

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

**July 14, 2025, at 5:00 pm
20488 Hwy 116, Monte Rio, CA 95462**

- 1. Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Board Chair Steve Baxman.

- 2. Roll Call and Approval of Today’s Agenda and Minutes from June 9, 2025**
Present: Directors Steve Baxman, David Gatlin, Brooke Maury, Allison Baumhefner, Jean Sasso, Administrator Marina McTaggart, Park Supv. Leslie Hofelich, Fran Levy - Friends of Monte Rio and Brian Grant – Praxis Architects.

Brooke moved, second by David, approval of this agenda and minutes from June 9. All were in favor.

- 3. Public Comment** – Brian commented that the water quality at Monte Rio Beach has been much better this year and that it may be because the Russian River Park & Recreation District has not been able to install the summer dam at Vacation Beach as in past years. He suggested the Board consider drafting a letter to the RRRPD informing them of the difference in water quality when the dam is not in place and of the impact it has on Monte Rio Beach.
Fran spoke about the success of the water safety classes sponsored by the YMCA and FoMR which were held at the end of June and the possibility of having weekend classes for adults next summer

- 4. Old Business – None**

- 5. New Business-**
 - A. Resolution 483 – approving FY 25/26 Final Budget**

- 6. Reports and Information**
 - A. Board Reports - none**

 - B. Staff Reports**
 - Leslie reported that the District has acquired a pedal boat and 5 more double kayaks as additions to the current boat inventory. New inflatable paddleboards have also been purchased. The beach wheelchair has been well received with increasing inquiries and requests for rental (at no charge). There will be an inspection of the beach snack on July 18.

- There continue to be issues with the community member who occupies a rental at the beginning of the MRRPD driveway and his collection of belongings that encroach on MRRPD property. He has begun verbally abusing Park District staff without any reason and is becoming more belligerent and defiant when asked to remove his belongings from MRRPD property. Marina stated that she has received a written complaint and several phone calls regarding this issue. The Sheriff is aware of the situation but has not taken any action. Sending a letter to the property owner was discussed. Marina will follow up.
- Marina reported that she hand delivered the \$200,000 check to the County Treasurer's office for deposit into the MRRPD Sonoma County investment fund account.

C. Budget Committee – None

D. Facilities/Safety Committee –

- See draft minutes from 7-9-25 attached
- Steve reported that there was a drowning at Monte Rio Beach on July 13 and later that afternoon there was another drowning at Martinelli Beach followed by a drowning at Lake Sonoma on July 15. MRRPD will increase beach signage urging the use of life jackets and will install a free life vest rack on the opposite side of the beach from the boat rental trailer.

E. Personnel Committee – none

F. Marketing and Public Outreach – see draft minutes from 6-26-25 attached

7. Correspondence – None

- 8. Action Items** – *A motion will be made and seconded for each item followed by Board discussion. The item will then be opened for public discussion. Public comment will then close. Final discussion of the item by the Board will take place with no public interruption. The Board will then vote*

Resolution 483 – approving FY 25/26 Final Budget

Motion to approve by Brooke, second by David. Roll call vote – Steve Baxman; aye, Jean Sasso; aye, Allison Baumhefner; aye, David Gatlin; aye, Brooke Maury; aye.

- 9. Review Monthly Accounts Payable:** The P&L report reflected June expenses of \$67,082.90

- 10. Next Meeting/Adjournment** – Meeting was adjourned at 5:41pm. Next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2025 at 5:00 pm.

