



Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District  
A Special District  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**Monday November 24, 2025**  
David Head Building  
10300 San Diego Street  
Lamont, California 93241  
(www.bearmntprk.com)

**MINUTES**

- 1. REGULAR SESSION**
- 2. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular board of directors meeting of Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District was held Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 6:30 pm in the David Head Center at 10300 San Diego Street, Lamont, California. The district is a political subdivision in the State of California.

**Present:** Chairman Jesus Perez, Vice Chairman Fernando Alonso, Director Denise Loza, and Director Francis Vega.

**Staff Present:** District Manager Mrs. Cervantes, Maintenance Supervisor Mr. Villalpando, Office Manager Mrs. Alcala and District Counsel Mr. Hodges

- 3. FLAG SALUTE**

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. Flag Salute: Chairman Mr. Perez

- 4. APPROVE AGENDA AS FORM**

**MOTION by Director Vega motioned for approval of the agenda as to form. Second, by Director Loza. Approved 4 ayes, 0 noes 1 vacancy.**

- 5. PRESENTATIONS- None**

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT- None

## 7. CONSENT AGENDA

Items are considered routine, non-controversial and approved in a single motion. A board member may request to have an item removed from the consent calendar for discussion to be deferred. (May include Minutes, Financials, Resolutions, and Policy & Procedure matters).

- 7.1 Minutes
- 7.2 Pre-signed Vouchers
- 7.3 List of Bills
- 7.4 Review of District's Financial Accounts
- 7.5 QuickBooks Reports- Aged payables, balance sheet, profit, and loss.
- 7.6 Events- Schedule for David Head Center
- 7.7 Events- Senior Center

**MOTION by Director Alonso motioned for approval of the consent agenda 7.1-7.7. Second, by Director Loza. Approved 4 ayes, 0 noes 1 vacancy.**

## 8. DEPARTMENTS REPORTS:

### General Manager Report:

- 8.1 **Maintenance -Mr. Villalpando-** winter grass has been installed around the building, concrete and trash cans have been installed around the park, I also have been hearing complains about the north side of the park along the walk way and with the board's approval I would like to proceed with the installation with solar flood lights on the north side walk way the total cost of six lights including poles and cement will be 1,02.73 that would be for the north side walk way, for Weedpatch Park the water is currently turned off construction of the entrance its on its way the will be rerouting some of our sprinkler lines and make way for the sidewalk the entrance of the park will remain close for the pools I do have a new updated estimate and the graffiti at the pools have been painted as well **Mrs. Loza-** you said that the Weedpatch Park is close is that why there is a bunch of grass on the basketball courts **Mr. Villalpando-** yes its going to be like that till there done the guy in charge is Daul and his been keeping in touch with me **Mr. Perez-** and with the solar lights how tall will they be **Mr. Villalpando-** depending what size pools we get they are 21 feet tall it varies on how high we want to have them and how much we want to light up obviously depending how high we go it expands a little more but it dims a little bit **Mrs. Cervantes-** since it doesn't include electricity we don't need those permits **Mr. Villalpando-** for this we wouldn't need permits they are just pools cemented to the ground **Mr. Alonso-** do we know any parks locally that have similar lights **Mr. Villalpando** – the City of Arvin Parks have them **Mr. Perez-** the cost is 1,000 for each pool and light **Mr. Villalpando-** the total cost is per light **Mr. Villalpando-** the total cost for 6 poles 6 lights and 2 bags of cement per pole is 1000.00 **Mr. Hodges-** for 1,000 dollars it doesn't need board approval you just need to give direction to the

District Manager during directors time to do this its under her spending limit Mr. Alonso- were you are planning to put them we wont be having any issues with any trees or anything **Mr. Villapando-** I already planed out were to put them trees will not be blocking them **Mrs. Cervantes-** what would be a good height I think 15 feet will be a good height

