



REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BOARD MEETING ANNUAL MEETING

**APPROVED MINUTES**

41550 Eclectic St. Palm Desert, CA 92260

January 25, 2023 9:00 AM

- I. CALL TO ORDER- Roll Call *by Board Vice-Chair M. Gialdini at 9:03* - Roll Call: *M. Blue, C. Galvez, M. Gialdini, M. Gonda, B. Gonzalez, R. Gutierrez, J. Hayes, B. Kroonen, S. Loureiro, R. Ortega, E. Romero, T. St. Johns, V. Tanner, A. Wilson, K. Quintanilla, Supervisor Perez/P. Cooper. J. Pye arrived at 9:10.***

*Staff Present: L. De Lara, M. Reyes, S. Garcia, K. Garcia, G. Montano, C. Golds, D. Morales.*

*Public: Sheryl Benoit, Ann Dew (Remotely)*

*Absent: C. Borba (Excused)*

**II. Approval of the AGENDA**

In order to meet Brown Act requirements, items may be added to the agenda only upon decision by a majority of the Board of Directors to add the item because of a need for immediate action.

*Motion: V. Tanner to approve the agenda as submitted. Second: A.*

*Wilson Approved: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0 J. Pye and K. Quintanilla were not present.*

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT / PRESENTATIONS**

*No Public Comment.*

*Coachella Valley Healthy Living – Diane Morales, RAP Project Manager – Diane made a presentation and addressed questions.*

*A. Wilson suggested Diane make a presentation at CVAG meeting.*

*Supervisor Perez reported that he started his day at 6 AM to join the Point in Time Homeless Count. Also, that the County approved \$8M of ARPA funds to First 5 Riverside to be used for Early Childhood Education for child care providers.*

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required**

**A.** December 7, 2022 Board Meeting Draft Minutes (Attach. #1) - Receive and file.

**B.** CEO Report (Attach. #2)- Receive and File

**C.** Grant Manager's Report (Attach. #3)– Receive and File

**D.** NPO Centric Report (Attach. #4) - Receive and File

**E.** Resolution 2023.04- Re-Ratifying the State of Emergency and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings (Attach. #5) - In order to continue to have the flexibility to hold remote public meetings, AB 361 requires the public agency's Board of Directors to pass a resolution re-ratifying the state of emergency and reauthorizing remote teleconference meetings on a monthly basis.

**F.** Financials – The Finance Committee will present Financials for 6 months at next month's meeting.

G. Organizational Chart - (Attach. #6) The Organizational Chart has been updated to reflect recent changes and will be updated in the Board Handbook.

*Staff Recommendation:* To receive and file the December 7, 2022 BOD Minutes, CEO, Grant Manager and NPO Centric Director's Reports, Resolution 2023. 04 and Organizational Chart.

***Motion: J. Hayes to approve the Staff Recommendation. Second: B. Kroonen Approved: 17  
Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required

A. Appointment of New Board members – The Nominations Committee interviewed Sheryl Benoit. They also discussed Ann Dew's interest in serving on the Board. They decided that there was no need to interview Ann Dew since she had previously served and had continued to actively serve in her role as a committee member. Ann stepped down from the board at the end of her term January 2020 to allow others the opportunity to serve. There are currently three vacancies on the Board.

*Nominations Committee Recommendation:* To appoint Ann Dew and Sheryl Benoit to 4-year terms.

***Motion: B. Kroonen to “enthusiastically” approve the Nominations Committee Recommendation.  
Second: M. Gialdini Approved: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

B. Reappointment of Board Members- The terms for the following board members will expire at the end of January: Joe Hayes, Aurora Wilson and Matt Gonda. All three members have actively participated on the Board and fulfilled their obligations to be in good standing.

*Nominations Committee Recommendation:* To reappoint Joe Hayes, Aurora Wilson and Matt Gonda each to 4 year terms.

