

Regular Board Meeting

Minutes

June 9, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was convened by Chair Judy Dawson at 6:30 p.m. at the Ambrose Community Center, 3105 Willow Pass Road, Bay Point, CA.

1. Opening Ceremonies:

Roll Call: Board Members Present: Garcia, Dawson, Cendaña-Torlakson, Hoagland
Board Members Absent: Magleby
Staff Present: Smith, Rodrigues
Audience Present: Approx. 125

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Chair Dawson

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Move to approve the agenda as presented

Motion: Garcia **Second:** Cedaña-Torlakson

Action: Voice Vote: 4 ayes/1 absent (Magleby)/Motion Passed

4. Consent Calendar:

Director Dawson said she wanted to change the Special Meeting Minutes of May 19th to clarify what she had stated. She said under Item 5a she had stated that "as elected officials we have an obligation to the Bay Point Community and Ambrose Park District to obtain the funds that should come to us and be part of the mitigation process."

Motion: Move to approve the Consent Calendar with the noted changes to the minutes.

Motion: Hoagland **Second:** Cendaña-Torlakson

Action: Roll Call Vote: 4 ayes/1 absent (Magleby)/Motion Passed

5. Presentations:

a. Yard of the Month Awards: 1 of the 5 winners were present to receive their award.

6. General Manager's Report:

None

7. Public Communications:

Rochelle Bryant introduced herself and said she wanted to talk on behalf of herself and not as part of Henkel Corp. She said that she has worked with Tarry Smith on grants which would keep the community strong. Ms. Bryant stated that when she works she steps back and asks herself if what she is doing would help the customer. Mrs. Vivian Lisa said that she had talked to a man who had seen a woman slip and fall and hurt herself on the sidewalk at Anuta Park. He also told her there was a way to treat sidewalks so they wouldn't be so slippery.

8. Legal Counsel Report:

None

9. Board Matters:

a. **Consider naming of the Ambrose Weight Room the "Ted Wirth Weight Room" (Hoagland)** Mr. Smith stated that Director Hoagland had brought the idea forward to reconfirm since it was already named after Mr. Wirth at one time. Director Hoagland stated that the young man was a local student involved in football and had lost his life while at Pacifica High School. He said there would be no cost in naming the room

after him. He said if they want a plaque on the door then the group from Pacifica would pay for it. Mr. Nolan Mendoza said they have pictures and other things and asked if they would be able to display them. Mr. Smith said yes. Mr. Mendoza said that he would inform the Wirth family when the room is ready to present. Mr. Joe Massey stated that it is an honor to work with this community and he stated that he has rented Ambrose Park for a BBQ on August 14th and they could use that date if they want. He said they had already collected money for the re-naming project. Director Garcia said she was glad they were doing this and it is needed. Director Cendaña-Torlakson stated that she knew Mrs. Wirth and knew that she would be happy with this. Director Dawson said she was pleased it was brought to their attention and is happy to work with them.

Motion: Move to change the name of the Ambrose Weight Room to the "Ted Wirth Weight Room"

Motion: Hoagland **Second:** Garcia

Action: Voice Vote: 4 ayes/1 absent (Magleby)/Motion Passed

b. Public Review of Board Compensation requested by Contra Costa County Grand Jury (Smith)

Mr. Smith stated that other special districts and cities in Contra Costa County received the same letter from the Grand Jury and read the letter. He said there were five recommendations but we only had to do one of the items. He stated that all that received the letter had to discuss the items at a meeting. Director Cendaña-Torlakson stated for the audience that they receive \$100 per regular meeting but most work was done before and after the meetings. She stated that they receive \$50 for any special meetings and no payment for committee meetings. She said that they also receive reimbursement for rooms and food when attending conferences. Director Dawson stated that they receive no pay if a regular meeting is cancelled. Mr. Smith stated that no action needed to be taken, this was just a discussion item.

10. **Public Hearing:**

a. **Consider approval Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Final Budget (Rodrigues)** Mrs. Rodrigues explained the process she used to arrive at the final budget. There were no questions or comments.