- 8.2 Recreation- Mrs. Cervantes-** our recreation coordinator Rosalva Gonzalez is not here but she just wanted to give an update on the haunted house they are going to start setting up next week on Monday the Haunted House will be on October 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m. so we are going to have it on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> **Mrs. Vega-** is that going to be a two day **Mrs. Cervantes-** no we are just having it for one day Mr. Alonso- that will be a different day than the Family Resource Center **Mrs. Cervantes-** yes we are Mr. Perez- m going to see if I can get you that information so we can pump people up to see if there's going to be some free entrance **Mrs. Cervantes-** we sent an email to Mr. Couch to see if we can get some free entrances for the haunted house Mr. Hodges- how much is it **Mrs. Cervantes-** entrance is 5 dollars she's just asking for 100 dollars for 20 kids **Mr. Hodges-** ill pay for 20 kids 100 dollars **Mr. Perez-** thank you Nathan I'm sure Supervisor David Couch will do 500

**8.3 District Manager-**

- a) **Written Communications- Mrs. Cervantes-**
- b) **Oral Communications- Mrs. Cervantes-**

**Mrs. Cervantes-** I emailed Janel Austin she's the one that I was referred to, to get information about the property tax I have not heard back from her I also got referred to another person her name is Mayte Olivas and regarding the Quinby Fees I had also emailed Janel Austin to find out if she had any information on that she's normally the one that gives me the breakdown of everything but I need to find out who I need to talk too to see if there's a resolution in place before we start charging I need to know if we have anything in the county, I posted the RFP we did get one person that reached out I send them the information that they needed I registered you guys for the conference I registered Francis, Fernando and Jesus you guys are ready to go and Mrs. Loza already took one of the classes n line the sexual harassment class she got a certificate for that and she's registered for the AB123 I will be going to the CAPRI for a board meeting and retreat ill be gone the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November just reminder you guys will be gone November 16-19 and ill send you guys a flyer with all the information and Lucia and myself will be starting a class on Friday from 12pm-1:30pm taking grant writing through Rose Foundation there going to teach us Grant Seeking 101, Finding the Money, Numbers With Purpose, and the last class is on November 7<sup>th</sup> I wont be able to attend that one but Lucia will because I will be in the retreat

**9. CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

**9.1 Committee Meetings**

**Mrs. Cervantes-** we had the Budget, Salary and Finance committee meeting we also had a meeting with the City of Arvin that same day we went over some budget items and the inventory that had to do with the fire making sure we are keeping all of that up to date and that we are keeping our ledger on what we are spending and that we

are itemizing our things **Mr. Perez-** no upcoming meetings **Mrs. Cervantes-** not this month

## **10. DISTRICT BOARD MATTERS:**

### **10.1 Discussion:** Arvin Pool and Lamont Pool

**Mr. Villalpando-** this estimate didn't change much grand total is 307,229.35 for the pool pump area **Mr. Alonso-** and that is just for one area **Mrs. Cervantes-** yes that just for the pump area he still going to get prices for the other stuff **Mr. Hodges-** ill make a comment that's two thirds of your annual budget just for the pumps **Mr. Perez-** we were giving a life expectancy of 20 years we hit that right on the dot and both pools have the same issues, I'm pretty sure this has been answered before but if these repairs will be if these repairs will be made how many years would it buy those pool **Mr. Villalpando-** that's going to be on the work they do they would be ones that would say how many years it would last, you get what you pay if we are just trying to resurface it a little touch up maybe 10 years demo and do everything brand new that would be 20 years that would be the best way to go **Mr. Hodges-** as a comparison do you know how much it will cost just to fill in the pool **Mr. Villalpando-** I think it would be around 49,000 each just to cover the pool

### **10.2 Discussion:** Press Release: Clarification on Recent Meeting between the City of Arvin and Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District

