



REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION

Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM
 41550 Eclectic St. Palm Desert, CA 92260
 78015 Main St. Suite 205, La Quinta, CA 92253
 51625 Desert Club. Suite 101, La Quinta CA 92253
 73510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260
 821 Gravier Street, New Orleans, LA 70112

I. CALL TO ORDER at 9:00 by J. Pye - Roll Call: *S. Benoit, C. Borba, R. Gutierrez, B. Kroonen, M. Meyer (Remotely), Gina Nestande (Remotely), R. Ortega, T. St. Johns, A. Smith, V. Tanner, A. Wilson, Supervisor Perez, P. Cooper (Remotely) and J. Pye. Quorum Established.*

*Excused absences: G. Colangeli, M. Gonda, B. Gonzalez, K. Rodgers.
 Absent: C. Galvez, E. Romero.*

Also present: L. De Lara, M. Reyes, T. Fantini, G. Holliday, S. Minor, A. Lackie, A. Huesca, V. Arroniz, M. Rosales. Guests: Jenna LeComte-Hinley, Amairani Ramos, Lauren Bruggeman.

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:	<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>B. Kroonen</i>	<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

III. PUBLIC COMMENT -None

Presentation of Desert Fast Pitch Participants for Recap of experience.

Amairani Ramos with HARC

Lauren Bruggemans with The Greater Palm Springs Tourism Foundation

S. Minor and Greg Charleston were introduced and acknowledged for the efforts in making 2025 Desert Fast Pitch a success.

After Ms. Ramos and Ms. Bruggemans each shared their experiences they were surprised to receive cash grants. Ms. Ramos received a grant from Maria and Mark Meyer in the amount of \$2,500 and Ms. Bruggemans received a \$500 grant from RAP for selling the most Fast Pitch tickets.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required

A. Approval of September 24, 2025 Board Meeting Draft Minutes - Receive and file (Attach.#1)

- B. CEO Report - Receive and File (Attach.#2)
- C. Coachella Valley Healthy Living Report – Receive and File (Attach.#3)
- D. Grant Report - Receive and File. (Attach.#4)
- E. Facilities Report – Report and File (Attach.#5)
- F. Financial Report for month ending September 30, 2025 – Receive and File (Attach. #6)

Motion:	To receive and file the September 24, 2025 BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Coachella Valley Healthy Living, Grants, Facilities and Financial Report.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
B. Kroonen	R. Gutierrez	13	0	0

V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required

A. Annual Form 990 FY 2024-2025 – Coachella Valley Accounting and Auditing completed the annual Form 990 for FY 2024-2025. (Attach. #7).

Audit Committee Recommendation: The Committee will have met on Oct. 21. A verbal recommendation will be provided.

Motion:	To accept and authorize the CEO to submit the report.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
C. Borba	R. Gutierrez	13	0	0

B. Board Chair Jan Pye to discuss Board Development Topic (s) – Succession Planning was a recent NPO Centric Workshop attended by Chair Pye and she would like to revisit this topic for future action.

J. Pye shared that she attended the workshop and would like to have Succession Planning as a future topic for the board.

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

Supervisor Perez reported on the recent, Oct. 18, Carver Tract clean-up event which included several high school student volunteers (Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, Oasis-Thermal), Youth Advisor Committee, and Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. The 200 home community has already received a major investment to cover the cost of street improvements, sidewalk improvements, gutter and crosswalk improvements. The County is working to gain support from the City of Indio to annex the area. Next projects include adding lighting fixtures and closing the alleys.

Supervisor Perez also mentioned the upcoming Dust Summit, the State of the County events and the improvements at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Park.

