

June 27, 2022

El Paso County Planning and Community Development
2880 International Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80910

RE: Letter of Intent – Site Development Plan (SDP) for Rural Destination Brewery at
6550 Chief Road, Peyton, CO 80831
Parcel No. 4307004005
Lot 19 Arrowhead Estates Fil No 1
Owners: Joseph Prue & Stephanie McDiarmid
719 360-2320 & 805 478-1889
jprue@gmail.com & kb6sns@aol.com

Joseph Prue and Stephanie McDiarmid own the property at the referenced address. This property consists of 13.4 acres, is zoned A-5 (Agricultural) and has an approved Variance of Use (VA-221) for light manufacturing and restaurant. We respectfully request your approval of our Site Development Plan to allow us to establish a rural Destination Brewery/Tasting Room on the property.

The structures existing on the site are listed on the site map; there is a new driveway providing access to the property from Chief Road. This driveway access is 880' from the intersection of Chief Rd and Falcon Hwy. The previous driveway access from Falcon Hwy will be permanently closed. These structures lie within the 13.4-acre parcel. We intend to use the property as our primary residence, a .5-acre agricultural hops and vegetable garden, and with our recently approved Variance of Use (VA-221), a rural Destination Brewery/Tasting Room.

Per El Paso County Use and Dimensional Standards Section 5.3.4c the following criteria were considered for approving the Variance of Use (VA-221):

1. The strict application of any of the provisions of this code would result in peculiar and exceptional practical difficulties or undue hardship.
2. The proposed use is compatible with the surrounding area, harmonious with the character of the neighborhood, not detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the area and county.
3. The proposed use will be able to meet air, water odor or noise standards established by county, state or federal regulations during construction and upon completion of the project.
4. The proposed use will comply with all applicable requirements of this code and all applicable county, state and federal regulations.
5. The proposed use will not adversely affect wildlife or wetlands.
6. The applicant has addressed all off-site impacts.

7. The site plan for the proposed variance of use will provide for adequate parking, traffic circulation, open space, fencing, screening and landscaping; and/or El Paso County, Colorado Land Development Code Use and Dimensional Standards.
8. Sewer, water, storm water drainage fire protection, and roads will be available and adequate to serve the needs of the proposed variance of use as designated and existing.
9. The proposed use will not adversely affect the El Paso County Master Plan, including the Master Water Plan, Major Transportation Corridor Plan, and the Parks Plan.

These criteria are addressed as follows:

1. A rural Destination Brewery/Tasting Room differs from a typical Urban Brewery in that an Urban Brewery is focused on maximizing craft beer sales and access to customers in densely populated areas (i.e., city centers) with a high rate of traffic. A rural Destination Brewery/Tasting room, by contrast, is focused on providing customers with a unique opportunity to sample craft beer while appreciating the local rural landscape. Furthermore, our project will take it one step further and provide customers with an opportunity to further understand the craft brewing process by being exposed to the hops growing process and other fermentable ingredients (1/2-acre hops/vegetable garden).

This parcel is located within the Colorado Enterprise Zone—designated to promote a business-friendly environment in economically distressed areas and incentivizes businesses to locate and develop in these communities. It is our belief that this property will be an ideal business-friendly environment as the Pikes Peak Region's first true rural Destination Brewery/Tasting Room. Without the previously approved Variance of Use, the property would be underutilized, and limited in the ability to establish a thriving business in a Colorado Enterprise Zone while providing a rural ambiance and educational experience to the local community.

2. The planned use is compatible with the surrounding area, is harmonious with the character of the setting and situation, and is not detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants of the area and county. The operation of the Destination Brewery/Tasting Room will not generate any type of emissions or excessive light or noise. Normal business hours will be observed and access in and out of the site will be via Chief Road consistent with use as a rural collector road.

