



**OFFICE OF THE COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

**Saturday, August 13, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Sawmill Multicultural Art and Nature County Park**  
**703 E. Sawmill Rd., Flagstaff, Arizona 86001**  
**The meeting was held in-person for**  
**A Dedication Ceremony for Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta**

**Present:** Chair Patrice Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Matt Ryan, and Supervisor Judy Begay were present.

**Absent:** Supervisor Lena Fowler

**Also Present:** County Manager Steve Peru, Deputy County Manager Sue Brown, Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani, Deputy County Manager Andy Bertelsen, Assistant County Manager/Elections Director Eslir Musta, Chief Deputy County Attorney Ammon Baker, Parks and Recreation Director Cynthia Nemeth, Human Resources Director Erika Philpot, Finance Director Siri Mullaney, Assessor Armando Ruiz, Public Affairs Director Trey Williams, Executive Operations Manager Nicole Honanie, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Lindsay Daley.

Chair Patrice Horstman called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

County Manager Steve Peru introduced Elizabeth Archuleta and told a story about when he met her.

Father Matt Lowry, Chaplain with the Catholic Jacks at Northern Arizona University’s Newman Center, gave the Invocation.

Demitrius Archuleta Willis led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem.

Chair Patrice Horstman did a roll call of the Supervisors in which she, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Matt Ryan, and Supervisor Judy Begay were present and Supervisor Lena Fowler was absent.

Chair Patrice Horstman made a statement recognizing they are on indigenous lands.

### Discussion and Action Item:

1. For this dedication ceremony, various community members will speak regarding Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta’s service to community and her work over the years and the Board of Supervisors will take action to approve Resolution 2022-40, renaming the Sawmill County Park to the Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta County Park and proclaiming August 13, 2022 as Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta Day in Coconino County. (Ceremony program with speakers and timeline attached)

Chair Patrice Horstman provided some history about Elizabeth Archuleta’s family history in the community and her work in the community. She spoke about the Archuleta family being part of building Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Chair Horstman also spoke about Elizabeth Archuleta’s work as a student at Northern Arizona University with the first Spanish language radio show in Arizona. Chair Horstman spoke about Elizabeth Archuleta’s service as a County Supervisor for twenty-four years until she was recently recruited to work for the Biden Administration and her work to establish County diversity councils, her work with the County Supervisors Association, Northern Arizona Council of Governments, National Association of Counties, water issues and public land issues. Chair Horstman spoke about Elizabeth Archuleta’s work to promote awareness on issues related to developmental disabilities and diversity, equity and inclusion.

Chair Horstman explained that they are here today to rename the park after Elizabeth C. Archuleta to recognize her contributions to the community.

County Manager Steve Peru recognized County officials present.

Chair Horstman read a letter from Congressman Tom O’Halloran as well as a letter from Senator Kyrsten Sinema recognizing Elizabeth Archuleta’s service.

Coral Evans, Senator Mark Kelly’s Northern Arizona Regional Director presented a Certificate of Congressional Honor to Elizabeth Archuleta in recognition of decades of service on behalf of Senator Mark Kelly.

Former Summit Fire District Chief Don Howard spoke about his work experience with Elizabeth Archuleta. He spoke about working with Elizabeth Archuleta and the relationship they built during the fires that impacted the community and how she did everything she could to help residents, always working for the people and building a sense of community. He also spoke about Elizabeth’s character, courage and commitment and how the acknowledgements are well deserved and how the renaming of the park in her name is fitting and thanked Elizabeth for all she has done and all she is.

Deputy County Manager Lucinda Andreani spoke about Elizabeth “Liz” being a true visionary and transformative leader. She spoke about Liz’s work during the Schultz Fire and Flood, which impacted the district she represented as County Supervisor at the time. She spoke about Liz demonstrating the capacity to create a vision and her perseverance to manifest the vision and how it takes great risk to manifest a vision. She explained that Liz led by setting high

expectations and caring for those working along side of her. She spoke about Liz's natural ability to build strong teams and her deep caring and love of community. Deputy Manager Andreani also spoke about her experience moving to Flagstaff and how Liz and her family welcomed her and her family. She spoke about her appreciation for Liz.

Supervisor Matt Ryan spoke about his experience campaigning for his first campaign at the same time Liz was campaigning and how they worked together and won their elections. He spoke about Liz's parents and their value of family and advocating for those who are underserved and how Liz had those same values and it showed through her work. He spoke about Liz being a fighter and how she is a fighter. He spoke about her work for establishing the jail district, parks and open spaces, establishing the bus system and for the environment. He also shared how her work involved community and how it was always important for her to establish an understanding of those she worked with even if they didn't agree on issues. He spoke about Liz's heart and passion and how this renaming of the park of where people come together is so deserved. He shared how she always did her research and understood the needs of the community and that her family has always been with her in her work.