Motion: Move to approve the 2010-2011 Final Budget

Motion: Hoagland **Second:** Garcia

Action: Roll Call Vote: 4 ayes/1 absent (Magleby)/Motion Passed

b. **Consider approval of Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 (Smith)** Mr. Smith read his staff report and then asked Stephanie Roberts of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District to answer any questions. Ms. Roberts explained that she was the CARES After School Program administrator before she moved to her current job as Director of Development. Director Cendaña-Torlakson said she would like to clarify that no child would be without an after school program. Ms. Roberts answered that they are able to serve even more than are currently served. She said that they will have summer programs and need to know if they will have a contract with Ambrose because of the jobs and other issues that have to be addressed. Director Cendaña-Torlakson reiterated that the school district would be able to carry everything. Ms. Roberts stated that when the grant was first applied for they needed collaboration with Ambrose to obtain the grant. She said that they would still appreciate any input from Ambrose but they would not lose any funding if Ambrose did not sign the contract. She also said that whoever takes over the contract will be under the same auspice. Director Garcia thanked Ms. Roberts for the clarity. Debra Mason, the CARES Afterschool Program Supervisor for the Bay Point sites said that first, as someone who lives here, it is disconcerting that they had to sit on the floor because of overcrowding. Ms. Mason read comments from Senator DeSaulnier and Assemblyperson Bonilla after a visit to the garden program at Riverview Middle School where they stated how great it was and an excellent example for other school districts and afterschool programs. Ms. Mason also pointed out that there was no guarantee that her site coordinators and recreation specialists would be able to keep their jobs if someone else took over. Roberto Murillo, ASP Site Coordinator, read a statement stating we would lose \$30,000 and the General Manager should give up his raise. He said there has been no liability in the last 10 years and wouldn't the senior café program be more of a liability? Kathleen Brissey, parent of an ASP child at Rio Vista, said she has lived here all her life and attended Bel Air. She said she is sad that they could do this and they need to read their mission statement. Laura Zaragoza, parent of a Rio Vista child stated that her children have learned gardening and how to be good citizens. She said change is not good for children. Perla Amaya stated that the ASP was a place for her to escape and get support growing up when she was having problems at home. She said she then worked for the ASP when she was old enough and because of the program she is going to U.C. Santa Barbara. Leah Sourbeer, Garden Educator, read a letter from Andria Fletcher, PhD, consultant for Healthy Behavior Initiative that praised the extraordinary work that has been done in Bay Point ASP and the privilege it was working with Debra Mason and her team. She said the Healthy Behaviors Learning Centers in the Bay Point ASP are not only exemplary but serve as models for programs throughout the state and exemplify Superintendent Torlakson's commitment to improving the eating habits and raising the physical activity levels of children and young people. She said the Bay Point Learning Center will be a highlight in her discussions with First Lady Michele Obama when she meets with her next week. Marlan Massey asked what the point of the contract being sent back to Mt. Diablo School District and what will it do for the community? Anna Ramos, ASP Recreation Specialist, stated she went through the ASP

