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, MAY 18, 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 VICE CHAIRPERSON AT 4:33 P.M.**

2. **ROLL CALL:** **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**
   Jenifer VanAlstein (4:40p.m.); Bob Smith; Ryan Skidmore; Garrison Moratto; Jeff Chudy
   BOARD CLERK PRESENT
   Janett Miller
   BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
   None
   STAFF PRESENT
   Bret Haney; Sarah Plank; Allison Bryant(Zoom); Esther Grijalva; Steph Thisius; Christy Woolfolk; Isaiah Lopez; Lauren Cronk; Mike Evans
   LEGAL COUNSEL
   Jacob Thomasy
   PUBLIC PRESENT
   Michael via Zoom; Cindy Mendoza from MIG, Inc. via Zoom

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 Bob Smith at 4:34 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**: Moratto **Ayes**: Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy
   Noes: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein **Motion carried**.

6. **NOR COMMUNITY CHAMPION**
   NO COMMUNITY CHAMPION FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

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 April 20, 2026

C. **Financial**
Approval of Receipt of Bills and Invoices

D. **Bills Exceeding Policy Limit**
Approval of bills exceeding policy limit

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Consent Agenda

Motion: Moratto **Second**: Skidmore **Ayes**: Smtih; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes**: None **Absen**t: VanAlstein **Motion carried**.

9. **BOARD BUSINESS**

A. **Public Hearing: Public Hearing of Chevron North Meadows Assessments FY 2026-2027**
Vice Chairperson Bob Smith opened the public hearing. No comments were received from the public. The hearing was then closed.
Public Hearing : Open: 4:36 p.m. Close: 4:36 p.m.

Approval of FY 2026-2027 Chevron North Meadows Assessments, Resolution #20-26
Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius presented Resolution #20-26 and requested Board approval to authorize an increase in the assessment fees for the Chevron North Meadows District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #20-26 AUTHORIZING A 2.9% INCREASE IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ASSESSMENT FEES FOR CHEVRON NORTH MEADOWS MAINTENANCE DISTRICT.

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

B. **Public Hearing: Public Hearing of NOR Park Maintenance Assessments FY 2026-2027**
Vice Chairperson Bob Smith opened the public hearing. No comments were received form public. The hearing was then closed.
Public Hearing: Open: 4:38 p.m. Close: 4:38 p.m.

Approval of FY 2026-2027 NOR Park Maintenance District Assessments, Resolution #21-26
Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius presented Resolution #21-26 and requested Board approval to authorize an increase in the assessment fees for the NOR Park Maintenance District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #21-26 AUTHORIZING A 2.9% INCREASE IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ASSESSMENT FEES FOR NOR PARK MAINTENANCE DISTRICT.

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

C. Interlocal Contract for Cooperative Purchasing, Resolution #22-26
Director of Finance Sarah Plank presented Resolution #22-26 and requested Board approval to submit a contract to BuyBoard to assist with purchasing for the District. Ms. Plank stated that this will allow the District to have a more competitive public procurement process at no cost to the District. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD ADOPTED RESOLUTION #22-26 AUTHORINZING THE DISTRICT TO SUBMIT A CONTRACT TO BUYBOARD TO STABLISH A MEMBERSHIP.

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

D. Presentation by MIG, Inc.
Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius introduced Cindy Mendoza of MIG, Inc. to provide an overview of the District's Comprehensive Master Plan process.

Ms. Mendoza began her presentation by explaining that the purpose of the Comprehensive Master Plan is to establish a long-term vision and provide guidance for the District's parks, recreation services, and facilities over the next 20 years. She noted that the Comprehensive Master Plan consists of three key components: the Recreation and Park Master Plan, Strategic Plan, and Nexus Study.

Ms. Mendoza reviewed the Integrated Planning and Engagement Process and explained that Phase I focuses on familiarizing the project team with the District's existing park system, which includes 27 developed parks, four undeveloped park sites, and 15 planned future parks. She highlighted several recent District accomplishments, including the development of Stockdale River Ranch Community Park, the Polo Dog Park, and the implementation of natural plantings at Polo Park and Stockdale River Ranch Community Park.

