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, SEPTEMBER 21, 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 CHAIRPERSON JENIFER VANALSTEIN AT 4:32 P.M.**

2. **ROLL CALL:**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Jenifer VanAlstein; Bob Smith; Ryan Skidmore; Garrison Moratto; Jeff Chudy
BOARD CLERK PRESENT
Janett Miller
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT
None
STAFF PRESENT
Bret Haney; Sarah Plank; Esther Grijalva; Steph Thisius; Jasmin LoBasso; Lauren Cronk; Mike Evans
LEGAL COUNSEL
Jacob Thomasy (4:33 P.M.)
PUBLIC PRESENT
Michael Miller (via Zoom); Cindy Mendoza, MIG, Inc. (via Zoom); James C. (via Zoom); M. Patterson (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 Jeff Chudy at 4:33 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: Smith **Second**: Skidmore **Ayes**: VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy
Noes: None **Absen**t: None **Motion carried**.

6. **NOR COMMUNITY CHAMPION**
There was no Community Champion selected for September.

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 August 17, 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: Skidmore **Second**: Smith **Ayes**: VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Noes**: None **Absen**t: None **Motion carried**.

9. BOARD BUSINESS

A. Award Contract for Weekly Uniform and Supply Rental to Sparkle Uniform & Linen Service, Resolution #44-26

Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Evans requested Board approval to award the weekly uniform and supply rental contract to Sparkle Uniform & Linen Service. As part of an evaluation of existing contracts, staff contacted two local uniform vendors to compare pricing and identify potential cost savings. AFTER DISCUSSION, THE BOARD APPROVE RESOLUTION #44-26 AWARDING THE WEEKLY UNIFORM AND SUPPLY RENTAL CONTRACT TO SPARKLE UNIFORM & LINEN SERVICE.

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

B. Approval of Change Orders for the Comprehensive Master Plan, Nexus Study and Strategic Plan, Resolution #45-26

General Manager Bret Haney requested Board consideration of change orders submitted by MIG, Inc., for additional services related to the Comprehensive Master Plan, Nexus Study, and

Strategic Plan. The proposed change orders included bond measure coordination, expanded tasks involving the Community Advisory Committee (CAC), refocused key leader interviews, developer and land use authority meetings, in-person strategic plan work sessions, and updates to the Geographic Information System (GIS) database. Cindy Mendoza of MIG, Inc., addressed questions and concerns from Board members and clarified that the bond measure process was separate from the Comprehensive Master Plan, Nexus Study, and Strategic Plan. The Board requested clarification regarding the proposed change orders and discussed the need for the General Manager and Board to oversee the Comprehensive Master Plan, Nexus Study, and Strategic Plan, with staff providing input as appropriate. The Board further requested that matters outside the scope of staff responsibilities be brought to the General Manager and Board for direction before additional services are requested from MIG, Inc. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD REJECTED THE PROPOSED CHANGE ORDERS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN, NEXUS STUDY, AND STRATEGIC PLAN. THE BOARD DIRECTED STAFF TO IDENTIFY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR OFFSETTING COSTS WITHIN THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT AND REQUESTED THAT WORK ON THE COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN CONTINUE UNDER THE EXISTING AGREEMENT.

Motion: None **Second**: None **Ayes**: None **Noes**: VanAlstein; Smith; Skidmore; Moratto; Chudy **Absen**t: None **Motion Rejected**.

C. Discussion Regarding the Planning Schedule for Austin Creek Park

This item was presented for further discussion regarding the timeline for Austin Creek Park and the selection of a professional consultant to prepare the conceptual design. The Board requested that the timeline be accelerated to complete the conceptual design by the end of the year. Staff indicated that this timeline could be achieved through an expedited bidding process rather than a full Request for Proposals (RFP), with an update to be provided in October. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION, THE BOARD PROVIDED DIRECTION TO INITIATE THE CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS THROUGH AN RFP, WITH AN UPDATE TO BE PRESENTED IN OCTOBER, OR TO PROVIDE A LIST OF CONSULTANTS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL.