as a student and some of the mentors she had were still working. She said that they convinced her to work for the ASP which also got her involved in YDLC and because of the ASP she won an Ambrose Lions Club Award and will be working on Early Childhood Development at college. Vicki Zumwalt, Municipal Advisory Council member, said she was happy to see everyone and was embarrassed to have people in the hall. She stated that she had lived in Bay Point all her life and read our mission statement. She said that she was shocked that they would consider giving this program up after ten years. She said that some families would have no food without the ASP garden besides the fact that they are learning about nutrition and wanted to know where her tax dollars were going. Katherine Davis, Site Coordinator, stated that she has been a resident for 19 years and working for CARES ASP for 8 years. She read a letter from the author of a children's book who made presentations for the ASP stating that after speaking all over the country and visiting many afterschool programs, the program that Debra Mason supervises is one of the best. Marlo Pitre, a Recreation Specialist, said that while he was going through the ASP there was always help with anything, including family problems. He also stated that because of the ASP he is attending firefighting school and has one year left. Sandra Gonzalez, parent of a CARES ASP student said she was not asking, she was demanding that they sign the contract. She said Debra Mason does great work. Ayana Bell, Recreation Specialist, said don't break children's bonds and lose touch with what humans do by not signing this contract. Judy Engle, ASP Cooking Teacher, stated that she was born and raised here and has worked with the ASP since it started and cannot believe you are giving this program up. Lloyd Mason, driver for ASP, stated that Stephanie Roberts said there will be no changes, but has not said the employees will be guaranteed their jobs. He also said the district will be losing \$30,000 in admin fees. He said it has taken 10 years to bring this program to where it is and Debra has worked her butt off and he feels this is personal retaliation because of him. Latoshia Craig, Recreation Specialist, stated their job is not an easy job but they do it because they love it. She said the children have been brought out of their shells and they are losing weight with the nutrition and activity programs. Rosa Palomino, Site Coordinator, stated that staff for the schools in Bay Point stay and get invested in their jobs with very little turnover because they love the job and the kids. Willie Evers, school custodian, said it was a wonderful experience working with Ms. Mason starting an athletic program. He stated that he didn't want to at first, but she convinced him. He said he got a track program started and tried to get it in the Concord schools but they weren't interested. He said four of his team are going to the Nationals when they had no idea they could run until the program was offered. He said these jobs need to stay in Bay Point. Tumoni Williams, Recreation Specialist, said she works at Bel Air and her children who are the most important thing to her are in the ASP and when she is not at work she trusts her children with the employees that work with them. Sergio Galicia, ASP Garden Educator, stated that the program is an incredible asset to the community and you don't know what's going to happen if someone else takes over. Luis Alvarez, Recreation Specialist, said he started in the garden with the Teen Garden Corp and is now a recreation specialist. He stated that both have changed his life. He says he maintains the garden at Rio Vista and the kids are learning how to eat right. Diana Elizarraraz, ASP parent stated that she has lived here for 15 years and Concord was taking over Delta View and why bring people over from Concord. Kevin Davis said his kids had come up through the ASP. He stated that when he first came here and asked how he could help, it was Debra Mason who first met and greeted him and suggested he volunteer in the Teen Center. He said he is now graduating because of the ASP. Erika Cardona, Site Coordinator, stated that she started with ASP when it started in 1999 and had worked at three of the schools in Bay Point. She said she is outraged that they could consider this. She said they get 1600 lbs. of fruit or vegetables delivered every Wednesday and at Shore Acres it is gone in one day. Marni Shorter said she was a single mother of five children and a director of YMCA. She said that two of her children work for the ASP and count on them to help out. Director Dawson read into the record a letter from Marcia Ravizza urging the board to approve the budget that included the ASP. It stated that because money is being pulled out of the reserve the budget doesn't make it clear that the district will be losing \$30,000 per year without the ASP. She says that liability is expected with parks and recreation such as the senior program and the community garden and the ASP. It states that at the Board's visioning workshop the Board said that all partnerships should be "neutral or better" which the ASP is and the senior program and garden club are not. The last point was that the Board stated that the General Manager should pursue all avenues of funding yet they are trying to get rid of Debra Mason who is responsible for securing over a million dollars in funding for programs in Bay Point because Mr. Hoagland doesn't like her and intimidates the rest of the board including the General Manager. Chair Dawson then closed the public comments on this item. Director Garcia stated that Stephanie Roberts said that the ASP will continue as stands. She said she has thanked Debra publicly for her work in the ASP. She said it is a wonderful program and her children had attended but she was elected by the community to serve the entire district. She stated that they have to be fiscally responsible for funds that come into the district and it was her responsibility as a board member to do this. Director Hoagland wanted to assure everyone that the budget committee had considered everything and had to protect the district from liability. He stated that the program is not going away and anyone telling them that the program is going away is misinformed. Director Hoagland stated that the program has been a source of concern for many years and we are not in education but in recreation and supports budget A. Director Cendaña-Torlakson stated that she had researched this herself

and talked with Stephanie Roberts. She said that her husband was involved in supporting Prop.49 and in her job she worked also around school programs. Director Cendaña-Torlakson stated that if we give the program over we would no longer be responsible for hiring, administering, accounting, space and maybe even a car. She said she supports budget A because it does good things for the children.

Motion: Move to approve recommendation A and simultaneously direct our General Manager to work with Stephanie Roberts and the Mt. Diablo Unified School District to determine if there is ANY NET financial support we are currently giving the ASP that is above and beyond the \$30,000 we currently receive to help administer the program and If there is such a NET contribution to the ASP that the Ambrose District General Manager make arrangements by contract, if necessary, to assure the continuance of that support.

Motion: Cendaña-Torlakson **Second:** Garcia

Action: Roll Call Vote: 4 ayes/1 absent (Magleby)/Motion Passed

After voting to adopt budget option A the audience began swearing and yelling at the Board. The Chair tried to call order and finally asked that the room be cleared. She was ignored and there was still too much noise to talk above the public. The Board continued the meeting amongst themselves and the public eventually left the room.

11. **Closed Session:**

None

12. **Committee Reports and Board Comments:**

Chair Dawson read a letter from Director Gloria Magleby thanking for the opportunities for professional and personal development that they had provided. She stated she had enjoyed working for the board and appreciated the support given to her during her tenure. Director Magleby resigned her position as Board Member of the Ambrose Recreation & Park District effective June 8, 2011. Chair Dawson appointed herself and Director Garcia as a sub-committee to address filling the vacancy.

13. **Items for Next Regular Meeting Agenda:**

1. Report from sub-committee on the appointment process for the seat open by Director Magleby's resignation.

14. **Closing Ceremonies:**

a. Adjournment.

Motion: Move to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Cendaña-Torlakson **Second:** Hoagland

Action: Voice Vote: 4 ayes/1 absent (Magleby)/Motion Passed

Approved by the Board of Directors on _____.

Signature of Board Member