**Mrs. Cervantes-** I handed out to you guys a press release for you guys to look at it if we can that approve **Mr. Hodges** is going to look at it and make revisions so I will be sending it to him so he can revise it then I can email it to you guys if you guys want and you guys can decide and you guys can assign who's going to be called **Mr. Perez-** the journalize that originally came up with the story or ran the story is no longer working with channel 23 **Pricila Lara** is no longer with them and even when I had reached out to clarify remarks there was no response it was her last story so the editor for KERO 23 is my cart I would consider him a friend of the community he is more in tune with the community I would be more than happy to receive those calls from him if he has any question if I would be a respondent for Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District I would definitely seek the board's approval on being the respondent we don't give statement on behalf of the district **Mr. Hodges-** no only if your given authority **Mr. Perez-** it was quite the meeting I think the most concerning was that there was statements that were made essentially and by the city's own admitting it was essentially rumors that they heard from the community myself and Director **Alonso** took offense to the fact that phone calls were not made to the district for clarification on a number of different items the parks and the Arvin Pool closure that was a topic that they said the pool hasn't been open in many years and in fact the pool was open last year and we been open with the exception of that one year when we had covid that was a public safety shut down **Mr. Hodges-** we were required to close down **Mr. Perez-** this year we had to close cause we had similar safety concerns and equally we did what was right we shut our facility for safety issues another issue that I did not appreciate was that during a board meeting these rumors were repeated actually during a City Council Meeting on two different occasions these rumors were

essentially repeated and it was just a lack of their own diligence to pick up the phone and make simple phone calls and say we have residents concerned with the pool not being open for a number of years we would have that date for them the rumor that was perpetrated by city officials that we had already made a decision as a board to demolish the pool essentially abandoned it and built a batting cages had already been decided and that also factually incorrect and there was a number of different items there in which the city officials took what they heard as rumors and basically ran it as a fact not really understanding that they do have a platform and that residents look for them for factual information there were a number of different allegations that were made that our district had not been transparent in putting past audits up for public inspection on our website or our current budget wasn't up for public inspection in our website and during our sit down meeting that we had a few Thursdays ago we were able to demonstrate that it was on our website just one click away any page that you land on all you have to do scroll to the very bottom and hit one click on district transparency and you will have access to see all of our board members our past three financial audits and our current budget the nature of our meeting did also reach the ears of our County Supervisor in which I sat with him went over the meeting and the details of the meeting and he had asked me to show him our current budget through our website opened up his tablet we scrolled down to district transparency and we were able to access all the information that essentially the City of Arvin the staff and the Mayor of Arvin said they couldn't find and they had a reason to believe that we didn't have it available for public inspection that was disproved during our meeting and after I showed our county supervisor how easy it was to find that bit of information I also went to our website search menu and typed in current budget and our current budget popped up as a link so it does index properly in our website and we did the same thing for the City of Arvin and I could not find it there current budget that was the only item I looked for and when I tried to use the search bar I typed in budget typed in current budget the most current budget was 2022-2023 so in apples to apples of a test we put our inspection I'm happy to relay that telling our side of our story in this press conference, press release the press release would be important to essentially relate this information not only to the press but to the public and potentially share on our website and through our social media as well so that this information is available to residents the other cost for concern on our part was the assertion made by the mayor in Arvin that we had not made an effort to notify the City of Arvin and that we didn't properly notice and so during our meeting one of our staff members that's present here today our Maintenance Supervisor was asked when did we know of our permanent closure we were able to determine as a group at that time that the city was noted within 30-35 days of that notice coming to our board that was another reason we felt there was a reason to essentially clarify the missing information or misrepresented rumors that were presented as facts to be clarified I want to welcome Mrs. Cervantes and Mr. Alonso to talk about how the meeting went **Mr. Alonso-** at the meeting it was interesting how the mayor conducted herself essentially mediately pretending that they did not run our name through the mud so that kind of throw me off for a bit I keep my composure still we set up the meeting inform them that we do have the numbers we have a presentation and everything like Donny pointed out later in the meeting this just addressing the elephant in the room so

