

Board Meeting Minutes –April 20, 2022

Item 1 – Pledge of Allegiance

Item 2 – Roll Call at 6:30pm

Board Members answering roll call were Board Member Lewis, Board Member Kennedy, Board President Trent, Board Member Rohn, and Board Member Baiamonte.

Item 3— Review of Minutes from March 16, 2022 and March 23, 2022 Special Meeting:

Board Member Lewis made a motion.
Board President Edelman seconded.
Motion carried.

Item 4 – Public Comment

- a. Matt Merriott – introduced himself as community member and experienced basketball coach. He expressed frustration with recreational sports. He noted that he lives in town and pays taxes to the District. He also has volunteer to coach a multitude of the youth offerings at the District. His children are ages 5 and 7 and he is disappointed with the amount of travel involved in the sports they participate in. He stated that he feels the board should be held accountable to this town and he does not want to travel to Greeley and coach their youth—he wants to be coaching Eaton kids. He noted he has been told the District does not have the enrollment numbers to run an in-house coach pitch league. He stated that is because the league is not playing in the town. Last year he had around 18 individuals on his teams for that specific league. He is not signing up his kids to play in the District’s programs because he has to travel to Greeley regardless. He said he has called the community center five times and left notes at the front desk and not received a call back. He went on to note that his wife called three or four times. He then has to receive information from her instead of receiving a direct answer. He also stated he left a note at the desk as recently as two weeks ago regarding sponsoring flags in the gym and did not receive a call back. He would like to know where the District is at with youth sports. He noted that in the combined leagues, the Eaton teams are the only teams that are good, anyways. He said Eaton teams should just play other Eaton teams. He asked when the community will be taken seriously. He wants his kids to play other Eaton kids in youth sports and not travelling all over Northern Colorado. Board President Edelman thanked him for his comments and let him know the board will address the issues. Board President Edelman also requested a community. roundtable with Avalon Mays, Interim District Director.

- b.** David Lerwick – lived in the Eaton area for 7 years. He stated he has had conversations with many board members and several staff members. He believes youth sports should be the heart of the community. He went on to explain that the building is too nice of a facility with too much potential to be letting other organizations profit. He stated there is no reason that the District should not be leaving NVAA and all other leagues. The Eaton teams travel out of town to play other Eaton teams. He would like to see the District host an league where other communities travel to the Eaton Area Community Center and the league is run in-house. He noted that the high school has culture issues and those issues start in kindergarten. The excellence of the Eaton High School Baseball program started early. He said he loves sports but he believes they are about people, not titles. He stated that by not providing the children the opportunities and relying on others we are not showing the kids community support. He noted there are corporations, and one that he works for, that will match any donation he makes. He stated there are lots of areas that fundraising could improve in, if that is an issue. He stated the town is full of athletic facilities and he is saddened there is not more of an opportunity to build the small community feel and culture.
- c.** Robert Rigg? – has been in recreational sports for about 10 years. He communicated that his biggest concern is the rising cost of youth sports programs. He said interest is declining in the programs because of the price. He talked with Ms. Mays and let her know that he is willing to help anyway that he can, but he feels there must be change. He noted the community center is a nice facility that his not being used for what it was intended for. Board Member Edelman thanked him for his comments.
- d.** Board Member Kennedy suggested hearing some a response from Ms. Mays and any other EAPRD staff that would like to speak to the issues from the community. Ms. Mays thanked the community members for joining us to express their concerns. She noted that the team will work together to see if there are ways to bring pricing down for sports. She had asked Samantha Brown to research if there is any opportunity to bring pricing down with an in-house league pulling from other surround areas. She inquired about what the cost would be per participant if the same benefits (i.e. hat, ball, shirt) were included. The price comparison revealed that an in-house program would be almost identical in cost to how the sports are run currently. She would like to meet with the community to find out where the focus needs to be to provide those cost savings for the community. She noted that it is important for the community to come and have a discussion, sharing doubts and ideas. Ms. Mays thanked them for their comments. The community member continued that he does not understand where the expenses are that keep the program costs high. Ms. Mays let responded that those details will be explored in-depth at the upcoming roundtable meeting. Community member noted that he would be happy to be a part of a roundtable and explore how others keep their costs down. He cited Highland as having a much lower

cost. Ms. Mays said she would reach out to Highland to learn more about what they do. Community member stated that highland does fundraising.

- e. Board Member Lewis requested that Ms. Mays or Ms. Brown speak in depth about the fees that are currently being paid to GEYL for youth participants. Ms. Mays said that in GEYL machine and coach pitch there is a \$115 payment to GEYL and the fee for community members that live in district is \$129. As the age of the kids increases, the fee to GEYL moves up to \$140 and the EAPRD charges \$159 for in district. The older age groups of baseball charge \$165 from GEYL and the EAPRD charges \$179. The revenue generated for the District from these fees goes into field maintenance. She mentioned GEYL softball is a very similar hierarchy.
- f. Public questioned if the EAPRD staff has looked into what a baseball league that includes surrounding communities but is hosted in-house league would cost. Ms. Mays responded that the team created a detailed worksheet that is standard form for all District programs and the individual participant fee came out to \$144. Board Member Kennedy noted that it will take research and a collaborative roundtable determine what the options are. She noted that the purpose of the current discussion is to inform the board and staff about the concerns, allow both viewpoints to be heard, and have Ms. Mays lead the process of working toward solutions.
- g. Board President Edelman stated that culture and community are more the issue than cost. Public commented that they would be willing to pay more for in-house programs. Board Member Kennedy would like to see an examination of cost and culture in the programs. Ms. Brown said she understands exactly where they are at and she would love to accomplish more sponsorships, in-house leagues and more working with the community to do so. Board President Edelman mentioned that it is important for Ms. Brown to have support in her role. Board Member Kennedy said that she believes the District has the right people on staff and it will be matter of a collaborative community effort to bring forth the next steps. She would like to have it on the agenda in May for an update and meetings in the interim amongst staff and community. Board Member Kennedy emphasized that the District is excited to grow and needs the community involvement to make it happen.
- h. Public thanked Board Member Edelman, Board Member Lewis, and Board Member Rohn for their time on the District board.

