



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

**REGULAR MEETING**

RUSH PARK  
3021 Blume Drive  
Rossmoor, California

**Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

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**A. ORGANIZATION**

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

**2. ROLL CALL:** Directors Burgess, Casey, DeMarco, Maynard  
President Kahlert

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**4. PRESENTATIONS:**

a. Proclamation re: Park Superintendent Omero Perez for 22 Years of Exemplary Service to the District.

President Kahlert presented Park Superintendent Omero Perez with a Proclamation of Appreciation for his 22 years of exemplary service to the Rossmoor Community Services District. Applause Ensued. Omero Perez thanked the Board and Community. Further Applause ensued. Photos were taken. The report was received and filed.

b. Proclamation re: Recreation Superintendent Chris Argueta for Outstanding Achievement with Winter Festival.

President Kahlert presented newly promoted Recreation Superintendent Chris Argueta with a Proclamation of Appreciation for his outstanding achievement with the first annual Rossmoor Winter Festival Event. Applause Ensued. Chris Argueta thanked the Board and Community. Further Applause ensued. Photos were taken. The report was received and filed.

c. Mr. John Cox, ValleyCrest Landscape Co. re: Drought Measures Update.

Mr. John Cox, Valleycrest Landscape Company, discussed the recent turf replacement and drought tolerant landscaping upgrades to District Parks. He presented a brief overview of the various smart irrigation upgrades. He commented that the brown areas

caused by the drought would quickly turn green with the winter rain and upcoming warmer weather. The report was received and filed.

d. **President Kahlert (2015) State of the District Address**

President Kahlert presented the 2015 State of the District Address. He highlighted the many achievements the District had accomplished over the year. He expressed appreciation for the Board and Staff and praised them for all their hard work and dedication. The report was received and filed.

**5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**a. President**

Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Deering called for nominations for the office of President. Director Maynard nominated Director DeMarco to the office of President. The nomination was seconded by Director Casey. The Administrative Assistant asked if there were any additional nominations. Seeing none the nominations were closed and a roll call vote was taken. Director DeMarco was unanimously elected as President, 5-0.

President DeMarco then presided over the remainder of the meeting.

**b. First Vice President**

President DeMarco called for nominations for the office of First Vice President. President DeMarco nominated Director Michael Maynard to the office of First Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Director Casey. President DeMarco asked if there were any additional nominations. Seeing none the nominations were closed and a roll call vote was taken. Director Maynard was unanimously elected as First Vice President, 5-0.

**c. Second Vice President**

President DeMarco called for nominations for the office of Second Vice President. Director Maynard nominated Director Casey to the office of Second Vice President. The nomination was seconded by Director Kahlert. President DeMarco asked if there were any additional nominations. Seeing none the nominations were closed and a roll call vote was taken. Director Casey was unanimously elected to a second term as Second Vice President, 5-0.

**B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA—None**

**C. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Beverly Houghton announced that the 2016 Rossmoor Community Festival would take place on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Rush Park. She added that a new festival website had been created and encouraged residents to access the site at: [www.rossmoorfestival.com](http://www.rossmoorfestival.com) for sponsorship forms and vendor applications.

Erwin Anisman had comments relative to private property foliage growing over and around the exterior of the Rossmoor Signature Wall. He stated that the wall policy prohibits this practice and asked that the RCSD correct it. He added he wasn't sure how much this would cost the District.

**D. REPORTS TO THE BOARD—None**

**E. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1a. MINUTES REGULAR BOARD MEETING—December 8, 2015**

**2. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT—November 2015**

Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Kahlert to approve the items on the Consent Calendar as submitted. Motion passed 5-0.

**F. PUBLIC HEARING—None**

**G. RESOLUTIONS:**

**1. RESOLUTION NO. 16-01-12-01**

Recommendation to approve Resolution No. **16-01-12-01** by roll call vote by reading the title only and waiving further reading as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT LIST OF OFFICIALS AUTHORIZED TO TRANACT BUSINESS WITH THE DISTRICT'S BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

Motion by Maynard, seconded by Director Casey to approve Resolution No. **16-01-12-01** Authorizing District List of Officials Authorized to Transact Business With The District's Banks and Other Financial Institutions, by roll call vote by reading the title only and waiving further reading. Motion passed 5-0.

