

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

REGULAR MEETING

RUSH PARK
3021 Blume Drive
Rossmoor, California

Tuesday, April 8, 2008

A. ORGANIZATION

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

**2. ROLL CALL: Directors Joel Rattner, Erwin Anisman, Alfred Coletta, Mark Nitikman,
President Shawn Wilson**

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. LIEUTENANT TOM GALLIVAN: QUARTERLY CRIME STATISTICS.

Lt. Tom Gallivan of the Orange County Sheriff's Department briefed the Board on the quarterly crime statistics for Rossmoor. The Lieutenant stated that there has been a 22% decrease in crimes overall as compared to the First Quarter of 2007, however there has been increase in vehicle burglaries, residential and property thefts. Lt. Gallivan cautioned Rossmoor residents to safeguard their valuables by securing them at all times. He also advised that in order to prevent these crimes of opportunity, individuals should refrain from leaving valuables in their vehicles in plain view; it only takes seconds for a thief to break the window of an automobile and steal a laptop computer. The Lieutenant mentioned the fact that the Sheriff's Systems Analysts typically combine data from all unincorporated areas, but for purposes of this report the Rossmoor data was separated, therefore, the Crime Statistics and Response Times contained in the report pertained specifically to Rossmoor. Discussion ensued relative to the report.

President Wilson expressed his disappointment in the response times; specifically with Priority One calls that took 8 minutes and longer. Lt. Gallivan stated that the goal of the Orange County Sheriff's Department was to respond to all Priority One calls in 5 minutes or less and that they had met that goal 55% of the time. The Lieutenant explained that there were many variables that contributed to delays in response time such as units being tied up on another call, in locations as far away as Sunset Beach, sometimes deputies were assigned with escorting someone to jail in Santa Ana. The Lieutenant stated that he was not going to make excuses and that he and his department would continue to strive for their

goal of 5 minutes or less on Priority One calls.

Director Rattner mentioned the matter of using cell phones rather than landlines. The Lieutenant encouraged citizens to report suspicious activity, using their cell phones whenever necessary, but indicated that landline phones are easier for 911 dispatchers to track and elicit a quicker response.

Director Nitikman questioned why fraud-related crimes had gone up so dramatically. General Manager, Henry Taboada responded that there had been a great deal of identity theft as of late and that the Rossmoor Homeowners Association, through the Neighborhood Watch Program, had cautioned all residents to protect themselves from mail fraud by reporting missing or stolen mail immediately, shredding sensitive documents and hand-carrying outgoing mail to the nearest mailbox or local post office.

Director Anisman requested data on the number of street sweeping citations to be included in the Lieutenant's next Quarterly Report. Lieutenant Gallivan agreed to include the information in a future report. The report was received and filed.

b. ERIC CHRISTIANSEN-RPC: Was unable to attend.

The General Manager passed out a report from the Rossmoor Planning Committee (RPC) to the Board.

B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – None

C. PUBLIC FORUM

Susan Rehman of the RHA announced the RHA Picnic and Carnival to be held at Rush Park on May 3rd and 4th, adding that the annual event also serves as a fundraiser for the Los Alamitos School District and will include all new carnival rides, a karaoke contest, car show, motorcycles, racecars, live music, a dog parade, military family activities and a pancake breakfast.

Ralph Vartabedian stated his concerns regarding the proposed demolition of the Rossmoor Park wooden trellis/ pergola; in his opinion removing the trellis without replacing it would present an eyesore that was inconsistent with the community standards of Rossmoor. Mr. Vartabedian requested that the Board solicit more community input about the project. Director Nitikman informed Mr. Vartabedian that said topic was on same evening's agenda and to date the Board had invested a great deal of thought into the project with regard to the substantial costs associated with repairs versus replacement, safety issues and the possible impact of future incorporation.

