



**MINUTES  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

**REGULAR MEETING**

RUSH PARK  
3021 Blume Drive  
Rossmoor, California

**Tuesday, May 9, 2023**

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**A. ORGANIZATION**

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Directors Barke, Maynard, Shade, President DeMarco

Absent: Director Searles (Excused)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Girl Scout Troop Service Unit #105  
Representing Los Alamitos and Rossmoor

4. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Recognition of Sponsors for the 2023 Arbor Day Event

President DeMarco discussed the recent Arbor Day event and recognized sponsors.

b. Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) – Elizabeth Denney, Community Relations/Education Specialist

Orange County Fire Authority Public Relations Education Specialist narrated PowerPoint presentation regarding water safety; addressed drowning risk factors, drowning statistics, active adult supervision, barriers, and classes; spoke about pool and drain safety; discussed flotation devices, beach safety, rip currents and additional water sources and announced an upcoming water safety event.

**B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - None**

## **C. PUBLIC FORUM**

Administrative Assistant Carolyn Whang read written correspondence received by 3:00 p.m., today, including from Maureen Waters.

Lize Keats expressed concerns regarding noise related to pickleball; stated noise-mitigating blankets do not work and hoped the Board will make a decision that will benefit the whole community.

Susan Kaplan discussed pickleball at Rossmoor Park; opined the process has been a sham and that RCSD has been dismissive of residents expressing concerns; stated pickleball should not be placed adjacent to tennis facilities or residences; spoke about lost revenue from the loss of a tennis professional and one tennis court and felt this issue has demoralized and divided the community.

Michele Fieldsen discussed the 90-day pickleball trial; noted there is not as much demand as the Board thought there would be; spoke about limited hours for play; felt the number of reservations should not have been a criteria, but rather the number of hours used and asserted the Board has been dividing and dismissive.

Rob Kaplan believed the Board's actions regarding the issue of pickleball has been stifling; asserted tennis players are no longer playing at Rossmoor; urged the Board to stop the pressure test and listen to residents' concerns.

There being no others wishing to address the Board, President DeMarco closed Public Forum.

## **D. REPORTS TO THE BOARD**

### **1. REPORT ON THE URBAN FOREST**

Arborist Mary Kingman provided details of the Urban Forest and Tree Maintenance Report; discussed Arbor Day events and thanked sponsors, staff, volunteers and suppliers; announced an upcoming free mulch giveaway and addressed plantings of butterfly gardens.

Discussion followed regarding details of the tree failure, the free mulch program and the compost giveaway program.

### **2. MONTHLY TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE**

General Manager Mendoza provided the Traffic Safety Update; addressed the recent Traffic Safety Committee meeting and discussed an upcoming Traffic Safety Study.

President DeMarco addressed details of discussions during the meeting; discussed parking mitigation options; spoke about ticket administration and enforcement regarding permit parking and commented on the possibility of contracting out the permit parking function.

Discussion followed regarding parking impacts of condominium associations on Montecito.

General Manager Mendoza commended Supervisor Andrew Do's office for helping RCSD work with Orange County Public Works; reported making contact with the City Manager in Los Alamitos; addressed the street sweeping sign installation and listed meeting attendees.

President DeMarco discussed an idea presented at the meeting regarding the possibility of installing traffic circles at Bostonian and Montecito and Shakespeare and Montecito to help with traffic during school drop-offs and pickups and reported he spoke with the Sheriff's Captain regarding the Wallingsford exit and imposing a parking restriction from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

## **E. CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **1. MINUTES:**

#### **a. Regular RCSD Board Meeting of April 11, 2023**

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to approve Item E1 of the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion passed 4-0, with Director Searles, excused.

Director Maynard pulled Items No. E2 and E3 for separate discussion.

### **2. MARCH 2023 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT**

Director Maynard asked about expenses related to elections.

General Manager Mendoza reported the election expenses were County wide and affecting other cities and stated the County was able to subsidize the previous election through grants, but not this one.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to approve Item E2 of the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion passed 4-0, with Director Searles, excused.

