

Date: 08/20/2026

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ELOY CITY OF ELOY PARKS, RECREATION, AND LIBRARY ADVISORY
BOARD
CITY OF ELOY
595 NORTH C STREET
April 24, 2026
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 Members Tanya Cruz and Jerry Olveda, and Ex
Officio Member Jose Garcia.

Board Members Absent: Board Members Anita Hunt and Larry Gin were absent.

IV. REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Member Announcements:

A. Chairperson Tanya Cruz commented that she heard from various people that the
Concert in the Park event was very nice.

Chair Member Jerry Olveda also mentioned that the parks look very nice. He also
said he feels our children are safe and thanked the department.

Vice Chairperson Aurelia Saucedo commended the department for the numerous
events it offers.

B. Staff reports

Paul Anchondo re-introduced Ex-Officio Member Jose Garcia to the board.

Paul Anchondo went on to report the following:

1. Capital Projects Update:

A. Director Paul Anchondo confirmed the completion of the following projects. The Emergency Generator for City Hall was completed. The cost was approximately \$250,000.00.

B. The department also installed two shade structures at Jones and Trekell Parks. The project cost \$139,000.

C. We also completed the Toltec Community Center modification project, which includes installing a concrete sidewalk and an ADA ramp. The project is valued at \$185,000 and is funded by Pinal County Community.

Future CIP projects:

A. Shade canopy at the visitor's center and an entry park sign. Approximately \$ 65,000.00 project. This shade canopy will be installed on the west side of the center, facing Toltec Road. We anticipate completing this within the next two months.

B. We are also looking to replace the park signage at Trekell, Shumway, and Jones Parks with a uniform design. Chad indicated that these signs are uniform and can be easily modified. Anita Park, Fire Station Park, and North Toltec Park are complete. Mr. Anchondo mentioned that we have \$25,000.00 allocated for this project. Main Street signage is also included.

C. We have a couple of projects underway. One is the Troy Thomas Center, involving removal of stucco and repainting the facility.

D. Landscape improvements at the Community Services Recreation Center, reinstall granite and 55-gal plants.

FY 2026-2027 Projects:

A. Toltec Senior Center renovations

B. Playground equipment replacement at Shumway Park

C. Ballfield Shade Canopies at Jones Park and Shumway Park

Mr. Anchondo mentioned that if the projects are approved, the Toltec Community Center will be used for interior renovation, possibly including replacing the drywall and painting.

2. **Fall Activity Recap: Presented by Chad Price.**

Beginning in Dec, we hosted the Christmas in Eloy event on Dec 13, 2025. It featured free carnival rides, inflatables, and pictures with Santa. We collaborated with a local attorney and gave away 1500 toys. We had 23 floats in the Electric Light Parade. It was an overall great event. It was the 25th Annual, and Mrs. Bertha Payne was our Grand Marshal. We also celebrated her retirement. She retired a couple of weeks later.

In January, we held the MLK Youth March on the 15th. We partnered with Eloy Elementary Schools, grades K-8. Mrs. James and the kids always do a great job. The kids recite poems, read speeches, and perform.

On Feb 6th, 2026, we held the Father-Daughter Banquet. We reached a maximum capacity of 280 participants, who enjoyed dinner and dancing. We also gave away 60 teddy bears donated by the Eloy Police Department. If we had a larger venue, we would sell more tickets. It's always a great event.

On April 3, we held the Easter Egg Hunt, a very good event. We had the largest crowd for this event. We had over 1000 eggs, which were scooped out of the field within a few minutes. There were about 16 carnival rides and local vendors. People stayed for the remainder of the event.

We also held a concert in the park this past weekend. This was the largest concert we've had. We had a couple of food vendors, and the band was great. They covered songs by Tina Turner and Stevie Wonder. Board Member Ronda Olson agreed it was a great event and a beautiful evening.

Ex-Officio Jose Garcia said he spoke with one of the PD officers, who informed him they were unaware of the event. He suggested we communicate our events to other departments. Chad noted that we send out a guide to all departments. Jose Garcia further suggested we should have closed Main Street for safety. Chad noted that it's been done both ways and will be taken into consideration.

Youth Sports

The department just concluded Youth Tee Ball and Coach Pitch. Our goal was 100, and we met it with 105 participants. We had 8 teams and volunteer coaches. It has been difficult to get enough coaches, but we are working on it.

We partner with Santa Cruz softball for a softball camp. We had a good turnout as well. Participants received a softball shirt. We provided lunch. The SC softball participant showed the kids drills.

Board Member Jerry Olveda asked about the relationship between Santa Cruz Little League and the City of Eloy. Mr. Anchondo answered that the city has a partnership with the league. The city provides the fields and restrooms for the league. He advised that they are in the process of selecting a new board, so we are not sure what the upcoming years will look like.

The Eloy After School Program continues to maintain a 15-20 student count. The children come from Toltec Elementary, Picacho, and Eloy, so we have a good variety. We also continue to run our free program twice per month on Fridays.

The Eloy Santa Cruz Library has continued to offer a number of free programs. Staff does a great job of offering programs for all age groups. We have also seen a significant increase in participation in these programs. Staff is doing a great job of marketing and promoting those programs, which is evident.

