



**REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED MINUTES**

February 28, 2024, at 9:00 AM

41550 Eclectic St., Palm Desert, CA 92260
415 N. Main Street, Blythe, CA 92225

I. CALL TO ORDER at 9:11AM by Board Chair M. Gialdini. - Roll Call:

M. Gialdini, S. Benoit, C. Borba (joined remotely- “Good Cause” determined at start of meeting), G. Colangeli, A. Dew, C. Galvez, M. Gonda, R. Gutierrez, J. Hayes, B. Kroonen (arrived at 9:40 – Section V.B.), M. Meyer, R. Ortega, E. Romero, K. Rodgers, T. St.Johns, V. Tanner, A. Wilson, K. Quintanilla (“Good Cause” determined at the start of meeting), Supervisor Perez, J. Pye.

Also Present: M. Reyes, B. Sanchez, V. Arroniz-Espinoza, M. Alaniz, G. Montano, C. Flores, D. Morales, L. De Lara.

Excused Absence: B. Gonzalez attended remotely (joined at 10:00) but location was not “noticed” to comply with Ralph M. Brown Act.

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.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve the agenda as presented.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>J. Hayes</i>	<i>J. Pye</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / PRESENTATIONS

L. De Lara presented to J. Pye a “thank you” gift for serving Chair for 2022 and 2023.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required

- A.** January 24, 2024 Board Meeting Draft Minutes - Receive and file (Attach. #1)
- B.** CEO Report - Receive and File (Attach. #2)
- C.** Grant Manager’s Report - Receive and File (Attach. #3)
- 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 January 24, 2024, BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Grant Manager Report, Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report, ARPA Report and NPO Centric Report.

Motion:	<p><i>To approve the consent items after discussion on following items:</i></p> <p><i>M. Meyer noted that the Minute for Jan. 24 Board Meeting should reflect that the “Report Out” from Closed Session should reflect that the pay increase for the CEO is effective 7/1/2023.</i></p> <p><i>S. Benoit pulled the CV Healthy Living Report and asked if there is possibility of the grant to address kids’ excessive use of social media. The Supervisor commented that he thought this was a good idea to bring up to County Public Health.</i></p> <p><i>K. Quintanilla pulled the ARPA Report and questioned the 60% achievement of the targeted goal for Strategic Planning. M. Alaniz explained that there are efforts underway to address this lower number, which is understandable because of difficulty to complete this kind of work. M. Alaniz anticipates meeting this goal by the June date or if necessary the County would likely be amenable to extend the deadline to Sept.</i></p>			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>G. Colangeli</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

G. The 3rd Annual Peace From Chaos Mental Health Rally and Resource Fair will be held on March 23 in Blythe. (Attach. #7)- A Sponsorship request was brought to the CEO’s attention on Feb. 15. RAP is addressing Mental Health gaps with our recent RBA introduction in Blythe and this opportunity would support this effort. The CEO has exercised her authority to approve a Sponsorship of \$5,000 from the CEO Discretionary Budget due to limited time. Peace From Chaos will be expected to submit a full Sponsorship application for tracking purposes.- Information Only

G. Colangeli briefly discussed the event.

V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required

A. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez or his Representative- to provide update on County matters of interest.

Key items addressed by Supervisor Perez:

- 1. His selection of Jan Pye as the “Woman of the Year” for the 4th Supervisorial District. - Presentation to take place on March 5th.*
- 2. Senior Inspiration Awards Luncheon to take place on March 28.*
- 3. Blythe 15th Mental Health Community Event which was well attended by local residents.*
- 4. Governor Newsom to make a “surprise” visit to CV on March 1 to bring attention to MH issues.*
- 5. Hugely successful Fishing Derby (700 people participated) recently at Lake Cahuilla Veteran’s Park, acknowledged R. Gutierrez’s role. He hopes to make this park “The” county regional park and plans future infrastructure improvements expected to be around \$5M in the next year.*
- 6. Gifted/distributed caps to board members and RAP staff.*