### **3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH ENRICHED FARMS & AVANTI HARVEST, INC.**

Director Maynard asked for additional details regarding the Farmers Market.

General Manager Mendoza explained he wanted to entice the Farmers Market to Rossmoor; noted the Board chose to not ask for a stipend or percentage; reported the vendors have chosen to return this year and that he does not anticipate asking for compensation until they are well established with a good client base.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to approve Item E3 of the Consent Calendar, as presented. Motion passed 4-0, with Director Searles, excused.

**F. PUBLIC HEARING - None**

**G. RESOLUTIONS:**

1. RESOLUTION NO. 23-05-09-01 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

General Manager Mendoza thanked Accountant Michael Matsumoto for the report; noted this is an annual requirement and asked the Board for approval of the resolution.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to waive full reading and adopt by title, Resolution No. 23-05-09-01: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT APPROVING AND ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024

The motion carried 4-0, with the following vote:

AYES:	Directors Barke, Maynard, Shade and President DeMarco
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Director Searles (Excused)

2. RESOLUTION NO. 23-05-09-02 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AUTHORIZING POOLING OF SELF-INSURANCE THROUGH THE PRIMARY WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF CALIFORNIA JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY

General Manager Mendoza presented details of the report; discussed the process and acceptance of RCSD's application and reported he is expecting to receive a certification which, along with the resolution, will allow RCSD to begin the process of backing out of the State Fund coverage and for State Fund to calculate the penalty. He added that State Fund provided a formula but will not finalize the calculation until the certification and resolution have been submitted.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Maynard, to waive full reading and adopt by title, Resolution No. 23-05-09-02 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AUTHORIZING POOLING OF SELF-INSURANCE THROUGH THE PRIMARY WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM OF CALIFORNIA JOINT POWERS INSURANCE AUTHORITY

The motion carried 4-0, with the following vote:

AYES: Directors Barke, Maynard, Shade and President DeMarco  
NOES: None  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Director Searles (Excused)

3. RESOLUTION NO. 23-05-09-03 – A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISPENSING OF ALCOHOL (BEER AND WINE) AT THE 2023 ROSSMOOR SUMMER FESTIVALS

Motion by Director Barke, seconded by Director Maynard, to waive full reading and adopt by title, Resolution No. 23-05-09-03: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT AUTHORIZING THE DISPENSING OF ALCOHOL (BEER AND WINE) AT THE 2023 ROSSMOOR SUMMER FESTIVALS

The motion carried 3-1, with the following vote:

AYES: Directors Barke, Maynard, Shade  
NOES: President DeMarco  
ABSTAIN: None  
ABSENT: Director Searles (Excused)

**ORDINANCES – None**

**H. REGULAR CALENDAR:**

1. REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE REGARDING FY 2022-2023 ESTIMATE TO CLOSE, FY 2023-2024 PRELIMINARY BUDGET, AND SET DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING

General Manager Mendoza introduced the item and deferred to Accountant Matsumoto for a report.

Accountant Matsumoto presented details of the preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. He discussed late changes made; noted a projected surplus of \$67,000 reported 2023-2024 projected expenses are generally 5% higher than prior year expenses and includes salary increases of 3% and stated higher revenues are anticipated next year.

General Manager Mendoza reported the next budget hearing will be announced in the newspaper.

Discussion followed regarding decreased tax revenues over the years, expected receipt of reimbursement on Grant 60A, potential CIP projects and listing revenues from other government agencies separately.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to adopt the Budget Committee 2022-2023 estimate, to close Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget and direct the General Manager to set a date for the Public Hearing.