Ms. Mendoza also discussed ongoing challenges facing the District, including the overuse and underutilization of certain facilities, the need for additional shade structures, and other systemwide improvements. She reported that a youth survey was launched during the week of May 11 and would remain open through mid-June. Additional public outreach efforts scheduled for June include a Park and Recreation Needs Survey distributed through multiple platforms, stakeholder and community leader interviews, and community pop-up engagement events.

Ms. Mendoza then outlined the action plan development process, which will include system-wide recommendations, site-specific recommendations, a Capital Improvement Plan, and a project prioritization process. She concluded by identifying ways the Board can participate throughout the planning process, including confirming project direction at key milestones, encouraging public participation, and supporting staff in the implementation of priority projects and initiatives.

Following the presentation, Ms. Mendoza responded to questions and comments from the Board.

10. STAFF REPORTS

A. <u>General Manager</u>

General Manager Bret Haney reported that the Kern County Grand Jury report was included in the Board packet for review. Mr. Haney noted that the report was favorable and included recommendations for the District to explore additional evening and weekend recreational opportunities for seniors, families, and children, as well as the potential expansion of funding to support weekend Meals on Wheels services. Mr. Haney also provided an update regarding the District's insurance review of the NOR pool. He reported that, as requested by the Board in May, staff had contacted the District's insurance providers and that all parties have until the end of the month to respond. Should no response be received, staff will work with legal counsel to determine the appropriate next steps. Mr. Haney further updated the Board on the timing of agricultural activities at Austin Creek Park. He reported that vandalism to one of the water wells had delayed agricultural operations. However, the delay has provided the District with an opportunity to begin the survey process and advance planning efforts. Mr. Haney also announced that a community meeting would be held on May 21, 2026, to gather public input regarding the park's design. Lastly, Mr. Haney requested direction from the Board regarding the format of his mid-term performance review, including whether individual meetings or a closed session would be preferred. Due to scheduling constraints, the Board agreed to reschedule the June Board Meeting to June 29, 2026, and directed that the General Manager's mid-term review be conducted during Closed Session.

B. <u>Capital Improvement Projects</u>

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius reported that the Planning Department continues to work on the District's Comprehensive Master Plan and associated community surveys. Ms. Thisius provided updates on several capital improvement projects throughout the District. She reported that construction of Marcona Preserve Park and Raven Way Park is progressing well, and project photographs will be provided to the Board in June. She further reported that construction of the Almondale Meadow Creek Well Site is expected to begin either this week or next week. Regarding The Park at Palm Crossing, Ms. Thisius stated that an electrical engineer has been retained and is currently working on the design and engineering plans for sports field and pathway lighting. Ms. Thisius also reported that Rancho Tree Service will be trimming and removing trees at Standard Park prior to the start of construction activities. In addition, the park's picnic shelter and playground are scheduled for renovation, with all improvements being completed in accordance with applicable grant requirements and guidelines.

C. <u>Financial</u>

Director of Finance Sarah Plank reported that the financial report indicates that District revenue collections remain consistent with overall expenditures. Ms. Plank stated that the District's financial position continues to track as expected and anticipates closing out the fiscal year with a similar trend.

D. <u>Personnel</u>

Director of Human Resources Esther Grijalva reviewed the District's open positions. Ms. Grijalva highlighted the success of the Staff Appreciation BBQ. Ms. Grijalva also reported that the District has 14 students participating in the Owens Summer Youth Worker Program in partnership with the Owens Valley Career Development Center. She noted that the participants' orientation was scheduled for May 19, 2026. Lastly, Ms. Grijalva reported that she recently began a Supervisor Training program focused on employment and labor laws.

E. Parks Division

Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Evans reported on several completed projects, including the installation of architectural signage at Riverview Community Center, Rasmussen Senior Center, and Greenacres Community Center. He also reported that staff conducted walkthroughs of the District's community centers to assist in developing the Major Maintenance Project List for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Evans stated that the Parks Department is currently working on budget development and organizational restructuring efforts. He further reported that the Maintenance Department installed three owl boxes at Liberty Park as part of an effort to address the gopher population and conducted soil testing at both Polo Community Park and Liberty Park. In addition, a rodent deterrent system was installed at Riverlakes Ranch Community Park. Mr. Evans noted that four additional parks are experiencing squirrel-related issues. To address the problem, staff will implement a spray treatment system, with the process expected to take approximately seven days to complete. Lastly, Mr. Evans reported that the Parks Department is receiving asphalt paving bids for a project that will connect to the existing bike path.