**2. RESOLUTION NO. 16-01-12-02**

Recommendation to approve Resolution No. **16-01-12-02** by roll call vote by reading the title only and waiving further reading as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT CLAIM—MERCURY INSURANCE GROUP**

Motion by Burgess, seconded by Director Casey to approve Resolution No. **16-01-12-02** Rejection of Government Claim—Mercury Insurance Group, by roll call vote by reading the title only and waiving further reading. Motion passed 5-0.

**3. RESOLUTION NO. 16-01-12-03**

Recommendation to approve Resolution No. **16-01-12-03** by roll call vote by reading the title only and waiving further reading as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT CLAIM—BRENT WOOD**

Discussion ensued relative to the difference between the two claims and why the insurance offered to pay the \$12,000. General Counsel responded that the insurance agreed to pay the cost of damage but not the diminished value of the vehicle. There is no recovery in California for diminished value. Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Kahlert to approve Resolution No. **16-01-12-03** Rejection of Government Claim—Brent Wood, by roll call vote by reading the title only and waiving further reading. Motion passed 5-0.

**ORDINANCES**—None

**H. REGULAR CALENDAR:**

**1. RESIDENT REQUEST FOR STREET TREE TRIMMING BY PRIVATE ARBORIST.**

Recommendation to receive the report of the Tree Committee and make a determination regarding the resident's request to trim a parkway tree by a private certified arborist.

The General Manager reported at your December meeting, the Board took up the matter of a request by a resident to trim a parkway tree by a private certified arborist. Staff made a recommendation to deny the request stating that parkway trees were a District responsibility in accordance with Policy No. 3080 Parkway and Rossmoor Median Tree Maintenance. The policy prohibits tree trimming by anyone other than the District. Further the policy states that parkway trees are to be trimmed in accordance with County standards. Therefore, trimming a parkway tree by a private certified arborist would not guarantee adherence to those standards.

The Board deliberated the request of the resident and voted to refer the matter to the District's Tree Committee for further review. The Tree Committee met on January 6, 2016 and voted to recommend denial of the resident's request by the Board.

General Counsel Tarquin Preziosi stated that the District had recently amended its tree policy and created a new tree ordinance, therefore it was now the law. President DeMarco stated that the tree committee had reviewed the item at length, concluding that interim tree trims were allowed, but not by a private arborist.

Mary Kingman reported to the Board relative to the current condition of the tree. She reiterated the Tree Committee's recommendation to deny the resident's request as it would be contrary to policy and impossible to manage administratively.

Motion by Director Maynard seconded by Director Burgess to receive the report of the Tree Committee and deny resident Joyce Bloom's request to have her tree trimmed by a private arborist. Motion passed 5-0.

## **2. REPORT OF THE TREES/PARKWAYS COMMITTEE RE: RESIDENT REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF PARKWAY TREE.**

Recommendation to receive the report of the Trees/Parkways Committee and deny resident's request to remove a parkway tree.

Staff has received a request by Ms. Cindy Nelson residing at 3072 Ruth Elaine Drive to remove a parkway tree at that location. The matter was presented to the Trees/Parkways Committee at their meeting of January 6, 2016. The Committee reviewed staff's recommendation to deny the request and also considered the report of West Coast Arborist Rebecca Mejia, ISA Certified Arborist and Qualified Assessor. The tree has been evaluated as healthy and does not qualify for removal. The tree has an estimated value of \$9,830. The Committee voted 2-0 to deny the resident's request to remove the tree.

Mary Kingman addressed the Board regarding the historical trim data and certified arborist report relative to the resident's tree removal request. She stated that the tree had received all scheduled trims. She stated that West Coast Arborist's report had evaluated the tree as healthy and ineligible for removal.

Resident Cindy Nelson addressed the Board regarding alleged inconsistencies. She argued that the tree was unhealthy and dropping many limbs presenting a safety issue. She refuted the District's recommendation and requested more time to prepare a response.

Discussion ensued. President DeMarco asked Ms. Kingman if it was normal for a tree of that size to drop limbs. Mary Kingman stated that it was normal for large trees to drop limbs from time to time. Motion by Director Maynard, seconded by Director Burgess to postpone the item to the February 9, 2016 Meeting of the Board in order to allow Ms. Nelson to prepare a response. Motion passed 5-0.