The motion carried 4-0, with the following vote:

AYES:	Directors Barke, Maynard, Shade and President DeMarco
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Director Searles (Excused)

2. DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH ELITE SPECIAL EVENTS TO PROVIDE SERVICES AT THE 2023 ROSSMOOR SUMMER FESTIVALS

General Manager Mendoza provides details of the report; stated the contract and agreement have been reviewed by General Counsel Preziosi; noted the addition of a Beer Garden and reported that Elite Special Events will provide insurance, security and fencing for the Beer Garden.

It was noted that RCSD pays no money to Elite and Elite will receive a percentage of the proceeds from the Beer Garden.

Discussion followed regarding keeping people within the area of the Beer Garden, sponsorships, financial arrangements relative to festival proceeds, providing a community service, the level of security provided for the Beer Garden and RCSD's power to renegotiate or revoke the contract.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with Elite Special Events to provide services at the 2023 Rossmoor Summer Festivals.

At the request of Director Barke, President DeMarco explained why he voted, "No" on the approval of the corresponding resolution noting he did not believe it is needed at Rossmoor family events.

Motion passed 3-1, with Director Searles, excused.

3. DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH BREA I.T.

General Manager Mendoza provided details of the report; stated General Counsel Preziosi has reviewed the agreement and the Board is being asked to approve the extension for one year, including a 3% increase which is approximately \$1850 per year.

Motion by Director Barke, seconded by Director Shade, to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract extension with Brea I.T.

Discussion followed regarding lack of a termination clause.

General Counsel Preziosi reported this is the fifth amendment to the contract and that the original contract and a subsequent amendment have a 90-day and a 60-day termination clause, consecutively.

Motion passed 4-0, with Director Searles, excused.

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION RE: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CALIFORNIA CONSULTING FOR GRANT WRITING SERVICES

General Manager Mendoza reported that the CIP Committee met and reviewed and approved this item; pointed out they are reviewing a number of grants that have application deadlines; addressed a breakdown of costs in the proposal and asked for the Board's approval, noting they are going to study the matter to determine what grants for which RCSD will qualify.

Motion by Director Barke, seconded by Director Shade, to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with California Consulting for grant writing services.

Discussion followed regarding who identified the potential grants, payment terms, whether there are grant writing contingency companies, the success of the company in securing grants and getting Board approval before writing any grant.

Director Maynard made a friendly amendment to the motion, that the General Manager return to the Board on a project-by-project basis. Directors Barke and Shade accepted the friendly amendment.

Motion by Director Barke, seconded by Director Shade, to authorize the General Manager to enter into a contract with California Consulting for grant writing services and direct the General Manager to return to the Board for consideration, on a project-by-project basis. Motion passed 4-0, with Director Searles, excused.

5. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION RE: PICKLEBALL 45-DAY REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

General Manager Mendoza asked that the Board consider extending the pickleball test another 45 days as there has been inclement weather throughout the first 45 days, turnout has been low, and the hours have not been amenable to pickleball players. He asked that the Board consider allowing pickleball play for another 45 days with extended hours, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.; shared comments from the Board, staff and residents; addressed ambient noise; offered to visit resident homes to listen to the noise reported from pickleball and referenced sound readings and revenue.

Director Barke noted that tennis is not for generating revenue but rather, tennis professionals generate revenue from the courts.

Director Maynard reported that he and Director Searles agreed with the need for another 45-day extension and extension of the hours; stated Director Searles felt play should stop at 7:00 p.m. but he feels it should stop at 9:00 p.m., the same as tennis; noted that many of his friends did not know pickleball was being offered at Rossmoor Park and suggested installing a banner to let residents know. He stressed that he supports a good pickleball pilot program and pointed out that two families generate most complaints.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to authorize the General Manager to extend the pickleball trial at Rossmoor Park for another 45 days and extend the hours of play from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Director Barke stated complaints should be taken seriously; rejected the assertion made that those who complain are whiners; noted the number one injury in adults, currently, is from pickleball; commented that the idea that pickleball is preordained is nonsense; spoke about Board Members being elected by the community and not "Greek gods" and stressed that the Board is doing the best it can to represent the interests of the community.