B. Board Chair

1. Introducing Menti.com - a survey tool to be used to get immediate feedback on topics/questions.
- 2.Changes to Board Meetings: Seating, Board assignments, Board “who am I?”
3. “Board Development” Session Planned (to take the place of our annual Strategic Planning meeting) is scheduled for April 24. (Attach. #7A)

Board Chair M. Gialdini facilitated the three topics above. The results of the Menti.com survey will be shared at a future meeting to compare after the survey is conducted again after the April Staff Development meeting to take place on April 24.

C. Agreement with County of Riverside for Replacement of AC Units \$100,000(Attach. #8)

Executive Committee Recommendation: For the Board to authorize CEO to execute the Agreement.

Motion: M. Meyer to approve after staff reviews if Attach. E should be included. Second: V. Tanner Approved: 20 Opposed: 0 Abstention Name(s): 0

D. The United Way Gala Friday March 15 at Agua Caliente Casino RM and the DAP Chase Event March 30th at the PS Convention Center and – Should RAP Sponsor a Table at events?

United Way (UW) of the Desert:

Spirit of Determination Award Sponsorship \$5,000- Includes a table of 10 and event recognition. The award is honoring Shamesa Winston,”a UW client who called 211 and connected with the Housing Team. She received wrap-around services and housing and helped her family move from crises to stability.” Ms Winston would be the sponsor’s guest at the table. Eight seats would be available.

Table of ten: \$2,950.

DAP Chase Event:

Tori St. Johns will be honored for her humanitarian efforts as a “community member who has helped DAO Helped carry out its mission over the last four decades.”

Table of ten: \$5,000 or Premium Seating (Close to center and main stage): \$10,000

Executive Committee Recommendation: To purchase a Table for both events. Preference to be given to Board members for the DAP event.

Staff would like the Board to designate funds from the Board contribution funds.

Motion: A. Wilson to serve as the “Spirit of Determination Award” sponsor for the United Way Gala and a Table Sponsor with Premier Seating for the DAP event. Acknowledging that this is an opportunity to connect with others in the community and attending to “work” on behalf of RAP. S. Benoit mentioned she would be presenting the John J. Benoit Award at the UW Gala and would acknowledge RAP.

Second:M.Meyer Approved: 17 Opposed: C. Borba Abstention Name(s): T. St. Johns, A.Dew

E. GRANTS TRACKER FY2023-2024: (Attach. # 9)

No Action taken. A. Dew left during this presentation, 10:28.

F. GRANT FUNDING REQUESTS:

Small Grant #1	Neuro Vitality Center
Program:	Neuro Vitality Foundation’s Fellowship Assistance Program

Requested Amount:	\$10,000
For more than 40 years the Neuro Vitality Center (formerly Stroke Activity Center) has worked with survivors of stroke, traumatic brain injuries and neurological disorders. It is the only comprehensive adult treatment center in the CV for those challenged by neurological issues or chronic illnesses. This is a Community Based Adult Services (CBAS) state licensed program. While services are covered by insurers offering CBAS benefits, many times patients are in a gap between Social Security Medicare and medical coverage. This Fellowship Assistance Program is offered to stroke and brain injury patients who are in immediate need of care, and unable to access much needed programs. Delay in receiving treatment can be devastating. Cost is \$85/day and includes medical and nursing services, counseling, case management, speech and exercise therapy, pharmaceutical consultations, nutritious breakfast and lunch, social activities and transportation.	
Reviewer's Average Score:	77%
Prior RAP Funding:	FY19-20 Special Grant: \$95,737.00

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve \$10,000 of \$10,000 requested. Also, to encourage the organization to work/partner with other food providers such as FIND Food Bank, and Hidden Harvest.