### **I. GENERAL MANAGER ITEMS:**

The General Manager provided the board with an update on the flood control channel gates (better known as coyote gates). He stated that there had been a resident request for RCSD to take over the responsibility of raising and lowering the gates; however that was not legally, jurisdictionally or logistically feasible. The County Public Works Department continued to do a great job of maintaining the gates and communicating with the RCSD and residents whenever they were in the open position. He also reported that staff was in the process of scheduling various committee meetings and were preparing for a lot of work ahead in the New Year. He reported regarding the proposed resident donation of a memorial bench for the Kempton Mini-Park Demonstration Project. The bench would be in honor of a long time Rossmoor resident and former Disney artist, Gretchen Destefano. The mid-year budget adjustments were approaching. The Montecito Road Lighting Adjustments were progressing. As per the County, the cost to upgrade the current lighting deficiencies was \$12,000. A photometric study was not needed after all. Edison will do the installation. The current output is only 70w and the minimum standard is 150w. President DeMarco stated that no wonder the streets were so dark because the lighting was so dim. The General Manager concluded by announcing that recreation staff was in the process of planning the second

annual Rossmoor Night Basketball event at CSULB. On January 20<sup>th</sup> they would be playing CSU Irvine, on January 27<sup>th</sup> CSU Fullerton, and on March 5<sup>th</sup> they would be playing Hawaii, which was an outstanding team. Now all they had to do was commit to a date and lock it in. The report was received and filed.

## **J. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS**

Director Maynard thanked former President Bill Kahlert for his leadership over the past year. He stated that President Kahlert had a vision for the winter festival and made it happen. His passion paid off. He announced that the District now had two wonderful events to look forward to each year, The Rossmoor Community Festival on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the next wonderful winter event. He thanked Chris Argueta and Omero Perez who were recognized earlier in the evening for their contributions; stating that they probably didn't get thanked enough. He thanked Elizabeth Deering and the rest of the RCSD staff who worked hard for the benefit of the community. He concluded that he resolved to continue maintaining and upgrading Rossmoor in the coming year.

Director Casey stated he was pleased about the General Manager's updates on the coyote gates. He was also happy to report our new drought resistant landscaping was tough and weather resistant. He thanked outgoing President Bill Kahlert and RCSD Staff for an outstanding Rossmoor Winter Festival. He added that the cold weather only added to the appeal. He thanked Bill Kahlert for a job well done, stating there were many successful projects and events accomplished under his leadership. Director Casey concluded by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

Director Burgess thanked Chris and Omero for a great job. He welcomed Chris Argueta as the newly promoted Recreation Superintendent. He was pleased about the success of the Winter Festival. He also remarked that he learned a lot from Mary Kingman's report about interim tree trims and asked that the District publicize this in some way. He also had comments relative to coyote sightings and the District's role in the reporting process.

Director Kahlert thanked the Board and staff for the opportunity to serve as President over the past year. He stated that it was a lot of fun and he was looking forward to serving as Director in 2016. He offered to make himself available to President DeMarco if needed. He thanked Elizabeth Deering for her tireless efforts and behind the scenes coordination of events and Kathy Bell for keeping the District financially sound. He thanked Chris Argueta for a fantastic job on the Rossmoor Winter Festival and a great summer season. He thanked Omero Perez for his outstanding service over the past 22 years and added that he was so impressed with his ongoing professionalism, performance, perpetual smile and positive attitude. He thanked General Counsel Tarquin Preziosi for his demeanor and knowledge. He stated he was proud of the many accomplishments in 2015: decreased costs and increased revenue, the drought landscaping and beautification project, facility upgrades, etc. Last, but not least he thanked General Manager Jim Ruth for his patience and wisdom and for being an invaluable resource. Director Kahlert concluded by reminding everyone that it was coyote season and the floodgates were open in response to forecasted rain. He relayed a recent encounter he had with a coyote while walking his dog in Rush Park at 2 p.m. approximately 2 weeks ago. He stated the coyote looked like a large dog with a bushy tail and was not scared of him at all. He encouraged the public to be vigilant and stay away from coyotes.

President DeMarco thanked the Board for electing him and trusting him to the office of President. He looked forward to a productive year and agreed with the Board that the District had a very productive 2015. No matter how small the government entity, things like lighting improvements on Montecito Road, the Bradbury Road restriping and coyote management all take time and patience. He thanked the residents for their participation and community activism. He stated that the RCSD Board members are all Rossmoor Residents and they want to make the residents happy. He encouraged everyone to have their voices heard. President DeMarco thanked outgoing President Kahlert for his outstanding service over the past year and added that he would certainly seek his counsel over the coming months.

**K. CLOSED SESSION—None**

**I. ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Director Casey, seconded by Director Kahlert to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
**James D. Ruth**  
**General Manager**