FACILITIES AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING (in person)
Wednesday July 9, 2025 @ 8:30am

1. Call to Order – 8:30am

2. Roll Call and Approval of Today’s Agenda and Minutes of June 4, 2025

Present: Board members Steve Baxman, Jean Sasso, Administrator Marina McTaggart; Park Supv., Leslie Hofelich, Maintenance and Landscape Asst., Nick Thayer, PRAXIS Architects consultants Brian Grant and Stephanie Felch

Approval of agenda and minutes of June 4, 2025. Jean moved to approve both the agenda and minutes, second by Leslie- all in favor

3. Public Comment-None

4. Reports and Information

Leslie and Nick

- The two tank hot water heater at the Community Center has been replaced with one larger unit and is now functioning with almost instant hot water. The County has signed off on the inspection.
- Nick has been working on Mondays and Tuesdays at Creekside to help maintain the planted areas. The volunteer previously working in those areas has moved out of Monte Rio. New irrigation is being installed and the bamboo is being trimmed. Creekside is also the cleanup site for the Community Workday scheduled for July 12.
- The dumping of personal household garbage into our collection bins continues to be an issue and increases MRRPD’s Recology bills.
- Vandalism continues to be a problem. The walls at the Community Center public restrooms had to be repainted recently due to a large amount of purple paint graffiti that could not be removed by pressure washing.
- Nick is researching getting estimates for the use of goats in targeted grazing of larger blackberry and poison oak patches in the Christmas tree located at the top of River Blvd. A total clean up of the lot was discussed.

Marina

- Marina shared a FB post from Sonoma County Regional Parks. They have installed a sign stating ‘leave no trace’ along with buckets and trash grabbers to encourage beachgoers to ‘pack it in – pack it out’ She suggested that we do the same at Monte Rio Beach. Leslie suggested offering a free soft serve cone for each bucket of trash received.
- The Big Rocky games (sponsored by MRRPD) were a big success. The community was happy to see the games return.
- The first MRRPD newsletter went out to about 55 recipients on June 27. Nick submitted 3 articles including a recap of the first Community Volunteer Day in April.
- Vacation Races made a \$300 donation to MRRPD as a thank you for being allowed to stage their shuttle buses in the parking lot in mid-May.

- Burgers have returned to the Snack Shack menu.
- The beach wheelchair has been received and has already been in use. Marina has drafted a use agreement, waiver and release form and is awaiting final language approval from CAPRI.
- MRRPD has added a pedal boat to our existing rentals and it is available for rent for \$30/hour with a 2 hour limit. It has been very well received.
- There have been increased requests for pickleball courts. Occidental is in the process of repaving their two existing tennis courts and converting one court into 4 pickleball courts. Marina will connect with the Occidental Community Council to obtain more information on contractors, costs and timeline. A public survey to determine interest in having pickle ball courts is a possibility.
- It was suggested that the red fire lane curbs be painted a brighter color with ‘no parking fire lane’ wording. A posted sign stating the CA code is needed for enforcement.
- There continue to be issues with the renter at the Tax Office building located at the Community Center/beach entrance who is now occupying a handicapped parking spot in the upper lot often times during the day and also parking there overnight despite the ‘no overnight parking’ signs that are posted. He is also setting up a flea market type stall to sell items to the general public from that same parking spot on weekends. Despite being told many times by Park District Personnel and the Fire Chief to stop he remains uncooperative and defiant. The District will engage in further conversations with law enforcement to determine how to proceed. The Administrator will also draft a letter to the tenant informing him that he does not have permission to park overnight or sell items in the upper parking lot.

Brian

- PGE has again targeted the bay tree at Creekside for removal by placing an ‘x’ on it. An arborist report stating the tree was in good condition was obtained several years ago the first time it was targeted for removal. The arborist report has been affixed to the tree and hopefully PGE will not remove the tree,

5. New Business – None

6. Old Business

A. Grant Updates-None

B. Emergency Preparedness- Policy is in the process of being updated.

C. Update on Trails Projects and SWS/Starrett Hill Acquisition

- Brian and Stephanie continue to attend monthly meetings with Olivia Fiore of Sonoma County Ag + Open Space. A hiking/driving tour of the property is scheduled for July 14. Board Member Brooke Maury will attend.

7. Safety Committee Report

- Leslie reported that a family requested use of the beach wheelchair for their daughter to be able to access the river. They put her in the wheelchair, went down to the water and then left her unattended in the river. The wheelchair tipped over. Beach staff observed the situation and quickly went and righted the wheelchair.

8. Adjourn/Next Meeting – Adjourned at 9:22am; next meeting date September 3, 2025.