



**DESERT HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2019**

Directors Present	District Staff Present	Absent
President Les Zendle, MD Vice-President/Secretary Leticia De Lara Treasurer Mark Matthews Director Carole Rogers Director Evett PerezGil Director Karen Borja Director Arthur Shorr	Conrado E. Bárzaga, MD, CEO Chris Christensen, CAO Donna Craig, Senior Program Officer Will Dean, Marketing and Communications Director Alejandro Espinoza, Program Officer and Outreach Director Meghan Kane, Programs and Research Analyst Vanessa Smith, Special Projects and Programs Manager Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board <u>Legal Counsel</u> Jeff Scott	

AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION
A. Call to Order	President Zendle called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.	
Roll Call	The Clerk of the Board called the roll with all Directors present.	
B. Pledge of Allegiance	President Zendle asked Director Borja to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.	
C. Approval of Agenda	President Zendle asked for a motion to approve the agenda.	#20-42 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Matthews to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0
D. Public Comment	Gary Rotto, Borrego Health, Senior Vice-President of Government and Public Affairs, explained that last	



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	<p>week a press conference was held for the opening of the new Borrego Health clinic at Martha’s Kitchen and Village, inviting the District CEO and Desert Regional Medical Center CEO to tour the new facility.</p>	
<p>E. Consent Agenda 1. Board Minutes a. Board of Directors Meeting – November 22, 2019 b. Board of Directors Meeting – November 26, 2019</p>	<p>President Zendle described the consent agenda items and asked for a motion of approval.</p>	<p>#20-43 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Rogers and seconded by Director De Lara to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>F. Annual Election of Board Officers</p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, opened the nominations for the election of officers and explained the process.</p> <p>Director Rogers nominated Vice-President De Lara for president, and Director Shorr nominated President Zendle for president. Counsel Scott distributed the ballots to all directors for voting purposes.</p> <p>Director Shorr nominated President Zendle; Director Rogers nominated Vice-President De Lara; Director PerezGil nominated Vice-President De Lara; Director Matthews nominated Vice-President De Lara; President Zendle nominated himself; Director Borja nominated Vice-President De Lara; and Vice-President De Lara nominated President Zendle.</p>	<p>#20-44 MOTION WAS MADE by President Zendle and seconded by Director Shorr to approve Vice-President De Lara as President. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p>



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	<p>President Zendle moved to nominate Vice-President De Lara as President.</p> <p>Counsel Scott opened the nominations for Vice-President/Secretary.</p> <p>Vice-President De Lara nominated Director Borja; Director Borja nominated President Zendle; President Zendle declined his vote; Director PerezGil nominated Director Borja; Director Mathews nominated Director Borja.</p> <p>Counsel Scott opened the nominations for Treasurer.</p> <p>President Zendle nominated Director Matthews as Treasurer.</p>	<p>#20-45 MOTION WAS MADE by President Zendle and seconded by Director Shorr to approve Director Borja as Vice-President. Motion passed unanimously. AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p> <p>#20-46 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Shorr and seconded by Director Borja to approve Director Matthews as Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously. AYES -- 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr NOES – 0 ABSENT – 0</p>
<p>G. Desert Healthcare District CEO Report 1. Workshop of Board and Staff Communications</p>	<p>Conrado E. Bázquez, MD, CEO, explained the upcoming workshop on communications and policies on January 23, 2020.</p>	



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<p>and Policies – January 23, 2020</p> <p>2. Community Health Needs Assessment</p>	<p>Dr. Bárzaga explained that staff is reviewing proposals of the Community Health Needs Assessment that includes upcoming site visits, and consideration for Board approval at the January meeting.</p>	
<p>H. Desert Regional Medical Center CEO Report</p>	<p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC), explained that the hospital is officially in flu session similar to last year with the same flu-like symptoms; however, this year, patients are presenting with Influenza A as opposed to Influenza B last year. Charitable giving efforts at DRMC and JFK Memorial Hospital donated over 200 turkeys to FIND Food Bank, including the Hi-Desert Hospital – a total of over 700 turkey donations. Mrs. Finney explained that donations to the local senior facilities for blankets, clothing, and other items needed. The patient self-service tool was described; DRMC received recognition and honors from the State of California Health and Human Services Agency for high-performance standards in maternity care, and with 60 other facilities for standards in opioid care. DRMC obtained recertification as a teaching institute and recertification for the advanced stroke sites.</p>	
<p>I. Desert Regional Medical Center Governing Board of Directors Report</p>	<p>President Zendle explained that the next meeting is Thursday, December 19.</p>	
<p>J. 1. Finance, Legal, Administration, and Real Estate Committee</p>		



