

MINUTES
A. REGULAR MEETING OF THE
MONTE RIO RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, May 10, 2021, at 6:00 pm
Virtual Meeting

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Board Chair Steve Baxman.

2. **Roll Call and Approval of Agenda and Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Present: Directors Steve Baxman, Jean Sasso, Marina McTaggart, Paul DuBray and Linda Santa Cruz; Administrator/Board Clerk Sherry Pimsler; Brian Grant and Stephanie Felch of PRAXIS Architects.

Jean moved and Linda seconded approval of this evening’s agenda and minutes of March 8, 2021.

3. **Public Comment** – None.

4. **Old Business** – None

5. **New Business** – None

6. **Reports & Information**

A. **Board Reports** – No reports.

B. **Staff Reports**

Sherry brought attention to Brenda Adelman’s latest email including the Russian River Watershed Association’s recent column on water conservation. She will send it to a few members who requested it.

C. **Budget Committee** – Sherry reported that the County announced a change in their methodology for calculating redevelopment pass-through residuals. This will translate to an overall annual increase of around \$11,000 in MRRPD’s residual increment. This is because MRRPD negotiated redevelopment pass-through payments with the redevelopment agencies prior to their dissolution in 2011 or 2012.

D. **Facilities/Safety Committee** – Minutes from the May 4th meeting were distributed.

Reports

- Sherry is looking into costs for appraisal of MRRPD property.
- Marina applied for a Leadership Foundation Technology Grant for digital hardware and software.
- CSDA lobbied and succeeded in removing special districts from a proposed amendment (AB 339) that requires in-person, over-the-phone and online options for the public to attend public meetings. Instructions for joining must be in the two most spoken languages in the area other than English, and agendas upon request in the language of choice. In any case, staff is looking into options to provide hybrid meetings without investing in something like Granicus (\$15,000).

Agreements:

- F&W operating agreement: Brian Shelton (F&W) was notified that we are not interested in pursuing a Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant to cover broader

needs, but would like to pursue restroom door replacements per the existing agreement. Brian is seeking bids from two local fabricators.

- Creekside OSWTS operating agreement: Still waiting to hear back from attorney. A new phone line is being installed at the firehouse to give McCollum remote access to that part of the system. Brian noted that usage has increased from 150-200 gpd to 450, which may account for the need to pump more often.
- Lightwave lease: Proposed amendment was distributed. Utility costs will require small rent increase.

Vegetation Management Grants were discussed. (Roberto Esteves, President of Friends of Villa Grande, joined the conversation)

- Both PG&E and CalFire funding sources call for a CEQA review so it will be a minimum of two years before any controlled burn can take place. Steve said it costs the Grove \$3200/day for a crew to cover 1 to 4 acres.
- Only shovel-ready projects will be considered with this call for applications.
- The grants do not include funding for planning.
- Roberto is submitting an application on behalf of Villa Grande for PG&E grant funding. He has identified areas that need clearing and is also asking for funding to purchase needed tools. As for CEQA, he believes they will qualify for a negative declaration.
- Monte Rio is focusing on collaboration with the Bohemian Corridor coalition (Safer West County and Fire Safe Sonoma), who are applying for defensible space funding and clearing along Bohemian Highway (underbrush and limbing 6' up).
- In addition to Roberto, Ed Fortner at Sweetwater Springs Water District, which owns the property across from Creekside Park, wants to be kept in the loop.
- There are some areas on MRRPD property that should be cleared, including the vegetation between the beach and theater property.

Spring Set-Up

- The Beach has been graded and trailers placed.
- Leslie and John replaced the A/C in the boat rental trailer with a used unit.
- Power pole: Stephanie pulled the permit; John constructed the platform; there was a difficult inspection process but all ended well. The PG&E contact indicated that they want the old pole replaced at some point.
- Brocco's is scheduled to treat the Beach parking lot on the afternoon of June 2.
- Concession job openings have been posted; MRRPD manned a booth at the job fair.
- Cary and Sally Sorenson have signed MRRPD's (independent contractor) agreement and will begin this Saturday morning. Leslie will meet them to provide orientation.
- Pamela helped Leslie order T-shirts for the Beach crew.
- Vaccinations are available for new employees; those not yet vaccinated will be strongly encouraged.
- Kevin Doble sent notifications to regulatory agencies for the Annual Beach Permit.
- Steve said there will be no fireworks display or Big Rocky Games this year. Steve will contact the pyrotechnician regarding a refund. The Grove's activities are curtailed this year, the RR Rodeo is cancelled and none of the fire districts are hosting their annual barbecues.
- Sherry has looked into aerators and will report back.

Grant Updates

- Brian reported on the latest solar panel estimate for the Community Center. Since the District is a non-tax-paying entity, it is not eligible for tax credits, so the cost will be more than the original estimate. Although Solar Works recommended replacing half the roof before installation, Sylvester of Matlock Roofing didn't concur. If the roof is not replaced, the cost will be approximately \$60,000; paid for through the Per Capita Grant and the \$15,000 MAC grant match. Sherry will re-send an email to Elise requesting an extension to the MAC grant deadline.
- Use of the remaining Per Capita funds is still under discussion. Brian presented a drawing of skate bowl amenities proposed by local skate boarders. Sherry asked for further consideration of solar panels at Creekside where PG&E bills are now in the \$700/mo. range when in full use. Regardless, another match will be required.

Trails

- Regional Parks plans to open up some of the old trails on the new acquisition.

Safety

- Steve noted that we can't accommodate CalFire's request to use our MRCC parking lot as a staging area because our septic system is not sufficient.
- He added that there are two white vans in the area whose owners have vicious dogs that have attacked some people.

E. Personnel Committee – No report.

F. Marketing & Public Outreach Committee – No report.

G. CWA (Creekside Wastewater Authority at Creekside Park) – No further report.

7. Correspondence – None

8. Action Items – None

9. Review Monthly Accounts Payable: The P&L report for March reflected \$14,718.09 in expenses during April.

10. Next Meeting/Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm. The next Board meeting will take place on June 14, 2021 at 6 pm.