Motion:	To accept the Grants committee recommendation.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
V. Tanner	M. Gonda	19	0	B. Gonzalez (Exc. Absence)

Small Grant #2	MS Fitness Challenge Inc.
Program:	Exercise Study/Optimal Body Training Program
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
This is a pilot exercise study documenting the effectiveness/results of 12-15 people with MS over a 12-week period using our Optimal Body Training methods. Monitored by the University of Georgia, the program will enable us to provide ongoing exercise programs of the highest effectiveness in helping people with MS overcome their limitations.	
Reviewer's Average Score:	81%
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$4,748.00

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$10,000 of \$10,000 requested. conditional on receiving a letter from the University of Georgia Institutional Review Board addressing their support and details of how the study will be carried out.

Motion:	To approve \$10,000. The Grants Manager reported that she has received the letter from the Univ. Of Georgia Institutional Review Board.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
V. Tanner	M. Gonda	19	0	K. Quintanilla

Small Grant #3	Coachella Valley H.S. Health Academy & HOSA
Program:	Critical Conversations: Fentanyl Fatalities
Requested Amount:	\$9,500
CVHS Health Academy & HOSA will produce a 3-hour town hall panel on the fentanyl crisis, its effects on schools, communities, public safety & healthcare, and what are we doing about it? Community organizations will	

have the opportunity to display their related services to attendees during a 1.5 hour pre-conference gallery walk. Additionally, high school students from the valley will be able to create poster boards, "in memory of" postings, and related content for display. The lessons provide a possibly exponential population that has the ability to teach others about the life-altering and deadly consequences of drug use, opioids and fentanyl experimentation.

Reviewer's Average Score:	78% Three reviewers scoring: 74, 76, 84
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$9,500 of \$9,500 requested. and requested that they reach out to invite Palo Verde School District/High School students. The amount of \$7,500 will be allocated from Educational Grant and \$2,000 from Small Grants.

Motion:	To approve \$9500. Reallocate \$7,500 from Educational Grants to Small Grants.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
V. Taner	M. Gonda	18 – Supervisor Perez and P. Cooper left before the vote was taken.	0	B. Gonzalez (Excused Abs.)

Small Grant #4	SMK Care Group
Program:	SMK Approved Care Group, Inc. Campaign
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Chronic pain is a condition lasting one or more years, requiring regular medical attention or limiting activities of daily living [1]. Electroanalgesic Medicine has been available for the last two decades but is not widely known to veterans and the general public. It is Medicare-approved, and SMK's specialized equipment is FDA-approved. SMK's treatments will be available to Veteran patients at mobile pain and neuropathy management centers. Compared to medications and surgery, electroanalgesia is still a lesser-known treatment option.	
Reviewer's Average Score:	80%
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation: To deny the request but encourage the applicant to reapply at a later date because of concerns with funding and operations which may be clearer once the program is underway.

To accept the Grants Committee Recommendation.				
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
V. Tanner	K. Rodgers	18	0	0 – B. Gonzalez did not vote.

Small Grant #5	CV Beautifying Solutions
Program:	Easter Outreach: Nourishing Lives, Sharing Hope
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
The core essence of Easter Outreach goes beyond the act of distributing care packages; it encapsulates a profound commitment to compassion, community support, and human dignity. The program unfolds as a collaborative effort, with dedicated volunteers embodying the spirit of Easter as they venture into the streets, reaching out to those in vulnerable situations. Volunteers become beacons of hope, bridging gaps in accessibility to essential resources. These are not just distributors; they are advocates for change, contributing to a brighter, more compassionate future for all. This event will be a transformative experience for both volunteers and recipients, transcending the conventional notions of charity to embrace the principles of dignity, respect, and collective responsibility.	
Reviewer's Average Score:	85%

Prior RAP Funding:	FY19-20 Small Grant: \$3,932.00
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Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$5,500 of \$10,000 requested. \$3,500 to be used for supplies and \$2,000 for equipment.

