



REGIONAL ACCESS PROJECT FOUNDATION

Board Approved Minutes

Wednesday February 25, 2026 at 9:00 AM  
 41550 Eclectic St. Palm Desert, CA 92260  
 78015 Main St. Suite 205, La Quinta, CA 92253  
 83966 Fiesta Road, Coachella, CA 92236

**I. CALL TO ORDER-By Chairperson Wilson at 0:04.** Roll Call: *C. Borba, C. Colangeli, C. Galvez (arrived at 9:07), M. Gonda, B. Gonzalez, B. Kroonen arrived at 9:27, M. Meyer, R. Ortega, K. Quintanilla, E. Romero (arrived at 9:07), K. Rodgers, T. St. Johns, V. Tanner, Supervisor Perez, Pat Cooper, A. Wilson, Eileen Packer, Melissa Evans.*

*Excused Absences: R. Gutierrez, S. Benoit, A. Smith, J. Pye.*

*Also Present: L. De Lara, M. Reyes, G. Holliday, A. Lackie, V. Arroniz, A. Nieto, M. Robles, M. Rosales, Oscar Ortiz.*

**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>P. Cooper</i>	<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT - *None***

**IV. CONSENT ITEMS: Action Required**

- A.** Approval of January 28, 2026 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 January 31, 2026– Receive and File (Attach. #6)
- G.** 2026 Employee Handbook (Attach. #7A and #7B)

<i>Motion:</i>	<i>To receive and file the January 28, 2026 BOD Minutes, CEO Report, Coachella Valley Healthy Living, Grants, Facilities, Financial Report and 2026 Employee Handbook.</i>			
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>C. Borba</i>	<i>P. Cooper</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

V. NEW BUSINESS ITEMS – Action May Be Required

A. Appointment of Board Member – RAP Board of Directors currently has two vacancies.

Nominations Committee Recommendation: To recommend appointment of Eileen Packer.

Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>To appoint Eileen Packer by Supervisor Perez</i>	<i>K. Quintanilla</i>	<i>14 – E. Romero and C. Galvez arrived</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

B. Appointment of Board Member – RAP Board of Directors currently has two vacancies.

Nominations Committee Recommendation: To recommend appointment of Melissa Evans.

Motion By:	Second By:	# Approve:	# Oppose:	Abstention (Name):
<i>To appoint Melissa Evans by V. Tanner</i>	<i>K. Rodgers</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

*New board members Eileen Packer and Melissa Evans joined the board meeting.*

C. Supervisor V. Manuel Perez or his Representative- Update on County matters of interest.

*Supervisor Perez mentioned the following topics:*

- 1. He attended the Desert Healthcare District Community Engagement meeting in Desert Hot Springs. He would like to see greater attention to increasing dental and eye care services.*
- 2. He acknowledged the challenges to development due to lack of infrastructure (sewer, water and electricity).*
- 3. Future healthcare services need to include specialty care services, behavioral health and veterinary care.*
- 4. Reminded everyone of the Fishing Derby taking place on Feb. 28 at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park.*
- 5. The Riverside County Sheriffs Association has expressed interest in adding shade structures at the Lake Cahuilla and Hurkee Creek parks.*
- 6. Palo Verde Hospital is administering the hospital operations. He acknowledged the efforts of county leadership and 4 other Board of Supervisors for taking this very necessary action.*

*B. Kroonen arrived at this point.*

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

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File monthly report.

<i>Motion:</i>		<i>Approve and file the monthly report.</i>		
<i>Motion By:</i>	<i>Second By:</i>	<i># Approve:</i>	<i># Oppose:</i>	<i>Abstention (Name):</i>
<i>R. Ortega</i>	<i>M. Gonda</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>B. Kroonen</i>

E. Long Term Collaborative with Desert HealthCare District – Taly Fantini, NPO Centric Director

Finance Committee Recommendation: Recommend to the Board to authorize the NPO Centric Director to proceed with proposal to provide capacity building services to the Desert Health Care District. The Proposal, including a budget will be provided to the Board for consideration.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Authorize NPO Centric Director and Controller to proceed with creating a proposal and budget to be reviewed by NPO Centric and Finance committees.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>C. Borba</b>	<b>G.Colangeli</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

