

# Elizabeth Park and Recreation District

## Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors MEETING MINUTES

March 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  
Kurt Prinslow called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and led the pledge of allegiance. Other Board Members present included Aleta Jeffress and Zac Craig. Mike Barney and Ryan Staley were present from staff. Linda Krueger (resident) and her daughter were also in attendance from the public.
- II Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting on February 17, 2026  
Zac made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 17, 2026. Aleta 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.
- III Approval of Agenda  
Zac made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Aleta 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)  
Linda Krueger addressed the Board and expressed concerns with the Board’s decision to ask voters to fund a recreation center on the November ballot. She shared that she is concerned that it will place a financial burden on some families and felt that a recreation center was not needed or wanted in the community. She shared some history about her involvement with the formation of the District and questioned whether current board decisions align with the initial intent in creating the District. Kurt thanked her for her past efforts and involvement and shared that he believes the community is larger and very different from when the district was formed in the 1980’s and that resident desires and needs have changed since that time. He explained that through a recent master plan process and public polling, the Board learned that a community rec center and pool were identified as priorities and that the Board was responding to what they have heard from the majority of residents. He said that whereas a majority of residents indicated they support a recreation center, the Board is justified in putting it up for a vote. Linda then asked if the District will continue to ask residents each year if it fails again in November and said there are costs to elections. Mike shared that the Board has expressed that if the rec center is not approved this November, they intend to shift their focus toward smaller projects within

developed master plans that they can finance within their existing budget. He explained that at least for this current Board of Directors, the question of whether residents want the District to pursue a recreation center in the foreseeable future will be determined in November. Linda then asked about Board Member elections and whether notices were being posted and Mike assured her that the District is compliant with all election notices. She also asked some questions about the District budget, including the purpose of the Enterprise Fund which Mike and Board Members answered. Kurt again thanked Linda for her interest in the District and for attending the meeting and said she was welcome to stay and listen to other agenda items if interested.

- Request for approval to sell alcohol at the 2026 Elizabeth Stampede

Mike presented a letter of request from the Elizabeth Stampede to sell alcohol at the Elizabeth Stampede from June 4-7, 2026. He explained that the County requires Board approval prior to issuing a liquor permit and that we do this each year. Aleta then motioned to approve the request to sell alcohol in Casey Jones Park at the 2026 Elizabeth Stampede. Zac 2<sup>nd</sup> and all approved. Kurt then asked Mike about the recent equine virus concerns and whether it is still a threat to the Stampede event. Mike shared that he spoke with the Stampede group last week and that they informed him the threat has significantly subsided. He said at this time, there are no recommendations for arena closure or quarantine of any kind. He said that this will allow us to hold our new horseback riding lessons in the arena in April as planned. Aleta then asked if the Stampede Board was going to attend the April meeting to provide an update on event planning, and whether the 2026 MOU had been signed. Mike said the MOU had not been signed in 2026, though the 2025 agreement is still being honored. He said that he will invite the Stampede Board to the April meeting and will also have the 2026 MOU available at the meeting for signatures.

- Request for approval to sell alcohol at the 2026 Elizabeth Celtic Festival

Mike presented a letter of request from the Elizabeth Celtic Festival to sell alcohol at the Elizabeth Celtic Festival from July 17-19, 2026. He explained that the County requires Board approval prior to issuing a liquor permit and that we do this each year. Aleta then motioned to approve the request to sell alcohol in Casey Jones Park at the 2026 Elizabeth Celtic Festival. Zac 2<sup>nd</sup> and all approved.

V Continued Business

- Discuss 2026 Ballot Initiative and Campaign Planning

Mike shared that he is having weekly meetings with Melanie as she continues to map out the campaign strategy, craft messaging, and organize efforts. He said that he was meeting with a group of advocates for the rec center on Wednesday evening as an initial kick-off. He said he and Melanie are working on building this team, identifying community influencers, setting up schedules for tabling at community events, and other campaign related tasks. He said the first tabling event will be April 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm for the District's Easter Event. and encouraged Board Members to stop by.

