



**Advisory Board of Directors
Regular Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 7, 2022, at 6:00 pm
Via Zoom Meeting ID: 880 1421 4609**

- Call to Order:** 6:00 pm by Chairperson Evans.
- Pledge of Allegiance:** Announced by Chairperson Evans.
- Roll Call:**
- MORPD Directors Present:** Evans, Todd, Bannister and Rothberg. Alcalay was absent.
Alcalay entered meeting at 6:04pm.
- MORPD Staff Present:** Barton, Hichborn, Woodland, Curtola, Dahlberg, Tierney and Hawthorne.
- Public Present:** Janice Simoni and Janet Van Sicklen.
- Chairperson's Comments:** None.
- Board Comments/Discussion:** Todd mentions that she attended the 14th annual Spooktacular and was surprised at the amount of people that were present.

Announcement by Chairperson: Members of the public may address the Board on District topics not listed on this agenda. It is a violation of state law for the Board to discuss or act on non-agenda items. Board members may only briefly ask clarifying questions or refer matters to staff. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes.

Public Comment: None.

Consent:

1. Approval of October 11, 2022, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.
2. Adopt Resolution 2022-15, Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for November 11, 2022, to December 11, 2022.
3. Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District Park Patrol Reports for October 2022 from Fulton El Camino Police and Sacramento County Sheriff Off Duty Patrol and September and October 2022 from Tiger Security.
4. Monthly Budget Reports, September 1-30 Period 3, FY 2022-23.
5. Administrative Division Report.
6. Recreation Division Report.
7. Parks Division Report.
8. Staff Work Plans.

ACTION: After discussion, on a Motion by Director Todd, seconded by Director Alcalay, the Advisory Board of Directors voted to approve all consent items. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Evans, Todd, Alcalay, Rothberg, and Bannister.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

Information/Reports/Presentation:

9. District Administrator Report.

- Recreation Report (Verbal).
- Preschool Report (Verbal).

Barton states that the full funding for emPOWERment park has been reached through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funding and the park will be receiving \$1 million from the Federal Government. Barton notes fully funded means everything that was originally planned for the park will be included when construction begins. Barton states that the District might need to write a resolution regarding where the money came from and why it's being received.

Barton thanks staff and Board members for attending the employee recognition event and thanks the volunteers who cooked dinner for the event.

Alcalay states that the District should provide a stipend for the volunteers, for their services to Mission Oaks.

Barton states that staff will decide on a way to thank the volunteers and will inform the Board when it is done.

Curtola notes the 14th annual Spooktacular at Swanston Community Center that had 700 people in attendance. The event had games, prizes, informational booths for the Sac Park Foundation, California Department of Corrections, and Mutual Assistance Network and a pumpkin patch with 200 pumpkins which were received from a local pumpkin patch. Curtola notes a new program starting, Music Instruments 'n Kids Hands, which assists young kids in building instruments and helps inspire kids toward career development in the music industry.

Dahlberg notes past events such as the senior Halloween dance, the Craft Faire with 64 vendors in attendance, and the El Camino High School Fundraiser night. Dahlberg mentions future events for MORPD including, an exercise program for cancer survivors and those that currently have cancer, the U.S. Pointer study which is an Alzheimer research group, and a Thanksgiving luncheon for seniors on Wednesday, November 16, to be held at MOCC.

Alcalay questions which pumpkin patch staff received the contribution from and recommends staff create a sponsor page to post on the MORPD website that gives credit to all businesses and individuals that support the District. Staff notes that the pumpkins were received from the Davis Ranch and agrees to creating a sponsor's page.

Barton discusses the need for moving the MORPD preschool from its current location to a new location, so that it is in a safer environment. He states that the current location is a church which brings in unhoused and undesirable individuals which have caused numerous issues for the preschool staff and the children attending. Barton introduces Nancy Nelson, the instructor for the MORPD Preschool.

Nelson states that she has been the preschool instructor for 15 years and has noticed that over the last several years an increasing problem of homeless, drug addicts, and mentally ill persons frequenting the church the preschool is located at. Nelson notes that she arrives to work before anyone else and does not feel safe.

