Elizabeth Park & Rec

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors 3-15-2022

CJ Pavilion

I. Call to Order 7:00pm/Roll Call Kurt Prinslow, Doug Severinsen, JC Cook, Dondi Connelley Others: Mike Barney, approximately 30 residents - Pledge of Allegiance

II. Approval of Minutes – Study Session on February 15th and Regular Meeting – Kurt Prinslow makes a motion to approve the minutes for both meetings, Doug 2nds, all in favor.

III. Approval of Agenda – JC Cook makes a motion to approve the agenda Doug 2nds, all in favor.

IV. Communications to the Board – Forest Park Citizens – Linda Saunders, Forest Park Drive, Lisaanne Hewell, Forest Park Drive, Belinda Seville, Bonnie Ridge Circle, Gary Jones, Paul Kriesling, Michael Walker, Gary ???, Forest Park Drive, Steve West, Forest Park Drive, Steve Jones, Brian McRoberts, Forest Park Drive, and Jason Rose, Forest Park Drive, expressed concerns to the Board regarding the master plan for Casey Jones Park. Concerns expressed were primarily centered around the proposed campground expansion though some residents also expressed disapproval of other elements of the master plan. Concerns with the campground included risk of fire, homelessness issues, enforcement of rules and regulations, appropriateness of campground near residential area, and the costs of construction.

Other matters raised and discussed during the public comments was the grant that the District was awarded for the campground expansion. Belinda Seville again addressed the Board and stated that she had checked with a source at GOCO and was told that the Elizabeth Park and Recreation District had not received or applied for a grant for the campground expansion as we were claiming. Mike Barney expressed that the District had indeed been awarded the grant and presented the executed grant agreement between GOCO and the District to Ms. Seville. The Board also asked Mike Barney to respond to a question asked regarding the appropriate zoning for the existing campground in the park. Mike shared that through the pre-application meeting and discussions with the Elbert County, he was informed that the current zoning of Casey Jones Park is not suitable for the campground, and that the zoning correction will need to be made as a part of the PUD application and review process. Other meeting attendees including Don Means, Elk Ridge Run, and Bonnie Inga, Whispering Pines, communicated frustration with the amount of bad information being put out there about the project and expressed support for the master plan and proposed recreation center. Mayor Meghan Vasquez, Town of Elizabeth, shared that the Town’s logo had been used on a flyer that was lobbying against the Casey Jones Master Plan, and expressed that the logo was being used without permission and that the Town has not taken, nor will take any position on the matter as residents will be voting in May. She asked that the Town logo stop being used without permission.

The Board requested that Mike prepare answers to questions that were asked during the public comments portion of the meeting and post the answers on the District website.

The Board had some discussion about the feedback and comments received regarding the campground expansion. The Board acknowledged aspects of the concerns that were expressed and also questioned the validity of other aspects that were presented. Mike was asked about the grant funds and whether they could possibly be used to improve the existing campground or for another aspect of the master plan, and he replied that he believed the grant funds were unique to the campground expansion, and that he did not think the grant award could be transferred to another project. He stated that if the Board decides to not pursue the campground expansion, he will certainly make the request to transfer the funds however and see how GOCO responds. The Board tabled the matter for additional discussion at a future meeting or work session.

Kurt then reviewed the intent and purpose of the master plan with the Board and explained that the District still needed to navigate through the PUD application and review process before anything is officially approved to be constructed. He shared that the PUD should include everything that the District has envisioned within the park, even though some of the improvements may not be pursued for quite some time.

V. Continued Business

 -May 2022 Election Coordination – Kurt submitted a pro statement for ballot issue 6 and this will be included with the ballots once they are mailed out. No statement against the ballot initiative has yet been received and Mike stated that he believed the deadline was this Friday. County will manage the mailing of all ballots as well as the counting / certification of the election results. Mike shared that he believed ballots would be mailed out on April 11th. He shared that Doug Severinsen and Roger Davis will be serving as logic accuracy testing representatives for the District and will perform the testing with the Elections staff on April 5th.

 -Project Updates – soccer fields getting worked on, will close the disc golf course to allow some regrowth and reseeding. PUD is still waiting on the traffic study. Will begin expansion of playground in Evans Park soon to add swings. That area of the park will be disturbed for a period during the project.

VI. New Business

 -Review Public Feedback from Casey Jones Master Plan Open House Events (2/22 & 3/11) – Mike had feedback paperwork from the meetings and shared file with Board. He stated that he would also email them a document with all of the feedback / comments.

VII. Legislative Matters

 -N/A

VIII. Report of Administrator and Staff

 -Budget Report – everything tracking well. We have about $1,042,518 in the bank to date. Mike shared that the 2021 audit is complete and that the District will need to do a budget amendment for the Enterprise Fund. He shared that utilities expenses had inadvertently been recorded to the Enterprise Fund instead of the General Fund, and this resulted in an over expenditure of about $43K within the Enterprise Fund. He shared that the Audit report will be presented to the Board at the April Board meeting.

 -Maintenance Report – normal maintenance duties. Snow removal, working on soccer fields. Men’s restroom heater at Evans was replaced.

 -Programs Report – basketball went well, good feedback on the season overall. Spring soccer has 208 kids registered. Baseball registration is open for another month. Adult Sports volleyball is winding down, had a great season. Kickball registration is opening up. Zumba and Yoga have started up. Spring break art classes are open registration. Youth theatre camp is returning for this summer with a production of The Frog Prince.

IX. Other Matters – talk to developers to see what sort of service plans they may be planning, and increase effort to have developers help fund park system needs and improvements.

X. Adjournment – Kurt makes a motion to adjourn at 9:20pm, Doug 2nds. All in favor.