. Robson has been a great partner for that event. The event consists of lots of food, dancing, and door prizes.
 - D. Easter Event Celebration on Friday, 8000 eggs were gone in under two minutes. After the egg hunt, we continued the celebration with carnival rides, food vendors, door prizes, and pictures with the Easter Bunny.
 - E. Winter Break and Fall Break camps are also sold out, with over 30 kids per week. The staff does a phenomenal job keeping the kids engaged and active while on school break.
 - F. Teen field trip to Bowlero, which is a bowling alley in Gilbert. The teens loved it. They had an arcade and an all-you-can-eat buffet. It's a trip we will adopt every year since they enjoyed it so much. The total number of attendees was 27.

2. Youth Sports programs:
 - A. We ended youth tee ball and coach pitch leagues. We had 8 teams with a total of 88 kids. We also had Flag football with a total participants of 84. We couldn't do it without the volunteer coaches.
3. Santa Cruz Library has hosted 21 youth and family activities since our last meeting. These activities typically involve craft or science projects. We have approximately 300 participants. The programs are usually held immediately after school, around 3:30 pm, or in the early evening at 5:30 pm. All of our programs are offered free of charge, and participants take their crafts home with them. In addition to these, we organize 16 teen activities beyond the current teen programs. About 200 teens have participated. Some of the most popular activities include movie nights, video game nights with prizes, and events involving food. Daily participation among teens averages around 30-40.

Summer Activity preview:

For the last 3 years, we partnered with the Eloy Chamber of Commerce to work on the activity guide with the newspaper. There was a decision to move to Rox Media to produce the activity guide this year. The process started in January, but to this day, we have not received anything from Rox. We reached out to Rox but have not been able to contact them. We are taking the project back from them and should have the activity guide before the Summer Kickoff.

Highlights from the activity guides are:

The Santa Cruz library will be offering a Summer Reading program again this year. We have a reading list available at the library. Once the list is completed, participants are entered to win some pretty awesome prizes. Pinal County funds these prizes, which include laptops, wireless phones, and other really cool items. However, not many people participate, so we are really trying to promote this program.

We plan to offer a Summer Kickoff and a puppet show to introduce the Summer Reading program. We have carnival rides, cotton candy, and lots of outdoor fun. We also have a comic book camp in the works, where kids will learn how to create their own comic strip. Among many more programs, we aim to increase summer reading participation.

The library will also host a YouTuber makeup artist, whom we contacted after learning she is based out of Casa Grande. She will be conducting makeup tutorials. Kudos to the staff for thinking creatively and building a strong rapport with the teens. Swim lessons and Parent Tot are also planned for this summer, along with water aerobics and swim team, in addition to the pool being open six days a week. The pool will be operational from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We hired additional summer staff to supervise the pool and support Summer Recreation staff.

Summer Adventure Summer Camp:

Recreation staff organized summer activities with a different event each week. The first week will feature Summer Recreation Camp, and another week will include a Trip to Paris. They are doing a great job creating themed camps. The crafts and activities will align with each week's theme. Staff has also planned a few summer camp field trips, such as the Arizona Science Museum and Harkins Theater.

Teen Activities - We have several field trips planned for the teens, such as Bowlero, which was very popular in the past, as well as a location in Chandler where they can play Family Feud in one room. The next room features Wheel of Fortune. Food is also available onsite. Additionally, we host a Teen Party every year, with a DJ, music, pizza, sodas, and competitions. About 50-60 teens usually attend, making it a very popular event. We also plan to take the teens to Main Event or Jakes Unlimited.

Senior Program - The staff has planned two trips per month for the seniors this summer. We have some casino trips, taking them to a couple of senior centers around Pinal County, and we are also hosting and inviting other local seniors to the center. We have been developing plans to visit Florence Senior Center, then have them come to us. Additionally, we have partnered with Santa Cruz Village to do arts and crafts. Our staff will pick up seniors and take them to Santa Cruz Village. Besides these big trips, we take them to Walmart every other week for their regular shopping and prescription pickups.

Youth Sports Leagues-

Youth Basketball League starts in June, and Youth Soccer begins in September. We are preparing to partner with Santa Cruz High School for a Flag Football Camp.

Special Interest Classes: We offer several dance classes, including Ballet, Tumbling, Cheer, and Karate. All those classes will be offered at the Recreation Center. These classes are very popular and they are always at capacity. We are continuing with Zumba classes. We have a phenomenal Zumba instructor. The classes take place Mondays and Wednesdays at the Toltec Community Center.

Community Events: We had the Summer Kickoff on May 23rd. We handed out information about our summer events and offered open swim. There was music, a photo booth, food vendors, and many fun activities — it was our first main event of the summer.

We also have our annual 4th of July event on the calendar. We will also be hosting a Community Yard Sale in August and several Movies under the Stars event throughout the summer. These events occur at Main Street Park and Jones Park.

V. BUSINESS: Possible Discussion and/or Action on the following:

- A. Approval of the minutes from the May 02, 2025, meeting was motioned by Board Member Tanya Cruz and seconded by Board Member Aurelia Saucedo. All approved the minutes with no opposition.
- B. A motion was made to reappoint Chairperson Ronda Olson by Tanya Cruz, with Board Member Anita Hunt seconding the motion. All approved with no opposition.

ADJOURNMENT:

Director Paul Anchondo adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:43 a.m.

Chairperson

Date