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, APRIL 21, 2025, 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 VICE CHAIRPERSON MATT HOWARD AT 4:30 P.M.**

2. **ROLL CALL:**
   BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
   MATT HOWARD; CRYSTAL MADDEN; BOB SMTIH
   BOARD CLERK
   JANETT MILLER
   BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
   JENIFER VANALSTEIN; RYAN SKIDMORE
   STAFF PRESENT
   BRET HANEY; ALLISON BRYANT; ESTHER GRIJALVA; STEPH THISIUS; LAUREN CRONK; JASMIN LOBASSO; MIKE EVANS
   LEGAL COUNSEL
   JACOB THOMASY
   PUBLIC PRESENT
   NONE

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:** Vice Chairperson Matt Howard led the flag salute at 4:31p.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: Smith **Second**: Madden **Ayes**: Madden; Howard; Smith
   Noes: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein; Skidmore **Motion carried**.

6. **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!

7. 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 March 24, 2025

C. Financial
Approval of Receipt of Bills and Invoices

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Consent Agenda

Motion: Madden **Second**: Smith **Ayes**: Madden; Howard; Smith **Noes**: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein; Skidmore **Motion carried**.

8. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Naming of 1.75-acre Park Site Within the Marcona Preserve Development, Resolution #14-25
General Manager Bret Haney requests Board approval of name Marcona Preserve Park for the 1.75-acre park site within Marcona Preserve Development. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE BOARD APPROVED RESOLUTION #14-25 ADOPTING THE NAME MARCONA PRESERVE PARK FOR THE 1.75-ACRE PARK SITE.

Motion: Smith **Second**: Madden **Ayes**: Madden; Howard; Smith **Noes**: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein; Skidmore **Motion carried**.

B. Naming of 1.0-acre Park Site Within the Marcona Preserve Development, Resolution #15-25
General Manager Bret Haney requests Board approval of name Raven Way Park for the 1.0-acre park site within the Marcona Preserve Development. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE BOARD APPROVED RESOLUTION #15-25 ADOPTING THE NAME RAVEN WAY PARK FOR THE 1.0-ACRE PARK SITE.

Motion: Madden **Second**: Smtih **Ayes**: Madden; Howard; Smith **Noes**: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein; Skidmore **Motion carried**.

C. Discussion and Direction Regarding the California Consumer Price Index Adjustment to the Chevron North Meadows Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2025-2026
The North Meadows Assessments engineer's report prepared in 2005 included language to facilitate adjustments make after FY 2006-2007 based on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI). Staff have received information that the current CPI for FY 2025-2026 will increase by 3.1%. Staff recommend applying the current CPI due to the volatile state of the current economy as cost for labor, supplies and equipment continue to increase due to inflation. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD GAVE DIRECTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH RECOMMENDATION.

D. Discussion and Direction Regarding the California Consumer Price Index Adjustment to the NOR Park Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The NOR Park Maintenance District Assessments engineer's report prepared in 2006 includes language to facilitate adjustments based on the California Consumer Price Index (CPI). The NOR Park Maintenance District budget was established to set aside funds to assist with major maintenance costs created by new development with the District. Staff have received information that the CPI for FY 2025-2026 will increase by 3.1%. Staff recommend a 3.1% increase for the NOR Maintenance District assessments. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD GAVE DIRECTION TO MOVE FORWARD WITH RECOMMENDATION.

E. Apply for the Public Benefit Grant Program to purchase Electric Utility Vehicles, Resolution #16-25

Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Evans requests Board approval of resolution #16-25 allowing staff to apply for an application with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) for their Benefit Grant Program to purchase electric utility vehicles for the Parks Department. Upon application approval NOR will receive a voucher for 100% reimbursement. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTTED RESOLUTION #16-25 ALLOWING STAFF TO SIGN AN APPLICATION WITH SJVAPCD FOR THE BENEFIT GRANT PROGRAM.

Motion: Smith **Second**: Madden **Ayes**: Madden; Howard; Smith **Noes**: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein; Skidmore **Motion carried**.

F. Apply for the Public Benefit Grant Program to purchase Zero-Emission Landscaping Equipment, Resolution #17-25

Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Evans requests Board approval of resolution #17-25 allowing staff to apply for an application with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) for their Benefit Grant Program to purchase zero-emission landscaping equipment. Upon application approval NOR will receive a voucher for 100% reimbursement. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTTED RESOLUTION #17-25 ALLOWING STAFF TO SIGN AN APPLICATION WITH SJVAPCD FOR THE BENEFIT GRANT PROGRAM.