F. NPO Centric Countywide Monthly Report & Activity Highlights –Stephanie Minor, Strategic Development Director.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File the monthly report.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>Approve and file the monthly report.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>K.Quintanilla</b>	<b>C. Borba</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

G. GRANTS TRACKER FY 2025-2026: (Attach. #9 and #10)

H. GRANT REQUESTS: SPONSORSHIP GRANTS - Action Required

1. GRANTS COMMITTEE IS RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED FOR SPONSORSHIP GRANTS #1 and #2.

Sponsorship 1	Alianza Coachella Valley
Program:	Youth Art & Wellness Gathering-Art as Healing, Art as Action
Requested Amount:	\$5,000 RAP Approved \$5,000 for the HUE Music Festival; FY25-26. Event was cancelled.
This art and wellness gathering creates a safe, affirming space for students in Alianza's Youth Organizing Council (YO-C) and community members in the Eastern CV to engage with art as a form of expression, resistance, and healing.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY21-22 Mental Health: \$50,000; FY22-23 Juvenile Intervention (JI) Grant: \$16,600; FY23-24 Sponsorship: \$5,000; FY23-25 JI Grant: \$60,000; FY25-26 Sponsorship: \$5,000
NPO Member:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 0) To approve the requested amount of \$5,000.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To Approve \$5,000. Redesignated funds previously approved but not allocated.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>M. Meyer</b>	<b>A. Wilson</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>K. Rodgers, B. Gonzalez</b>	<b>0</b>

Sponsorship #2	Friends of the Desert Mountains
Program:	Wildflower Festival
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Details:	Saturday, March 7, 2026; 9 am – 4 pm; Palm Desert Civic Center
Wildflower Festival promotes education, environmental stewardship, land conservancy, and an appreciation of the Desert Mountains. The Festival is a free day-long event featuring artisans, information booths, enchanting wildflower displays, and	

live music.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Member:	Yes

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes:4 N0: 0 ): To approve the request of \$5,000.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve \$5,000</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>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>M. Gonda and M. Evans recused themselves and left the room during discussion.</b>

### I. SMALL Grants – Action Required

SMALL GRANT 1	Friends of the Desert Mountains (FDM)
Program:	Cahuilla Cultural and Environmental Education
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Reviewer’s Scores:	75% Three reviewers scoring: 86,86,54
For the past 2 years, FDM has been working to incorporate Cahuilla cultural history into our environmental education programs. In 2023, an Indigenous Community Liaison was hired to help communicate and coordinate with local tribes and to accompany out environmental education staff during our hikes and classroom courses. The Liaison addresses historical references to Cahuilla culture in terms of tribal cultures, resourceful uses of native plants, as well as environmental education around local wildlife.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY25-26 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$10,000; FY23-24 Small Grant: \$10,000
NPO Member:	Yes

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 4 No: 1 C. Borba ) The reduction of Federal dollars is threatening the survival of this program. Therefore, the Committee is recommending \$5,000. The reduced amount is due to limited funding available in this year’s budget.

<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>
<b>B. Kroonen</b>	<b>K. Quintanilla</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>M. Gonda and M. Evans recused themselves and left the room during discussion.</b>

SMALL GRANT 2	Coachella Valley High School (CVHS) Health Academy & HOSA
Program:	Unbound: A Human Trafficking Awareness Town Hall
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Reviewer’s Scores:	78% Three reviewers scoring: 78,76,84
1-”Human Trafficking Awareness Town Hall” is a student-led public health initiative from CVHS’s Health Academy and HOSA–Future Health Professionals that addresses critical gaps in youth awareness of human trafficking in the eastern CV. 2-“Eat Well, To Give Well: Nutrition to Save Your Life and Others” addresses a public health need connected to blood donation readiness. 3-“Protect Your Peace: The Mental Cost of High Performance” confronts growing mental health concerns among youth.	
Prior RAP Funding:	FY23-24 Small Grant: \$9,500; FY24-25 Small Grant: \$6,000
NPO Member:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes : 5 No: 0 ) To approve the request for \$8,000 of \$10,000 requested to support the series of activities offered by HOSA.

