



REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED MINUTES

October 25, 2023 at 9:00 AM

41550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260  
 40141 North Shore, Fawnskin, CA 92333  
 415 N. Main Street, Blythe, CA 92225

- I. CALL TO ORDER *by Board Chair J. Pye at 9:01*- Roll Call: *S. Benoit, M.Meyer, C. Borba, G. Colangeli, A. Dew, C. Galvez, M. Gialdini, M. Gonda, J. Hayes, E. Romero, T. St. Johns, V. Tanner, A. Wilson, K. Quintanilla, P. Cooper, J. Pye.*  
*P. Cooper arrived at 9:10 and B. Gonzalez arrived at 9:30 (joined by phone prior but was not counted as participating).*  
*Excused absence: R. Ortega, R. Gutierrez, and B. Kroonen.*  
*Also present: B. Sanchez, V. Arroniz-Espinoza, G. Montano, M. Reyes, S. Garcia, M. Alaniz, L. De Lara, Walker Beverly, Melanie Lyons, Stephanie Minor.*

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.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b><i>To approve the agenda as submitted.</i></b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<i>K.Quintanilla</i>	<i>V.Tanner</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / PRESENTATIONS

Any individual wishing to comment on the agenda or an item not on the agenda may do so by emailing Mreyes@RAPFoundation.org or calling in at the number above. All emailed comments must be received prior to 9:00 AM. Persons wishing to speak on general comments regarding non-agenda items will be called for at this time. Specific comments regarding agenda items will be called for during discussion of each item. Please be prepared to limit your Public Comment remarks to three (3) minutes.

2023 Desert Fast Pitch Highlights - Introduce Walker Beverly with Advancing Steps and Melanie Lyons with The Joslyn Center to share experiences -

*Stephanie Minor introduced Walker and Melanie both shared their experiences with the Board and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate.*

*L.De Lara introduced board member Rosemary Ortega who joined by zoom. Rosemary thanked them both and announced that she was donating \$2,500 to each of them.*

?Shay Moraga with Shay’s Warriors – *CEO announced that this was erroneously included.*

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required**

- A. September 27, 2023 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. Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report – Receive and File (Attach. #4)
- E. American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Report – Receive and File (Attach. #5)
- F. NPO Centric Report - Receive and File (Attach. #6)

Staff Recommendation: To receive and file the September 27, 2023 BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Grant Manager Report, Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report, ARPA Report and NPO Centric Report.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To receive and file the September 27, 2023 BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Grant Manager Report, Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report, ARPA Report and NPO Centric Report.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>A. Hayes</b>	<b>B. Gonda</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**ARPA Project Manager M. Alaniz reported on the progress with administering this grant using her PowerPoint included in the board packet.**

**V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required**

- A. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez or his Representative- to provide update on County matters of interest.  
**No report from P. Cooper.**

- B. Review and approve the Form 990 for submittal (Attach.# 7).  
Coachella Valley Accounting and Auditing completed the Form 990 and presented it to the Audit committee to address questions.

Audit Committee Recommendation: To approve Form 990.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve the Form 990. To have the Finance Committee review and make a recommendation instead of the Audit Committee in the future.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>V.Tanner</b>	<b>M.Meyer</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- C. Approve the FY 2022- 2023 Annual Report (Attach. #8).

Staff Recommendation: For the Board to approve for submittal the FY 2022-2023 Annual Report to the County Executive Office.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To make the one correction on Financials page noted by J. Hayes and approve for submittal the FY 2022-2023 Annual Report to the County Executive Office.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>J.Hayes</b>	<b>A.Dew</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

D. Equity Community Organizing (ECO) Groups to Advance Health Equity in Aging

Summary: As part of The SCAN Foundation’s (TSF) Advancing Health Equity in Aging Initiative, TSF — in collaboration with the California Health Care Foundation (CHCF) — is seeking up to three California-based entities to establish Equity Community Organizing (ECO) Groups. The goal of the ECO Groups will be to reduce health inequities for older adults with an emphasis on communities of color as well as those communities where race and ethnicity intersect with other factors — such as age, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, language, or immigration status — that lead to inequities. With up to \$225,000 in funding support over an 18-month period, each selected entity will: (1) Create an ECO Group comprised of older adults from impacted communities as well as local stakeholders demonstrating diverse perspectives (e.g., health, health care, aging, disability, health equity, racial justice). (2) Identify and prioritize the key drivers of the health inequities they experience. (3) Work together to codesign solutions that address these inequities.