D. REPORTS TO THE BOARD-FINANCE COMMITTEE

The General Manager presented the Board with the research he had done on investment options relative to credit unions. He informed them that credit union investments are protected by NCUSIF Insurance which is equivalent to FDIC. Director Rattner questioned RCSD Accountant/Bookkeeper Kim Engel about the property tax revenues. Director Nitikman commented that when the tax revenue is received it will have to be moved over to LAIF in

accordance with the policy. Discussion ensued relative to alternative investment options. Amended Motion by Director Nitikman, seconded by Director Coletta to adopt a three year AA-(or better) Bond at the highest rate. Motion passed 5-0.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director J. Rattner requested the removal of Items E-3 and E-4. Motion by Director M. Nitikman, seconded by Director E. Anisman to approve Items E-1a, E-1b, and E-2 on the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 5-0

1. MINUTES:

a. Regular Meeting of March 11, 2008.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 11, 2008 were approved.

b. Special Meeting of March 22, 2008.

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of March 22, 2008 were approved.

2. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT-FEBRUARY, 2008

The report was received and filed.

3. QUARTERLY VACANT SITE REPORT

This item was removed from the consent calendar.

4. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PARKWAY ARBORIST...

This item was removed from the consent calendar.

THE ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR WERE ACTED UPON AT THIS TIME.

3. QUARTERLY VACANT SITE REPORT

Director M. Nitikman requested further clarification with regard to site vacancies, specifically what constituted a vacant site, and what criteria was used in determining how many trees are planted in any one area. Director J. Rattner requested a revised report which summarized the data in a more comprehensive manner, in addition to clarification on what defines an unsuitable planting area. Discussion ensued relative to the inadequate size and quality of newly planted saplings. The Board directed the General Manager to bring a proposal back to the next monthly meeting that addressed moving funds within the current budget in order to cover the cost of planting better quality, and more substantially-sized saplings. Motion by Director M. Nitikman, seconded by Director J. Rattner to receive and file the Quarterly Vacant Site Report. Motion passed 5-0.

4. REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PARKWAY ARBORIST...

The General Manager inquired as to whether the Board wanted to approve a third one-year extension with West Coast Arborist or go out for bid. Motion by Director M. Nitikman, seconded by Director J. Rattner to appoint a subcommittee, to include C.J. Crockett, Director E. Anisman and Director J. Rattner, in order to determine the new specifications for saplings and make other changes to the proposed contract. In addition the Board elected to renegotiate RCSD's current contract with West Coast Arborist in order to provide the District with more quality-control over its urban forest. It was further agreed that RCSD would simultaneously go out to bid in order to solicit alternative arborist services. WCA would be given an opportunity to meet the terms of the revised agreement, in which case the one year extension with them would be granted and the other bids would be withdrawn. Motion passed 5-0.

F. PUBLIC HEARING - None

G. RESOLUTION NO. 08-04-08-01 REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT CLAIM.

The General Manager reported the District had received a claim from Mr. Eddie Cecilio for reimbursement allegedly caused by tree damages. The claim was referred to SDRMA, the District's insurance carrier, who will either settle the claim or request the RCSD to deny the claim. The latter action would allow the claimant to pursue other legal remedies. It was also noted that Mr. Cecilio had originally stated that he wanted to be compensated for all of the alleged damage to his property, but had since reduced his claim to encompass only his sewer repair bills in the amount of \$3,003.00 and a \$500.00 deductible. Motion by Director M. Nitikman, second by Director A. Coletta to adopt Resolution No. 08-04-08-01 Rejection of Government Claim as amended. Motion passed by roll call vote 5-0.

Mr. Eddie Cecilio provided a recap relative to his claim for damages stating it was caused by tree roots and added that he would like the District to refrain from planting, what were in his opinion, tree species with aggressive root systems, i.e. the Ficus (Signature) Tree.

H. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. POLICY NO. 2050 BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

General Manager, Henry Taboada brought back Bereavement Policy 2050 for a second reading. This item was previously approved by the Board at their March 11, 2008 meeting.

Rossmoor Homeowners Association liaison, Dr. Chuck Woodfin, commented that the District should compare their proposed Bereavement Policy to those in neighboring cities and Districts as opposed to the county. Dr. Woodfin also stated that the Bereavement Policy proposal brought before the Board at last month's meeting should have been presented in a policy rather than a memo format. He added that two readings were necessary in order to adopt a new policy. Discussion ensued relative to changes in the language of the Bereavement policy document.

The General Manager stated that the first reading had indeed taken place and had already been approved by the Board. The General Manager also stated that RCSD employees were not represented by a collective bargaining unit as in comparable cities and bore the burden of

negotiating their own employment terms and benefits.

Susan Rehman, with the Rossmoor Homeowners Association added that in her experience the most important factor in policy making was consistency in all Personnel policies.

Director Rattner proposed that the 5 day leave be reduced to 3 days and that an employee had to work at least 20 hours per week and be employed at least 90 days to be eligible. Motion by Director A. Coletta, seconded by Director J. Rattner to require an employee to work a minimum of 20 hours per week and pass a 90 day probationary period in order to be automatically eligible for 3 days of Bereavement Leave, with an additional 2 days granted only after submitting adequate proof of a deceased family member to the General Manager. Discussion ensued relative to what constituted fairness when imposing limitations on the additional 2 days. Amended Motion by Director M. Nitikman, seconded by Director J. Rattner, to amend the Bereavement Leave eligibility requirements to state that an employee must be employed a minimum of *20 hours per week* and must pass a *30 day probationary period* prior to receiving the benefit. In addition, the Board elected to amend the original 5 days of leave to *3 days, with an additional 2 days granted only at the discretion of the General Manager* for travel and other extenuating circumstances. The Board also agreed that *this would be considered the second reading*. Motion to adopt Bereavement Leave 2050 as amended passed 5-0.

The Board took a short recess at 9:15 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

2. RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS/DELETIONS PROPOSED TREE LIST.

The General Manager submitted RCSD Tree Consultant, C.J. Crockett's proposed tree list to the Board containing her recommended additions and deletions. Motion by Director E. Anisman, seconded by Director M. Nitikman to table the item until the May Meeting when C.J. Crockett could be present to answer questions. Director A. Coletta requested that color photo attachments be added to the report so that the various species could be more easily identified. Motion passed 5-0.

3. PROPOSED ROSSMOOR PARK CAPITAL PROJECT-COMMUNITY CENTER WOODEN PATIO.

As requested by the Board at their last regular meeting, the General Manager brought back a bid estimate from General Contractor, Mike Ells in the amount of \$10,600.00 for demolition of the wooden trellis/ pergola located at the Rossmoor Park Community Center building. Discussion ensued relative to the cost and scope of work with Ralph Vartabedian reiterating his concerns about the demolition project and loss of architectural aesthetics which, in his opinion, would likely result. The General Manager replied that no repairs were feasible without tearing it out. Susan Rehman suggested a canvas awning in the interim. President Shawn Wilson stated that the blueprints had been obtained and that he and the General Manager would be taking them to the Orange County planning department in order to determine the engineering requirements for removal and replacement of the patio pergola as previously designed. Motion by President Shawn Wilson, seconded by Director M. Nitikman to table the item until next month's meeting. The Board directed the General Manager to bring the following items to the next Meeting of the Board for further consideration: At least three bids for the Rossmoor Park

project along with some professional advice on how to integrate temporary canopies into the existing structure. Motion passed 5-0.

I. GENERAL MANAGER ITEMS

The General Manager reported on the RHA Carnival Picnic scheduled for May 3rd and 4th. Discussion ensued relative to the dramatic increase in the size and scope of this annual event. Concern was expressed by the General Manager and the Board as to unforeseen liability issues arising from the addition of large carnival rides. The Board expressed a general disappointment in the RHA for what was perceived by the Board to be a serious lack of communication on their part. It was noted that the RHA used to include the RCSD in the planning and coordination of the picnic and a more cooperative relationship used to exist between these two organizations. The Board also noted that if the RCSD was providing the RHA with a customary cash contribution, it was prudent to expect the RCSD logo to appear on all advertisements for the event. The General Manager was asked to contact SDRMA about liability as a result of the carnival rides.

J. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Director J. Rattner requested that the General Manager meet with the Orange County Fire Authority in order to obtain data on the Fire Department response times, the number of medical calls, and number of fire calls for last year. Director Rattner also requested that the upcoming RCSD Newsletter contain some information encouraging Rossmoor residents to consistently use “*Rossmoor*” as opposed to “*Los Alamitos*” in their mailing addresses in order to preserve the identity of the Rossmoor community.

Director E. Anisman requested the R.F. Dickson Street Sweeping Census results be included in next month’s agenda.

K. CLOSED SESSION – None

L. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Director M. Nitikman, seconded by Director J. Rattner to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

SUBMITTED BY:

Henry Taboada
Consulting General Manager

