March 26, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Board

1. Call to Order (7:04). Kelly Moffatt, Doug Severinsen, Dondi Connelley

Others: Mike Barney, Alane Wolner

1. Approval of minutes - Kelly motions to approve and Doug 2nd
2. Approval of agenda – Kelly motions and Doug 2nd.
3. Communications to the Board

Alane Wolner, representing the Elizabeth Celtic Festival, thanked the board for past support of their event and for waiving permit fees last year. She explained that their group had been made whole from the past mis-use of funds and that their organization was now well-positioned to pay the fees from last year and financially contribute to efforts to improve Casey Jones Park. The Board asked for improvements she would like to see and the following was offered: maintain health of pine forest in the park is a priority for the group and makes the park special, adding a large event / picnic shelter in the Prairie Lawn area between the campground and the pavilion, replacing bleachers in rodeo arena with a type that allows for storage underneath them, or adding some other type of storage building for community groups to use that host events in the park. Some need for walkway / pathway improvements were also discussed. The Board asked how much her group may be looking to contribute toward a project, and Alane said she hopes to have a long-term partnership that allows her group to make contributions now and in coming years for park improvements. She also expressed a hope that the Elizabeth Rodeo Association will also help contribute to park improvements. She stated that she estimates they can contribute about $20K at this time. The board agreed to assess a few of the suggested improvements and get back to Alane with their preference.

1. Continued Business

- Mike provided an update on the installation of the splashpad in Evans Park. Charles removed all concrete using our new equipment and is working with Elizabeth Locker to haul it to recycling facility. Contractor excavated pit and then installed main vault. Area is very wet right now and needs to dry out some before any further excavation or plumbing contractor starting to begin installing lines. Kelly asked how contractor is being paid. Mike explained that District is billed as work is completed. Project is on schedule at this time for late Spring opening.

- Mike provided an update on the lake development study. He said that the contractor is preparing to conduct a survey for the Preble meadow jumping mouse within the park and that this will not occur until at least early summer due to the current hibernation of the mouse. No further engineering / study of the lake will proceed until the question of the mouse is answered as the presence of the mouse could likely kill the proposal.

- Mike provided an update on the E86 Metropolitan District Request for Consent to Overlap. He said that Jim Marshall will attend the board’s May meeting to share more about the development proposal and discuss the consent overlap agreement.

1. New Business

- Mike shared that he attended the Town of Elizabeth’s comprehensive planning open house on March 20th.  He explained that a meeting is going to be set up between the Town staff, the project consultants, and the District, and that he would let the board know in case 2 or less of them wanted to attend. This will be an opportunity for the board to share their thoughts on the future development of parks and recreation resources in the community.

1. Report of Administrator and Staff

- Budget Report –No concerns with budget at this time. District has received almost 30% of its revenue goals for the year through the first two months of the year. This is largely due to receiving a very large tax disbursement from the County for the month of February in the amount of $198,000. Other revenues are tracking on budget. Expenses are also tracking on budget through the first two months of the year. As of 3/21/2019, the District has a total of $1,030,024 in its accounts. If the District achieves 100% of its remaining budgeted revenues for the year and expends 100% of its budgeted operational and capital expenses, the balance on 12/31/2019 will be $739,432. Mike reminded the Board that with capital expenditures this current year, the District will expend more than what is brought in through revenues during the year and that the Board had elected to use some cash reserves to fund capital expenses during the budget development process.

- Maintenance Report –Board reviewed the maintenance report. Kelly asked about his request to improve the north baseball field in Evans Park before the start of the season. Mike shared that he was assessing things on that field recently and has some concerns about adding infield material without first lowering the area behind and around home plate. He expressed that building the area behind the pitchers mound up would create a significant variance between the height of the outfield edge and the outfield grass. Kelly stated that he would reach out to an individual with experience in this area and ask that he assist us with assessing the field and coming up with the best solution. Mike expressed the need to enclose the maintenance yard behind the garage in Evans Park to screen it from the public. Though staff try to keep it clean, there are piles of material, scraps, and supplies that regardless of how well organized, can be perceived as clutter / mess. Board agreed this should be pursued.

- Programs Report – The Board reviewed the programs report. Kelly and Doug asked about the situation that occurred at a basketball game that was referenced in the report and Mike and Dondi provided an explanation from their perspectives. Mike shared that while a parent yelling “BS” is definitely an inappropriate and unfortunate incident, staff present were not able to definitively identify who made the comment though did address the crowd overall and no additional comments were heard. Mike further shared that he was at one of the tournament sites and everything went really well there. While there was some disagreement at times amongst coaches and / or officials, overall, things were positive and appropriate in the gym. Mike also shared that there is a group within the community including himself, Rebecca, Dondi, Drew and Jan Francis, Kurt Nabor, Katie Dome, and Aaron Hedman who will be leading the implementation of initiatives to improve the overall health of our youth sports community. We will start this Spring with a recognition program for parents / coaches who are modeling the types of behaviors we hope to see on our field and in our parks.

Mike also shared a summary of the changes that were made to the 4-6 youth soccer program. He stated that all 60 players practice as a large group and parents participate by leading the different stations that kids rotate through during the practice session. He stated that Rebecca had learned of this approach and we believe it is more effective in improving the skills of these young players than the old program format, and easier on parents who volunteered to coach this challenging age group in the past. Parents will be surveyed after the season to assess whether the new format was liked.

1. Other Matters – No other matters were discussed

1. Adjournment – Doug makes a motion to adjourn 8:50 pm – Dondi 2nds.