## VI New Business

### - Community Schoolyards Grant Program – Running Creek Elementary

Mike shared that he learned of a new grant opportunity called the Community Schoolyards program and that he is requesting the Board support a joint application with the school district. He explained that there could be an opportunity develop a new park site at Running Creek Elementary that will be used by the school during the school day and then be utilized as a public park at all other times. He stated that this could present an opportunity to locate some park elements identified within the master plan. He said that the park design has not been completed yet, though will be included as a part of the grant request. He explained that if the Board is supportive, we will begin to identify desired park elements with stakeholders to be included within the eventual design. Kurt suggested that a large open field where kids can play sports and games be included in the design, and Mike confirmed that a natural or artificial turf play area will be a part of the design. He said that currently, the school does not even have a grass area for kids to play. The Board asked about the amount of the grant request, the matching requirements, and how much the District is being asked to contribute. Mike said that the District plans to request \$850K, plus an additional \$150K for the planning and design and that a 25% match is expected. He said that the request is to split the matching funds between EPR and the School District. He explained that the funds can be paid over a period of 3 years, for a contribution of about \$45K each of those years. He then presented a Community Use Agreement from the grant packet and a Board Resolution expressing support for the grant application / project and asked if the Board approved signing these documents. Kurt asked about the exact location of the proposed park site and Zac presented a map of the area on his phone. Mike pointed out the proposed project site on the map for the Board. Aleta asked about access and Mike noted that the town trail begins at Running Creek Elementary and runs alongside the project site. He stated that the park will either be open or if it does have a gate, the gate will be opened up when school is not in session. Aleta then made a motion to approve the Community Use Agreement and the Resolution of Board Support for the Schoolyards Grant Program. Zac 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.

### - Review Cresence Final Plat Filing 4 Request

Mike asked if the Board had any comments to be submitted for the Cresence Final Plat Filing 4 review request. Kurt noted that the developer did appear to consider their comments from the last review and pointed out that in the current plans, sidewalks have been added and most trails were widened. He did state that the plans show a 3-foot wide trail through some of the open space areas and questioned whether it was wide enough. Mike said it seems as if they are intending for this to be a single-track trail, as opposed to a wider community pathway. Kurt expressed that 3-feet doesn't really allow for people to walk alongside each other and suggested that we request that these trail segments also be widened as possible. There being no other review comments, Mike said that he would submit that comment and would also include a statement that the District overlap consent agreement is still outstanding and needs to be resolved. He noted that comments are due by March 30.

Mike then shared that legal counsel Kathryn Winn had recently received a letter from legal representation for the Cresence development. He said that he has forwarded them the letter that Kathryn received and then summarized the contents of the letter. He said that they are requesting to resolve the outstanding overlap consent agreement though included a lot of narrative in their letter that attempts to discredit the District's recently completed master plan and the Board's efforts to respond to the public's expressed desire for a community recreation center. He said that they also continue to make the case that the District does not have the authority to impose impact fees, despite the District previously acknowledging that. He explained that the term "impact fee" has been used in the past by the Board and included in documents, though it was used as a general term and in error. Mike stated that the fees per residence which they collect from developers are either voluntarily paid or are a part of an overlap consent agreement negotiated between the District and the developer. He said that these fees should be referred to as "development fees" going forward to help alleviate any confusion.

Kurt commented that the letter seems to imply that the District did not offer any comments or feedback during the initial PUD application review for EC West. He explained that the District was not included in County plan review at that time and was only invited to review development plans and submit comments as a part of the County plan review process more recently with changes in County leadership. He directed Mike to talk with Kathryn, encourage her to review the initial PUD rezone application for EC West, and ensure that she understands the timeline for when the District was invited to become involved in plan review for this development. Mike stated that he would follow up with Kathryn tomorrow.

Mike informed the Board that no action was needed on their part at this time and that Kathryn would be preparing and sending the requested response. He reported that she will also let the developer know before sending the response that the District is also eager to resolve the overlap consent agreement matter and that she encourages them to reach out and get a discussion scheduled. He said he had included the Executive Session on the agenda for this evening in case Kathryn wanted to discuss the matter further with the Board, though she did not think it was needed at this time and suggested it be scheduled for the April Board meeting if needed. Mike invited the Board members to reach out to him directly if they have any questions or additional thoughts after fully reading the letter and stated that he would keep them updated on the matter as things progress.