Mike Gallegos, Founding Member of the Sunnyside Neighborhood Association, spoke about his history in working with Liz on many projects that made a difference in the community. He spoke about Liz always having an attitude of "yes we can" and has always had a hands-on leadership style and the understanding that it takes a community to get things done. He spoke about how she built relationships going door to door, worked on mural projects, worked on grants, filling sandbags, registering people to vote, helping with youth activities and multicultural and religious events. He explained that Liz has a legacy of caring and that she has always cared and showed. He concluded by saying "yes we can Liz."

Kerry Blume, CEO Emeritus of United Way of Northern Arizona, spoke about the first day she met Liz at the museum courtyard and how she was drawn to her energy and heart. She said she thinks about the snippets and images that come to mind when she thinks of Liz and how one is of her talking to a resident that escaped the Schultz floods and how it was raining and the woman had just escaped the floodwaters with her daughter and Liz had tears down her eyes. She explained another memory is of her coming out of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and how she stopped to talk to a homeless man and ended up getting him a hotel voucher for the night. She spoke about Liz's work to ring services to the most vulnerable and her leadership during the COVID crisis that impacted families and community. She also spoke about seeing Liz at an event for women elected officials and how she made herself vulnerable to allow herself to be seen. Kerry spoke about how she gets these qualities from her parents.

Isabel Archuleta spoke about being Liz's mother and how proud she is of Liz and what she has accomplished and I grateful to be able to witness it. She spoke about how Liz is a problem solver, a fearless leader, a dedicated daughter.

Remigio "Archie" Archuleta spoke about making a living as an ice cream man and wanting to help Lizzie further her plans. He spoke about becoming known as Liz's dad in the community because of all the work she has done for the community. He spoke about his three kids making him proud and how he knew that Liz was a natural leader and advocate.

Ana Archuleta thanked everyone for being at the event. She introduced her partner, Dennis Baca. Ana spoke about being Liz's sister and how their parents instilled in them to be proud of who they are, not to forget where they came from, to be listeners and to take care of the less fortunate. Ana told a story about Liz helping an abandoned cat when they were kids and how she took charge to resolve the issue. She explained that Liz always challenged the status quo and offered new perspectives and had good listening skills. She explained that their parents raised them to have respect for others, help others, provide opportunities for kids and help those in need and how Liz has lived this through her work for the community.

Dennis Baca spoke about Liz being a superhero and how she is persuasive and will recruit people to help and be part of solutions. He explained that you can't shake hands with a closed fist and that is an example of how Liz works- with an open hand. Mr. Chavez also spoke about how Liz has been a mentor for his daughter and his appreciation for her mentoring his daughter.

Esteban Archuleta spoke about their family having deep roots and how family values were instilled in them at an early age and how their parents were involved in politics and the community and how their parents emphasized togetherness to make a community better. He explained that Liz is like a fairy godmother because she knows how to bring people together and is a natural born leader and she inspires people to do their best. He explained that she has been a strong Hispanic female leader and that no matter political backgrounds people have been drawn to Liz because she is a voice of the people. He also spoke about how Liz has sacrificed family time to give one hundred percent. He explained that he is proud to be Liz's brother and is proud of her accomplishments. He also thanked those who worked with her at the county and who were part of her team on her journey.

Feliz Baca spoke about how the Archuleta family has been her family and how Liz has been a mentor, friend, godmother, sister, daughter and incredible leader. Feliz spoke about the lessons she learned from Liz which included never forgetting where you came from, keeping roots strong and nourished, speaking up, be respectful, you can't do it alone, embrace culture and don't be afraid to share it.

Franklin Willis spoke about how he and Liz met while they were working at Northern Arizona University. He spoke about attending events with Liz and understanding her commitment to her work and passion for helping others and the community. He also spoke about when they had their son and told a story about them attending an event at the White House.