Motion: Madden **Second**: Smith **Ayes**: Madden; Howard; Smith **Noes**: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein; Skidmore **Motion carried**.

G. Revision of Ordinance #8-102, Rules and Regulations Governing Use of North of the River Recreation and Park District and Facilities, Resolution #18-25

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius requests Board approval of revision of Ordinance #8-102 for the accommodation of Dog Off-Leash Areas and the adjustments to the dog leash policy. Ordinance #8-102 was introduced in 2009 with the latest revision adopted in 2018. This ordinance is to establish rules and regulations for use of North of the River Recreation and Park District park and facilities to insure every patron receives the maximum benefit and enjoyment from such use. Staff will publish a summary of the proposed amendment to be published in the local newspaper, North of the River Recreation and Park District's website, and in the District's office. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #18-25 FOR THE REVISION OF ORDINANCE #8-102 WITHIN THE DOG LEASH POLICY.

Motion: Madden **Second**: Smith **Ayes**: Madden; Howard; Smith **Noes**: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein; Skidmore **Motion carried**.

H. Discussion of Policy 3-113, setting start time for remainder of 2025 Board Meetings
Board previously approved Resolution #11-25 for revision of policy 3-113 setting remainder of 2025 board meetings start time and giving Board the flexibility to adopt Board dates and times at the December meeting for the following calendar year. AFTER DISSCUSSION, BOARD SET THE REMAINDER START TIME FOR 2025 TO 4:30 P.M.

9. STAFF REPORTS

A. General Manager
General Manager Bret Haney thank the board for their vote of the new board meeting start time. Mr. Haney introduced the new Director of Finance Allison Bryant, who has been an accountant for NOR for over 12 years. Ms. Bryant commented that she is looking forward to working with all the directors and board members. Mr. Haney mentioned that the City of Bakersfield will have public meeting for Polo Park on April 29, 2025, for the installation of the communications tower.

B. Capital Improvement Projects
Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius updated the Board on Polo Community Park and Stockdale River Ranch Park; stating that the amenities are starting to come in for both parks and the summer 2025 opening of Stockdale River Ranch Park is getting closer. Ms. Thisius mentioned that currently she is about a month behind on the Master Plan but will get started in May.

C. Financial
Director of Finance Allison Bryant referred the Board to the board packets for the list of bills.

D. Personnel
Director of Human Resources Esther Grijalva reviewed the current open positions adding that the Administrative Coordinator- Recreation will close Monday, April 21, 2025.

E. Parks Division
Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Evans reported that the maintenance staff is currently working on the North Highland restrooms restoration project, and the playground was delivered Monday, April 21, 2025.

F. Recreation
Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk introduced Explore Recreation Manager Evelyn Hernandez. Ms. Hernandez stated that she was happy to be here at NOR. Ms. Cronk highlighted Riverview Community Center's Open Gym Pickleball program attendance of 900 participants, Recreation Specialist Ricky Meyers received his Lifeguarding Instructor Certification, and VITA prepared 150 tax returns for Rasmussen Senior Center members. Ms. Cronk also read a comment sent via NOR website under Contact Us for the STEAM Camp: *I just wanted to say as the week is ending how excited every single day my son has been to attend camp this spring break. The staff was amazing and seeing all of the activities that were so thoughtfully planned was incredible. Thank you NOR for a very fun week for our son. We appreciate all of the effort that went into this camp. Thank you for all of the work you do for kids in our communities.*

G. Community Services
Director of Community Relations Jasmin LoBasso provided the Board with NOR's new summer Fun Book. Ms. LoBasso highlighted that paid advertising reached over three million and that NOR was nominated for a Beautiful Bakersfield Award for the NOR Christmas Parade.

H. Training
Reports Received and Filed.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence was received in April

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

BOB SMITH- No comment

CRYSTAL MADDEN- Welcome Allison and Evelyn to the team.

RYAN SKIDMORE- Absent

JENIFER VANALSTEIN- Absent

MATT HOWARD- No comment

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m. to the next meeting of the Board of Directors of North of the River Recreation and Park District scheduled on May 19, 2025, 4:30 p.m. at the Riverlakes Ranch Community Center and District Administrative Complex.

Minutes to be approved at Board
Meeting held on May 19, 2025

Janett Miller

Janett Miller, Clerk of the Board

Bret Haney (May 20, 2025 10:41 PDT)

Bret Haney, General Manager

Jenifer VanAlstein
Jenifer VanAlstein (May 20, 2025 09:26 PDT)

Jenifer VanAlstein, Chairperson

April 21, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report 2025-05-20

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