Supporting the County Master Plan: As indicated on the Areas of Change map, this area is expected to create new development. As a Large-Lot Residential placetype, this property conforms with the established primary and supporting land uses categories. Primary land use focuses on Single-Family Detached Residential (typically 2.5-acre lots or larger) and Supporting land uses includes Commercial Retail (limited), Commercial Services (limited) and Agriculture. As mentioned earlier, our 13.4-acre lot will be our primary residence, the Destination

Brewery/Tasting room would be our Commercial Retail and the Hops Farm would be our Agriculture land use designations.

3. There will not be any activities within or around the venue that would result in air, water, odor or noise contamination. Any noise from within or around the venue will meet standards established by the county, state and federal regulations.
4. This planned use will comply with all applicable requirements of this code and all applicable county, state and federal regulations.
5. The plan use will not adversely affect wildlife or wetlands. The Destination Brewery/Tasting Room will be on our property; which is inclusive of 13.4 acres and has no designated wetlands. We will ensure that all trash and debris associated with the Destination Brewery/Tasting Room will be collected and disposed of properly as this property is also our primary residence.
6. Off-site impacts are addressed with the use of fencing and screening on the property and is detailed in subsequent paragraphs below. Our intent is for the Destination Brewery/Tasting Room to be harmonious with the surrounding area. The nearest residential house is more than 600 ft from the Destination Brewery/Tasting Room. Any additional off-site impacts will be addressed in accordance with existing codes and regulations.
7. Site Plan: the proposed Brewery/Tasting Room will be a 2700 sq/ft building.
 - a. Parking: The site plan drawing includes adequate parking and traffic circulation. Parking will be based on an estimated 800 sf of seating space with a maximum 60 seats, thus requiring at a minimum 1 parking space for every 3 seats in the seating space. Therefore, our parking lot will provide a minimum of 20 (rock or gravel) regular parking, 2 employee parking, and 2 (asphalt or paved) ADA parking spaces to accommodate the facility's needs per the Department of Justice's Americans with Disabilities Act and the El Paso County Colorado Land Development Code Chapter 6.
 - b. Traffic: Drexel Barrell & Co. submitted a traffic impact memorandum pursuant to the El Paso County Engineering Criteria Manual. Our intent is to construct an access driveway to the Destination Brewery/Tasting Room from Chief Rd in order to minimize any impacts to Falcon Highway traffic. The existing dirt/gravel access to the property from Falcon Highway will be blocked off and rendered non-accessible.

According to the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Trip Generation Manual, the Destination Brewery/Tasting Room will generate 11.34 trips per pm peak hours per thousand square feet of the establishment.

- c. Fencing: Current fencing exists on all borders of the property (see SDP Site Plan Drawing). In proximity to the Brewery/Tasting Room area, a 3-foot-tall wooden split-rail fence will be installed along the western boundary for 150 feet. A 6-foot-tall wooden picket fence will be installed on the northern boundary of the parking area starting at the western edge of the driveway access and running 200 feet to the west. A 3-foot-tall wooden split-rail fence will also be installed along the east boundary of the property starting at the southern edge of the driveway access and running south for 150 feet. (please see attached Site Plan for detailed placement). All refuse equipment will also be screened with 6-foot-tall masonry enclosure and metal gate.
- d. Screening: A combination of deciduous shrubs and evergreen shrubs will be planted as screening/buffering in parallel with the split-rail fence along the west PL for 150 feet in accordance with the El Paso Landscape and Water Conservation Manual section 1.3.3. (A). Both the fence and the row of shrubs will be installed on an existing 3-foot-tall berm to provide adequate screening/buffering from Chief Rd.
- e. Landscaping: A combination of deciduous shrubs and evergreen shrubs will be planted as described in the above section 7.d. "Screening". Additionally, 2' tall Prairie Sky Switchgrass will be planted along the southern edge of the parking area. St. Mary's Broom evergreen shrubs will be planted in a 3-foot-wide gravel bed surrounding the perimeter of the brewery/tasting room. The remainder of the property will remain landscaped with existing native grass.