F. Recreation

Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk highlighted several recreation program participation accomplishments. She reported that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program prepared 125 free tax returns between April 12 and April 19 at the Rasmussen Senior Center. Ms. Cronk also noted that the Line Dancing program at Greenacres Community Center recorded 525 participants during the month of April, while the Order of the Dragon program had 104 participants during the same period. Ms. Cronk further reported that Recreation Specialist Ricky Meyers successfully completed the American Red Cross Water Safety Instructor Training (WSIT) Certification Course and is now a certified Water Safety Instructor. Lastly, Ms. Cronk reported that registration for Swim Lessons opened on May 1 and generated 270 registrations. She noted the high demand for the program, with 137 registrations completed between midnight and 8:00 a.m. on the first day of registration.

G. Community Relations

Reports Received and Filed.

H. Training

Reports Received and Filed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence was received in June.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

BOB SMITH – no comment

GARRISON MORATTO – Thanked staff for their continued hard work and dedication to the District. Mr. Moratto requested information regarding the District's timeline for pursuing a potential bond measure and asked that the Board and General Manager's office provide an update on the anticipated schedule and next steps. Lastly, Mr. Moratto mention that the Austing Creek Park Adhoc committee will meet next Thursday and wants to ask Director Smith and Director Chudy if they have any questions for the meeting.

RYAN SKIDMORE – no comment

JENIFER VANALSTEIN – no comment

JEFF CHUDY – requested that staff provide a timeline outlining the development process for a new park, beginning with a shovel ready project and working backward through the various planning, design, and approval stages. Mr. Chudy also requested that staff review how the allocated funds for Austin Creek Park are proposed to be utilized. Lastly Mr. Chudy requested that staff seek input from City representatives regarding the comprehensive Master Plan surveys.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m. to the next meeting of the Board of Directors of North of the River Recreation and Park District scheduled on June 29, 2026, 4:30 p.m. at the Riverlakes Ranch Community Center and District Administrative Complex.

Minutes to be approved at Board
Meeting held on June 29, 2026

Janett Miller

Janett Miller, Clerk of the Board

Bret Haney (Jun 30, 2026 13:10:01 PDT)

Bret Haney, General Manager

Jenifer VanAlstein
Jenifer VanAlstein (Jun 30, 2026 12:14:56 PDT)

Jenifer VanAlstein, Chairperson

May Board Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report 2026-06-30

Created:	2026-06-30
By:	Janett Miller (jmiller@norrecreation.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAAgBXHAdpOIikfqGaOwLnzzLwEeWmP3bU

"May Board Meeting Minutes" History

- Document created by Janett Miller (jmiller@norrecreation.org)
  2026-06-30 - 5:39:39 PM GMT

- Document emailed to Jenifer VanAlstein (jenifer@adaptive-net.com) for signature
  2026-06-30 - 5:39:43 PM GMT

- Email viewed by Jenifer VanAlstein (jenifer@adaptive-net.com)
  2026-06-30 - 7:06:42 PM GMT

- Document e-signed by Jenifer VanAlstein (jenifer@adaptive-net.com)
  Signature Date: 2026-06-30 - 7:14:56 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: TYPE

- Document emailed to Bret Haney (bhaney@norrecreation.org) for signature
  2026-06-30 - 7:14:58 PM GMT

- Email viewed by Bret Haney (bhaney@norrecreation.org)
  2026-06-30 - 8:09:51 PM GMT

- Document e-signed by Bret Haney (bhaney@norrecreation.org)
  Signature Date: 2026-06-30 - 8:10:01 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: DRAW

- Document emailed to Janett Miller (jmiller@norrecreation.org) for signature
  2026-06-30 - 8:10:03 PM GMT

- Email viewed by Janett Miller (jmiller@norrecreation.org)
  2026-06-30 - 8:11:36 PM GMT

- Document e-signed by Janett Miller (jmiller@norrecreation.org)
  Signature Date: 2026-06-30 - 8:11:53 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: IMAGE

- Agreement completed.
  2026-06-30 - 8:11:53 PM GMT