Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District – July 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes

# Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District July 16, 2025

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District, Eagle County, Colorado, was held on July 16, 2025, at 6:00 pm, in the Gypsum Recreation Center, 52 Lundgren Blvd, Gypsum, CO, and via Zoom platform, in accordance with the applicable statutes of the State of Colorado.

## **Attendance**

The following Directors were present and acting:

- Joanna Kerwin
- Tom Edwards
- Tom Pohl
- Jerry Santoro
- Mark Weinreich

## Also, in attendance were:

- Scott Ruff, Superintendent of Recreation Facilities
- Erin Leach, People & Culture Manager
- Jamie Wilson, Marketing & Community Engagement Manager
- Karen Murphy, Finance Manager
- · Lauren Saunders, Facility Supervisor
- Michael Graff, Facility Coordinator
- Brad Johnson, Facility Supervisor
- Anna Englehart, Superintendent of Recreation Programs
- Ken Marchetti, Marchetti & Weaver
- Joe Hood, Maggard & Hood, P.C.

# 1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District was called to order by Director Edwards. On July 16 at 6:08 p.m., noting that a quorum was present to conduct business.

## 2. Changes to the Agenda

None

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# 3. Approval of Minutes

Director Edwards asked the board to consider the minutes from the June 18, 2025, meeting minutes.

Director Pohl and Director Kerwin were not present at the June 18, 2025 meeting, and their absences were excused.

Director Edwards moved to approve the June 18, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. Director Jerry seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the June 18, 2025, meeting minutes as presented.

# 4. Public Input None

#### 5. Presentations

# a. Update on Mountain Recreation Gymnastics Program

Ms. Johnson provided an update on three key program areas Gypsum Gymnastics, Edwards Gymnastics, and the Anti-Gravity Center, highlighting their continued growth, community impact, and strong participation across all age groups.

Participation numbers have remained consistent, with strong engagement across all age groups. Some of the most popular drop-in programs include *Tumble Tots* and *Romp & Roll*, which provide fun and engaging opportunities for children and parents to connect through movement and play.

Gymnastics continues to be a highly popular, year-round program that attracts participants of all ages, particularly teens. The spring and winter seasons are especially busy as athletes travel to compete in gymnastics meets. Many older gymnasts go on to become coaches, continuing their involvement and passion for the sport.

A highlight of the year is the Ascent Gymnastics Classic, hosted annually. This event draws over 20 gymnastics clubs from across Colorado and is widely regarded as one of the best competitions in the state, thanks to its athlete- and spectator-friendly venue and viewing setup. In 2025, the event was further enhanced by introducing digital scorekeeping and live scoring displays, offering real-time updates and elevating the experience for both judges and spectators.

The program continues to grow, with new full-time staff joining the team. A new ninja and trampoline area is opening in Edwards, and there is potential for expanding gymnastics offerings in Gypsum as well.

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## 6. Business

# a. Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Report Presentation and Acceptance

Mr. Hood shared some financial highlights with us. The audit process involves about 8 to 10 steps. It starts with gathering the financial statements and creating a risk statement. During the audit, invoices are requested and reviewed. They check the vendor details, total amount, coding, and ensure each invoice is signed by a supervisor, has the proper code, and is stamped. Additionally, board members review payables monthly during board meetings. The audit also produces the final financial statements. These statements include all areas such as administration, EPIR, GRC, EFH, and Outdoor Recreation, in addition to the CTF and Capital Funds. The auditors will review expenses, charges for services and sales, operating grants and contributions, and governmental activities.

Director Pohl made a motion to approve the fiscal year 2024 audit report presentation. Director Kerwin seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the 2024 Audit Report presentation and Acceptance.

# b. Approve a contract with Kiser Construction for the renovation of the Edwards Field House

Mr. Johnson presented the Edwards Field House renovation update. The building, opened in 2010, is now 15 years old. Based on community feedback gathered from a 2023 survey of 509 residents, Mountain Recreation began planning renovations to better meet evolving needs. Ohlson Lavoe Corporation was hired in early 2024 to design renovation concepts.

