

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

**Monday, July 12, 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, Paul DuBray and Linda Santa Cruz; Administrator/Board Clerk Sherry Pimsler and Park Supervisor Leslie Hofelich; Brian Grant of PRAXIS Architects.

Marina moved and Paul seconded approval of this evening's agenda and minutes of June 14, 2021.

- 3. Public Comment** – Edward Halsey Brochu of Monte Rio, who gardens in the Triangle, asked the District if there might be space on MRRPD property to place a 5'x10' shed for his tools. Steve said he look into it.

4. Old Business –

- A. Expenditure of Additional Per Capita Grant Funding:** A group of skate boarders from Creekside Park attended to ask the Board to consider spending a portion of the Per Capita Grant on improvements to the Creekside skate park pool. Milo, a martial arts student who uses the park every day raised safety concerns, particularly a rail that is posing some risk. John Shaw, high school teacher from Villa Grande said that the park is a lifeline for some students who are part of a youth program in the area. Programs at the park, such as the community garden were cited as inspiration for them. Odom Hofelich also spoke. The group as a whole asked for consideration, saying that they were willing to fundraise and that donations are being sought. The Board thanked the group for attending and said they would give serious consideration to their requests.

Sherry presented a spreadsheet to show how the grant could be spent down. The Board expressed approval of solar panel installation at both the Community Center and Creekside Park, which will result in a remaining grant balance of around \$65,000 if the partial roof replacement at the Community Center and the generator are included. It was generally agreed that at least the safety concerns should be addressed at the skate park for now, and that the District will remain responsive to funding further improvements. Costs will be gathered for components that can make up incremental skate park improvements, and costs will also be gathered for a possible project to replace and upgrade Community Center equipment, such as the A/V system, kitchen dishwasher/sterilizer, ice machine and possibly a gate and security camera for the shed enclosure in order to store an ADA ATV for the Beach. Decisions on projects for the remaining balance are still to be made.

5. New Business –

- A. Resolution Requesting Consolidation with the November 2, 2021 Election:** This resolution is a request to consolidate the District's election for two positions that will expire in 2025 with the County's general election.
- B. Resolution Approving a Final Budget for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year:** Sherry explained that the only changes to the preliminary budget approved at the June meeting were to lower the revenue projections for both the Beach and Facilities Rental, and to transfer \$150,000 from

the District's operating account into the FY 21/22 budget in order to fund BAE's economic impact assessment and Per Capita Grant matches.

- C. Resolution Approving the FY 2019-2020 Audit: Sherry explained the two findings as 1) one that appears annually because the District is too small to adequately segregate accounting duties; and 2) a reminder to Sherry that, in addition to the resolution itself, the Brown Act requires that Board minutes must list by name who votes affirmatively, who abstains and who is absent. The District's Accounting Consultant Craig Collins has reviewed.

6. Reports & Information

A. Board Reports – None

B. Staff Reports

- Sherry said California special districts are still waiting for the Governor to sign the Legislature's version of the FY 21/2 Budget that includes \$100M pandemic relief for special districts. Once signed, relief for revenue losses can be distributed according to a defined calculation that will date each district's losses back to January of 2019. In addition to relief for facilities rental losses, the Districts may be able to claim additional pay for essential workers during the pandemic.
- Craig Collins has recommended that the District develop a resolution defining its reserve policy for capital improvement expenditures, as well as ongoing reserves such as the five-year Beach Permit and an upcoming revision of the District's Master Plan.

C. Budget Committee – Refer to item 5B.

D. Facilities/Safety Committee –

- Two families reported leeches on their childrens' legs after wading in the river. Also, a new aquatic plant called Azolla has been covering the surface of the water. Sherry contacted the RiverKeeper to see if more information is available on both species and before any attempt is made to skim the plant off the surface. An aquatic biologist responded to say they had found a leech in Healdsburg and that it was not the kind that sucks blood, but rather one that feeds on bugs in the gravel, and its presence is probably due to warm water because of low flow. He said it would be fine to skim the Azolla off the surface, but it will probably need repeated passes, as it reproduces quickly.
- Leslie presented three bids for tented termite treatment of the Community Center and recommended Hitmen. Committee approved. A date will be scheduled.
- **Review of the July 4th Weekend**
 - The District is fortunate to have a great beach crew this year, especially Events Director Pamela Johnson, who has been serving in two roles.
 - We received unexpected help from a local resident who has been collecting garbage off the beach as part of community service.
 - \$1,120 in donations was collected at the parking lot entrance over the weekend of the 4th. Control of the lots was successful, but it caused traffic to back up on 116. If we use Christmas Tree Lot in the future for excess cars, it will require oil treatment.
 - Leslie said the port-o-potties were serviced promptly by Honey Bucket.
- **Bridge Replacement:**
 - Brian provided Deborah Waller, Senior Environmental Specialist, with plans of a proposed campground at the existing southern anchorage (part of the River Trails Project).
 - BAE Urban Economics re impacts: Brian, Stephanie, Steve, Marina and Sherry will attend a kick-off meeting on July 13th. Brian and Sherry have both contacted Lynda Hopkins' office to see if there might be support for engaging local businesses and possible sources of funding to cover BAE's \$15,000 fee.

- **Grant Updates - Per Capital Grant:** Brian announced that we have a deadline of December 31, 2021 for applications, so we need to move forward with solar projects and decide on the remaining funds. Operating funds can cover matches if need be.
- **Trails Projects Update:**
 - Sweetwater Property: Regional Parks and SCAOSD are in discussions to move forward on funding the acquisition. The cost for appraisal of the property – to which MRRPD is committed– will probably double because there may be old growth on the property, requiring additional assessments.
- **Flood Impact Update:** No report. Still waiting on closeout with FEMA.
- **Review of Flood/Emergency Preparedness:** Brian met with a local person who can fabricate the needed parts for the Community Center flood gates.
- **Safety Committee Report:**
 - Steve reported that there will be two encampments at the Grove this year in order to hold the numbers down because of COVID-19. (Not on MRRPD property.)
 - Over the weekend of the 4th, a woman broke her leg at the rope swing up-river and had to be hauled out at MR Beach. (Did not occur on MRRPD property.)

E. Personnel Committee – Administrator’s position has been posted.

F. Marketing & Public Outreach Committee – Marina has created a new MRRPD Facebook page.

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

7. Correspondence –

8. Action Items –

- A. Resolution 000441 Requesting Consolidation with the November 2, 2021 Election: Introduced by Chair Baxman; moved by Director Santa Cruz; seconded by Director Marina McTaggart. Five aye votes: Baxman, Sasso, McTaggart, DuBray, Santa Cruz.
- B. Resolution 000442 Approving a Final Budget for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year: Introduced by Chair Baxman; moved by Director DuBray; seconded by Director Santa Cruz. Five aye votes: Baxman, Sasso, McTaggart, DuBray, Santa Cruz.
- C. Resolution 000443 Approving the FY2019-2020 Financial Statements: Introduced by Chair Baxman; moved by Director McTaggart; seconded by Director Santa Cruz. Five aye votes: Baxman, Sasso, McTaggart, DuBray, 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 7:02 pm. The next Board meeting will take place on August 9, 2021 at 6 pm.