

KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Via Teleconference

Regular Meeting (7:00 p.m.)

Call to Order [[TS 0.03](#)]

President Hacaj called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:06 p.m.

Roll Call [[TS 0.07](#)]

Directors Rachelle Sherris-Watt, Eileen Nottoli, Cyrus Modavi, and Chris Deppe were present at roll call.

Staff present included General Manager Marti Brown, Interim Police Chief Walt Schuld, General Counsel Ann Danforth, Finance and Business Manager Katherine Korsak, and Clerk of the Board Lynelle M. Lewis.

Changes to the Agenda [[TS 0.41](#)]

General Manager Marti Brown reported there were no changes to the agenda and highlighted changes to the agenda format.

Closed Session Report [[TS 1:53](#)]

President Hacaj reported that no closed session meeting was held.

Community & Consent Calendar Forum

Community Forum [[TS 2:09](#)]

The following persons addressed the Board: 1) Catherine de Neergaard urged the Board to reinstate the Finance Committee and commented that the new agenda format that combines public comment with the consent calendar was unclear; 2) Linda Lipscomb commented that the agenda that noticed elimination of the the Finance Commmittee was misleading and urged the Board to reconsider the bringing back the Committee; 3) Pat Gillette urged reinstatement of the Finance Committee and suggested agendizing a discussion of consolidating the boards of the Police and Fire Departments; 4) Carolyn Tipton commented on elimination of the Finance Committee, concern about outsourcing the police and annexation to El Cerritio, and lack of transparency; and 5) Elaine Stelton urged the Board to rethink the elimination of the Finance Committee to allow community input.

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Consent Calendar [[TS 18:32](#)]

1. Special Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2021 and Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2021.

- Motion by Director Deppe, seconded by President Hacaj to adopt Item 1 of the Consent Calendar. The motion carried (5-0) by the following roll call vote: (AYES) Directors Deppe, Modavi, Nottoli, Sherris-Watt President Hacaj and (NOES) None.

Recommended Action: Approved meeting minutes.

2. January 2021 Financial Reports.

Recommended Action: Pulled Item 2 to continue discussion at the next meeting.

Discussion & Action Calendar [[TS 27:17](#)]

3. Kensington Community Council (KCC) Donation to the KPPCSD [[TS 28:23](#)]

General Manager Marti Brown reported that as part of the fundraising efforts and renovations to the Kensington Community Center, the Kensington Community Council agreed to donate \$15,000 toward landscaping and exterior improvements around the Community Center. Formal acceptance of these funds will allow the District to move forward with planning and implementing additional exterior improvements to the Community Center. Anne Forrest, representing the KCC Board, recapped the purpose of the donation and thanked community members who participated in the fundraising effort.

- Motion by President Hacaj, seconded by Director Deppe, to accept the \$15,000 donation from KCC for landscape improvements around the Community Center. The motion carried (5-0) by the following roll call vote: (AYES) Directors Deppe, Modavi, Nottoli, Sherris-Watt and President Hacaj and (NOES) None.

Recommended Action: Approved acceptance of a \$15,000 donation from KCC for landscape improvements.

4. Staff Presentation: Where should the future home of the KPPCSD be located? Preliminary Needs Assessment and Financial Analysis. [[TS 34:36](#)]

General Manager Marti Brown presented an update on the project status of the Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) and KPPCSD discussions and analysis to renovate the Public Safety Building (PSB). Ms. Brown and Captain Mike Gancasz highlighted the current status of the project, existing and future working conditions, public safety considerations, industry standards for police facilities, and preliminary financial analysis of the most promising options for the future home of KPPCSD.

