

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

Monday, June 14, 2021, at 6:00 pm
Monte Rio Community Center

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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 and Paul DuBray;
Administrator/Board Clerk Sherry Pimsler and Park Supervisor Leslie Hofelich; Brian Grant
and Stephanie Felch of PRAXIS Architects. Absent: Director Linda Santa Cruz.

Marina moved and Paul seconded approval of this evening’s agenda and minutes of May 10, 2021.

3. Public Comment – None.

4. Old Business – None

5. New Business –

A. Approve Appropriations Limit Calculations for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year:

The Appropriations Limit calculation of \$382,256.34, is based on the County’s calculations.

B. Approve a Preliminary Budget for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year:

Beach revenue is projected at the same level as last FY, as well as Beach payroll. Facilities Rentals are set at a FY 18/19 level of \$30,000. Beach pay rates have increased to \$15/hr for boat runners, \$19.50/hr for managers; Park Supervisor, Events Director and Bookkeeper rates have been raised to \$22/hr and Administrator to a pre-approved rate of \$25/hr. Sherry explained the RDA residuals: \$153,056.19 is the increment of MRRP’s property tax that goes to the RDA, out of which the RPTTF residual and passthroughs come back to the District, once the RDA has taken out the District’s obligation. This translates to \$10,732 in RDA obligation for the coming fiscal year.

C. Expenditure of Additional Per Capita Grant Funding:

Use of the remaining Per Capita funds is still under discussion. Brian and Stephanie presented a proposal for improvements to the Skate Park, supported by survey responses from local users. Also under consideration are solar panels at Creekside where PG&E bills are now in the \$600-\$700/mo. range (around \$8,000 annually). Solar Works has estimated \$58,000 for that installation and the roof has just been replaced. Either way, another match would be required and the skateboarders are prepared to fundraise for their proposal.

D. Proposal to Prepare an Assessment of the Economic Impact of the Monte Rio Bridge Replacement Project on Monte Rio Businesses:

BAE Urban Economics has submitted a proposal and scope to prepare an assessment of the economic impact of the bridge replacement on local businesses. Sherry will contact Lynda Hopkins’ office to see if funding might be available to support their \$15,000 fee. Steve suggested looking into TOT.

Steve called for a motion to approve the expenditure of \$15,000 to engage BAE; Marina moved and Paul seconded to approve. All present in favor: Baxman, Sasso, McTaggart and DuBray. Absent: Santa Cruz.

6. Reports & Information

A. Board Reports –

- Marina announced that the Monte Rio Chamber is hoping to hand off the Big Rocky Games and Boat Parade 4th of July festivities to another organization. Also, the Monte Rio Chamber applied for a County grant to put wreaths with bows and solar lights on the bridge, but the grant was not funded. Marina plans to reapply in the new fiscal year or seek alternative funding.

B. Staff Reports

- Sherry said that the Governor, who is expected to terminate the Executive Order allowing state and local agencies to hold virtual meetings, announced that it will not be suspended at this time in order to allow agencies the necessary time to meet statutory and logistical requirements. Once the order has been suspended, the physical presence of Board members will be required. She is looking into options for holding hybrid meetings, where the public will still be allowed to participate virtually. An organization called Open Media can assist free of charge. MRRPD Board members were in favor of further exploration.
- Leslie reported that a paddle board was stolen.
- She will get estimates on termite treatment of the Community Center

C. Budget Committee – Marina said the committee had met and recommended approval of the Preliminary Budget and Appropriations Limit.

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

- Steve is looking into a waterfall during that weekend, cycling water from the river.
- Food vendors have been cancelled.
- Media will be informed of cancellation. Signs have been posted.
- Leslie has order the 20 yd. dumpster and placed additional recycle containers.
- The Sorensons are being paid double for holiday weekends. They have suggested more vigilance about alcohol; glass bottles make hauling difficult.
- A parking lot attendant with clicker will hand out garbage bags to cars as they enter, which will help with the overflow garbage collection.
- The Meadow will be barricaded to cars.
- Since MRRPD will still be bearing the brunt of crowds, garbage and maintenance, they are asking for support – financial or volunteer – from both the MRFPD Foundation and MR Chamber.
- Staff is working on installation of a touchless POS terminal in the Snack Shack.

Grant Updates

- Brian, Steve and Sherry met with Deborah Waller, Senior Environmental Specialist, Planning Division, Natural Resources, to inform her of proposed plans for a campground, as part of the River Trails Project, situated in Christmas Tree Lot at the southern anchorage, where a neighborhood trail leading from Creekside Park would terminate. The County is interested in planned usage of that area once the MR Bridge is relocated. They also presented a drawing envisioning an elevated park space as possible use of a portion of the old bridge that may remain after demolition.

- Per Capita Grant: (Refer to New Business item C regarding additional funds.)
The County has granted an extension for the MAC grant, which will serve as a match for the Community Center solar panels, estimated at \$51,000, not including roof replacement, which the committee recommends. Current PG&E bills are averaging around \$7,000/yr. With panels, annual cost is estimated at \$375. Purchase of a generator will be a separate expense, not necessarily grant-related.
- Vegetation Management Grant: No report

Safety

- Steve said there have already been fires at local homeless encampments.

E. Personnel Committee – No report.

F. Marketing & Public Outreach Committee – The Marketing Committee met to discuss the District’s presence on social media. Marina is working with Pamela to improve our Facebook page.

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

7. Correspondence –

- A.** Letter from MRRPD to the State Water Resources Control Board appealing Sonoma County Water Agency’s request for a low flow reduction to 35 cfs minimum.
- B.** Letter to Governor Newsom requesting inclusion of the Legislature’s proposal of \$100M in the final budget for one-time relief funding for special districts, due to pandemic losses.

8. Action Items –

- A.** Resolution 000439 Approving the Appropriations Limit Calculations for FY 2021-2022: Introduced by Chair Steve Baxman; moved for adoption by Jean Sasso; seconded by Marina McTaggart. Approved unanimously by Baxman, Sasso, McTaggart and DuBray, with one absence, Santa Cruz.
- B.** Resolution 000440 Approving a Preliminary Budget for FY 2021-2022: Introduced by Chair Steve Baxman; moved for adoption by Jean Sasso; seconded by Paul DuBray. Approved unanimously by Baxman, Sasso, McTaggart and DuBray, with one absence, Santa Cruz.

9. Review Monthly Accounts Payable: The P&L report for May reflected \$11,253.56 in expenses.

10. Next Meeting/Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm. The next Board meeting will take place on July 12, 2021 at 6 pm.