Director Shade questioned the high demand for pickleball; spoke about the money being spent to study the issue; discussed noise after 7:00 p.m. and felt the test should be done but done right.

President DeMarco spoke about the possibility of calling a special Board meeting at the pickleball court to observe play and listen to the sound made.

Director Maynard suggested holding committee meetings at Rossmoor Park during pickleball play.

President DeMarco agreed that the first-time constraints were limited and agreed with extending the days and hours of play.

Motion passed 4-0, with Director Searles, excused.

6. DISCUSSION RE: RESCINDING THE CONTRACT (ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATION) OF TENNIS INSTRUCTOR THOMAS SCHLACK

General Manager Mendoza presented details of the report noting Mr. Schlack would like to step down due to personal issues with family and work.

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Barke, to allow Mr. Thomas Shlack to terminate the contract with RCSD per contractual terms. Motion passed 4-0, with Director Searles, excused.



**I. GENERAL MANAGER ITEMS**

General Manager Mendoza reported Shakespeare in the Park will be returning to Rossmoor and asked for a stipend but stated they would perform for free when Mr. Mendoza informed them, they were not included in the budget; discussed Proposition 68 projects; announced the first Family Festival, hosting the LAUSD Graduation Parade and a bulky-item pickup in collaboration with CR&R and addressed the status of the website.

Director Shade discussed the entertainment schedule and elements of the LAUSD Graduation Parade.

General Manager Mendoza reported receiving ten iPads from the Office of Aging through Supervisor Do which are earmarked for Seniors, 60 and over; spoke about working with the City of Los Alamitos regarding a joint resolution on parking; noted that Director Searles requested the Board issue a letter of support to Supervisor Do, the Assembly and Senate, asking for funding and grants to help with some of the RCSD programs and facilities and discussed a meeting with Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and OCTA regarding allocation of an increment from OCTA for senior mobility.

**J. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Director Maynard mentioned the need for sound attenuation in the meeting room and the possibility of purchasing a portable dance floor.

Director Shade reported a group of at-risk students from Sunburst School will be attending the parade and commented favorably on the participation of the Girl Scouts in tonight's meeting, Elizabeth Denney from the Fire Authority and RCSD staff.

President DeMarco spoke about attending a We Care Foundation event; expressed condolences to former Director Mark Nitikman on the recent passing of his wife and urged residents to be safe and drive the speed limit.

**K. GENERAL COUNSEL ITEMS – None**

**L. CLOSED SESSION – 10:35 P.M.**

1. APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, OR EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PER GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957(b)(1)

TITLE: GENERAL MANAGER

2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

Pursuant to Subdivision (a) of Section 54957.6, California Government Code

Agency Designated Representative: Joe Mendoza, General Manager

Name of Employee Organization: All Unrepresented Employees

**Reconvene to Open Session: 11:07 p.m.**

**Report from Closed Session:**

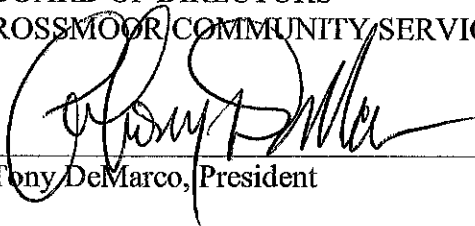
General Counsel Preziosi reported that for Closed Session Item No. 1, there was no reportable action and that for Item No. 2, the Board authorized a 3% increase in salary to the entire unrepresented group.

**M. ADJOURNMENT**

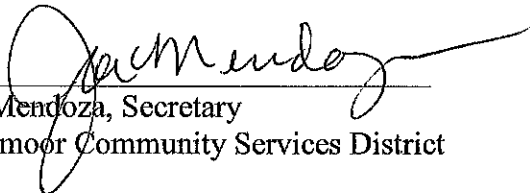
The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m. without opposition.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



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Tony DeMarco, President



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Joe Mendoza, Secretary  
Rossmoor Community Services District

**APPROVED: June 13, 2023**