



Western Gateway Recreation & Park District

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Regular Meeting 6:30 pm

Buttermaker's Cottage

- 1) **Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Brandon Lindsen
- 2) **Roll Call** – Brandon Lindsen, Chair, present; Sharon Lewis, Vice Chair, present; Lance Eck, present; Chris Potter, absent; Paul Towne, present
- 3) **Introduction of guests** – Art & Mary DeLeon, Dana Ettlin, Kimberly Crispin
- 4) **Agenda Approval** – Director Towne moved and Vice Chair Lewis seconded a motion to move 9g, 9e, 11c and 11d to follow Public Comments. Unanimously approved.
- 5) **Public Comments** – No public comments.
- 6) **Correspondence** – LAFCo Consolidation of Nev Co & Ophir Fire Departments
- 9)g **Parcel Fee Increase** – Dana Ettlin advised that generally support has been unanimous, but the journey is arduous. He suggested a Benefit Assessment which is project specific. Public meetings would be held and the proposal could be adjusted based on public input. The park would send out the proposal with explanations detailing why the project is needed. Postcards would be mailed out with a decided vote deadline; voters vote on the postcard and mail back to the park. Postcard/ballots would be counted at the park by a third party, such as the League of Women Voters. An abundance of public relations would be required, and the board cannot actively promote the Benefit Assessment. Director Towne expressed interest in the project specific approach. Mr. Ettlin noted that he had been discouraged by the county's lack of assistance. Director Eck asked about the cost of a Benefit Assessment. Mr. Ettlin responded that the costs would include mailing to 8340 voters, and he estimated it would cost \$21,000, including postage, flyers, advertising, promotional yard signs, etc. The vote would be specific to District voters, and the result would be based on results of the return votes. Mr. Ettlin strongly suggested that the park pay for professional guidance so that the board could vote on which path to take – Citizen's Initiative, Benefit Assessment or Ballot Measure. Director Towne reiterated that he was in favor of a Benefit Assessment due to the current economy. Chairman Lindsen noted that if the costs were about the same he would be in favor of long-term options over a project specific vote. Director Eck asked if the Benefit Assessment is tied to an election. Mr. Ettlin answered that no, the Benefit Assessment could be launched anytime, and it was specifically recommended by the current head of LAFCo.
- 11)d **Pickleball Courts Update** – Mr. DeLeon is putting gravel down and would like to use the park's tractor to move dirt. They are looking at lights and will come to the board with a proposal for court lighting. Director Towne asked if they had any recent neighbor issues. Mr. DeLeon responded they had not. Director Eck noted that Sharon Currie had attended a board meeting a couple of months ago with noise complaints. Mr. DeLeon is testing lights at home to determine their needs. They would like to use solar and may need to set up a battery system. Ms. DeLeon added that there are a couple of solar experts in the pickleball club. Director Eck stated that he has noticed similar lighting used in home yards. Chairman Lindsen mentioned the addition of the drinking fountain / bottle filling station. Director Towne asked Mr. DeLeon when they would be using the lights. Mr. DeLeon answered they were planning to use lights on Thursday and Friday nights.
- 11)c **WGP Foundation Update** – Ms. Crispin advised the planning flea market was moved from May to June 7th. Flyer is being prepared. Ray Patton has temporarily stepped away from the foundation due to surgery but is expected to return.
- 9)e. **YBONC - Proposed MOU and improvement proposal to be reviewed and approved. Vote**
- 7) **Board Minutes** – Director Towne moved and Vice Chair Lewis seconded the motion to approve the February minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.
- 8) **Financial Report** – Chairman Lindsen advised the General Account seems low. Last month was sitting at \$56K and is currently at \$42K. Bookkeeping costs have gone up with the implementation of Workday and processes taking longer. Chairman Lindsen added that we will need to change the bank authorized signatures, removing Nancy Peirce and adding new board members. This will likely also require a Resolution to change the signatories, to be voted on at the April board meeting. Director Eck moved and Vice Chair Lewis seconded the motion to accept the February Financial reports as presented. Unanimously approved.

9) Old Business

- a. Pollinator Garden – Corrine Parker has been collecting donated plants. The Nevada County Beekeepers Association may not need to purchase any plants for the garden due to the volume of donations. They will be removing the old landscaping and preparing the soil for planting in the coming weeks.
- b. Playground Shade Structure – Chairman Lindsen advised that current quotes put the structure at \$113,000 which is prohibitive. He is now looking at a structure with shade sails and will be talking to Hansen Bros. about donating or discounting the concrete and using in-house labor. Planning to move on the concrete aspect as soon as possible.
- c. Fiscal Audits – Board is still in possession of Fiscal Reviews and Audit for 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25. Director Towne moved and Vice Chair Lewis seconded a motion to approve the audits. Unanimously approved.
- d. Rural Recreation & Tourism Grant – Chairman Lindsen updated that we are moving forward with the RV park. He currently has an email to approve the engineering. He is exploring options on RV filling and dumping, including filling on entering and dumping upon exiting the RV park area. The RV spaces will only have power and will likely have a water bottle filling station. Vice Chair Lewis expressed concern about general public use of dumping. Chairman Lindsen responded that the set up would likely be next to the bathrooms with RVs needing to back up to a specific location. This process would encourage users to be cognizant of their dump volume. Ballfield improvements are currently stagnant. Chairman Lindsen proposed we offer the GCSSA a discount this year due to the many hours they have put into the fields. He will talk to Eric Dahlgren to find out what the Seniors would consider fair. The new pump control board will cost \$13,000. After it is installed the pump itself will be evaluated. Both are thirty years old. Once the new controller is in place, sprinklers can be tested. Chairman Lindsen estimated a new pump would be in the \$30,000 range.
- e. YBONC – *see above*
- f. Park Lighting – *No update.*
- g. Parcel Fee Increase – *see above*
- h. Creekside Village - *Director Eck spoke with Jason Fouyer of Cranmer Engineering. The sledge removal project is estimated to be 18 – 24 months out. Cranmer will provide a draft plan for review and will pay for the park's legal retainer. Director Eck expressed that the plan of action seems super legit and likes that the engineer is local. He noted that Creekside Village spent a million dollars to connect to the sewer system. The project will involve various state and county agencies and permits. Our low water crossing engineer Bryan McAlister of Sierra Land Solutions will be involved with the project. Chairman Lindsen added that Cranmer Engineering is willing to pay a \$20,000 convenience fee, which could be used to resurface the lower parking lot.*

10) New Business

- a. Dog Park Sign – *Board to review Dog Park's proposal for a sign to increase visibility. No new proposed sign. Tabled.*
- b. By Laws Amendment – *No proposal for by laws amended with the inclusion of parcel fee increase process. Tabled.*

11) Advisory Groups - Presentations

- a. Buildings and Grounds.
 - i. General Park Maintenance – Mowers update, irrigation and pump – *see above* for pump update. Groundskeeper Marty Martinson wanted it brought up that there is no process for scheduling use of and checking out the tractor (or other equipment). Future requests to be directed to the District Secretary. Mr. Martinson also wanted to relay that the battery operated grease gun is missing and may have been borrowed by a user group.
 - ii. Farmers Market and CRV Program – Farmers' Market applications are coming in; will likely have a few more vendors than last year.
- b. Upcoming events and reservations report
 - i. Upcoming Events Report – the board was updated on upcoming community events.
- c. WGP Foundation Update
- d. Pickleball Courts Update

12) Director Comments

Chairman Lindsen noted that the park will need a new groundskeeper.

13) Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:09 PM