Motion:	To accept the Grants Committee Recommendation.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
V. Tanner	R. Gutierrez	17		K. Quintanilla

Sponsorship Grant #1	Genuine, Animate, Navigate, Assist, Succeed, DBA., GANAS
Program:	GANAS de Fiestas
Requested Amount:	\$5,000.00
GANAS will host a unique family fun event for the eastern CV in Oasis. The April 13 event for the community to enjoy Free food, games, activities, giveaways, and connect with those offering resources in a unique way. An event like this has not held in the eastern CV. Oasis Elementary School is set as the location. This event's purpose is bring about togetherness, impact social mental health, & connect residents with valuable resources.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$45,000

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

Motion:	To approve \$5,000.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	G.Colangeli	18	0	0

Sponsorship #2	CV Beautifying Solutions
Program:	Refresh Fest: A Celebration of Health, Hygiene, and Wellness in the Park
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Refresh Fest aims to bridge this gap by creating a community-centric event that offers a comprehensive approach to health and wellness. By bringing together local guest speakers and community organizations, the project provides a one-stop platform for individuals to access vital resources. These include hygiene kits, literature and education on hygiene and self-grooming, plus connections to ongoing support services.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY19-20 Small Grant: \$3,932.00

Grants Committee Recommendation: To deny the request but encourage the organization to seek NPOC services.

Motion:	To accept the Grants Committee Recommendation.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
V. Tanner	M. Gonda	17 – K. Quintanilla left prior to vote taken.	0	0

Sponsorship Grant #3	Olive Crest
Program:	Wraparound Spring Event 2024
Requested Amount:	\$5,000.00
This annual Spring event is crafted to create a memorable experience for “wraparound” Program youth, families, and caregivers. Staff and enthusiastic volunteers are gearing up to ensure an exciting experience, complete with provided transportation as needed. The goal is to provide an uplifting family outing that illustrates to the children what a joyous, safe, and unforgettable springtime gathering can truly be. These children, often having experienced trauma, instability, and disruption in their young lives, have a critical need for experiences that promote normalcy, joy, and a sense of belonging. Traditional therapeutic interventions, while essential, may not fully address the need for positive, real-life experiences that foster a child's sense of inclusion and joy.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention Grant: \$17,500; FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000; FY21-22 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000; FY22-23 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY22-23 Small Grant: \$6,675

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

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve \$5,000</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>M. Gonda</i>	<i>J. Pye</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

Sponsorship Grant #4	Rotary Club of Indio
Program:	Rotary Math Field Day (RMFD) for Middle School Children (RMFD)
Requested Amount:	\$1,000.00
RMFD is the only math competition in the CV for middle school children. This CV wide event provides students an opportunity to showcase their math ability. There is no other academic event where students from different schools and school districts compete and get rewarded for their skills and efforts. For many, this is the only competition when they meet other students outside their own school, interact and exchange ideas, and meet people from different cultures and economic backgrounds. The event’s pinnacle is the award ceremony where everyone is gathered to hear who the best mathematician and the best school in math is. This is where you see everyone cheering and supporting each other for their efforts and celebrating each other’s accomplishments. The event will be held at John Glenn Elementary and the program will be from 1:00-3:00 PM.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY22-23 Sponsorship: \$1,000

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve request for \$1,000 of \$1,000 requested from the Education Grant, leaving \$0 in balance.