Phase 1 renovations, budgeted at \$1.2 million, are scheduled from August 4, 2025, to October 17, 2025. These include installing hardwood floors for multiple volleyball, basketball, and pickleball courts with a divider curtain, adding new trampoline and ninja-style climbing equipment, relocating the current climbing tower and wall to allow for new flooring, and creating new offices and storage space for gymnastics and day camp staff. The front desk will also be redesigned to improve flow and increase space.

The removal of the existing climbing tower and walls will be handled by the general contractor. A plan and cost estimate of \$290,000 for a new climbing wall will be presented to the board in August or September 2025, with construction expected to begin in early 2026. This schedule allows for equipment ordering, contractor availability, and helps avoid higher lodging costs in late 2025, saving the district money.

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Mr. Johnson also stated that we should donate the climbing wall to another recreation center or another company that wants to expand.

Director Kerwin made a motion to approve the general construction contract with Kiser Construction in the amount of \$706,883. Director Pohl seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the general construction contract with Kiser Construction in the amount of \$706,883.

## c. Review proposed 2026 Schedule of Fees

Mr. Ruff shared the proposed changes to our facility and program fee schedule for 2026 and asked for feedback. Before working on the FY26 budget, our staff reviewed the current fees for facilities and programs. We found it necessary to make some changes to help cover the district's rising costs, while keeping our rates competitive with similar services.

For Eagle Ice Rink rentals, last year the board approved matching Dobson Ice Arena's rates for the Vail Mountaineers Hockey Club to keep things consistent. To encourage more use during off-peak hours, we're proposing lower rates during those times. Rental fees went up in 2024, the first increase since 2021, with the board approving a 5% annual increase.

For Eagle Pool summer swim passes, we suggest a small 3% increase next year.

Regarding the Gypsum Recreation Center membership fees, the board started a 3% annual increase in 2023 to keep up with inflation. That year, daily admission fees were raised by 20% to encourage more guests to become members. These daily admission fees will stay the same in 2026, with another increase planned for 2027. The last time fees were changed before 2023 was in 2018, after the "Fitness Facelift."

Finally, for the Eagle Sports Complex and Freedom Park, the board approved a \$50 per hour rental fee in June 2025 for local user groups with agreements through Mountain Recreation. The new changes also include increases in staffing costs and rental fees for outside groups.

#### d. Other Business

### 7. Financial Matters

- a. Financial Summary
- b. Financial Statements
- c. Accounts Payable

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Ms. Murphy presented the financials of June 2025 YTD.

Ms. Murphy states that operating and capital expenses are both under budget due to timing, particularly at Edwards Field House. Operating costs are at 48% of the annual budget, with a \$320,570 savings. Capital expenses are \$516,427 under budget. Revenue is slightly below budget by \$19,223, mainly due to lower property tax collections in June, but stronger income from Eagle and investments helps offset this. Full-year revenue is still expected to meet or exceed the budget.

Director Kerwin motioned to approve the presented financial statements and accounts payable report. Director Edwards seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the financial statements and accounts payable report.

# 8. Staff Reports

#### a. Administration

Ms. Leach shared that this month has been focused on preparing the 2026 budget, including market benchmarking, industry trends, and improving staff benefits to attract and retain talent. She also announced a shift to a more collaborative, forward-focused mid-year performance alignment for full-time staff, replacing traditional reviews. This new approach encourages measurable, mission-driven goals. In addition, goal tracking has moved to Paylocity, making it easier for staff to update and track progress throughout the year.

## b. Facilities Division

Mr. Graff shared that we've been actively preparing for Gypsum Daze, which will feature a running race, deadlift competition, and pickleball tournament. This popular event draws participants from both our local community and beyond.

# c. Recreation Programs Division

Ms. Englehart shared that the camps are running smoothly, with most staff positions filled and everything progressing well.

# 9. Reports & Board Communication

# 10. Executive Session

Director Pohl moved to go into executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) to discuss operating a temporary ice rink at the Eagle County Fairgrounds for the 2026-2027 season. Director Kerwin seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to enter executive session pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(e) to discuss operating a temporary ice rink at the Eagle County Fairgrounds for the 2026-2027 season at 8:02 pm.

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# 11. Adjournment

Director Edwards moved to adjourn the board meeting. Director Pohl seconded the motion. It was unanimously

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm.

The next regular meeting of the Mountain Recreation Metropolitan District Board will be held on Wednesday, July 21, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Edwards Field House.