I asked her what she meant in the comments she said at her meeting were she didn't not and still pretended that nothing had happened and that it was all board decision and that the staff report I asked her again and she refused to answer the question so then I read it to her I did let her know I did watch the meeting and I did have more less the time stamp of when she had said that so I asked her in her own minutes on September 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year in approximately 39 minutes into the meeting that you were very concern of the lack of transparency as it relates to the financial of Bear Mountain Parks and Rec what did you mean by that and she again did not acknowledge that she ever said that I don't know how you can continue to not acknowledge that when its recorded its also streamed now that they had there meeting and she's still refusing to admit that she said those things and she just keeps falling on staff report then I asked Jeff Jones the city manager who gave the staff report that what were the steps he took he said he just checked our website and didn't find it and that was it so I let him know if he would have contacted us he would have been told that it is on our website and he would have been showed how to access that I asked him if he sent us an email he said no I asked did you call us he said no did you come in person at anytime he said no so I let him know you got wrong information and I told the mayor that as well that she received wrong information and you know that its wrong information these are the words you said what did they mean I also in one point in the meeting I asked her now that she knows and she informed the wrong information if she would publicly apologies and set the record straight and she didn't not agree that she would do that she still wasn't saying that her words that were recorded happened that didn't really go anywhere it was very interesting see her conduct herself that way **Mrs. Cervantes-** I agree with everything Mr. Alonso and Mr. Perez just said I just presented a presentation on the last three years that the pools were open **Mr. Hodges-** when you say that is that presented the financials presentation that would be the cost the revenue **Mrs. Cervantes-** yes the revenue and the expense **Mr. Hodges-** as you can see it was 125,000 dollars loss last year **Mrs. Cervantes-** yes I gave a presentation on that **Mr. Alonso-** I also asked the mayor if she would remove her self of any future meetings to what she said it's a board decision and it would have to be decided on but then she emphasized that she is the mayor and she would continue to come to those meetings which it's an interesting statement to make if your so concern with your residents getting any kind of Recreation and the pools getting fixed and then you are trying to work with somebody but you run their name through the mud first but the only thing you have to do is remove yourself from the meeting and have another person from your council come try to clear up any issues that we may have between both groups and be able to work together and she refuses it seems that her priorities is that she needs to be here instead of Arvin residents getting form of recreation or getting the pools fixed which was their objective **Mr. Perez-** and to add to some of the misrepresentation and comments that were made by the mayor of Arvin she asserted that we had not made efforts to provide recreational activities in Arvin in which our response as a district through our staff notified their city manager that we had in fact in many different years have tried to reserve park facilities that are city owned we did clarified that we do not own any recreational facilities that would accommodate for baseball or recreational activities so we would have to reserve it from the city in which we told them that we have tried

for many years and we been bumped by the city staff to priorities there travel team there competitive fast pitch baseball league that they participate in we were told that our reservation from 5-8pm was not going to be honor that it was available till 8:30pm essentially for our parents that work early morning hours and that was just us being bullied out it was good to hear that the information was at least acknowledge we didn't characterize it as that we also provided the letter I believe that at that meeting the one that we did send out letters to every representative that over sees our district of Arvin, Lamont, Fuller acres and Weedpatch we notified everybody and everybody from Washington DC that we sent the letter for our congress man David Valadeo he received the letter we sent letters to Sacramento for our State Senator for our assembly woman they both received those letters and here locally to our county administrator offices via mail and our county supervisor he received the letter however our closes representative for the City of Arvin with the exception to the Mayor Olivia Calderon that was definitely concerning **Mr. Hodges-** when you characterize that she didn't receive it does that mean it was returned to the district **Mr. Perez-** the letter was not returned **Mrs. Cervantes-** she just said she never received it I sent it to the City of Arvin **Mr. Hodges-** but it was not returned **Mr. Perez-** no it wasn't not returned that was particularly alarming **Mr. Hodges-** did we get responses from the other letters from the other people **Mr. Perez-** yes absolutely we had a representative from David Valadeos office came out to the district and provided a reasoning as to what the response would be coming from our congress man **Mr. Hodges-** so we know they received them cause they responded **Mr. Perez-** that following month in February we had a visitor from Jasmine Bates office he was in our office that was in February 2025 Juan Hernandez he indicated that they had received the letter not a formal response was given at that time and Divid Couch responded as well that letter was to inform them on the statues of the pools and what it cost to fix them and if there was no money available that they could help us with if they would support us in the pools cloture **Mr. Hodges-** I recommend to add to that paragraph, these letter inform these political leaders that the pools have failed and request in support to continue to allow the district to provide the community access to the pools just so that its clear what is requested form each of these people and all of them responded except for the Arvin City Mayor Mr. Perez- so though out that meeting it was made very clear that obviously it was not a great way to start a conversation or collaboration and throughout the meeting it became event that through disruptive behavior unprofessional behavior throughout the meeting attempt to disrupt other speakers it was at that point that I had also asked the mayor to remove herself specially if she didn't want to be in the meeting anymore the comment was made you can just see yourself out and she wasn't willing to do that essentially her behavior was very disrespectful and very disruptive she had been aske to potentially remove herself we did provide her with an opportunity when we presented the facts to her dispelling are the rumors clarifying misrepresentation we gave her an opportunity to clarify it Mr. Alonso- in there meeting it was very clear that he was not on board to help us in anyway specifically he said don't give them a single dollar and he kept emphasizing that we have a one million dollar budget when there own is 44 times ours which it came up in our meeting as well because they are still hyperfocus on what is the tax percentage that Arvin residents pay that we get even though they are

