

HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1078 Dogwood Rd., Suite 104
Heber, CA 92249

MINUTES

Thursday, January 18 2,024 at 6:00 p.m.

ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION:

WEBSITE: <https://zoom.us/join>

MEETING ID: 796-978-5637

CALL IN PHONE NUMBER: 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (760) 336-1572

The District recognizes its obligation to provide equal access to those individuals with disabilities. Please contact the District (760) 482-2440 two working days prior to the meeting with any special requests for reasonable accommodation.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-President Diaz-Molina called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.
- 2. ROLL CALL:** Those attending the meeting included Vice-President Diaz-Molina, Director Sandoval, Director Garcia, and Director Tabarez. Also, in attendance were General Manager, Madeline Dessert, General Counsel, Mitch Driskill and Finance Manager, Luis Carrasco. President Matus arrived at 6:11, after roll call was established.
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Vice-President Diaz-Molina led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** There was a motion to approve the agenda by Director Garcia, seconded by Vice-President Diaz-Molina.
The motion was approved by roll call vote of 5-0
AYES: Director Sandoval, Director Tabarez, President Matus, Vice-President Diaz-Molina and Director Garcia
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** **Sergio Ojeda, Muralist in Imperial County** – Received a grant from the California Arts Council to paint murals in Imperial County. Mr. Ojeda proposed painting a mural depicting Anime characters playing sports and eating healthy fruits and vegetables to bring attention to Public Health. Mural would be painted at Tito Huerta snack bar at no charge to the District. HPUD BOD gave direction to staff to move forward with the project.
Sarah Curry, Resident – Ms. Curry informed the Board the sewer smell has become worse in the evenings. Additionally, Ms. Curry asked if HPUD has received an update from the County regarding street sweeping.
Guillermo Verdugo, Water Lead Operator, HPUD- Mr. Verdugo made public comment representing the NRTA. He let the Board know he thinks they are doing a good job and are bettering the situation for HPUD and he does not want to get rid of them. He wants to negotiate on good terms.
Juan Molina, Resident – Invited the Board, Staff and community to the Annual Heber Tamale Festival

The Board may set time limits on the amount of time any speaker can use to address the Board. Members of the public are allowed to make comments about anything not listed on the agenda. If the comments concern an agenda item, they must wait until that item is up for discussion. If you wish to address the Board, please speak to the Board Clerk or General Manager during the meeting and when recognized by the President of the Board address the Board. The Board can't take action on any item not on the agenda.

6. CONSENT AGENDA: There was a motion to approve the Consent Agenda by Director Sandoval, seconded by Director Garcia.

The motion was approved by roll call vote of 5-0

AYES: President Matus, Director Tabarez, Director Sandoval, Vice-President Diaz-Molina and Director Garcia **NOES:** None

ABSENT: None

- A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting on December 14, 2023
- B. Approve Current Demands for December 2023

7. REPORTS:

- A. President and Director’s Comments

Vice President Diaz Molina mentioned the flag at Tito Huerta Park looked old and requested it be replaced, possible with a larger one.

Director Garcia mentioned a member of the public informed him that the “Crip Walk” contest at the Heber Tamale Festival was gang affiliated and there was a flyer distributed that depicted smoke. Director Sandoval asked if that was a topic for HPUD to comment on if we did not print the flyer or put on the event. Further conversation ensued discussing HPUD facility use policy.

Director Sandoval invited the Board and public to attend a Groundbreaking ceremony hosted by the AB 617 Steering Committee and Air Pollution Control District.

- B. Operations Report for December 2023

This item was presented with the addition that the mixer #3 has arrived and will be installed shortly.

- C. General Manager’s Report

This item was presented with the addition of an updated timeline for Children’s Park [estimated groundbreaking mid-April].

- D. Grants Update

This item was presented with no additional questions.

8. NEW BUSINESS: Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Information Only – Second Quarter Budget Review – Finance Manager
Second Quarter Budget Review was presented with no additional comment.
- B. Information Only – LAIF Update – Finance Manager

Laif Update was presented with no additional comment.

- C. Information Only Regarding the Community Facilities District 2005 – 1 Annual Report Prepared by Willdan Financial Services – General Manager
CFD Annual Report was presented with no additional comment.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-CSDA Special District Leadership Academy in San Luis Obispo February 4-7, 2024

10. CLOSED SESSION: Director Tabarez entered into closed session at 6:58 pm.

To ensure privacy during Closed Session, we will observe the following procedures:

- The Board President will enter Closed Session. Members of the public will exit the boardroom.

A. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code § 54957(b))

6:58 PM

Agency, Designated Representative: General Manager, General Counsel

Employee Organization: Natural Resources Technical Association

No Reportable action taken during closed session; direction given to staff.

The Board exited closed session at 7:37 pm.

11. ADJOURNMENT: President Matus adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

The minutes for the January 18, 2024 meeting were prepared by Madeline Dessert, General Manager