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- [\[TS 1:07:23\]](#) Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Gail Feldman questioned the accuracy of the space requirements shown in the staff presentation; 2) John Gaccione asked if KPPCSD had considered building a new police station separately on some available vacant land and questioned why the agencies would remain on Arlington Avenue due to seismic and fire safety concerns; 3) Linda Lipscomb urged the Board to look into the space requested by KFPD, questioned why residents are paying taxes for two agencies that are in the same building, and suggested consolidation of the two boards; 4) Pat Gillette commented that the report did not reflect history or talent of the community, and that it is not a wise use of taxpayer dollars to have two boards providing the same service or having one agency pay \$3,000 per month for rent versus charging \$1 per month and sharing expenses; 5) Julie Stein commented that the benchmark costs presented for new facilities are outdated and suggested getting an independent review of recent construction of comparable facilities to get a good benchmark of what it would cost now; 6) Kevin Padian commented that both agencies should continue to work together to seek a solution that fits both agencies; 7) Christine Hafner asked when the community would receive information on the long-term financing and revenue sources for the project; and 8) Celia Concus commented that there is no vacant land to be used for a new PSB and that Kensington Park is not a viable option.

[\[TS 1:31:30\]](#) General Manager Marti Brown, Captain Mike Gancasz, and Chief Schuld responded to comments and concerns raised during the public comment period. They addressed staffing, a concept for using land in Kensington Park for the PSB, essential workspace needed for the Police Department, and crime incidents. Director Deppe provided several comments on the staff presentation, and expressed disappointment that there was no input from the Board or community who have institutional knowledge of the issues. As a result, he said the report included many inaccuracies. Director Modavi commented on the process for receiving Board input on the presentation, and asked if there has been exploration of receiving a waiver for expanding the footprint of the building since both agencies provide an essential service. President Hacaj commented that the report did not include analysis of renovating the Annex to house administrative staff. Director Nottoli pointed out that it is unlikely that the County will grant a waiver since it would bear liability in the event of a catastrophe. President Hacaj said discussion on the issues would be continued at the upcoming joint meeting with the KFPD Board on March 25th.

Director Comments & Reports

5. Director Comments [\[TS 1:57:30\]](#)

None.

6. General Manager's Report [\[TS 1:59:47\]](#)

General Manager Marti Brown reported on plans to remove a eucalyptus tree on Arlington Avenue by the Library and on additional tree pruning and brush removal throughout Kensington Park. She reported on plans to resubmit paperwork to the East Bay Regional Park District for a \$158,000 funding opportunity for the Kensington Community Center. Next, she reported that staff

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is soliciting project ideas for use of the \$160,000 Prop 68 grant funds received by the District. Additionally, she reported that the District is due to receive a \$158,000 reimbursement toward Community Center renovations. Ms. Brown announced that a joint meeting with the KFPD and KPPCSD Boards is scheduled for March 25th. In concluding, Ms. Brown explained the new agenda format. Directors commented on the proposed language and format changes to the agenda format (i.e. questioning the combining of public comment and the consent calendar segments along with the need to enlarge the small print).

- [TS 2:11:25] Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Julie Stein commented that the new agenda item of “Community & Consent Calendar Forum” versus general public comment is confusing; 2) Linda Lipscomb commented that general public comment is statutorily set forth in the Government Code and said the agenda should allow for public comment on any item; and 3) Lisa Caronna commented that the “Community & Consent Calendar Forum” language is confusing and the agenda should return to the original language.

7. **Chief of Police Report** [TS 2:07:53]

Chief of Police Walt Schuld reported that Kensington Police are working with Kensington Elementary School to conduct a joint comprehensive fire drill. He also reported that the Police Department submitted a grant proposal to the Office of Traffic Safety requesting funding for software programs to be used to report traffic collision information.

Adjournment [TS 2:15:30]

The next regular meeting will be held on April 8, 2021.

President Hacaj adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY:

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Lynelle M Lewis

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Lynelle M. Lewis, District Clerk of the Board

APPROVED: April 8, 2021

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Marti Brown

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Marti Brown, General Manager

DocuSigned by:

Sylvia Hacaj

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Sylvia Hacaj, President of the Board

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