

HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1078 Dogwood Rd., Suite 104
Heber, CA 92249

MINUTES

Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

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:** The meeting was called to order on April 18th, 2024 by President Matus at 6:02 pm
2. **ROLL CALL:** Those present at the meeting included: President Matus, Vice-President Diaz-Molia, Director Sandoval, Director Tabarez, General Manager Madeline Dessert, General Counsel Steve Walker, Finance Manager Luis Carrasco, Grants Manager Jacob Bermudez.
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** President Matus led the Pledge of Allegiance
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Director Diaz-Molina motioned to pull items 6.C and 6.D from the Consent Agenda and requested items be added to closed session then discussed as items 8.H and 8.I in New Business after closed session. Motion was seconded by Director Sandoval. Motion Approved AYES: 4 / NOES: 0 Absentee: Director Garcia
Director Garcia joined the Board of Director's meeting at 6:20 pm
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Martha Gallegos and Jose Marcos Diaz requested a status update on Correll Park. Also, Mr. Diaz mentioned that his former employer Mr. Abatti donated to the renovation of Correll Park. Dianna Garcia-Ruiz expressed her concerns with the Fall Fiesta and the Tamale Festival and requested information regarding these events. Berta Delgado and Gildagdo Delgado expressed their concerns with the salary schedule and the possibility of having a translator for the board meetings. Along with other residents, Antonia Ortega expressed her concerns with the increase in utility rates and the improvements of the facilities and parks. Juan Molina provided an update on his non-profit, Wasupwu Productions for the month of May. Mr. Molina also requested additional information regarding the Fall Fiesta. Alex Earl provided an update on the current progress of the Mira Luz housing development. The Board of Directors referred Ms. Garcia-Ruiz and Mr. Molina to submit a written PRR with the HPUD office. The Board of Directors asked HPUD staff to look into the possibility of having the agendas translated into Spanish.
6. **CONSENT AGENDA:** Director Sandoval motioned to approve the amended agenda. Motion was seconded by Director Garcia. Motion approved AYES: 5 / NOES: 0
 - A. **Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting on March 19, 2024**
 - B. **Approve Current Demands for March 2024**
 - C. **Ratify Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Madeline Dessert, General Manager:** Item 6.C was moved to New Business as item 8.H after closed session.
 - D. **Adopt Resolution 2021-1 to Ratify the Salary Schedule:** Item 6.D was moved to New Business as item 8.I after closed session.
7. **REPORTS:**
 - A. **President and Directors' Comments:** Director Sandoval expressed his gratitude toward the public engagement. Director Diaz-Molina emphasized the representation of the community in local events. President Matus expressed his gratitude towards the residents for their involvement and engagement.
 - B. **Operations Report for March 2024:** Was presented with no additions.

- C. **General Manager's Report:** General Manager provided an update on the completion of the recreation center and the submittal of claims to FEMA. Additionally, the General Manager mentioned that HPUD staff will be presenting at the HCAC the following Monday.
- D. **Grants Update:** General Manager mentioned that Children's Park broke ground and is planned to be completed by the end of summer 2024.

8. NEW BUSINESS: Discussion and Possible Action

- A. **Presentation regarding Senate Bill 1309:** Larissa De la Torre Provided some background on SB 1309 which pertained to the support of the Lithium Battery Production Council.
- B. **Authorize Board President to sign a letter in support of Senate Bill 1309:** Director Sandoval expressed his support towards Senate Bill 1309 in its current form. Director Sandoval motioned to approve this item. Motion was seconded by Director Diaz-Molina. Motion Approved AYES: 5 / NOES: 0
- C. **Information Only: Third Quarter Budget Review:** Finance Manager, provided a quarterly budget review and answered questions from the Board of Directors. Director Sandoval requested budget adjustments be made prior to the overages on line items.
- D. **Information Only: LAIF Update:** Finance Manager provided an update on the interest accrued through LAIF in the last quarter.
- E. **Adopt the Calendar of Meetings Necessary to Review the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget:** The General Manager provided dates for additional meetings to review the budget. The Board agreed to add one special meeting on May 23, 2024 to review the budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25. Director Sandoval motioned to approve this item. Motion was seconded by Director Garcia. Motion Approved AYES: 5 / NOES: 0
- F. **Ratify Amendments to HPUD Policy Manual Replacing Office Manager with Grants Manager:** Director Tabarez motioned to approve this item and Director Sandoval seconded the motion. Motion Approved AYES: 5 / NOES: 0
- G. **Discussion and Possible action regarding changes to HPUD Policy Manual Policy #2601, Meeting Stipend:** The Board of Directors gave HPUD staff direction to meet with general counsel and discuss language to be included in the policy manual to mirror the Brown Act.
- H. **Ratify Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Madeline Dessert, General Manager:** Discussed after closed session.
- I. **Adopt Resolution 2021-1 to Ratify the Salary Schedule:** Discussed after closed session.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- General Manger provided an update on Estancia Park.
- General Manager welcomed newly hired Grants Manager, Jacob Bermudez to the HPUD team.
- General Manager provided an update on the recent community events that took place within the past month.

10. CLOSED SESSION: Commenced at 8:47 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))

General Manager

B. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code § 54957.6)

Agency Designated Representatives: General Manager, General

11. New Business Continued: Reconvened at 9:36pm

- A. **Ratify Amendment to the Employment Agreement with Madeline Dessert, General Manager:**

Director Diaz-Molina motioned to reconsider this item, no second was obtained, motion died due to a lack of second. Director Sandoval motioned to ratify amendment to employment contract. Director Tabarez seconded

I, Madeline Dessert, hereby certify that the agenda for the Heber Public Utility District Board Meeting of March 19, 2024 at 6pm, was posted on April 15 14th, 2024 at 5:00pm at the Heber Public Utility District Office and online at www.heber.ca.gov.

the motion. Motion Approved AYES: 5 / NOES: 0

B. Adopt Resolution 2021-1 to Ratify the Salary Schedule: Director Sandoval motioned to approve this item, Director Tabarez seconded the motion. Motion approved. AYES: 5 / NOES: 0

12. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 9:43pm