Item 5 –Staff Reports – Presented by Avalon Mays

- a. Welcome to the new Aquatics Coordinator, Jennifer Cullen. Ms. Cullen is excited to give back to the community and is passionate about aquatics. She already feels like part of the team.
- b. She introduced newest Recreation Specialists for Athletics and Eaton's Explorers – Isaiah Rodriguez and Triston Harrison. Stephanie Player has accepted as the new Active Aging, Special Interests and Wellness Recreation Specialist.
- c. Ms. Wagner is working on program guide for June – August. It will be live May 13 and the following week print guides will be available.
- d. Contract was finalized with Weld County to be part of the Youth Summer Voucher Program. Each voucher is \$175 that they can use toward any program in the District. This program runs from April 18 to June 10.
- e. Ms. Hodge applied for a grant to cover printing costs for Active Aging programming and received it. These funds will go towards the Monthly Golden Beet Newsletter that is geared specifically towards this demographic.
- f. The facilities team is working hard to make lots of improvements to the ballfields including cutting all the grass to clean up the lines on the fields. Arapahoe and Puma will be laser leveled this week to ensure player safety and an even field. Board President Edelman asked how water and grounds are. Ms. Mays answered that water has been a bit of a challenge. The team was made aware about six weeks ago that there were issues with the water source coming from the new high school's pumps. This has resulted in the team manually filling their tanks to water the grass. Mr. Ciancio has worked tirelessly to make a schedule of watering. It was also just discovered there is an additional governor the flow rate for the District's water. She believes the grass will make it through. The last pieces they are waiting for is confirmation on when the high school's issues will be fixed and for parts that the District has ordered to arrive.
- g. Eaton's Explorers has 14 registrations for full summer and 20 dailies. The maximum participation number is around 30 to 40 kids.
- h. Pavilion needs tin placed, staining, and have tabletops put back on. The project is nearing the one to two week completion timeline, dependent on the weather.
- i. Sunday, April 10th the gates to fields on the complex sustained wind damage. It is estimated it will take about \$1,000- \$3,000 to complete the repairs. It could go up in

price but they are currently working with Black Eagle Fencing to see what the cost would be. Facilities team was about to get the gates temporarily fixed but there are some parts that need to be replaced. This was not budgeted for and is not covered insurance so it may need to come from the contingency that was built into the budget.

- j. Legal counsel petitioned for two new properties and the District has received the certified letter that they were approved by the court. The next step is to petition for Brown Farms in a month or so.

Item 6 – Financial Report – Presented by Alan Holmberg

- a. Spending aligned with budget. This is the time of the year that taxes start to come in and he plans to make the first bond payment of interest in the next few days. It will be \$400,000 and is due June 1. \$1.2 million in principal and interest on December 1, 2022. Taxes will come in again in June and July which will fund the December payment.
- b. Board Member Lewis inquired about the conservation trust fund being more than what was anticipated. Mr. Holmberg explained that it comes in periodically and are not a predictable amount. Ms. Mays explained that a 2021 payment came in late and may have been included in part of them most recent payment.

Item 7 – New Business

- a. Ms. Mays presented the possibility of adding a human resources position and executive assistant position. She has provided the board a cost analysis and preliminary timeline. Board Member Lewis asked if the position could be built with the same individual or if it is too big of a scope? Board Member Kennedy mentioned that possibility has come up. Ms. Mays said there has been a lot of thought into it and she thinks it would be a 20-25 hour position if the positions were combined. She also noted that the human resources role would be very heavy right away but in the future there might be possibility for a combination of both. The goal of these positions is to alleviate some of Ms. May's office time working on hiring duties but it is also a big time commitment for coordinators. Board Member Kennedy proposed taking some extra time for the board to review the positions. Board President Edelman would like to take more time to review but supports having a human resources professional in house. Board Member Baiamonte requested Monday, April 25th as a deadline for review. Ms. Mays also asked for feedback on the organizational chart at that date. Board Member Lewis requested that this material be provided to incoming board members.

- b. Board Member Kennedy stated that she envisions a work session prior to next months board meeting with the current board and incoming board to decide the next steps and the timeline. Board President Edelman agreed. Board Member Kennedy mentioned having notes for board members and a job description settled on before the next meeting. The board decided to have the work session immediately before the next meeting.

Item 8 – Board Reports

- a. Board Member Lewis gave kudos to the staff for having one of the best recreation departments in the state of Colorado as far as recovery following Covid. She also thanked volunteers as it is National Volunteer Day.
- b. Board Member Rohn said it has been a privilege to serve on the board and thanked everyone.
- c. Board Member Kennedy thanked the board members who are leaving the board next month, Brandon Rohn, Trend Edelman, and Nina Lewis. Board Member Lewis expressed her gratitude to everyone involved.
- d. Board President Edelman also expressed his gratitude for the ability to be a part of this project. He thanked everyone for hanging tough during Covid.

Item 11 –Adjourn Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm