



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

REGULAR MEETING

RUSH PARK
Auditorium
3021 Blume Drive
Rossmoor, California 90720

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

A. ORGANIZATION

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Directors Shade, Searles and President Maynard
Absent: Directors Barke, DeMarco

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Boy Scout Troop #642

4. PRESENTATIONS:

a. California Highway Patrol Officer Zeferino Valdovinos Re: Quarterly Traffic Report

CHP Officer Valdovinos presented details of the Quarterly Traffic Report and addressed DUI checkpoints, planned increased patrols during weekends and holidays, and an eBike incident; reminded the public that the eBike speed on sidewalks is 5 mph, safety helmet must be worn by riders under 18, passengers are not allowed on foot pegs or handlebars, when riding in the street, that it is required to obey all traffic signs, signals and speeds, there is no stopping in red zones, yellow zones are for unloading and loading, and to be mindful of school zones. Officer Valdovinos noted eBikes are classified as a bike with pedals and an electric motor no greater than 750 watts. If it is over 750 watts, it is considered a motorcycle, and the owner must register the bike with the CA DMV and possess a valid driver's license. Additionally, he reported that senior volunteer officers are doing school enforcement, that training for street enforcement is underway, and announced there will be officers present to assist with upcoming Rossmoor events.

In response to Director Shade's question, Officer Valdovinos clarified the speed limit on the sidewalk for any type of bike is 5 mph, reiterated passengers of any kind are not allowed on eBikes and reported the eBike perpetrator was going 60 mph.

Officer Valdovinos stated officers are trying to educate parents, children, and the community about e-bike safety and rules. He noted there are informational pamphlets available.

In response to Director Shade, Officer Valdovinos said the senior volunteer officers are in the school areas in the morning and then cover other areas of Rossmoor throughout the day and are authorized to put out the radar trailer. He noted they are mainly for a visual presence and education.

In response to Director Searles, Officer Valdovinos reported most tickets issued in Rossmoor are for failure to obey stop signs, most crashes are in intersections due to lack of attention by drivers; agreed Montecito Boulevard has a speed problem and Orange County Public Works has noted high traffic as well and suggested that speed bumps may slow down traffic on Montecito. He addressed staffing; spoke about tracking collisions; reported that Rossmoor does not have a high propensity for uncontrolled intersection crashes; mentioned the number of DUIs resulting from the recent checkpoints and demographics of those cases.

b. Proclamation of Appreciation to Outgoing Director Jeff Barke

Despite Director Barke's absence, President Maynard presented a clock as a parting gift, a letter of recognition from California Legislator Tri Ta, a Certificate of Recognition from Senator Janet Nyguen, and a Proclamation of Appreciation from Rossmoor, which highlighted Director Barke's numerous achievements and dedicated work for RCSD.

City Manager Mendoza, thanked Director Barke for his service and claimed it was great working with him on behalf of RCSD staff.

Director Shade thanked Director Barke for his six years of service and commitment to the community.

Director Searles thanked Director Barke for his service.

Administrative Assistant Whang read a letter from Director Barke into the record.

B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - None

C. PUBLIC FORUM

President Maynard invited public comments.

Konya Vivanti mentioned her experience in preparing staff reports in regard to contract amendments; reported the original contract is not included in the agenda and instead staff prepares a report with a copy of the letter from the service provider, and it includes the amendment page to be added to the existing contract. She emphasized the entire contract is never included; believed it was unprofessional for the Board to chastise General Manager Mendoza in a public forum about the exclusion of the entire agenda packet and noted the entire contract could have been requested when the agenda packet was distributed.

Regarding discussion from a previous meeting, Ms. Vivanti noted that changing the name to accurately reflect the new owner of a contract is not needed for approval; opined it is better to do it at the next contract negotiation; claimed she hopes the delay of approval was not done intentionally or for self-serving reasons; pointed out the limited choices of street sweeping providers and encouraged the Board to approve the amendment today.

There were no other public comments and President Maynard closed this portion of the meeting.

D. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. REPORT ON THE URBAN FOREST – DISTRICT ARBORIST MARY KINGMAN

Arborist Kingman presented details of the Urban Forest report for August 2024 through October 2024 and included information regarding the Santa Ana winds event that occurred last week.

Discussion followed regarding having residents call RCSD to report fallen limbs, calling the Sheriff's for emergencies, impacts of the late summer weather, discussed limb failures, the tree dedication program and community outreach for the resident tree program.

A video highlighting Arborist Kingman and her work was displayed.

2. REPORT ON ORANGE COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL RESPONSES

General Manager Mendoza reviewed the questions asked by the Board during the last meeting and the answers offered by Orange County Vector Control, subsequently. He reported that Rossmoor flood control channels are serviced on a 12-14 day cycle roughly two to three times per month, the chemicals used do not change the color, appearance or smell of the water, the pictures shared show the flood channels are in fine condition, algae does not hinder service to the channels, nor does service change the appearance of algae, a variety of adulticides and larvicides are used and a list of the products can be found on their website. Additionally, he stated that Rossmoor flood control channels are treated regularly and are reported on their website, a service request can be set up via their customer service line or online and it takes one to seven business days for an appointment to be made. On average, 197 mosquito traps are set throughout the county each week, the closest routine trap to Rossmoor is at the Los Alamitos Racetrack, traps can be set within Rossmoor based on need, but there has not been a scientific need to do so, and the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) is still in the pilot stages and being employed in Mission Viejo. Finally, it is not known when the pilot program will conclude, therefore, it is unknown when it may be implemented in other areas.

Director Shade expressed her frustration with how the flood channels look; voiced her desire to have them flushed and questioned why there is standing water.

President Maynard noted this discussion is on vector control specifically and her concerns are for the flood channels.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES
 - a. Regular RCSD Board Meeting of October 8, 2024
2. AUGUST 2024 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT AND SEPTEMBER 2024 WARRANTS
3. SEPTEMBER 2024 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT AND OCTOBER 2024 WARRANTS
4. LONG TERM/NONPROFIT USER PERMIT RENEWALS FOR USE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY
5. APPROVAL OF VACATION BUY-BACK SUBMITTALS FOR RCSD EMPLOYEES REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN THE DECEMBER 2024 BUY-BACK PROGRAM

Motion by Director Searles, seconded by Director Shade, to approve the Consent Calendar, as presented. The motion carried 3-0. Directors Barke and DeMarco were absent.

F. PUBLIC HEARING – None

G. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. REPORT FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE RE: FY 2023-2024 AUDIT

General Manager Mendoza thanked the District Accountant and Mike Matsumoto for their work in contributing to the audit and introduced the Auditor, Brad Welebir from Rogers, Anderson, Malody & Scott. He asked that this be a final reading and approval of the 2023-2024 Annual Audit due to the District earning a clean and unmodified report and reported that no material significant weaknesses were identified.

Brad Welebir, Auditor, explained what an unmodified report is, reported there is nothing the District needs to take corrective action on and stated staff was very responsive.

In response to Director Searles, Mr. Welebir stated that the new accounting software used by the District has turned out to be better than the old system, the District's investment profile is low risk, and mentioned there is about a year's worth of operating expenses in the reserves; noted that Rossmoor is largely supported by property taxes which are received by the District between December and April and that during the months between May and November the District uses the reserves and therefore, its investments are set up to yield maximum liquidity

which is unlike bigger entities with higher cash flow who lock investments for longer periods of time to secure better rates. Additionally, Mr. Welebir attested the audit included reviewing non-financials in order to be as thorough as possible.

Director Shade commended Mr. Welebir for his work and the information provided.

For the benefit of the attending Boy Scouts, Mr. Welebir explained how Rossmoor governance is structured and addressed the differences between a city and a district.

Motion by Director Shade, seconded by Director Searles, to receive and approve the 2023-2024 audit. The motion carried 3-0 with the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Shade, Searles, President Maynard
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Barke, DeMarco

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES SATISFACTION SURVEY 2024

Administrative Assistant Whang presented a rough draft of a survey that consists of nine questions, one to be added later, that is set to be accessible by residents from December 1st to December 31st; explained that the last time a survey was conducted in 2022, there was a total of 23 questions, but only 279 responses compared to a prior survey with 10 questions which yielded 425 responses and stated the survey will be administered using SurveyMonkey and residents will be notified via postcards with links and QR codes and social media posts.

Director Searles asked to add youth sports under question 2.

Members of the Board commented favorably regarding the proposed survey.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE EXTENSION AND RATE INCREASE REQUEST FROM STREET SWEEPING CORPORATION OF AMERICA

General Manager Mendoza reported that Street Sweeping Corporation of America (SSCA) is requesting a 3.5% CPI renewal increase from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025; recalled that last year the Board approved a 3.7% CPI increase, but SSCA never billed for the increase and therefore it was never paid. He added that they are not seeking reimbursement and there is no threat of back billing. General Manager Mendoza described the attachments/documents associated with this item; highlighted Attachment 2 and stated he has approved it.

Director Searles was happy to have the full agreement in front of him as it outlines services and standards he did not expect and lamented he wished he had it when Mr. Brito, a representative of SCA, was present.

Director Shade thanked General Manager Mendoza for having the agreement in front of the Board.

President Maynard shared his opinion of street sweeping in Rossmoor and pointed out that due to the high number of trees there will always be leaves on the ground.

Motion by Director Searles, seconded by Director Shade to APPROVE EXTENSION AND RATE INCREASE REQUEST FROM STREET SWEEPING CORPORATION OF AMERICA. The motion carried 3-0 with the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Shade, Searles, President Maynard
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Barke, DeMarco

4. SECOND READING FOR PROPOSED POLICY NO. 2215 RE: WORKPLACE VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

General Manager Mendoza presented a review of the item; announced that trainings are underway and reported that RCSD is in compliance already with the law.

In response to Director Searle's concerns with document wording, General Counsel Tarquin explained the language is written with larger entities in mind and future possibilities, but that there is already a structure in place with the duties of an HR department falling onto the General Manager and noted language can be changed to better reflect the capacity of the Rossmoor governance.

President Maynard stated he is comfortable with the language as is and cited his prior experience with entities like the FDA.

Discussion followed on current policies regarding Human Resources, the options for the Board to consider and adding clarifying language.

General Counsel Preziosi suggested the Board could approve it as is or direct staff to bring it back for clarification or direct the General Manager and General Counsel to make changes now, to the policy and approve the policy with those changes.

Director Searles suggested adding language to, "Report all threats or acts of workplace violence to your supervisor or manager or if that is not possible, report incidents to the President of the Board of the Rossmoor Community Services District".

Motion by Director Searles, seconded by Director Shade, to approve the second reading, Policy No. 2215 as amended, adding, "Report all threats or acts of workplace violence to your supervisor or manager or if that is not possible, report incidents to the President of the Board of the Rossmoor Community Services District" to the appropriate section of the policy. The motion carried 3-0 with the following roll call vote:

AYES: Shade, Searles, President Maynard
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Barke, DeMarco

H. GENERAL MANAGER ITEMS

General Manager Mendoza reported that the architecture design for the Canopy Project is underway and is projected to be submitted to the County by mid-November; stated a Traffic Committee meeting is being planned; talked about the MOU with LAGSL, installation of sound absorption in the East Room at Rush Park, fertilization of the turf at Rossmoor and Rush Parks; announced he will resign either during the first quarter of next year or after, contingent on a smooth and completed transition; addressed recruiting efforts and next steps and assured the Board of his commitment to stay as long as needed to ensure a smooth transition.

Director Searles thanked staff and General Manager Mendoza for the Revenue and Expenditure Report as well as for the update on his position.

General Manager Mendoza added that the quoted cost of recruitment of \$15,000 was an information item and after calling other cities and consultants, he thought it best to do the recruitment process in house to save costs.

I. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Director Shade asked if the Sheriff's Department will attend the next meeting as she has concerns with recent break-ins and other events.

Director Searles thanked the Audit Committee and the Boy Scouts; stated he attended the Seal Beach ceremony on Veterans Day and thanked all veterans for their service; requested staff to share the educational materials on e-Bikes that CHP presented; talked about the Winter Festival; promoted a blood drive event next week which he will attend and asserted he is proud to serve all of Rossmoor and not just those who are his friends or the people who voted for him, as he is elected to do.

President Maynard announced there are two applicants he wants to talk to so far and that he will call a meeting once it has been officially narrowed down to 2-3 applicants to allow everyone the opportunity to ask questions and noted historically it has been extremely beneficial to have the existing manager stay and facilitate a smooth transition.

In response to President Maynard, Director Searles said he and the Traffic Committee were not aware accidents at certain corners were being tracked and that he has always been told by Public Works it is nothing to worry about.

President Maynard requested staff to acquire the data so that the Traffic Committee can act accordingly; congratulated Directors Searles and DeMarco for their reelection and welcomed a second female member to the Board, Mary Ann Remnet, to whom he plans to reach out.

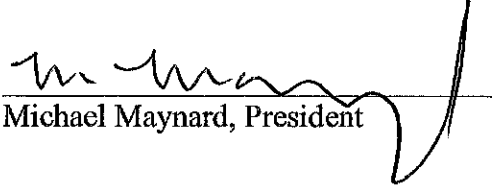
J. GENERAL COUNSEL ITEMS - None

K. ADJOURNMENT

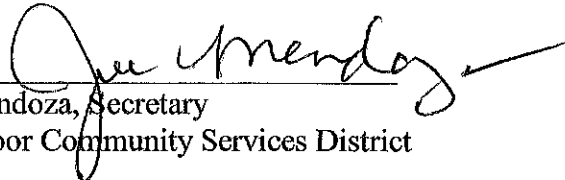
President Maynard adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



Michael Maynard, President



Joe Mendoza, Secretary
Rossmoor Community Services District

APPROVED:

RCSD Meeting November 12, 2024

It has been an honor to serve the community of Rossmoor. As my tenure ends, it saddens me that a group of far-left advocates have politized RCSD. Despite this community being a conservative majority of quiet family-oriented residents, the political left has now taken over the RCSD. I only hope this community wakes up to re-establish conservative control to continue the fantastic work this and previous RCSD members have accomplished.

I am proud that we brought pickleball to Rossmoor Park despite the few loudmouth leftists that had wanted to put the selfish interests of a few over the needs of the community. The community is now enjoying this rapidly growing sport.

I am proud of our fiscal oversite of our budget, especially during the tyranny of Covid.

I am proud of the work done by General Manager Mendoza helping to create new community events including the Farmers Market at Rush Park and the various festivals enjoyed throughout the year.

I am proud that our parks and trees are flourishing.

I am proud that we exerted greater oversight and control over our contracts with the county – that we established alternate day street sweeping and continue to work on traffic mitigation.

The blurring of the elected governance structure of the RCSD vs the voluntary club membership of the RHA continues to be a problem and interferes with the effectiveness of county contracts and relationships – I hope the new board will not allow these lines to be crossed.

Rossmoor is a quiet gem of a community in Orange County – This will not last if the politicization of the Rossmoor governance continues. Just as our country overwhelming elected former President Trump to another term and took control of both the house and senate, I hope and pray Rossmoor will reassert its conservative core to take back the RCSD from the woke left.

May God's grace continue to bless Rossmoor and I wish the new members and returning members of RCSD God speed.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey I. Barke, M.D.