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<p>1. Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2019</p> <p>2. Program Committee</p> <p> 1. Meeting Minutes – December 12, 2019</p> <p> 2. Progress and Final Reports</p> <p>3. Hospital Lease Oversight Committee</p> <p> 1. Next Scheduled Meeting – December 19, 2019</p>	<p>Director Mathews explained that there was no meeting, and the budget is on task.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained the meeting minutes of the December 12, 2019, Program Committee.</p> <p>President Zendle explained that the next Hospital Lease Oversight meeting is scheduled for December 19, 2019.</p>	
<p>K. Old Business</p>		
<p>L. New Business</p> <p> 1. Consideration to approve a budget to produce and publish the District and Foundation History Book – NTE \$45,000</p> <p> a. Consideration to approve a service agreement with Jeff Crider to produce and publish the District and Foundation History Book – NTE \$24,000</p>	<p>Will Dean, Communications and Marketing Director, provided an overview of the history of the District and Foundation, to capture and raise awareness, and the recommendation of Jeff Crider to produce and publish the book.</p> <p>Director Rogers inquired if the history book is in combination with an annual report.</p> <p>President Zendle explained his support and that the matters are two separate items.</p> <p>Michele Finney, CEO, Desert Care Network, Desert Regional Medical Center (DRMC), explained that DRMC has an archive of photos and documents that the District can access.</p>	<p>#20-47 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Borja and seconded by Director Mathews to approve a budget NTE \$45k, and service agreement to produce and publish the District and Foundation History Book – NTE \$24k.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>AYES – 7 President Zendle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Mathews, Director Rogers, Director PerezGil, Director Borja, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 0</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>