***Motion: V. Tanner to approve the Nominations Committee Recommendation. Second: M. Blue***

***Approved: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

C. Strategic Plan - (Attach.#7) The RAP Board participated in a Strategic Planning session on November 9. This is the Draft reviewed by the Executive Committee on Jan. 17.

*Executive Committee Recommendation:* For the Board to adopt the updated Strategic Plan.

***Motion: V. Tanner to approve the Executive Committee Recommendation. Second: B. Kroonen  
Approved: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

***M. Blue asked if the Strategic Plan would be shared on the Website. CEO answered “yes”.***

D. Employee Handbook 2023 - RAP's HR consultant provided changes effective Jan. 1,2023 for California employers. The consultant's recommended changes and the Executive Committee's decisions on certain issues that needed to be addressed, for example bereavement and holidays are reflected. (Attach. #8).

*Executive Committee Recommendation:* For the Board to adopt the updated 2023 Employee Handbook.

***Motion: J. Hayes to accept the Executive Committee Recommendation. Second: B. Kroonen  
Approved: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

E. Earthquake Policy- The current earthquake policy expires in early February. The cost of the 2022 policy is \$7674.87. The new policy (Attach. #9) has an increase in cost of \$5,088.71 proposed to be \$12,763.58. The Desert Cornerstone Insurance agent attributed the increased cost to the market being very competitive and this policy includes flood and sprinkler coverage. The broker fee is waived. In order to align with the other insurance policies due to expire in mid-year, we will evaluate canceling in 6 months if the rates are reasonable.

*Executive Committee Recommendation:* To recommend to the Board to authorize the CEO to enter into contract for this policy. Review in May/June 2023 if rates are lower to consider canceling to align with the other insurance policies due to expire in June/July.

***Motion: J. Hayes to accept the Executive Committee Recommendation. Second: B. Kroonen  
Approved: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

***M. Gialdini announced that there will be a presentation about Earthquake Insurance on Feb. 15 at 5:30 at the Rancho Mirage Library.***

F. Annual Review of Resolutions in effect. Renewal of existing policies listed in Resolution 2023.01(Attach. #10)

The following resolutions will be deleted:

2014.01 - Revising a Conflict of Interest Policy

2015.06 - Signature Authorization for Technical Assistance Agreements

2015.12 - Maximum Annual Expenditure

2015.15 - Foundation Document Retention and Destruction Policy- REPLACE WITH 2023.02

2015.16 - Fiduciary Responsibility for Grant Funds Received from Other Organizations

2018.09 - To Designate Board Contributions as the Reserved Building Repairs/Maintenance Fund

2019.09 - Funding Opportunities – Amending Resolution 2015.20

*Executive Committee Recommendation:* For the Board to approve Resolution 2023.01.

***Motion: V. Tanner to approve the Executive Committee Recommendation. Second: B. Kroonen  
Approved: 17 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

G. Resolution No. 2023.02- Foundation Document Retention and Destruction Policy (Attach. #11)

RAP staff is proposing making changes to duration of retention of certain documents, consistent to public agency policies.

*Executive Recommendation:* For the Board to approve Resolution 2023.02.

***Motion: B. Kroonen to approve the Executive Committee Recommendation. Second: V. Tanner  
Approved: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

***S. Loureiro left at 9:53 before the vote was taken.***

H. Resolution No. 2023.03-Amending Authorized Signatures Required on First Republic Bank Account (Attach. #12)

RAP staff is proposing to update the signatories to acknowledge that Jan Pye is Chair Person.

*Executive Committee Recommendation:* For the Board to approve Resolution 2023.03.