TIMELINE: • Proposals due October 30, 2023, at 5 p.m. PT. • Projects begin January 15, 2024

Executive Committee Recommendation: To authorize CEO to proceed with application process. To present to designated board member C. Borba for review prior to/after board meeting.

Motion:	<i>To ratify Executive Committee action to authorize CEO to proceed with application process. To present to designated board member C. Borba for review prior to/after board meeting.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>V.Tanner</i>	<i>M.Gonda</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

E. Initiate a Mental Health Strategy for Blythe utilizing a Results Based Accountability (RBA) methodology. - NTE \$25,000

RAP will direct funding to initiate a 5 Year Mental Health Plan which will utilize the RBA methodology to gain input from the community and identify strategies which we will use to make funding decisions. The anticipated cost for this project is NTE \$25,000 will include utilizing the services of a facilitator for the 2 community meetings (Nov. 8 at 4:15 PM – 6 PM and Feb. at 4:15-

6 PM) and the May 2024 Blythe Summit. The Final Strategy Map will be presented at the May meeting for acceptance by the community. For consideration, RAP staff will include a Request for Proposal for \$100,000 in the FY 2024-2025 budget.

Executive Committee Recommendation: To accept the CEO’s decision to allocate \$25,000 from the CEO Discretionary budget for Blythe community meetings.

Motion:	<b><i>To accept the CEO’s decision to allocate \$25,000 from the CEO Discretionary budget for Blythe community meetings.</i></b>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<b><i>C.Borba</i></b>	<b><i>M.Gialdini</i></b>	<b><i>16</i></b>	<b><i>0</i></b>	<b><i>G.Colangeli</i></b>

F. Grants Tracker for FY 2023-2024 (Attach. #9) - ***Grants Manager G. Montano provided review. She reported that the \$5,000 Sponsorship, previously awarded to Family Service Association, will be funded from two sources. \$780.43 will come from the Prevent Child Abuse Riverside County (PCARC) funds, and \$4,219.57 will be covered by the Sponsorship budget. This adjustment will bring the remaining balance for PCARC to \$0. Additionally, she highlighted the inclusion of 13 organizations that participated in the 2023 Nonprofit Desert Fast Pitch, the NPO Centric Grant for We Can Fish, Inc., and the consideration of five funding requests (one Small Grant and four Sponsorships) by the Grants Review Committee this month, all of which are included on the agenda.***

G. Funding Requests

1. Small Grant	
Program:	Grassroots Junior Tennis, Inc
Requested Amount:	<b><i>\$7,000</i></b>
Grassroots Junior Tennis (GRJT) has instructed over 900 youth of all socioeconomic backgrounds since 2004. Children are primarily low-income and under resourced. This year, 90% of participating youth are Hispanic. Youth primarily come from the Palm Springs and Desert Sands Unified School District. Each year, two four-month sessions of after school classes are offered by GRJT three times per week during the school year at Ruth Hardy Park, Palm Springs. Four tournaments and special events are also offered during the season.	
Reviewer’s Average Score:	<b><i>88%</i></b>
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant FY22-23: \$5,000

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$5,000 for salary/wages.

<b><i>Motion:</i></b>	<b><i>To approve request for \$5,000 for salary/wages.</i></b>			
<b><i>Motion By:</i></b>	<b><i>Second By:</i></b>	<b><i># Approve:</i></b>	<b><i># Oppose:</i></b>	<b><i>Abstention (Name):</i></b>

<i>V.Tanner</i>	<i>K.Quintanilla</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
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1. Sponsorship	
Program:	About Families - Family Fall Festival
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
The Fall Family Festival creates a positive environment for children and families. The focus is on efforts to share important community information and resources. Ultimately, creating stronger, resilient community and family connections. The goal is to connect families with available resources, especially communities of color and lower socioeconomic status. The festival creates a unique and fun filled time for children. There will be many opportunities for them to explore, play and discover at the festival. About Families is dedicated to making the pony rides at the festival as accessible to all children regardless of ability to pay.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY 22-23 Sponsorship: \$5,000

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$5,000.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>To approve request for \$5,000 for salary/wages.</i>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<i>V.Tanner</i>	<i>K.Quintanilla</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>M.Gonda</i>

2.Sponsorship	Transgender Health and Wellness Center
Program:	Transgender Day of Remembrance
Requested Amount:	\$2,469
Transgender Day of Remembrance 2023 is an event where transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex (TGI) individuals come together in unity to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia. The event will feature memorials, outreach, and supportive services available.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY 23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$2,469.