To extend the grant period for last year's award to allow for the use of \$2,000 balance remaining to be used for a billboard cost to be used for this year's event.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve \$8,000 and extend the grant period for the current grant to allow for \$2,000 to be used this month.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>P. Cooper</b>	<b>G.Colangeli</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>M. Meyer</b>	<b>0</b>

SMALL GRANT #3	Galilee Center
Program:	Galilee Center Emergency Services
Requested Amount:	\$10,000.00
Reviewer's Scores:	77% Three reviewers scoring: 86,84,60
	Funding will be used to fund the Galilee Center OLG Shelter and the Rental Assistance Program. The Galilee Center believes that every person should have a safe place to stay, enough food, and other basic items. The Our Lady of Guadalupe Center (OLG) offers dignity, safety, and well-being to the homeless migrant farm workers and the working poor and their families.
Prior RAP Funding:	FY18-19 Sponsorship: \$1,250; FY16-17 Desert Fast Pitch: \$23,000;
NPO Member:	No - <b>Corrected - Yes</b>

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No: 0) To approve the request of \$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>
<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>P. Cooper</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

SMALL GRANT #4	Cancer Support Community Palm Springs and Coachella Valley
Program:	Cancer Support Community
Requested Amount:	\$5,000
Representative:	Julia Forth
Reviewer's Scores:	84% Three reviewers scoring: 90,86,76
	The request of \$5,000 is to support program staff salaries and marketing expenses as we continue to increase awareness of free mental health support services for those facing cancer in this region. CV residents impacted by cancer will have increased access to our existing virtual services, as well as exclusive support groups dedicated to the region, and more...
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A
NPO Member:	No

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes 3 No: 2 ): To deny the request due to the program providing services duplicating other more established programs currently being offered. There was also concern about technology being less available/more difficult to use/not preferred by clients. Lastly, the funding identified – SCAN and DHCD – may be adequate at this time.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To deny the request.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>K. Quintanilla</b>	<b>M.Gonda</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>C. Galvez</b>	<b>0</b>

SMALL GRANT #5	College of the Desert (COD)
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Program:	Geek Squad: A student work-based learning opportunity
Requested Amount:	\$10,000
Reviewer's Scores:	83% Three reviewers scoring: 92,88,70
COD's Geek Squad is a juvenile intervention and prevention program that supports young adults—primarily ages 18–24—who are at elevated risk of educational disengagement and economic instability due to poverty, limited employment access, and immigration-related barriers. The program intervenes at a critical developmental transition point, using paid, structured employment to stabilize students, strengthen persistence, and redirect pathways toward long-term economic self-sufficiency.	
NPO Member:	No
Prior RAP Funding:	N/A

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes:4 No: 0 Abstain: M. Meyer ) To approve the request for \$30,000 of the \$40,000 requested. The lesser amount is due to the limited funding available.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve \$30,000.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>P. Cooper</b>	<b>M.Gonda</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>V. Tanner, M. Meyer, B. Gonzalez</b>

J. The Grants Committee is increasing the Small Grants allocation in the amount of \$40,000 from the Performance allocation.  
- Informational Only

K. Sponsorship Criteria - (Attach. # 11) The Committee would like to revise the criteria to reflect changes taken by the board on case-by-case basis. The Committee would like clear guidelines to be used by staff for future requests.

Grants Committee Recommendation (Yes: 5 No: 0) To approve the Sponsorship Criteria to be effective immediately.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To approve Resolution 2026.04 Sponsorship Proposal Guidelines effective immediately.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>G.Colangeli</b>	<b>M. Evans</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

L. Sponsorship and Small Grants. - The Grants Committee discussed the remaining funding for Sponsorship and Small Grants. The Committee considered requesting an increase of funds while deliberating future funding requests. The Committee decided against increasing the amount after learning from staff of the expected anticipated due to Mental Health Request For Proposal, and the current Juvenile Intervention Grant in progress.