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<p>2. Consideration to approve a grant agreement between the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation and Coachella Valley Association of Governments for CV Link</p> <p>Public Comments</p>	<p>Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, explained the history of the MOU in 2013 for the District to provide a funding commitment to CV Link. The grant was contingent on Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) obtaining funding of \$6M, including other conditions and contingencies that Counsel Scott described, reporting that CVAG received \$12.6M in matching funds. The community health needs assessment has not been completed, and CVAG should coordinate with District staff to establish the payments and payment schedule over a 5- to 6-year period. The Board has the right to revoke the payments if the District has financial obligations such as seismic, also describing the provisions.</p> <p>Tom Kirk, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), explained the partnership with the District for the past 6 years and thanked the District staff, CVAG staff, and public supporters. Mr. Kirk explained that the project would not be in existence unless the Board supported the project, especially prior Director Kay Hazen, a long-term supporter of public health. Mr. Kirk thanked the District's legal counsel, Jeff Scott, and CVAG's legal counsel.</p>	
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	<p>The following persons provided public comments in support of CV Link except Indio Resident, Vanessa Rivera:</p> <p>Michael Rosen, Desert Disability Center; Jim Rothblatt, President of Friends of the CV Link; Jerry Alcorn, District Resident; Gary Lueders, Friends of CV Link; Erica Felci, Governmental Projects Manager, CVAG, read a letter from over 30-elected officials supporting CV Link; Evan Trubbe, Palm Desert Resident; Berlinda Blackburn, Palm Desert Resident; Tim Esser, Rancho Mirage Resident, Founder, Tour de Palm Springs; Greg Rodriguez, Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, Supervisor Perez; and Vanessa Rivera, Indio Resident, inquired on the seismic retrofit at DRMC and distributing the wealth of the \$10M for impactful outcomes.</p> <p>President Zandle closed the public comments after the final speaker and opened the matter for Board discussion.</p> <p>Director PerezGil inquired on the differences and inconsistencies and protecting the bicyclists with no sidewalks or streetlights to enter and exit. Parking is limited, as well as restrooms with variations in certain areas.</p> <p>Tom Kirk, Executive Director, Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), explained that there are no differences – no</p>	
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	<p>restrooms or parking lots will be established. People should not be driving to CV Link, but walking. The path starts at Ramon and ends at Vista Chino, a roadway since these areas will have new bridges with under crossings. One of CVAG's priorities is to build roadways with federal funds.</p> <p>Director Shorr explained that there are no comfort stations for 43 miles of roadway inquiring on the expectation that users are self-sufficient.</p> <p>There are water stations every 2 miles as explained by Mr. Kirk, and there is a cost to maintain the facilities. Some restrooms connect to the Link in various areas.</p> <p>Director Rogers explained that she has seen other areas in the country with bike and walking paths, and it will be a major boost to the District and the community, and the District's impact on health and wellness, also describing the obligation of honoring the prior Board.</p> <p>Director Borja described the securing of \$113.1M, inquiring on how many miles have been created to date with Mr. Kirk explaining that 3-1/2 miles are completed thus far. Director Borja explained that in the new agreement, the District can only review audits and inspect CVAG programs within a certain portion of miles. Mr. Kirk explained that the funds are mixed with other</p>	
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	<p>funding and are open to the Board's inspection.</p> <p>Director Shorr inquired on the number of committed dollars, the cash on hand, the amount in cash not used, and how it is deployed for investment purposes.</p> <p>Mr. Kirk explained that \$20M is on hand, and President Zendle inquired whether the \$5M-\$10M has been expended thus far from funders.</p> <p>Vice-President De Lara explained that in that in 2013 while working for the county she was involved behind the scenes on the CV Link project; however, she did not want to discuss the pros and cons of the project now. The decision at hand is ensuring the District's expectations of CVAG are carried out in the future. Vice-President De Lara thanked the staff, especially the CEO and legal counsel for their efforts to address issues and create a new agreement. Moving forward it is the responsibility of Directors to ask questions and hold CVAG accountable to the provisions in the new agreement. She supports moving forward with the agreement since the project was previously approved by board.</p>	
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	<p>Director Matthews congratulated CVAG for the monetary commitments of over \$100M, explaining that he made the motion in 2013. Director Matthews emphasized that bikes and walking are good for the community. When the District expanded, there was no additional funding. One way to gain funding is the lease agreement with Tenet, explaining the current operations of Tenet at Desert Regional Medical Center, and if the negotiations were to extend the lease with Tenet moving forward, it would be determined by a public vote and Director Matthews moved for approval of the initial grant with CVAG, seconded by Director Rogers.</p> <p>President Zandle explained that the District currently has the monies to fund many organizations, the commitment was made in 2013, and with caution, as it will be difficult to quantify and measure the changes and community health impact and support the project.</p> <p>Director Borja believes that CVAG could obtain the \$10M through fundraising. Organizations that the District supports will not have the same access to funding as CVAG. At recent Board meetings, East Valley residents have expressed the health issues in their areas such as water quality and the recent mulch fire, and she does not have enough information to date to support the project, such as the projected costs of an audit review; thus, she will</p>	<p>#20-49 MOTION WAS MADE by Director Matthews and seconded by Director Rogers to approve a grant agreement between the Desert Healthcare District and Foundation and Coachella Valley Association of Governments for CV Link.</p> <p>Motion passed 5-2.</p> <p>AYES – 5 President Zandle, Vice-President De Lara, Director Matthews, Director Rogers, and Director Shorr</p> <p>NOES – 2 - Director PerezGil and Director Borja</p> <p>ABSENT – 0</p>
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	<p>not be voting in favor of the motion.</p> <p>Director PerezGil understands the importance of biking, but with the new expansion of the District, she has other community concerns such as the inadequate drinking water, she is not comfortable voting yes, and the community she represents would not agree with the \$10M funding.</p>	
M. Legal Comments & Reports	Jeff Scott, Legal Counsel, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.	
N. Directors' Comments, Reports, Informational Items, & Staff Direction and Guidance		
O. Adjournment	President Zendle adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.	Audio recording available on the website at http://dhcd.org/Agendas-and-Documents

ATTEST: 
 Leticia De Lara, Vice-President/Secretary
 Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

Minutes respectfully submitted by Andrea S. Hayles, Clerk of the Board