



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, FEBRUARY 23, 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 4:31 P.M.

2. ROLL CALL: BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Jenifer VanAlstein; Bob Smith; Jeff Chudy

BOARD CLERK PRESENT

Janett Miller

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Ryan Skidmore; Garrison Moratto

STAFF PRESENT

Bret Haney; Allison Bryant; Esther Grijalva; Steph Thisius; Lauren Cronk; Jasmine LoBasso; Christy Woolfolk; Isaiah Lopez

LEGAL COUNSEL

Jacob Thomasy (4:57 P.M.)

PUBLIC PRESENT

Justin Batey

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 Jenifer VanAlstein at 4:31 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:** Chudy **Ayes:** VanAlstein; Smith; Chudy

Noes: None **Absent:** Skidmore; Moratto **Motion carried.**

6. 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!

Mr. Batey inquired whether the discussion regarding Austin Creek Park would take place at this time or later in the meeting. Staff responded that Austin Creek Park will be addressed during the follow-up discussion of the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) workshop.

7. 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 and Special Meeting Held January 19, 2026, and February 03, 2026

C. Financial

Approval of Receipt of Bills and Invoices

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Consent Agenda

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

8. BOARD BUSINESS

A. First Read of the Proposed Revision and Name Change to Finance Policies (Purchasing, Accounts Payable and Bidding Process), Addition of Capital Improvement and Major Maintenance, Change Order Policies

Director of Finance Allison Bryant presented a First Read of the proposed revision to Policy 6-103 through 6-105. Ms. Bryant explained that the purchasing policy is being updated to incorporate the California Uniform Public Construction Cost Accounting Act (CUPCAA) threshold amounts for Capital Improvements and Major Maintenance. The policy has been reorganized to clearly distinguish between day to day and construction purchases. A formal bidding process is also being updated to align with CUPCAA requirements. Additional revisions include eliminating the requirement to submit a Request for Purchase form to generate a Purchase Order; removing "Bank Credit Card" as a available credit card type and deleting related procedures; clarifying that Cooperative and Joint Purchasing Agreements and "Piggyback Bidding" are the same; adding a Change Order Policy; adding definitions under the attachments for both purchasing policy sections; and removing language related to Coding Documentation from the Accounts Payable Policy. Staff answered questions from the Board. This item will be brought back in March for Board approval.

B. Approval of Application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Standard Park Renovation Project, Resolution #04-26

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius requests Board approval of Resolution #04-26 to apply for grant. Ms. Thisius reviewed the District's history with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, noting prior awards received in 2007 and 2011, while applications submitted between 2012 and 2018 were not awarded. Ms. Thisius explained that CDBG is a federally funded program administered by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support community development activities benefiting low- and moderate-income populations. Local funding for this grant is administered through the County of Kern Board of Supervisors, which notified North of the River Recreation and Park District (NOR) of the available CDBG opportunity. Ms. Thisius also provided background information on Standard Park, including its history, current condition, prior grant applications, and funding challenges. Ms. Thisius noted that the assistance from a CDBG award would help close the funding gap for the project. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD APPROVED RESOLUTION #04-26 TO APPLY FOR GRANT

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

C. Discussion and Direction Regarding the Potential of an NOR General Obligation (GO) Bond

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius presented the item to the board for discussion and direction regarding the preparation and solicitation of a constituent survey. AFTER DISCUSSION, BOARD DIRECTED STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE PREPARATION AND SOLICITATION OF A CONSTITUENT SURVEY.

D. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Workshop — Corollary Discussion

Director of Planning and Construction Steph Thisius responded to follow up question raised during the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Workshop held on January 26, 2026. The discussion included impact fees for existing development, the history and application of the Quimby Act, the Nexus study, and the status of Austin Creek Park. Ms. Thisius explained that prioritization of Austin Creek Park is not feasible until the annexation process is complete.

Public comment: Mr. Batey presented prepared materials to the Board and staff, including excerpts from the January CIP Workshop. Mr. Batey inquired whether any funding could be allocated to Austin Creek Park.

Board members expressed interest in receiving a more streamlined financial report summarizing total available funds, allocated funds, and outstanding project needs. In the absence of Mr. Moratto, Ms. Thisius indicated she did not wish to commit to a simplified reporting format, noting Mr. Moratto's preference for the detailed reports. The Board requested that staff provide clarification regarding potential funding allocations for Austin Creek Park, along with a proposed timeline.

9. STAFF REPORTS

A. General Manager

General Manager Bret Haney invited Board members to meet with staff to further discuss construction and planning details, as well as to address any additional questions or concerns. Mr. Haney reported that the Riverlakes Community Center will be piloting a new library program. Lastly, Mr. Haney emphasized the importance of Board members completing all required training.

B. Capital Improvement Projects

Reports Received and Filed.

C. Financial

Director of Finance Allison Bryant reported that the Audit report will be presented in the Regular Board Meeting schedule in March.

D. Personnel

Director of Human Resource Esther Grijalva reviewed the open positions. Ms. Grijalva reported that interviews for the Director of Finance position will be held on Wednesday.

E. Parks Division

Reports Received and Filed.

F. Recreation

Director of Recreation Lauren Cronk reported that with the participation from the CRC the enrollment fee for the Discovery Sports programs was reduced for the spring season, resulting in nearly 300 participants registered to date. Ms. Cronk shared that the Explore Standard Middle School varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams secured victories against Beardsley Jr. High. Ms. Cronk highlighted the upcoming Daddy Daughter Dance scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2026, noting this year's theme is 90's rewind.

G. Community Relations

Director of Community Relations Jasmin LoBasso reported the interdepartmental collaboration with Recreation Department to transition the Recreational Management System hosting from a local server to a web-based platform. She noted that training and IT support will be provided to ensure a smooth implementation. Ms. LoBasso also shared that she is working with staff to develop a contractor list workflow in compliance with CUPCAA requirements and update procedures. Additionally, Ms. LoBasso highlighted that the Scholarship Fund has reached 70 percent of its targeted goal.

H. Training

Reports Received and Filed.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence was received in February.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

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

BOB SMITH – no comment

GARRISON MORATTO - absent

RYAN SKIDMORE - absent

JENIFER VANALSTEIN – prepare a written statement for staff expressing appreciation for their hard work and how much Ms. VanAlstein has absorbed over the years.

JEFF CHUDY – no comment

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 p.m. to the next meeting of the Board of Directors of North of the River Recreation and Park District scheduled on March 23, 2026, 4:30 p.m. at the Riverlakes Ranch Community Center and District Administrative Complex.

Minutes to be approved at Board
Meeting held on March 23, 2026



[Bret Haney \(Mar 25, 2026 10:27:42 PDT\)](#)

Bret Haney, General Manager



[Janett Miller \(Mar 25, 2026 10:55:21 PDT\)](#)

Janett Miller, Clerk of the Board



[Jenifer VanAlstein \(Mar 25, 2026 10:24:55 PDT\)](#)

Jenifer VanAlstein, Chairperson












7B 02-23 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-03-25

Created:	2026-03-24
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