***Motion: B. Kroonen to approve the Executive Committee Recommendation. Second: V. Tanner  
Approved: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0***

I. Board Members' Committee Assignments for 2023- (Attach. #13)

***J. Pye reminded CEO that she is no longer on the Audit Committee.***

J. Review YTD Grants Tracker (Attach. #14) - *No action*

K. GRANT FUNDING REQUESTS -Action Required

Small Grant 1.	Coachella Valley Housing Coalition
Program:	<i>Afterschool Programs</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
The Coachella Valley Housing Coalition's after-school programs play a vital role in providing safe and accessible after-school programs for children who need it the most. Recognizing that while a stable, safe, and decent home provides enormous advantages for low-income families striving to chart a more secure and hopeful future, children need more than housing to overcome barriers to success. Participants are all residents of our low-income multi-family developments.	
Reviewer's Scores:	82% Three reviewers scoring: 77, 80, 89
Prior RAP Funding:	FY 2015-16 Re-Think Your Drink Project

*Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve their request for \$10,000.*

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve \$10,000.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<i>J. Hayes</i>	<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Small Grant 2.	Read With Me Volunteers
Program:	<i>Read With Me General Operations</i>
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Read With Me recruits retired volunteers for 17 CV schools for this early-intervention literacy program. RWM bonds non-English-reading children together with educated retired adults. 4,200 children are tutored and 10,000 children are engaged in a year to help them with English language acquisition and provide them books. Two books are donated to every child in 17 participating schools and the cost of this is \$90,000. Transportation for volunteers provided to some schools, one more than 38 miles away. Volunteers typically provide more than 24,000 free hours of tutoring annually.	
Reviewer's Scores:	90% Three reviewers scoring: 80, 89, 100
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

*Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve their request for \$10,000 and provide annual NPO Centric membership at the cost of \$746 after an assessment has been made by NPO Centric.*

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve their request for \$10,000 and provide annual NPO Centric membership at the cost of \$746 after an assessment has been made by NPO Centric.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<i>J. Hayes</i>	<i>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Small Grant 3.	Green Room Theatre Company
Program:	<i>"Novio Boy" Theatre Education Program for Under-served Coachella Valley Youth</i>
Requested Amount:	\$9,700
"Novio Boy" is a theatre-in-education and literacy training to hundreds of students and dozens of teachers in CV schools. Both in-school and after-school/school enrichment programs receive funding from the	

California Arts Council, but need additional funding to provide more performances by hiring additional outstanding actors and designers. "Novio Boy" is an endearing celebration of close family ties, bilingualism, and resiliency. Performances are proposed in partnership with C.V.U.S.D and Desert Sands USD. These districts are eager to incorporate supplemental activities like theatre programs with their bilingual programs. In-school training in theatre-in-education will be held with teachers, who will then discuss the play with students. An after-school program is planned to build on theatre and ballet folklorico classes at Theodore Roosevelt and Lyndon Baines Johnson Elementary Schools in Indio.

Reviewer's Scores:	82% Three reviewers scoring: 74, 80, 91
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

*Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve their request for \$9,700*

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve their request for \$9,700</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>J. Hayes</b>	<b>B. Kroonen</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

L. Revisions for Grants Review Committee Structure (Attach. #15)

The Grants Review Committee scope and structure requires changes to function more effectively.

*Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve the revisions and file the Grants Review Committee Structure*

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve the revisions and file the Grants Review Committee Structure</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>M. Gialdini</b>	<b>B. Kroonen</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

M. Juvenile Intervention Request for Proposal (Attach. #16) Action Required

RAP's focus for this grant is to fund age-appropriate programs/projects that enable all juveniles, as defined by RAP as, young people (age category 0-24), especially those at risk, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. This RFP includes a Strategy Map which identifies the following specific Strategies:

- Increase the number of safe, positive, and inclusive spaces for juveniles to support their social and emotional development
- Improve awareness of safe, positive, and inclusive spaces for juveniles to support their social and emotional development
- Increase and improve parent/guardian education to help juveniles thrive and gain positive, nurturing relationships
- Promote access and support cultural competency of juvenile clients with education of language/stigma/ cultural barriers to service access for youth
- Increase and promote healthy lifestyles for juveniles which include: nutrition, fitness, and behavioral health

A total of \$300,000 is available for cash grants, and \$35,000 is available in technical assistance for the Juvenile Intervention Grant. Funding requests can be made and used for any programmatic cost, such as staff time, supplies, general operations, etc.

