

# Elizabeth Park and Recreation District

## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2026 – 7:00 pm

Meeting to be held at:

Casey Jones Pavilion – Casey Jones Park  
4189 Highway 86, Elizabeth, CO 80107

- I Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance  
Kelly Moffatt called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Other Board Members present included Kurt Prinslow, Dondi Connelley, Aleta Jeffress, and Zac Craig. Mike Barney, Ryan Staley, Madeline Dennis, and Marie Hancock were present from staff.
- II Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting on January 20, 2026  
Kurt made a motion to approve the minutes from January 20, 2026. Zac 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.
- III Approval of Agenda  
Zac requested that he provide an update on discussions with Black Hills Energy regarding the requested construction easement. Mike suggested that it be added under Other Matters on the agenda. Kelly then made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Black Hills Easement Request under Other Matters. Dondi 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.
- IV Communications to the Board
  - Citizen Comment (citizens may address the Board on any topic for up to 2-minutes – additional time may be granted at the discretion of the Board President)
  - Marie Hancock, Kids Club Lead Teacher – Request for increased staff discount for childcare programsMarie introduced herself to the Board as a Kids Club staff member, school district employee, and long-time resident of the District. She shared a little about her personal experience with EPR programs and as an employee of the District since the fall of 2025. Hills Elementary. She expressed appreciation for the childcare programs and the opportunity to be a part of providing these services to the community. She then summarized concerns with a recent change in the District practice of Kids Club staff being permitted to bring their children to the program when they are working for no cost. She said the change has caused her and one other staff member personal hardship and requested that the Board consider restoring this opportunity for staff, which she expressed could also help with staff recruitment.

Kelly thanked Marie for attending the meeting to share her request with the Board. He said that hearing from her was helpful for the Board to better understand the needs of staff and how the District can better support them. He expressed that the Board would certainly have some further discussion and assess what can be done.

Marie thanked the Board for the opportunity to present her request and for their consideration of restoring the opportunity for Kids Club staff to bring their children to programming at no cost. She then stated that she was not able to stay for the remainder of the meeting and exited the meeting. Madeline Dennis also departed the meeting at that time.

The Board then asked Mike some clarifying questions such as the number of staff that bring children to programs, the cost of program fees, and the impacts of staff member's children attending programs. Following some general discussion, Kelly proposed that the practice be restored with some conditions that were identified. He summarized that Kids Club staff members could register their first child for before / after school Kids Club programs at no cost and additional children of the same family would be provided a 50% discount. It was noted that the staff member must be the parent or legal guardian of the child(ren). It was also noted that this practice would not be applicable to full-day camps at this time, though the Board acknowledged they may review that in the future. Aleta noted that this waiver of fees may be considered a direct employee benefit, particularly with the higher cost of full-day-camps and directed Mike to confer with legal to ensure the benefit does not need to be reported / taxed as income. Mike responded that he would follow up with legal counsel for clarification and take steps to implement the changes as outlined by the Board.

#### V Continued Business

##### - Discuss 2026 Ballot Initiative and Campaign Planning

Mike shared that he has presented Melanie with Groundswell a draft service agreement that was reviewed by legal counsel. He said it includes a general scope of service which includes door knocking, tabling at community events, a social media campaign, and a mail campaign as well as a timeframe for providing the services. He shared that the service agreement will end on August 15<sup>th</sup> before the Board reviews / approves the ballot language to be presented to voters. He shared that he has a call scheduled for this Friday with Melanie and legal counsel to clarify a few things and strategize and expects that the service agreement will be executed shortly thereafter. He reported that he has been providing Melanie with reports such as neighborhood precinct maps, community event calendars, and other information as requested as she maps out the campaign strategy. Kelly asked when campaign activities may kick-off in earnest and Mike responded that he expects outreach efforts to begin shortly after the service agreement is executed.

Mike then shared that he reached out to Josh Chism with Capital AE to learn more about financing options and get his thoughts on how best to prepare should the ballot initiative pass in November. He presented an outline that Josh had shared and went through each action step identified. He noted that campaign strategy planning is underway and that

Groundswell will be the lead on that piece. He commented that the financial planning suggestion was largely already being managed and expressed that he could reach out to Barb Winkler with Municipal Capital Markets Group for any guidance that may be needed as she has facilitated the existing lease purchase financing for previous projects. He then noted that initial polling was completed by Magellan Strategies late last year and stated that he was not sure there would be a lot of value in additional polling. He then moved to the suggestion of getting updated cost projections for the proposed recreation center. Kurt commented that this is a critical step and that the District should pursue this in the immediate future. He stated that we must be careful to ensure that we do not overpromise on what we can deliver in terms of the recreation center and that we need an updated cost projection to verify that. Mike said he would work with Capital AE to initiate that process as soon as possible. Kurt stressed that we need to retain the ability to issue requests for proposals for the engineering / architecture services that will be needed as well as the construction itself and directed Mike to ensure no commitments are made to any specific contractors.

Mike then shared that he talked with Josh about whether a mill levy increase or a general obligation bond would be the best option for securing funding for this project. He stated that a mill levy increase appears to be the best option from his perspective as tax revenues will increase over time while revenues for the bond would be more static over time. He noted that the District will need to subsidize recreation center operations to some extent and that the mill levy will provide more flexibility in using the annual increases in tax revenues due to community growth to support those operations. The Board had some general discussion and was in full agreement that a mill levy increase was their preferred approach for funding the project.