D. NPO Centric – Monthly Report and activity highlights- Taly Fantini, NPO Centric Director. (Attach. #8).

Motion:	Approve and file the monthly report.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
C. Borba	V. Tanner	13	0	0

E. Desert Fast Pitch 2025 Presentation by Stephanie Minor, Director of Development

Motion:	For the Board to authorize CEO to proceed with planning a 2026 Desert Fast Pitch. Commit \$70,000 towards cash grants. Date, location, to be determined.			
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<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>R. Ortega</i>	<i>12 – V. Tanner left the room before the vote was taken.</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

F. GRANTS TRACKER FY 2025-2026: (Attach. #9A, #9B)

G. GRANT REQUESTS: SMALL GRANTS - Action Required

1. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SMALL GRANT #1
2. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF A LESSER AMOUNT THAN REQUESTED FOR SMALL GRANT #2, #3, AND #4.

SMALL Grant #1	Mizell Center
Program:	Mizell Center Programs, Classes and Activities
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
The Mizell Center is seeking funding to expand Mizell’s programming to better address the needs of a senior community that is living longer and now comprised of a wider range of older adults. This grant will strengthen capacity for growth and innovation, ensuring seniors have access to a broader range of free and low-cost activities and access to the information, tools and technologies that can enhance independence and quality of life. Specifically, they are seeking to augment our schedule with the inclusion of more immersive programming focused on acquiring and sustaining healthy habits that support vitality and longevity.	
Reviewer’s Scores:	84% Three reviewers scoring: 94, 80, 74
Prior RAP Funding:	FY20-21 Historical COVID-19: \$7,500
NPO Membership:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve the request of \$10,000 as requested. Yes: 6 No: 0

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To approve the request of \$10,000.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>V. Tanner</i>	<i>R. Gutierrez</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

SMALL GRANT #2	Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Program:	Fostering Connections for Coachella Valley Older Adults
Requested Amount:	\$ 10,000
The “Fostering Connections for Older Adults” initiative features Let’s Do Lunch! (LDL), Cafe Europa, Cafe Europa 2.0, Friendly Visitor, Call Tree, and JFS Express programs. Offering free services designed to reduce social isolation and increase access to healthcare for residents aged 55 and older. Through engaging activities, community connections, and access to essential support services, the initiative helps participants strengthen cognitive and physical health, enhance quality of life, and maintain independence while aging with dignity.	
Reviewer’s Scores:	81% Three reviewers scoring: 88, 82, 72
Prior RAP Funding:	FY24-25 Mental Health Grant: \$60,000, FY23-24 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000, FY23-24 Small Grant \$10,000, FY23-24 Desert Fast Pitch \$12,000 FY22-23 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY22-23 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000 FY21-22 Mental Health Grant: \$50,000

NPO Membership:	Yes - Active
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Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve \$5,000 of the requested \$10,000. Due to limited funding and to encourage the applicant to explore alternative funding sources. Yes: 4 No: V. Tanner and C. Borba

MOTION	To approve \$5,000 of the requested \$10,000. Due to limited funding and to encourage the applicant to explore alternative funding sources.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	
V. Tanner	B. Kroonen	13	0	0

SMALL GRANT #3	Old Town Artisan Studios
Program:	Community Outreach Art Program - Youth Focused
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Old Town Artisan Studios (OTAS) is expanding its Community Arts Programs to provide more youth across the Coachella Valley—especially those from underserved communities—with access to enriching, hands-on art experiences during seasonal breaks and after-school programs. With awarded funding, we are increasing class capacity, instructors and offering more youth scholarships to ensure that cost is never a barrier to participation.	
Reviewer’s Scores:	76% Three reviewers scoring: 66, 76, 86
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Desert Fast Pitch: \$2,000
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve a lesser amount than requested. The approved amount is up to \$5,000 exclusively for transportation, art supplies and equipment. Yes: 6 No: 0

Motion:	To approve the request for up to \$5,000 exclusively for transportation, art supplies and equipment.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	V. Tanner	13	0	0