*Grants Committee Recommendation: For the Board to approve the Juvenile Intervention Request for Proposal.*

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve the Juvenile Intervention Request for Proposal.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>M. Gialdini</b>	<b>B. Kroonen</b>	<b>15 - A. Dew did not vote</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

N. Revisions for Mental Health Initiative (MHI) Committee Structure: (Attach. #17) Action Required

The Mental Health Committee scope and structure requires changes to function more effectively.

*Mental Health Committee Recommendation: To approve the revisions to MHI Committee Structure.*

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve the revisions to MHI Committee Structure.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>B. Kroonen</b>	<b>14 – M. Gialdini did not vote</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**O. Health/Mental Health Request for Proposal (RFP): (Attach. #18) Action Required**

RAP has proposed a collaborative funding partnership with the Desert Healthcare District (DHCD) & Foundation. The focus will once again be to fund programs/projects to improve the psychological, emotional, physical, and social well-being of residents of the Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys. This RFP includes a Strategy Map which identifies the following specific Strategies:

- Improve quality of MH services to remote areas through innovative systems that address policy, access, and delivery channels.
- Improve awareness of mental and emotional health resource services for residents north of Palm Springs to Blythe through systems that address access, policy, and delivery channels.
- Support cultural competency of service providers and reduction of language/stigma/cultural barriers to service access for clients.

RAP will allocate the budgeted \$400,000 for the cash grants and approximately \$37,000 for Technical Assistance. The DHCD and Foundation are considering an equal match for a total of \$800,000 in cash grants, and \$72,450 for technical assistance for the Health/Mental Health Grant. Funding requests can be made and used for any programmatic cost, such as staff time, supplies, general operations, etc. The DHCD Board will consider this request at their Jan. 24 meeting.

*Mental Health Committee Recommendation: For the Board to approve the Health/Mental Health RFP.*

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve the Health/Mental Health RFP.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>B. Kroonen</b>	<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>16 – A. Dew and M. Gialdini returned</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- No Action**

- A. BOARD ATTENDANCE for 2022 (Attach. #19)
- B. Grants Committee: Met on Jan. 17. Approved Nov. 14 Minutes attached (Attach. #20). Next meeting Feb. 14.
- C. Executive Committee: Met on Jan. 17. Approved Nov. 14, 2022, Minutes attached (Attach. #21). Next meeting Feb. 14.
- D. Nominations Committee: Met on January 11. Minutes for the July 5 meeting attached (Attach. #22) Next meeting TBD.
- E. Facilities Committee: Met Dec. 7. Approved Nov. 22, 2022, Minutes attached (Attach. #23)
- F. Finance/Investment Committee Special Meeting: December 1 at 11:00 AM. Next Meeting on Feb. 14 at 11 AM or immediately after the Executive Committee meeting.
- G. Mental Health Committee: Met on Jan. 19. Approved Oct. 22, 2022 Minutes (Attach. #24). Next meeting Feb.16
- H. NPO Centric Committee: Met on Jan. 18. Approved Nov. 16, 2022 Minutes (Attach. #25) Next meeting Feb. 15

**VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS**

Coachella Valley Giving Day Launch on February 3 from 9 AM – 10:30 (program at 9:30). Please RSVP.

RAP is waiting for the County to decide on the joint proposal submitted by Inland SOCal United Way



and IE Community Foundation. Tentative date for Awarding in approx. 60-120 days.

Big Horn Cares Grant for \$5,000 for NPO Centric

DHCD grant to match MHI grant and for NPOC funds is pending

Annual Form 700s and Conflict of Interest are due by February 22.

Annual Board contributions for 2022 reached full support – Plaque to be displayed.

**VIII.** ADJOURNMENT: *at 10:28*  
Next meeting is on February 22, 2023, at 9 AM.