Senior Center Programs continue to work with U of A Cooperative Extension. The program continues to offer meal and physical activity programs, such as Tai Chi and chair yoga, to get seniors moving. Board member Aurelia Saucedo asked whether she could participate only in chair yoga. Chad responded that she certainly may and recommended that she look for the calendar of events posted on the department's Facebook page. He also said it's completely up to the participant which days or events they wish to participate in.

We have additional programs at the Senior Center, run by a group of seniors from Robson Ranch. They are distributing food boxes, clothing, and hygiene donations. It's been a really nice outreach program; they are doing something basically every Tuesday. The Eloy Lions Club has also been providing free eye exams, which include two pairs of free glasses, and our seniors are definitely taking advantage of the opportunity.

In January, we held our first Teen Activities, a big group game called Trivia Night. Kids won great prizes as they answered trivia questions they knew. It was educational for the staff. We also took a group of kids to Top Golf. They had two hours of private tee time, and lunch was provided. It was a great experience for them.

Our department employee transitions are as follows. As I mentioned, Mrs. Bertha Payne retired from the department after 33 years of service. Tim Morris was transferred from the Parks Maintenance department to a full-time position splitting time between the library and the senior center.

The department also hired Erasmo Mendivil as a Recreation Program Supervisor. He has worked for the past 23 years with the Town of Florence. He is originally from Eloy. He has been overseeing aquatics and special events. He was instrumental in the Concert in the Park and has jumped right in with both feet.

Seasonal hiring has just wrapped up. We've hired 30 additional summer workers, 15 for the pool and 15 for Recreation. They will begin in early May. The majority are high school and college students.

3. **Summer Activity Guide:**

The guide covers from May through the end of August 2026. It's a pretty hefty guide. We have a lot going on. The highlights start with the Library offering a summer reading program. Kids get prizes for every book they complete throughout the summer. They get plenty of cool prizes.

The library will also be participating in the America 250 Celebration. They will be offering several events starting on Monday, June 1st, which will challenge people to read for 250 minutes.

The aquatics grand opening will be during Memorial Day weekend, and we will stay open through Labor Day weekend. Board Member Jerry Olveda requested that we distribute our Summer Guide to the students at the high school because he

feels we need more people to attend the pool. Chad mentioned that we have a general aquatic flyer that we can provide to the school as well.

The summer kickoff this year features a striped-and-star theme to celebrate the 250th America celebrations. It will also be a backyard BBQ theme. We are having backyard games and a couple of food vendors.

Board Member Jerry Olveda mentioned that Eloy Jr High has seen a major decrease in discipline issues, including students fighting and cell phone use during school. Compared to last year, discipline for those actions has decreased tremendously, which is a good thing. He credits the decrease to keeping them busy. Chairperson Ronda Olson indicated that as the children see how much the community cares for them and offers activities geared for them, it is a plus.

Chad continues to the next final note. We have met with Beebo to express the need to re-evaluate the Teen programs. The goal is to offer one Teen Program event per month.

We also have to push forward the Teen Volunteer program and try to get teen involvement that way.

Summer Camp this year is titled Out of this World Summer Camp. We have 60 spots available per week. It is offered for ages 5-12.

For the Seniors, we have several trips planned this summer. They suggested no outdoor trips with too much walking, which we took note of.

Youth Sports starts with Youth Basketball in June. We are in the middle of our signups. This year, we are expanding into adult and teen sports. We added the adult cornhole tournament, which we are moving indoors, and a teen dodgeball tournament.

Special-interest classes include beginner ballet, cheer, martial arts, and Latin dance. We are attempting to offer these classes throughout the year as well. There is enough interest to branch out. The challenge is finding qualified year-round instructors.

Ex-Officio Member Jose Garcia asked whether the department has considered offering adult sports, such as adult softball leagues. Chad responded that the effort has been made, but participation has been zero to very low. They've tried adult kickball, which has drawn a small amount of interest, maybe enough for one or two teams, but not enough to operate a league.

Chad continued to share the challenges of adult involvement but concluded that we will continue to create leagues in hopes of getting at least 4 teams to make a league.

Upcoming events:

We will continue offering the Movie Under the Stars series at Jones Park.

The 4th of July event will look a little different because of the 250 America Celebration. We are still having the fireworks show and water park fun, but we have included a concert aspect as well. We will have live music and offer different contests to make it a really hometown-type experience. The hours will expand to 5pm-9pm. We are putting together an eating contest, but we are not sure what type yet.

Chairperson Ronda Olson asked if we have a way to track which children are attending our programs from far away and whether we can offer shuttle services for these kids or families. Is there a way to determine whether we are reaching certain populations, or not, because a lack of transportation is preventing them from coming to the events or activities?

Ex Officio Jose Garcia responded by informing the board that the city is working on a shuttle program, which will probably be in the far future. It is in the planning stages. It will be quite costly, but it will be a great way to connect Arizona City to Eloy.

Chairperson Ronda Olson added that she is amazed by all the city offers. Chad thanked her but credited the staff for everything. Mr. Anchondo thanked the City Council for its support and approval of all the funding.

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

- A. Board Member Aurelia Saucedo moved to approve of minutes of the August 29th board meeting, and it was seconded by Board Member Tanya Cruz. All approved the minutes no opposition.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Rhonda Olson adjourned the meeting at around 10:50 a.m.

Chairperson

Date