also responsible for Arvin and the Arvin city counsel Jeff was asked out of curiosity in your own budget how much do you guys relocate to for recreation activities since that what they were concern about he said zero dollars our budget does not allow for it **Mrs. Cervantes-** she said we are on the **Mr. Perez-** another clarifying question is that there is nothing on the government code that precluding a city entity from providing recreational services to its residents **Mr. Hodges-** City of Mc Farland does it there's a Mc Farland Parks and Rec. **Mr. Perez-** City of Bakersfield there's a Parks and Recreation, solutions for the pools in Arvin on the bright side of the meeting we did talk about of potential next steps and potential solutions so solutions for the pools in Arvin include seeking CBDG funding with co application with the city of Arvin in past years the county actually administer there CBDG funding but since 2018 and so the City of Arvin had pulled away from the county so when we had request for the county to utilizes CBDG funding into fixing the pool roof in Arvin we learned at that time that there were no CBDG funds available to us now that Arvin CBDG capabilities are they are able to apply for us so there is that potential funding another possibility would be to levy an assessment that would be Levy on Arvin City residents themselves **Mr. Hodges-** we need to be clear when he says a Levy we need to put something on the ballot to create a tax and it would have to be approved with 51 percent of the residents from the city of Arvin **Mr. Perez-** is that if the city does it or if the Park and Recreation does it is it a team process **Mr. Hodges-** no we can do it but it would have to on the ballot and be approved it would be a 218 is a specific tax it would have to be approved by more than 51 percent it would be dedicated to be used by that facility if it's a general it goes into a general fund it and it would have to be approved by 51 percent otherwise I believe the threshold is 60 percent when is a special tax I think it should also be noted that following the meeting a phone call was place to our County Supervisor further miss representing how this meeting went and adding more reason why we should do a press release setting the record straight I think the number one reason is the unwillingly form the City's Mayor to set the record straight that we did provide the information but there was a phone call made to our county supervisor in which a council member that was not present at this meeting alleged that personal attack were made during this meeting with the city and Bear Mountain Recreation and that is just not true that should be noted that no personal attacks were made from anybody at this meeting and I'm going to speak for myself that I didn't make any personal attacks it just proves that this person is a compulsive liar we do have this as a potential action pending edits from our district council **Mr. Hodges-** I would say that probably you shouldn't wait till the next months to release this the substance is not going to change in this my edits would be expanding a little bit for clarification purposes but not adding new argument and not adding anything but clarification so the substance wont change

**Potential Action: Approve** Press release: Clarification on Recent Meeting between the City of Arvin and Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District

**MOTION by Director Vega motioned for approval of the Press release: Clarification on Recent Meeting between the City of Arvin and Bear Mountain Recreation and Park District and make a contention upon the district council and the district General**