The Grants Committee proposes to suspend receiving new Sponsorship and Small Grants funding requests as of February 27 at 5 PM and resume receiving funding requests for Sponsorship and Small Grants on June 15 at 9 AM. The current applications will be considered in March or April.

Grants Committee Recommendation By Consensus: To suspend receiving new Sponsorship and Small Grants funding requests as of February 27 at 5 PM and resume receiving funding requests on June 15 at 9 AM.

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To suspend receiving new Sponsorship and Small Grants funding requests as of February 27 at 5 PM and resume receiving funding requests on June 15 at 9 AM.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>V. Tanner</b>	<b>R.Ortega</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

M. Review the RAP Bylaws (Attach. #12) Revise the Bylaws updated February 26, 2025 to add a section to define the “service area” to be Riverside County in the establishment of a quorum. This is consistent with RAP’s Vision and Mission.

Add: “In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, members participating within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, the County of Riverside, may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum so long as they comply with all necessary “noticing” requirements.”

Nominations Committee Recommendation (Yes 4 No: 0) To revise Bylaws, page 5 of 14 Section 14.

**Correction noted that it was the Governance – Human Resources Committee which made the recommendation.**

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To revise Bylaws, page 5 of 14 Section 14.</b>			
	<b>“In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act, members participating within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, the County of Riverside, may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum so long as they comply with all necessary “noticing” requirements.”</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>K. Quintanilla</b>	<b>C.Borba</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

N. Resolution No. 2026.03- Limit Leasing Office Space to Nonprofits and Public Agencies (Attach. #13)  
 RAP will limit leasing to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, organizations in the process of obtaining 501(c)(3) status, or public agencies

Facilities Committee Recommendation (Yes: 6 No: 0)

<b>Motion:</b>	<b>To Approve Resolution 2026.03 Limit Leasing to Nonprofits and Public Agencies.</b>			
<b>Motion By:</b>	<b>Second By:</b>	<b># Approve:</b>	<b># Oppose:</b>	<b>Abstention (Name):</b>
<b>M. Gonda</b>	<b>K.Rodgers</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

VI. Information Items

- A. Board Attendance for 2025-2026 (Attach. #14)
- B. RAP Committee Assignments (Attach. #15)  
**Board member M. Meyer mentioned that she had notified CEO of interest in serving on the Strategic Funding Committee. CEO announced that E. Packer has selected the Finance and Strategic Funding Committees.**
- C. Grants Committee: Met on Feb. 17. Approved January 20 Minutes (Attach. #16). Next meeting March 16.
- D. Executive Committee: Met on Feb. 17. Approved January 20 Minutes (Attach. #17)  
 Next meeting March 16.
- E. Finance/Investment Committee: Met on Feb. 17. Approved January 20 Minutes (Attach. #18). Next meeting March 16.
- F. NPO Centric Committee: Met on Jan. 26. Oct. 20, 2025 Minutes (Attach.#19). Next meeting March 9.
- G. Strategic Funding Committee: Next meeting TBD.
- H. Audit Committee – Next meeting TBD.
- I. Nominations Committee – Met on Feb. 12. Approved Nov. 4, 2025 Minutes (Attach. #20). Next meeting TBD.
- J. Facilities Committee– Met on Jan. 28, 2026. Approved Dec. 17, 2025 Minutes (Attach. # 21)To meet on Feb. 25.
- K. Governance- Human Resources Committee – Met on Feb. 10. Approved March 5, 2025 Minutes (Attach.#22). Next meeting March 2.

VII. BOARD MEMBER / STAFF COMMENTS

Senior Inspiration Awards Luncheon - Friday March 27, 2026

*Board member R. Ortega mentioned attending the College of the Desert Stepping Out event which recognized board member E. Romero. The honor was well deserved.*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: **11:05** Next meeting March 25, 2026 at 9 AM.