<b>Motion:</b>	<i>To approve request for \$5,000 for salary/wages</i>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<i>V.Tanner</i>	<i>Quintanilla</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

3. Sponsorship	Variety Children’s Charities of the Desert
Program:	28 <sup>th</sup> Annual Bikes for Kids
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
The Bikes for Kids Program honors the academic success and good citizenship of underprivileged and deserving Coachella Valley fourth-grade students by awarding bicycles and helmets during the holiday season each year. Over the years, the annual Bike Giveaway rewarded 8,325 children with new bikes, bike locks, helmets and safety gear.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY 22-23 Small Grant: \$5,000; FY 22-23 Sponsorship: \$8,000; FY 22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$12,500

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$5,000.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve request for \$5,000.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>V.Tanner</i>	<i>K.Quintanilla</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

4.Sponsorship	Fenixia Foundation
Program:	Coachella Valley Gala for Adults with Special Needs
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
The Gala for Adults with Special Needs is designed exclusively for older teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is a groundbreaking collaborative event, the first of its kind in the Coachella Valley’s special needs community. The event will give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to experience the joy and glamor of attending a Gala organized by a community coming together to show the importance of inclusion. This event aims to foster friendship, a sense of community, inclusion, and better mental well-being for all attendees. This is just one of the many social event activities proposed by Fenixia in 2024. Their events and activities will help build a sense of belonging and allow adults in the community to do what other neuro-typical adults do.	
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$5,000.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve request for \$5,000.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>V.Tanner</i>	<i>K.Quintanilla</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

H. The FY 2023-2024 Juvenile Intervention Grant Request for Proposal (Attach. #10)

The RAP Foundation’s focus for this grant is to fund age-appropriate programs/projects that enable all juveniles (age category 0-24), especially those at risk, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. A total of \$300,000 is for cash grants, and \$20,000 is for technical assistance. This grant is for programs intended to:

- Increase 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

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve the FY 2023-2024 Juvenile Intervention Grant Request for Proposal with the addition of Desert Hot Springs along with Blythe as incentivized service areas.

Motion:	<i>To approve the FY 2023-2024 Juvenile Intervention Grant Request for Proposal with Desert Hot Springs, North Palm Springs, Blythe and unincorporated communities in Coachella and Palo Verde Valleys to receive incentive points. To mention the incentives in the RFP as well as the application. Also, to include a map of RAP's service area and to add North Palm Springs name to the map as incentivized service areas.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>E.Romero</i>	<i>K.Quintanilla</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

I. To increase the funding allocation to FY 2023-2024 Sponsorships to meet the increased demand. The proposed amount is \$25,000 from unallocated funds.

Grants Committee Recommendation: To allocate an additional \$25,000 for Sponsorship for FY 23-24.

Motion:	<i>To allocate an additional \$50,000 for Sponsorship for FY 23-24.</i>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>M.Meyer</i>	<i>M.Gonda</i>	<i>S.Benoit, M.Meyer, C.Borba, G.Colangeli, J. Galvez, M, Gialdini, M.Gonda, B.Gonzalez, E.Romero, A.Wilson, T.StJohns, K.Quintanilla (12)</i>	<i>A.Dew, J.Hayes, V.Tanner, P. Cooper, J. Pye. (5)</i>	<i>0</i>

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS- No Action

- A. BOARD ATTENDANCE for 2023 (Attach. #11)
- B. Grants Committee: Met on October 16. September 18, 2023, Minutes attached (Attach. #12). Next meeting December 4 at 1:30 PM.
- C. Executive Committee: Met on October 16. Approved September 18,2023 (Attach. #13). Next meeting Nov. 6 at 9 AM.
- D. Facilities Committee: Met on Oct. 5. July 26 Minutes (Attach. #14). Next meeting TBD.
- E. Finance/Investment Committee. Met on September 18. July Minutes (Attach. #15)4. Next Meeting Nov. 6 at 11 AM or immediately following the Executive Committee meeting.
- F. Mental Health Committee: October 25, 2023, meeting scheduled. Next meeting TBD.
- G. NPO Centric Committee: Met on Sept. 20. July 19 Minutes (Attach. #16). Next meeting Nov. 15 at 1 PM.
- H. Audit Committee: Met on October 23. Minutes for September 19 (Attach. #17) Next meeting TBD.

VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

Lift To Rise event on October 14 – Chairperson Pye to comment

*J.Pye thanked the board members who attended the event. CEO made comments regarding the significant role that RAP, Supervisor Perez and Assemblyman Garcia had in enabling Lift To Rise to advance to their current success.*

*CEO mentioned the Association of Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy event on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Stephanie Minor will be recognized as this year's Outstanding Fundraising*

*Professional.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: *at 10:40* Next meeting is on December 13, 2023, at 9 AM.