VI New Business

VII Report of Administrator and Staff  
- Budget Report

Mike reviewed the budget report, sharing that through January, most everything is tracking as expected and that he had no concerns at this time. He did share that campground revenues are lagging behind last year and that the pattern of decreasing revenues seems to be continuing. He said that he has observed growing use of the new campground near Kiowa and that this is certainly a contributing factor in the decreased revenues.

Mike shared that the District currently has \$616,128 in its cash accounts and that he projects the balance to be \$749,033 at years end.

- Maintenance Report

Ryan reviewed the maintenance report. Tasks and projects over the last month included shop clean-up and inventorying of supplies and materials, replacement of a ballast in the Evans Park restrooms, repairing / assembling of picnic tables, a hydrant repair in the campground, water system repairs, landscaping the area near the splashpad, and other

tasks. He said he and the crew also attended the Pro Green turf conference for educational sessions and equipment expo. Ryan stated that he hopes to be able to burn slash pile next month should we get some snow, replace some lights at Evans Park with solar powered units, lay out soccer fields for the spring season, begin some irrigation system repairs, and start prepping baseball infields.

Kurt asked about the pickleball shade structure and Ryan shared that he has assessed many options and is currently gathering proposals. He said that the options will include wood and metal shelters as well as fabric-type shade structures. He said that he believes a more modern type style with some aesthetic appeal may be more appropriate near these new park amenities, but that the Board will have an opportunity to select from a variety of options. Mike asked Ryan if we could present all the options to the Board at the March meeting and Ryan said that will work and will align with our goal of having something built by late spring / early summer.

#### - Programs Report

Mike reviewed the programs report. He noted that spring soccer registration closed today and that 215 youth signed up. He said we had 220 last year and anticipated we would surpass that slightly with some late registration requests that always come. He reminded the Board that Rebecca has partnered with MLS GO for this coming season and that the program will look a bit different than in the past. He shared that some of the changes include smaller ball sizes being used, less players on the field at a time, and no goalies being used in the lower divisions. He explained that the program standards are designed to help kids better develop their skills and that he and Rebecca believe it will be a positive change for the program. He said that they will certainly review things after the season and survey parents / coaches before making a decision as to whether to continue on in the future. He stated that the season will begin March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mike then shared that youth volleyball registration has also just ended and that we had 63 youth sign up which is 14 more than last season. He shared that the Town of Elbert will also be entering a team into each age division, representing another 16 youth. He reported that the season was extended two weeks from last year and gets started on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the middle school.

He noted that youth basketball has 2 more weeks remaining and that things have gone well. He shared that officials are doing a great job this season and being consistent and that coaches have provided positive feedback. Mike shared that the District collected just under \$14,000 in revenues and that program expenses totaled around \$9,000, representing a cost recovery of 155%, which is just above the target for youth sports.

Mike shared that baseball registration has just opened and early numbers look great. He stated that registration will continue through the end of March, and the season begins May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In adult sports, Mike reported that co-ed volleyball has three weeks left and that the offering of an upper and a lower division this year has been a significant improvement for the player experience. He said that the women's indoor pickleball league has two weeks remaining and that this was the only league that had sufficient registration to run this winter. He noted that Rebecca points out that there is an increasing number of indoor facilities being offered and that the Frontier gym has some limitations when it comes to competitive leagues, which likely contributes to the decreased interest from last year. He finished the report by sharing that registration is opening soon for outdoor skills and drills clinics, intro camps, leagues, and tournaments that will be held in the Spring.

#### - Childcare Programs Report

Mike reviewed the childcare programs report. He shared that Madeline has been preparing for spring break camps and has begun some summer camp planning as well. He said that spring break camp registration recently opened and that we had 5-9 youth signed up each day at Running Creek though numbers at Singing Hills were lower and between 1-3 per day. He said he hopes both camps will at least meet minimum enrollment. He stated that summer day camp registration will start within the next week. He then reported average program attendance over the last month with 14 at RC before school care, 26 at SHE before school care, 55 at RC after school care, and 72 at SHE after school care.

- VIII Executive Session pursuant to Sections 24-6-402(4)a, C.R.S., concerning the potential purchase, acquisition, lease, transfer, or sale of property interest.  
The Board elected not to enter executive session.

#### VII Other Matters

Zac shared that he had met with representatives of Black Hills Energy to discuss the easement request. He described the work that is being proposed and shared a map showing existing easements as well as the requested easement in the project area near the intersection of State Highway 86 and County Road 17. He shared that he was surprised at how far the highway easement appears to come into the southern edge of the park and noted that based on his understanding, there may be 1-3 large trees that need to be removed along Highway 86. He showed the Board the location of the requested easement within Casey Jones Park and said he did not believe that it would be too disruptive to the park in any way, except for the potential clearing of some trees. He stated that the timeframe for them using the easement will be pretty short as well. Dondi suggested that we request trees be relocated rather than cleared away or ask them to replace trees. Mike said that he would request that be added to the agreement. Kurt asked if they could provide a stub for a future gas line for the rec center and Zac shared that the stub for the rec center would come from a different line as the new line will be a high-pressure line, which they cannot stub into for the rec center. He said that the stub for the rec center would come from near an existing gas meter in that area. Mike then asked if the Board wanted to propose a different fee for the easement than what Black Hills proposed. After some discussion, Zac proposed the District request \$1500 for use of the temporary construction

easement, and all members approved. Mike stated that he will follow-up with Kathy at Black Hills with the requested terms and report back to the Board on a response.

VIII Adjournment

Dondi motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm. Aleta 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.