

**RIO LINDA ELVERTA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
810 Oak Lane, Rio Linda, California 95673**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
June 12, 2024**

Call to Order

Chairperson Lisa L. Morris called the meeting to order on June 12, 2024 at 6:03pm. Present were Vice Chairperson Charlea R. Moore and Directors Robert Bastian, Wayne Del Nero and Troy Golden. Staff members present included General Manager Mike Heller, Administrative Services Supervisor Annette Hernandez, Parks Supervisor Don Davidson, Recreation Supervisor Yanni Lagge and Office Aide Sarah Quelland. This month's Board of Directors meeting was held a week early due to the federal holiday Juneteenth, which falls on June 19, 2024, and the meeting location was moved from the Depot Building to the Community Center for the month of June. The meeting was also broadcast on Zoom Communications.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Introduction of Guests

Cameron Doyel entered the Board of Directors meeting at 6:28pm.

Presentations & Announcements

There were no presentations or announcements this month.

Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence this month.

Consent Calendar

Motion No. 1

It was moved by Director Del Nero and Director Bastian seconded the motion to approve the consent calendar as follow: Received and filed: (1) Park Police Monthly Report (May 2024); Approve: (2) Minutes of May 15, 2024 Board of Directors Regular Meeting; (3) Cash Disbursements, May 31, 2024; (4) Finance Report, May 31, 2024; (5) Park Maintenance Monthly Report, May 2024; (6) Recreation Monthly Report, May 2024; (7) General Manager's Report, May 2024; Motion carried: Ayes; (5) Bastian, Del Nero, Golden, Moore, and Morris; Noes; (0), Abstain; (0), Absent; (0).

General Business

Agenda Item # 8: Discussion – General Manager Heller introduced the topic of the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), which is a mechanism enacted in July 1992 by the California State Legislature. Its purpose is to shift local property tax revenues from cities, counties, and special districts to an Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund. This includes property tax redistribution; offsetting state funding; and meeting Proposition 98 requirements, which mandate a minimum level of funding for K-12 education.

General Manager Heller explained that since its inception, the ERAF has had significant financial impacts on local governments and deprived them of nearly \$110 billion. Since 1992-1993, the Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District has paid \$6,545,527 into the ERAF. He added that last year's ERAF cost to the District was \$438,000.

General Manager Heller stated that while funding for education is important, it should not come at the expense of Special Districts and the programs and services they provide. He said that while some Special District agencies are enterprise Districts and can raise fees and pass costs on to the consumer, Recreation and Park Districts are unable to do so.

He told the Board that the more than \$6.5 million that the District has paid into the ERAF is a considerable amount of money for this District and is not considered a good use of funds. He said that the District is very much opposed to continuing losing funding to the ERAF and while the \$6.5 million will never be recouped, it's important to avoid being impacted negatively in the future.

General Manager Heller then turned the conversation over to Vice Chairperson Moore to speak about the California Special Districts Association's 2024 Legislative Days that she and Chairperson Morris attended in May.

Vice Chairperson Moore described the event as "very enlightening" and said she learned a lot about what other Special Districts are doing and how legislation can affect Special Districts.

She said she had a conversation with Michael Seaman, Board Secretary for Fulton-El Camino Recreation and Park District in Sacramento and compared notes about the ERAF. Vice Chairperson Moore said she's firmly opposed to losing District funding to the ERAF and wants to work actively to prevent that from happening.

Chairperson Morris said that while it's important to fund education, she would like to know where the money generated by the California State Lottery for education is actually being used for. She said this District can't afford to lose millions of dollars and that it's important for The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) to advocate for the Rio Linda and Elverta communities. She said she does not want to charge the community more for District programs and activities.

Vice Chairperson Moore called the ERAF "unfair" and said it's important for the Board to become educated about the issues surrounding it and rally against it.

Director Del Nero asked if CSDA has given up on trying to get the money the District has paid in to the ERAF back and Vice Chairperson Moore responded that there's no movement to do that. She said the District won't get that money back, but suggested we put our foot down and say "no more!"

Vice Chairperson Moore added that there is talk at the federal level to protect Special Districts and that if legislation is put in place it will give Special Districts, including the Rio Linda Elverta Recreation and Park District, a seat at the table and ensure funding does not get diverted before reaching the District.

Director Bastian asked why after 21 years are they suddenly trying to generate more funding for charter schools.

General Manager Heller replied that he believes the Department of Education is advocating for more funding because perhaps charter schools aren't being treated the same as regular public schools and aren't receiving enough funding.

Vice Chairperson Moore said there's only so much funding to go around and that it's important to have this discussion and work against legislation that would not be in the District's best interests.

General Manager Heller said he is meeting with Dane Wadle from CSDA to discuss opposing the ERAF. He recommended creating a Resolution and suggested that there is power in numbers and Special Districts should present a unified front against the ERAF.

Chairperson Morris asked Director Golden if he had anything to add and he said wanted to know how much they're raising the cost to the District for the ERAF.

General Manager Heller said it's a mystery at this point and no one knows the exact number. He added that it's based on property tax revenues and other factors within each District.

Chairperson Morris said "We'll keep a close eye on that," before moving to the next Agenda item.

Agenda Item # 9: Conduct Public Hearing and approve Resolution #2024-07, approving the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget.

General Manager Heller introduced the item and reminded the Chair that a Public Hearing regarding the Preliminary Budget needed to occur. He said the Public Hearing was Step Two of a Four-Step Process and that following his introduction, the meeting should open up for a Public Hearing.

