



North of the River Recreation & Park District

NORTH OF THE RIVER RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING 3825 RIVERLAKES DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026, 4:30 P.M.

DISCLAIMER: This agenda includes proposed actions and activities with respect to each agenda item, as of the date of posting. As such, it does not preclude the Board from taking other actions on any item on the agenda that is different or in addition to what may have been recommended.

1. CALL TO ORDER: BOARD MEETING CONVENED BY CHAIRPERSON JENIFER VANALSTEIN AT 4:33 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL: BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jenifer VanAlstein; Bob Smith; Ryan Skidmore; Garrison Moratto; Jeff Chudy

BOARD CLERK PRESENT

Janett Miller

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Bret Haney; Allison Bryant; Esther Grijalva; Steph Thisius; Jasmin LoBasso; Lauren Cronk

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jacob Thomasy (4:36 P.M.)

PUBLIC PRESENT

Jeff Moffit

3. NOTICE OF MEETING BEING TAPED, FILMED, STREAMED OR BROADCASTED

Please be aware that a recording and broadcasting of tonight's meeting is being made and may capture images and/or sounds of those attending tonight's meeting.

4. FLAG SALUTE: The flag salute was led by Ryan Skidmore at 4:33 P.M.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Items requiring attention after the agenda is posted may be added to the agenda with 2/3 majority approval of the Board. Items to be added will be made available to the public at the meeting.

Motion: Skidmore **Second:** Smith **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy

Noes: None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

6. NOR COMMUNITY CHAMPION

Director of Community Relations Jasmin LoBasso recognized Jeff Moffit as the NOR Community Champion for the month of March. The Board presented Mr. Moffit with a commemorative plaque and posed for a photograph.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The North of the River Recreation and Park District Board of Directors may take official action only on items included in the posted agenda. Items addressed during the Public Comment section are generally matters not included on the agenda and, therefore, the Board will not take action at this scheduled meeting. Such items, however, may be added to a future meeting's agenda. Members of the public may address the Board on items included on the agenda in the order that the items appear. Speakers are limited to two minutes. Please state your name before making your presentation. Thank you!

No comments

8. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are deemed routine in nature. Information concerning these items has been forwarded to each Board Member prior to this meeting for their study. The Consent Agenda is acted upon in one motion unless members of the Board, staff, or public request discussion and/or removal of an item.

A. Posting of Agenda

Approval of Secretary Declaration of Posting of Agenda 72 Hours in Advance of Meeting

B. Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Board of Directors' Regular Meeting Held February 23, 2026

C. Financial

Approval of Receipt of Bills and Invoices

D. Bills Exceeding Policy Limit

Approval of CAPRI- Worker's Compensation invoice exceeding policy limit

Motion: Smith **Second:** Skidmore **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

9. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Approve Proposed Revisions and Name Changes to Finance Policies, Purchasing, Accounts Payable and Bidding Process, Addition of Capital Improvement and Major Maintenance, Change Order Policies, Resolution #05-26

Director of Finance Allison Bryant requested Board approval of Resolution #05-26 to adopt proposed revisions to Policies 6-103 through 6-105 including changing the of Purchasing Policy to "Goods, Services and Supplies Purchasing Policy", replacing Business Director with "Director of Finance" to coincide with current position titles, and updating the Policy to CUPCCAA standards. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #05-26 APPROVING PROPOSED REVISIONS TO POLICIES 6-103 THROUGH 6-105.

Motion: Smith **Second:** Skidmore **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

B. Approve Minor Revisions to Informal Bidding Procedures Policy and Move from Chapter 10 – Development to Chapter 6 – Finance, Resolution #06-26

Director of Finance Allison Bryant requested Board approval of Resolution #06-26 to adopt proposed revisions to align bidding procedures with CUPCCAA policy and to reassign the policy under the Finance section of the NOR Policy Manual. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTED

RESOLUTION #06-26 TO ACCEPT REVISIONS AND REASSIGN THE POLICY UNDER THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Motion: Moratto **Second:** Skidmore **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

C. Approve Resolution of Intention 7226436154 to Amend CalPERS Pension Contract to Include Public Employees' Pension Reform Act Language, Resolution #07-26

Director of Finance Allison Bryant requested Board approval of Resolution of Intent requested from CalPERS to include the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act new benefit formula. AFTER DISCUSSION BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #07-26 AMENDING RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO INCLUDE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' PENSION REFORM ACT LANGUAGE.

Motion: Smith **Second:** Skidmore **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

D. First Read of Proposed Revisions to the Scholarship Program, Policy #09-302

Director of Community Relations reviewed the proposed revision to the Scholarship Program Policy including updates to age eligibility, clarification of funding, additional applicant requirements, and further definition of scholarship levels, program applicability, and selection criteria. This item will be brought back to the Board in April for approval.

E. Naming of Future Parks, 4 Sites, within Palm Crossing (former King Ranch Development), Resolutions #08-26, #09-26, #10-26, #11-26

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius requested Board approval of resolution numbers 08-26, 09-26, 10-26, 11-26 regarding the naming of four future park sites within Palm Crossing. Keith Gardiner presented a proposal recommending that the Board adopt the Palm Crossing Neighborhood theme for the names. AFTER DISCUSSION THE BOARD APPROVED THE PALM CROSSING THEME AND VOTED TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING PARK NAMES: PARK AT PALM CROSSING, DESERT PALM PARK, WILD ROSE PARK, AND SAGEBRUSH PARK.