As mentioned in criteria paragraph 1. of this LOI, one of the attractive features of this project is to provide customers an opportunity to view and appreciate the rural surrounding landscape, therefore, a landscape relief request has been submitted to avoid further obscuring views of the rural surrounding landscape on the south property line (675' set back from the brewery/tasting room) and the west property line (388' set back from the brewery/tasting room). Any additional landscaping along these two property lines will hamper views of the countryside and Pikes Peak.

- 8. Wastewater: We will be installing a commercial-grade OWTS (designed by a Colorado Registered Professional Engineer) in conjunction with the construction of the Brewery/Tasting Room that will accommodate wastewater demands.

Water: Our existing well (permit #85704) is currently permitted for domestic; irrigation of lawn, garden, and green house; agricultural; commercial; replacement; firefighting; the watering of domestic animals and livestock; and fish and wildlife. We were awarded water rights associated with the property by the Colorado

Division of Water Resources and will have adequate water to accommodate our desired uses for the property—to include the intended use in accordance with the Variance of Use.

Electricity: There is an existing electrical easement on the property (depicted in the site plan drawing). This easement is active and currently supplies power to the property. The easement is for an above-ground power line and runs east to west diagonally across the property. The easement is 20 ft wide centered on the power lines. There will be no building of any permanent structures in this easement.

Storm water drainage: The total acreage for the residential house, brewery and hops/vegetable garden does not disrupt an area greater than 1 acre and therefore a storm water drainage plan/permit is not required. However, we will comply with all storm water drainage regulations that pertain to projects less than 1 acre in size.

First responders: Will have clear access to the property and existing structures on the property. Likewise, the Destination Brewery/Tasting Room will comply with all fire protection codes and regulations.

9. Master Plan: This Variance of Use is consistent with the El Paso County Master Plan, including the Water Master Plan, Major Transportation Corridor Plan, and the Parks Plan. This proposal supports the county's vision of economic growth and land use while maintaining good stewardship of the environment.

- a. Water Master Plan: The El Paso Water Master Plan (February 2019) stresses the importance of understanding water supply and the need for water conservation. The plan highlights the need to *"ensure an adequate water supply in terms of quantity, dependability and quality for existing and future development."*

This Variance of Use has no adverse impacts on the county's Water Master Plan. In fact, this parcel of land has an existing well and will include the installation of septic systems to maximize water reclamation. A water meter will be installed on the well to track water use and provide data on methods to minimize water usage. Likewise, water reuse will be used throughout all phases of operation on the property to maximize efficient water use. Water is the central element of the brewing process and its conservation is critical in the future success of this project.

- b. Major Transportation Corridor Plan: According to *El Paso County Major Transportation Corridor Plan Update (2016) Chapter 4*; there are no plans affecting Chief Rd.

The Variance of Use for this parcel of land requires a driveway access permit from Chief Rd (gravel road) in order to access the property. An access permit has been applied for, approved, and will be completed in compliance with county code and regulations. This Variance of Use has no adverse impacts to the El Paso Major Transportation Corridor Plan.

- c. Parks Plan: Falcon Regional Park (*February 2015*) is 215-acre parcel of land located in the Falcon/Peyton area of El Paso County, Colorado. The park is bordered by the Trails Subdivision to the north, Eastonville Road to the east, the Meridian Ranch Development to the west, and is north of the District 49 Falcon High School. The intent of the Falcon Regional Park Master Plan is to establish a vision for development of the park in its entirety, identifying all of the park facilities and amenities that will ultimately be constructed.

This Variance of Use for this parcel of land is located neither in the vicinity of nor within the above-described boundaries of the Falcon Regional Park. This Variance of Use will have no adverse impacts to the Falcon Park Regional Master Plan.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact us with any questions. We look forward to an approval of our Site Development Plan for this Variance of Use.



Joseph Prue & Stephanie McDiarmid
Owners
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