He explained that the Board's suggestions for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget were incorporated into the latest draft. The budget includes projections for services and supplies, recreation, deferred maintenance and capital projects. It also reflects step increases for employee salaries.

Chairperson Morris opened the Public Hearing at 6:29pm.

- Chairperson Morris asked the Board if they had anything to contribute.
- Vice Chairperson Moore said she had asked for numbers for a 2.5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) plus step increases and a 3.0% COLA plus step increases. She stated that while she believes in paying employees as much as possible, she recognizes it's not realistic to do both COLA and step increases in the upcoming fiscal year. She said she's happy with the Preliminary Budget that was presented to the Board.
- Chairperson Morris clarified that the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget will reflect step increases for employees this year.

Chairperson Morris closed the Public Hearing at 6:32pm.

Motion No. 2

It was moved by Vice Chairperson Moore and Director Golden seconded the motion to approve Resolution #2024-07, approving the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Preliminary Budget;

Motion carried: Ayes; (5) Bastian, Del Nero, Golden, Moore, and Morris; Noes; (0), Abstain; (0), Absent; (0).

Board of Directors Committee Minutes

Administration/Finance Committee – Met on June 4th. The minutes from the May 7, 2024 meeting were reviewed. May financials and the Compass Report, the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) and the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 were discussed. Items not on the Agenda, including an invoice for a sprinkler head that was purchased for the Central Park Horse Arena, the ERAF and Cost-of-Living Adjustments were also discussed. The Committee meets again on July 9th at 3:00pm.

Park Planning Committee – Did not meet. Meets on July 8th at 3:00pm.

Safety and Security Committee – Did not meet.

Fire House Museum Committee – Did not meet.

Dry Creek Parkway Advisory Committee – Held a Special Meeting on May 30, 2024 at 9:30am. Attendees of the meeting were led on a walking tour for the Disc Golf Course that has been proposed for development near the Cherry Island Sports Complex in Elverta and was discussed at their May 1, 2024 meeting. Chairperson Morris and General Manager Heller were in attendance.

- Chairperson Morris said she had concerns about the safety of the location of Hole #8. She also said the equestrian community was able to get some of their questions about the Disc Golf Course answered.
- Vice Chairperson Moore said she would have liked to attend but was unable to rent a golf cart for the occasion. She added that she thinks it will be an asset to the community and that there's no reason it shouldn't happen. She stated that it's an excellent location and will only improve the area.
- Chairperson Morris noted that they had really cleaned up the area where they are proposing to put the Disc Golf Course and suggested that as more people utilize that area, it will make it safer for everyone.

The Dry Creek Parkway Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet again on July 3.

LAFCo Committee – Did not meet. Meets on July 30th. Director Bastian suggested that the ERAF would be a good Agenda item for the next LAFCo Committee meeting and Vice Chairperson Moore agreed.

Board of Directors Comments

Director Bastian thanked the staff and congratulated former Recreation Coordinator Yanni Lagge on her new position as Recreation Supervisor. He also thanked both the Maintenance and Recreation staff for working in the heat. He also thanked Mr. Doyel for attending the meeting and thanked his fellow Board members.

Vice Chairperson Moore agreed with everything Director Bastian said and added that she's looking forward to Recreation Supervisor Lagge's ideas and plans for Recreation. She thanked Administrative Services Supervisor Hernandez for the budget and answering her questions. She also thanked Parks Supervisor Davidson for providing electricity to the Farmers' Market.

Vice Chairperson Moore also said she wanted to acknowledge Mr. Doyel, who was in attendance, and is part of the Grandpark Specific Plan. She said she invited him to the meeting to facilitate a conversation about the Grandpark Specific Plan and added that she would encourage General Manager Heller and Mr. Doyel to discuss the project. She suggested that the topic be discussed at the next Planning Committee meeting.

Director Golden said he wanted to thank the staff and also congratulated Recreation Supervisor Lagge on her promotion. He thanked General Manager Heller for being helpful and also thanked Chairperson Morris and Vice Chairperson Moore for going to CSDA's 2024 Legislative Days and representing the District.

Director Del Nero said he agreed and thanked everyone. He also welcomed Recreation Supervisor Lagge to her new position.

Chairperson Morris said she agreed with the other Director's comments before her and joked that everyone stole General Manager Heller's thunder in introducing the new Recreation Supervisor. She thanked Administrative Services Supervisor Hernandez for doing a wonderful job on the budget and Park Supervisor Davidson and his staff for all their hard work. She also thanked her fellow Directors as well as Mr. Doyel.

General Manager Comments

General Manager Heller said he was thrilled to have new Recreation Supervisor Lagge on board and is excited about the new things she's already put in place, including providing lifeguards and a pool manager for the summer of 2024 for the Grant High School Pool and implementing field trips for the Seniors that participate in District programs, starting with a trip to the Sacramento Zoo scheduled for June 14th.

He also announced that with the summer heat, Park Maintenance staff will be working earlier hours to avoid being outside during the temperature peaks. He added that the next Safety and Security Committee Meeting will address heat-related issues in work settings.

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

Adjournment

Chairperson Morris adjourned the meeting at 7:02pm.

APPROVED: Bastian, Del Nero, Golden, Moore, Morris

ATTEST:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:



Lisa L. Morris
Chairperson, Board of Directors



Robert Bastian
Secretary, Board of Directors