**Manager approval of the final form. Second, by Director Loza. Approved 4 ayes, 0 noes 1 vacancy.**

**10.3 Discussion:** The November board meeting will be moved to another date.

**Potential Action:** Approve moving the board meeting to another date.

**MOTION by Director Vega motioned for approval of moving the board meeting to November 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. Second, by Director Loza. Approved 4 ayes, 0 noes 1 vacancy.**

**11. CLOSED SESSION: None**

**12. DIRECTORS TIME:**

**Francis Vega-** I want to thank everyone for coming and providing this actual information I think it's good to clear up some misunderstanding

**Denise Loza-** I want to thank everyone for coming and for your support and for us being a team

**Fernando Alonso-** I want to thank everyone for the continue hard work all our staff the board and everyone the volunteers, that provides the recreational activities that we do have here for the community that is allowable to us through our budget obviously if our budget was much bigger we would see more things because everyone wants for the community to thrive and just in light of who they appointed for the ad hoc committee Tarver had mentioned in the meeting he emphasize the accountability so if he does review these minutes hop he will see our side how the meeting went I don't know if he was informed of how the meeting went if he does review the minutes and sees our side of it and is able to make a decision at that time since he emphasize accountability he will hold his mayor accountable at there own meeting and if she wont clarify the miss form information if he will since now his on the committee for the Parks and Recreation I personally don't see how you cant work with somebody that drags your name and everybody that works here name here through the mud and then expect to be received with open arms as far as that I don't know if we would be able to work with them f she's part of that a committee that who tries to work with us for me I'm willing to keep an open mind though but it would be difficult for sure with her on it and thank you everyone and drive home safe

**Jesus Perez-** I wanted to eco a lot of the statements made by our board members I think one of the outcomes of the meeting was that there was an assurance that was made of the entire 25,000 plus residents of Arvin that essentially all the residents and I find it impossible that all the residents want the same thing wouldn't it be nice if 25,000 people could all agree in one thing I don't think that is the case I think polling might need to be done either by the city itself or by us since it's our facility I know its our pool its our piece of property and at some point they did ask if we would be willing to sell it joking we were like will give you 10 dollars to take you don't need to pay us to take it I think that the appetite for the purchase of the property or the city owning the property the idea didn't become prevalent I dint feel that there was that same energy I think in the future we need to have some type of community discussion either formal in a community meeting or one of our

board meetings maybe in the city of Arvin to have more discussion on this particular on this particular site polling may also help us determine in which direction our district should move forward with respect to the Arvi poll site itself one last kind of fact at this meeting council member Reyes along with the city manager were suppose to be present in this meeting this meeting was put together prior to the interview that the Mayor gave Pricila Lara the best option that the Mayor was going to instruct the city manager to send a letter requesting a meeting between the City and Bear Mountain and this interview took place on Friday Bear Mountain and the City of Arvin already had a meeting scheduled at least one day prior of her making that interview so when the meeting take place the mayor Olivia Calderon showed up that would have been a Brown act violation because three council members from the city would have been present what potentially be a city decision if we do go with the CBDG funding so that should be noted that essentially the mayor crashed a meeting that she was not invited to and luckily once her present was known understanding the legalities of her presents the council member called council member Reyes and told her to not come because that presence here and anything that would be decided with those three presence outside a formal meeting would be overturned do to a Brown Act Violation **Mr. Hodges-** just there appearance together in discussion in discussion of city business without a formal notice meeting will be a Brown Act Violation **Mr. Perez-** I definitely encourage those who listen to the minutes or decide to read the minutes could take that into account as well I'm very happy with our staff reports I'm very happy to report and brag about how are district council has also donated to one of our events that's outstanding because you'll find that these conferences that you go to I encourage you guys to ask when does your guys district council ever donated back into the community which he serves and I will be shocked if anybody raises there hand we definitely have a unique council not only cause the personalities and the space that we all bring professionally but the good spirit of everyone in our Bear Mountain family so thank you Hodges Law Group thank you Nathan

### **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Director Loza motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Seconded by Director Vega. Approved 4 ayes, 0 noes, 1 vacancy.**