PARK AT PALM CROSSING, RESOLUTION #08-26

Motion: Skidmore **Second:** Smith **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

DESERT PALM PARK, RESOLUTION #09-26

Motion: Moratto **Second:** Chudy **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

WILD ROSE PARK, RESOLUTION #10-26

Motion: Smith **Second:** Skidmore **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

SAGEBRUSH PARK, RESOLUTION #11-26

Motion: Moratto **Second:** Chudy **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

F. Approval of Land Purchase at Greenacres Park, Resolution #12-26

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius requested Board approval of Resolution #12-26 for the land purchase at Greenacres Park. Mrs. Thisius noted that the Resolution and Agreement had the correct purchase price of \$208, 600 plus closing cost for the land purchase at Greenacres to which legal counsel did not object to proceed. AFTER DISCUSSION BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #12-26 OF LAND PURCHASE AT GREENACRES PARK.

Motion: Moratto **Second:** Chudy **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

G. Tree Trimming and Removal at Fruitvale-Norris Park, Resolution #13-26

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius requested Board approval for Resolution #13-26 to award the bid for the trimming and removal of trees at Fruitvale -Norris Park to Rancho Tree Services in the amount of \$77, 439.00. AFTER DISCUSSION BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #13-26 AWARDED THE BID TO RANCHO TREE SERVICES FOR THE REMOVAL AND TRIMMING OF TREES AT FRUITVALE-NORRIS PARK AND REQUESTED A LIST OF MAINTENANCE PROJECTS.

Motion: Moratto **Second:** Chudy **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes:** None **Absent:** None **Motion carried.**

10. STAFF REPORTS

A. General Manager

General Manager Bret Haney reported that the recruitment process for the Finance Director position has yielded a qualified candidate, Sarah Plank, who brings extensive experience. Ms. Plank will be shadowing Finance Director Allison Bryant this week, with her official start date set for April 13, 2026. Mr. Haney also reminded the Board of the training opportunities available through the California Special District Association (CSDA).

B. Capital Improvement Projects

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius presented two documents for the Board's review. The first document was a revised "Green Sheet," developed at the Board's request, which provides a simplified overview of Capital Improvement Projects, including project timelines and a clearer breakdown of available funding. The second document included a comparative analysis of recreation and park districts similar to NOR, illustrating how NOR aligns with industry timelines for plan submittals and reviews. Ms. Thisius noted that MIG will assist in developing a standardized framework for contractors to follow. Ms. Thisius further reported that the conceptual design for Austin Creek Park will be updated following the completion of all Computer-Aided Design (CAD) files. As staff continue to gather community feedback, no design changes will be made at this time. The project timeline for Austin Creek Park is dependent upon the completion of Standard Park. Additionally, Ms. Thisius discussed various options under consideration for the Maintenance Shop, which have been evaluated in collaboration with the Director of Operations and Maintenance. She also reported that Isom Advisors has completed the bond survey and will present the results at the April Board meeting. The Board requested that an agenda item be brought forward in April to consider the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Austin Creek project.

C. Financial

Director of Finance Allison Bryant distributed copies of the annual audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the Board. Ms. Bryant noted that pages one through

four provided an overview and explanation of the statements, as well as the District's financial position. Following discussion, the Board received and filed the annual audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025.

D. Personnel

Director of Human Resources Esther Grijalva provided an overview of current open positions and noted that NOR continues to maintain a strong reputation. She highlighted that, at the most recent job fair, attendees were actively drawn to the NOR table to learn more about the organization and its opportunities.

E. Parks Division

Reports Received and Filed.

F. Recreation

Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk recognized student intern Eric Cervantes from Fresno State University, noting that as part of his academic curriculum, he developed and implemented a painting night program at NOR. Ms. Cronk also reported that the Junior Theatre's three performances of *Shrek the Musical Jr.* sold nearly 500 tickets in March. Ms. Cronk further shared that both the Meals on Wheels Program and Junior Theatre staff received an email expressing gratitude and appreciation for their dedication and hard work. Additionally, Board Member Jeff Chudy and Ms. Cronk will meet to discuss details and expectations for the upcoming Track Meet.

G. Community Relations

Director of Community Relations Jasmin LoBasso highlighted several upcoming events, including the North of the River Recreation Foundation fundraiser at Red Robin Restaurant, during which 20 percent of food sales will benefit the Youth Scholarship Fund. The fundraiser is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2026. She also noted two upcoming Easter Egg Hunts, to be held at Riverview Park on March 28, 2026, and at Emerald Cove Park on April 5, 2026. Ms. LoBasso further provided updates on departmental initiatives, including a social media integration project and a celebratory event for Discovery Sports participants.

H. Training

Reports Received and Filed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence was received in March.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Opportunity for the Board to comment on items not listed on the agenda

GARRISON MORATTO- Mr. Moratto expressed his appreciation to Director of Finance Allison Bryant and staff for their hard work and stated that he looks forward to the next Board meeting, at which his requested agenda item will be discussed.

JEFF CHUDY- Mr. Chudy is looking forward to his meeting with Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk.

RYAN SKIDMORE – No comment

JENIFER VANALSTEIN – No comment

BOB SMITH – Mr. Smith suggested to have the NOR Community Champion photograph before the meeting starts.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. to the next meeting of the Board of Directors of North of the River Recreation and Park District scheduled on April 20, 4:30 p.m. at the Riverlakes Ranch Community Center and District Administrative Complex.

Minutes to be approved at Board
Meeting held on April 20, 2026



Bret Haney (Apr 23, 2026 10:34:00 PDT)

Bret Haney, General Manager



Janett Miller, Clerk of the Board



Jenifer VanAlstein (Apr 23, 2026 10:33:18 PDT)

Jenifer VanAlstein, Chairperson












March Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-04-23

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