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve \$1,000 from the Education Grant</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. Rodgers</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>B. Gonzalez</i>

Sponsorship Grant #5	Rotary Club of Coachella East
Program:	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program
Requested Amount:	\$5,000.00
Thousands of young people participate in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Program annually. Students are chosen for their leadership potential to attend an all-expense paid camp to discuss and learn leadership skills through practice. This intensive leadership experience develops leadership skills while having fun and making connections. The goal is to offer the participants an incredibly unique opportunity to develop skills and obtain tools that will enable them to understand the needs of their communities further, become influential leaders, and engage in advocacy efforts to leverage critical resources that will improve the lives of the residents of the CV. Participants engage in hands-on learning experiences over the academic school year through a structured leadership curriculum, civic engagement, networking, and community involvement opportunities. The program draws on the knowledge, skills, and, most importantly, the life experiences of those in the room, augmented by the lessons in the curriculum. Students are encouraged by their peers and advisors to engage themselves to the best of their abilities. The goal is to fund the participation of 15 students.	
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

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

Motion:	To approve \$5,000.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	V. Tanner	17	0	B. Gonzalez
		V. Tanner left after the vote was taken – 10:50.		

G. Updated Grant Flow Chart (Attach. # 10) The Grants Manager updated/created Flow Charts to demonstrate the grant processes for all available funding.

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve the updated Grant Flow Chart with inclusion of comments provided by M. Gialdini.

Motion:	To approve the Grant Flow Charts – include the names of each chart on the top.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	K. Rodgers	16	0	0

H. Update the allotments for the FY23-24 NPO Centric Grant Budget of \$35,000- On June 28, 2023, the Board approved that out of the \$35,000 of this amount \$25,000 is to be awarded under discretion of the NPO Centric Manager and \$10,000 is allocated for the Grants Review Committee to recommend NPO Centric Memberships to applicants. Due to the recent restructuring of the NPO Centric Membership and NPO Centric Grant process, it would be beneficial to allow the NPO Centric Manager to authorize distribution of the \$10,000.

Grants Committee Recommendation: To reallocate the \$10,000 previously intended for the Grants Committee to allocate to the NPO Centric Program Manager to allocate.

Motion:	To approve the Grants Committee recommendation.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	K. Rodgers	15	J. Pye	0
		K. Rodgers left after the vote was taken 11:15.		

I. Board Member Committee Assignments (Attach. #11)

Staff Recommendation: For the Board to adopt these committee assignments.

Motion:	To approve the Committee Assignments, with one change- remove J. Pye from Audit Committee.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	G.Colangeli	14	0	0

VI. Information Items

- A. BOARD ATTENDANCE for 2024 (Attach. #12)
- B. Grants Committee: Met on Feb. 20. Approved Jan. 16 Minutes attached (Attach. #13). Next meeting March 18 at 1:30 PM .
- D. Executive Committee: Met on Feb. 20 Approved Minutes for Jan. 16 (Attach. #14). Next meeting March 18 at 9 AM.
- E. Facilities Committee: Met on Jan. 24. Approved Minutes for Dec. 13. (Attach. #15). Next meeting February 28.
- F. Finance/Investment Committee. Cancelled Feb. 20th Meeting. Special Meeting planned for Feb. 28 at 8 AM.
- G. Mental Health Committee: Next meeting TBD.
- H. NPO Centric Committee: Met on Feb. 21, 2024. Approved Minutes for Jan. 17 attached (Attach. #16). Next meeting scheduled for March 20 at 1 PM.
- I. Governance Committee meeting: Next meeting TBD.
- J. Nominations Committee meeting: Next meeting TBD.
- K. Audit Committee: Next meeting TBD.

VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

Introduce Coachella Valley Healthy Living employee(s) - **Casta introduced herself to the Board and provide a brief history of he background.**

Spotlight on board members: Mike Gialdini and Rosemary Ortega -**M. Gialdini and Rosemary Ortega each shared their brief background.**

Casta Estellita Torres

Update on Coachella Valley Giving Day – **B. Sanchez annd V. Arroniz-Espinoza provided updates on activities, incentives awarded, funds raised by participants, and the March 4 news coverage to start at 5 AM at RAP.**

VIII. CLOSED Session Personnel CA Code 54957.6

CEO Annual Performance Evaluation Process - **Continued until the March Board meeting.**

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting is on March 27, 2024, at 9 AM. **Adjourned at 11.55.**