- Review pickleball shade structure proposals

Ryan presented the Board with a variety of potential park shelter designs and cost estimates for review and discussion. The Board had some general discussion about the style and costs of the different options and directed Ryan to pursue a sleeker-looking open-ended type shade shelter to be constructed of wood, with steel posts if possible. It was suggested that wood posts could potentially be wrapped as well if full steel posts are too costly. Ryan said that he would look into the option of steel or wrapped posts and confirm whether it is more cost effective to purchase a shelter kit of this type or have a local contractor construct it on site. He then asked the Board whether engineered plans should

be completed for the shelter to ensure it meets minimum wind and snow load requirements, and the Board was in agreement that this should be done as a part of the project to ensure the safety of park users and minimize any liability.

## VII Report of Administrator and Staff

### - Budget Report

Mike reviewed the budget report for the month of February. He stated that the General Fund has collected just over \$427K in the first 2 months of the year and that we will see about another \$1M in revenues through the rest of 2026. He shared that General Fund expenses are tracking as expected and that he does not have any concerns at this time. He stated that Enterprise Fund revenues are on track to meet projections and explained that while campground revenue continues to lag behind last year, program revenues are tracking above projections at this time. He said that he does not have any concerns with Enterprise Fund expenses at this time. He then shared that the District currently has \$931,220 in its cash accounts and that he projects that balance to be just under \$700K at year end.

Zac asked if we know the rates that are being charged at the Kiowa Adventure Park Campground and how they compare to our rates. Ryan shared that he believes that their monthly rate is about \$200 less than our campground. Zac noted that there seems to be a lot of campers out there and asked whether it was a campground or more of a longer-term living arrangement. Ryan said that he believes they are allowing more longer-term residency type units, and Mike suggested that it may perhaps be a form of affordable housing in the County as well as a place for construction crews to stay while working on local projects. Zac questioned whether we should consider lowering our camping rates and Ryan expressed that many of the longer-term campers out there may not be ones that we would want to have in our campground. He distinguished shorter-term campers such as the ones we mostly serve in our campground from longer-term residents and reminded the Board of some of the issues experienced in the past from having long-term residents in the campground. Aleta commented that she believes there may just be diminished interest in camping overall following a big uptick that occurred during the Covid era, and that current vacancy rates may be the new normal for now. She suggested no changes in fees be made at this time and the other Board Members concurred.

### - Maintenance Report

Ryan reviewed the maintenance report and shared some projects / tasks that the crew had completed over the last month including: chipped slash piles in Casey Jones Park, installed new interior park solar lighting at Evans Park and at the pickleball courts, painted soccer fields, prepped baseball infields, assembled irrigation pumps and repaired / adjusted sprinkler heads, conducted some erosion control measures in the disc golf course, repaired leaking hydrant in the campground, repaired fencing near the Casey Jones Park playground, repaired windscreens at the pickleball courts, and other tasks.

- Programs Report

Mike then presented the programs report prepared by Rebecca. He shared that youth volleyball season kicked off this past Saturday with over 70 youth participating and that youth soccer begins next Saturday with just over 219 youth participating. He shared that in adult sports, volleyball season just finished its season and that registration is now open for pickleball, co-ed softball, and kickball. He then shared that the District's Easter egg event will be on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at Evans Park and encouraged them to attend.

- Childcare Programs Report

Mike shared that spring break camp registrations have gone well and that we have 122 registrations between the two sites with 65 registrations at Singing Hills and 57 at Running Creek. He explained this generated just over \$6700 in revenues and that direct camp expenses should be near \$4000. He said registration is now open for summer day camps and that he hopes to see similar registration numbers through the summer. He then shared that through the first two weeks of March, Singing Hills is averaging 16 youth per day for after school care and Running Creek is averaging 12, showing that participation continues to grow.

- VIII Executive Session pursuant to Sections 24-6-402(4)(b), C.R.S., concerning conference with legal counsel regarding district overlap consent agreement.  
The Board opted not to enter Executive Session.
- VII Other Matters  
No other matters were discussed.
- VIII Adjournment  
Aleta motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm. Zac 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.