10. STAFF REPORTS

A. <u>General Manager</u>

No updates to report currently.

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

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius reported that drilling at the Almondale well site was nearing completion. Staff are preparing bidding documents for the rehabilitation and renovation of the basketball courts, lighting, and landscaping surrounding the site, with the goal of bringing the item before the Board for approval in October. Ms. Thisius also reported that Vaughn Water would reimburse NOR for the landscaping costs. Regarding Austin Creek Park, Ms. Thisius reported that the project had reached the land surveying stage. Lastly, Ms. Thisius reported that staff are awaiting sign adjustments for Marcona Preserve Park and working with the City of Shafter to initiate the process of transferring ownership of the land to NOR.

C. <u>Financial</u>

Director of Finance Sarah Plank reviewed the financial report for August of Fiscal Year 2025–2026. She reported that the fiscal year-end books for 2025–2026 had officially closed, with the audit expected to begin toward the end of the following week. Ms. Plank also stated that she would provide Mr. Smith with information regarding CalPERS' payments following the meeting.

D. Personnel

Director of Human Resources Esther Grijalva reviewed current job openings and upcoming recruitment deadlines, highlighting that the Print Shop Technician position was scheduled to close this week.

E. Parks Division

Director of Operations and Maintenance Mike Evans reported that the Parks Department reorganization was progressing well. He also reported that staff are preparing bidding documents for tree-trimming services at Greenacres Park and Westdale Park, with the goal of presenting the item to the Board for approval in October.

F. Recreation

Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk reported that the Little Learners program and Parenting Classes at Neighborhood Place were featured in First 5's September program highlight. Ms. Cronk announced that the annual Robots-4-Tots event was scheduled for Friday, October 9, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lastly, Ms. Cronk invited the Board to attend NOR's annual Fall Festival at Fruitvale Park on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

G. Community Relations

Director of Community Relations Jasmin LoBasso reported that the NOR Foundation's next fundraiser would be held at Blaze Pizza on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Ms. LoBasso presented a flyer for the upcoming Pajama Night Bingo event, scheduled for Friday, November 13, 2026, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Rasmussen Senior Center. Tickets were on sale, with each ticket including dinner, hot chocolate, and one bingo card. Additional bingo cards would also be available for purchase. Ms. LoBasso also provided an update regarding ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Marcona Preserve Park and Raven Way Park. Lastly, Ms. LoBasso announced that the NOR Foundation was conducting outreach to local high schools to recruit volunteers for the upcoming Fun Run event.

H. Training

Reports Received and Filed.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence was received in September.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

BOB SMITH- no comment

GARRISON MORATTO- no comment

RYAN SKIDMORE- no comment

JENIFER VANALSTEIN- no comment

JEFF CHUDY- no comment

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Directors entered Executive Session at 6:17 P.M. for the following discussion.

A. Request for Executive Session Regarding General Manager Performance Evaluation — Government Code 54957

The Board of Directors reconvened from Executive Session at 7:32 P.M.

A. Request for Executive Session Regarding General Manager Performance Evaluation — Government Code 54957

NO ACTION TAKEN

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m. to the next meeting of the Board of Directors of North of the River Recreation and Park District scheduled on October 19, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the Riverlakes Ranch Community Center and District Administrative Complex.

Minutes to be approved at Board Meeting held on October 19, 2026

Janett Miller

Janett Miller, Clerk of the Board

Bret Haney, General Manager

Jenifer VanAlstein
Jenifer VanAlstein (Nov 3, 2026 10:22:48 PST)

Jenifer VanAlstein, Chairperson

09-21 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report 2026-11-03

Created:	2026-11-03
By:	Janett Miller (jmiller@norrecreation.org)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAdfxl9h9u2hkJjORiteqlKD9OBCuYjS79

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2026-11-03 - 5:09:04 PM GMT

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Signature Date: 2026-11-03 - 6:22:48 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: TYPE

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2026-11-03 - 6:22:49 PM GMT

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