SMALL GRANT #4	Camp Laurel Foundation
Program:	Youth Mental Health Program
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
We are seeking support to ensure that youth from Coachella Valley and Palo Verde Valley have access to The Laurel Foundation’s transformative year-round mental health programs. These include day camps, week-long residential camps, and intensive leadership retreats that are designed specifically to meet the unique needs of transgender/gender-diverse youth and youth from marginalized communities, especially those living in poverty, impacted by HIV/AIDS, in foster care, or facing housing insecurity.	
Representative:	Margot Anderson
Reviewer’s Scores:	75% Three reviewers scoring: 92,76,56
Prior RAP Funding:	Small Grant: FY23-24 \$7,500, Small Grant: FY22-23 \$7,500, Small Grant: FY21-22 \$5,000,
NPO Membership:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve a lesser amount than requested. Approve \$3,000 for scholarships and some incidentals related to their expense incurring, and due to the low number of clients served in the 4th District.

Separate Votes #A Yes: 4 No: 2 V. Tanner and C. Borba – **Noted by S. Benoit that it was V. Tanner and S. Benoit who voted No on #A.**

#B Yes: 4 No: 2 M. Meyer and C. Borba

Motion:	A) To approve the request for \$3,000 due to the low number of clients served in the 4th District, which has not increased since last year.			
	B) To grant an annual \$349 NPOC membership.			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
#A Supervisor Perez	R. Gutierrez	10	S. Benoit, V. Tanner, C. Borba	0
#B Supervisor Perez	R. Gutierrez	11	C. Borba, M. Meyer	0

H. Sponsorship Grants - Action Required

Sponsorship #1	About Families
Program:	18th Annual Fall Family Festival
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
The goal of our Fall Family Festival is to create a positive environment for children and families. We share important community information and resources. Ultimately, creating stronger, resilient community and family connections. There is a disconnect in the Coachella Valley between all the resources available to families and the disproportionate access to information for communities of color and lower socioeconomic status. Our community needs connection and sharing of resources. By bringing together many organizations and businesses in a collaborative effort to support families the Fall Family Festival is creating those connections	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY22-23 Sponsorship: \$5,000 FY22-23 Mental Health: \$30,000
NPO Membership:	Yes - Active

Grants Committee Recommendation: To approve the request of \$5,000 Yes: 6 No: 0

Motion:	To approve the request of \$5,000			
Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
R. Gutierrez	M. Meyer	13	0	0

VI. Information Item

- A. Board Attendance for 2025 (Attach. #10)
- B. Grants Committee: Met on Oct. 14. Approved Sept. 15 Minutes (Attach. #11). Next meeting TBD.
- C. Executive Committee: Met on Oct. 14. Next meeting TBD.
- D. Finance/Investment Committee: Met on Oct. 14. Sept. 15 Minutes (Attach. #12). Next meeting TBD.
- E. NPO Centric Committee: To meet Oct. 20.
- F. Audit Committee – Met on Oct. 21. Approved Sept. 16 Minutes (Attach. 13). Next meeting TBD.

VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

Introduce Marie Rosales, Coachella Valley Healthy Living Program Manager. - **Marie delivered a brief introduction of herself.**

Board Retreat November 20 from 8 AM – 1 PM at Desert Willow in Palm Desert.

The CEO announced the “Do the Right Thing” event held on Weds. Oct. 15 in Palm Springs. The event was attended by board members: J. Pye, S. Benoit, R. Ortega along with RAP team member M. Robles.

J. Pye mentioned that she was recently notified that she will be honored at a future Do the Right Thing ceremony.

A. Wilson announced the Nominations Committee meeting on Nov. 4. is seeking interest from board members who are interested in being considered for board positions.

B. Kroonen announced that he would like the board to proceed with recruiting board members. The CEO announced that a public announcement will be provided seeking board members next year.

VIII. Closed Session:

Government Code: 54957

NPO Centric Director

No Reportable Action.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: **10:59** Next meeting November 20, 2025 at 8 AM.