Staff notes that since the police response time for issues has been too long, that Park Maintenance staff have been assigned with being present when Nelson and the students arrive in case of trouble, but then must leave when everyone is in the building safely, to continue doing their jobs. Staff state that the price for the room they rent is very reasonable and with the amenities needed for a preschool it is difficult to find other affordable places.

The Board states that relocating will take time and that there needs to be a fix for the immediate problems happening. Board members give possible quick fixes such as having MORPD private security present during the day, inputting a fence to keep people out, and installing security cameras.

Staff states that Tiger Security's schedule is from 3pm-11pm, Wednesday-Sunday which wouldn't help the preschool and increasing the hours and days of service would be costly. Staff notes that they have tried talking with the church regarding security measures, however MORPD cannot install fences or security cameras since the church is not allowing it and because the site is not a District building. Evans recommends bringing the topic to the Facilities Committee Meeting in December so a decision can be made.

Board members thank Nelson for her loyalty to the District and for keeping the students safe.

Discussion:

10. Memorial Tree Policy Review.

Barton states that in 2018 the MORPD memorial tree program took over for the memorial bench program. Barton states that the bench program was replaced due to an investigation of a recipient of one of the MORPD benches due to allegations from members of the family. Barton states that investigation process and the statements from members of the family was extensive and uncomfortable for everyone involved. Barton notes that if a bench option were to be added to the memorial tree program, then there would be a notable cost as well as upkeep of the bench.

Simoni states that she has lived in Arden Park for 34 years and that she would like a bench installed at Valley Oak Park for her son that passed away unexpectedly, since he used to play little league there. Simoni notes that in New York there is a memorial bench program that allows families to add passages regarding the individuals that have passed. Simoni notes that reading those passages gives her an insight into whom that deceased was. Simoni gives options of cement and recycled material benches that are lower cost and notes that the District can employ the Boys Scouts of America to help maintain and clean the benches.

Evans questions why the District cannot give options for both tree and bench, along with prices for both.

Barton reiterates the past troubles the District ran across with the memorial bench program and states that the parks then might have non-uniform benches when the District is moving toward making the parks more uniform. Barton states that a possible option could be to put in a memorial brick to the park of the family's choice.

Alcalay states that he has seen benches in New York that are similar to what Simoni mentioned previously and notes that New York has more space to be able to add a significant number of benches to its parks and its “adopt a bench program” costs \$10,000 for just the plaque.

Todd states that a bench program should be added with the caveat that if issues occur the plaque will be removed from the bench.

Van Sicklen states that she is a friend of the Simoni family and has met several families who want benches added to the memorial tree program. Van Sicklen states that there needs to be a memorial bench fund for families that would choose this option.

Alcalay and Evans requests this item be added to an upcoming Facilities Committee Meeting for further discussion.

11. Reserve Policy Review.

Staff notes that this item was brought back for discussion per request of the Board at the October Advisory Board meeting.

Todd states that last month she was concerned regarding the percentage amount that staff are wanting for the Reserve, however she was reassured by consultants she reached out to, that state the 35-45% staff are recommending is normal.

Barton reads the staff recommendation stated in the staff report to answer Board member questions.

Alcalay states that a good example of keeping a certain percentage in the reserve is when an important change needs to occur on short notice, such as the preschool relocation.

Evans requests that the policy be brought back to the Board in the December meeting for a vote.

Action: None.

Staff Comments/Reports: Barton notes that the MORPD parks tour will be on Thursday, November 10 at 10am and that some of the new Oversight Committee members will be present.

Alcalay questions if there is going to be a staff and board member holiday luncheon.

Barton states that there is a Thanksgiving luncheon being planned and an invite will be sent to Board members if they want to attend.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 6:00 pm. As of the date of this notice, social distancing measures are in effect due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Parties interested in participating in the public hearing should visit the District's website at <https://www.morpd.com/advisory-board-meetings> for current information on how to provide public comment.

Adjourn: 7:11 pm.

Shayne Hawthorne
Shayne Hawthorne, Clerk of Board

December 13, 2022
Date