Elizabeth "Liz" Archuleta acknowledged friends and family present at the event and spoke about wanting to capture the image of the moment in her mind and think about all the good work they have done together. She thanked the Board of Supervisors for naming the park after her and thanked county staff, the event committee for the event, those who wrote letters, those who spoke and thanked them for honoring her. She explained how she is proud and grateful to be there and spoke about the five generations of family that have been in Flagstaff who once worked at the site of that park when it was a sawmill. She spoke about her family building Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and being first Hispanic business owners and explained that this honor has filled her heart with pride, love and gratitude. She also thanked the District two constituents that allowed her to carry out her dreams while serving 6 terms in office as a County

Supervisor. She spoke about the her accomplishments while serving as a County Supervisor including crisis response, protecting the environment, transit tax for the Mountain Lion bus system and expanding it to Northern Arizona University, promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, establishing the county diversity councils, establishing the Coconino Plateau Water Advisory Council, working through wildfires, working to keep the renewal of the Secure Rural Schools Act, justice reform, headstart program, community gardens, expansion of arts and culture and working with United Way of Northern Arizona. She acknowledged and thanked past County Supervisors and County Managers and her long time Assistant Theresa Thomas. She thanked her family and friends, county employees and community members. She spoke about the sacrifice of time with family to be able to do the work she did. She spoke about her love of being a County Supervisor and that it was a vocation. She thanked her husband Franklin Willis for his patience and understanding especially when they had their son Demetrius. She thanked her son Demetrius. She spoke about the park being a place where all are welcome and how it is a tribute to family and those who have supported her.

Chair Patrice Horstman explained that they will take turns among the Supervisors in reading parts of Resolution 2022-40, renaming the Sawmill County Park to the Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta County Park and proclaiming August 13, 2022 as Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta Day in Coconino County.

Chair Horstman, Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez, Supervisor Matt Ryan and Supervisor Judy Begay all read Resolution 2022-40.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-40**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE RENAMING OF SAWMILL COUNTY PARK TO THE ELIZABETH “LIZ” C. ARCHULETA COUNTY PARK AND PROCLAIMING AUGUST 13, 2022 AS ELIZABETH “LIZ” C. ARCHULETA DAY IN COCONINO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta, a fourth-generation resident of Flagstaff, AZ comes from one of the city’s Hispanic pioneer families and is granddaughter of the first Hispanic business owner; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta was the first Latina to serve on the County of Board of Supervisors and did so for 24 years representing District 2; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta served as Chair of the Board and led the County through the unprecedented challenges of the Schultz Fire and Flood, the Museum Fire and Flood Mitigation, and COVID-19 pandemic with tenacity, empathy, and strength; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta spearheaded the advancement of diversity and equity through the creation of the County’s Diversity Councils and the protection of public lands, water, forest restoration, and natural resources through creation of the Colorado Plateau Water Advisory Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta, a fierce advocate for health and human services, is recognized for her leadership in community having served as Chair of United Way of Northern Arizona and Flagstaff Symphony, on the Boards of Flagstaff Leadership Program, YMCA, and Arizona Cactus Pine Girl Scout Council, as Trustee of the Nature Conservancy, and by helping establish the Sunnyside, Southside and Plaza Vieja Neighborhood Associations; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta is recognized at the state and national level for her leadership roles on the County Supervisors Association of Arizona, the Arizona Association of Counties, the Governor’s Arizona Statewide Water Advisory Council, the Northern Arizona Council of Governments, the National Association of Counties, and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta’s leadership abilities were recognized by the Biden-Harris Administration who on February 2, 2021 appointed her U.S. Department of Agriculture Director in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs; and

**WHEREAS**, Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta was a significant contributor to the development of the Sawmill County Park, a multicultural art and nature park and thus it is fitting to recognize her many accomplishments and her tremendous commitment and dedication to Coconino County by renaming of Sawmill County Park to the Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta County Park.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, in consideration of the Board of Supervisors’ authority to name County owned parks, the Board hereby approves the renaming of Sawmill County Park as described herein.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Board hereby proclaims August 13, 2022 as Elizabeth “Liz” C. Archuleta Day in Coconino County.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 13th day of August 2022.

**Motion:** Approve Resolution 2022-40, **Action:** approve, **Moved by:** Supervisor Judy Begay, **Seconded by:** Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez. The motion passed unanimously. Supervisor Lena Fowler was absent for this vote.

County Manager Steve Peru presented Elizabeth Archuleta with a ceremonial gift.

Vice Chair Jeronimo Vasquez spoke about the mural that was painted at the park for Elizabeth Archuleta and the different aspects of it and he recognized Liz’s family.

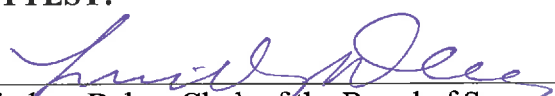
County Manager Steve Peru introduced Moran Henn the Executive Director of Willowbend Environmental Education Center and she spoke briefly about Willowbend which is located at the site.

County Manager Steve Peru welcomed all to the activities for the afternoon.

Chair Patrice Horstman adjourned the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

**COCONINO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

  
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Patrice Horstman, Chair

**ATTEST:**  
  
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Lindsay Daley, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

