



OPEN MEETING

THE GOLDEN RAIN FOUNDATION MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 15, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.
Laguna Woods Village Community Center
Virtual Meeting
24351 El Toro Road, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

REPORT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Annette Sabol Soule, Directors Elsie Addington, Pat English, Lynn Jarrett, Annie McCary, Juanita Skillman and Beth Perak; Advisors Tom Nash, Carmen Pacella and Frank Tybor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Director Ryna Rothberg

OTHERS PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Eileen Paulin, Chuck Holland, Jackie Kupfert, Susan Logan-McCracken, Paul Ortiz and Ellyce Rothrock

1. **Call to Order**
Meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.
2. **Acknowledgement of Media**
Paul Ortiz from Village Television was present.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
Approved
4. **Approval of Meeting Report from May 18, 2020**
Approved
5. **Chair's Remarks**
Director Soule stated that GRF continues to be extremely grateful for the commitment, response speed and promotion of two-way communications within the community by every medium available during this pandemic. VMS Department of Media and Communications Director Eileen Paulin and her team ensure the maintenance and operation of the GRF Broadband and cable services system, website and social media, and all publications and broadcasts are top quality and functioning excellently.

Director Soule also stated the COVID-19 pandemic is releasing its grip in our Village as we begin reopening. Each week something new is reopening, or add-ons are occurring such as longer hours of play. Next Tuesday, doubles tennis returns. Keep doing what we should daily: Get sunshine, exercise, seven-plus hours of sleep, lots of water and healthy nutrition to keep our immune system strengthened against COVID-19.

6. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)

Ms. Paulin stated that after staff meets with West Coast Internet and Broadband Group, a progress report will be forthcoming.

7. Director's and Staff Forum

None

8. California Legislative Updates – Chair Annette Sabol Soule

This information is sourced from the June 11 town hall, titled “Reopening California Economy Safely and Responsibly,” put on by Assemblywoman Cottie Petrie-Norris and State Controller Betty Yee with California Legislative Analyst Gabriel Petek. California created the first nonpartisan legislative analyst position in the country, which many states now model.

Updates about the California economy: Currently the fifth largest economy in the world is in a recession. California remains strong through 2021 fiscal challenges as the state has paid down \$9 billion of pension liabilities prior to the pandemic.

Updates on the state budget and the process it goes through: Governor Newsom proposed in January his budget proposal for schools, correctional system, etc. In May the governor revised the budget and signed the budget on June 15. The California Constitution mandates he pass the balanced budget, which starts the 2021 year on July 1, 2020.

What to expect for the 2020-2021 fiscal year: Today the governor signs the state's 2021 budget. Controller Yee stated she will be looking at line items with future benefits and making cuts in one year. In November, Yee again looked at the fiscal 2021 outlook: costs to maintain current level of service to residents—she looks out three years in advance. Yee indicated that in September 2020 there will be a late release of unspent funds.

Yee stressed protecting the general fund—teachers and safety net programs. Prudent fiscal plan to help state as it goes into the recovery. Yee is proud that there has been no external borrowing since 2015. California has built a reserve of \$9 billion by paying long-term liabilities on pension side in the good years.

California is open for business. Controller Yee confirmed sufficient liquidity to pay out benefits. The reduced interest rates which are forecast by the Fed to remain low through 2022 is helping. She will know more after performing budget forecasting at the end of June.

The legislative analyst indicated the challenge California faces is to make sure there is proper oversight of spending and authority functions.

Daunting challenges always have silver linings: The ability to connect with one another in different ways; for example, Zoom and GoToMeetings.

Resources available if you would like more information:

- California Department of Finance produces a monthly bulletin.
- California State Controller provides a Cash Report every month.

REPORTS:

9. Broadband & Contracts Report – Chuck Holland

Department of Resident Services and Information Services Chuck Holland gave a report on the transition from standard definition to high definition. He also reported on a software update, a reboot of the system, and the demand on the system with the lockdown and bandwidth requirements of employees working from home, streaming video and using Zoom and GoToMeeting technology. He also discussed unplanned outages and maintenance schedules.

Directors Elsie Addington and Beth Perak commented that Mr. Holland and his team are doing a great job. Director Perak also commended Ms. Paulin and her team and thanked them for their hard work.

Director Lynn Jarrett inquired about contract renewals that were due on June 14. Mr. Holland answered that those contracts have been renewed.

Ms. Paulin discussed ad revenue, reviewing financials quarterly and communication during power outages.

10. Marketing and Communications Report – Eileen Paulin

Ms. Paulin stated that the new Village Breeze is in the mail and some residents have received it.

Ms. Paulin also stated that new resident orientations are still on hold and discussed the possibility of doing virtual orientations.

Ms. Paulin discussed phases of the Village reopening plan, which mirrors the state's reopening plan. To communicate this plan to residents, Department of Media and Communications staff produced a medical roundtable that was streamed live June 12 and is scheduled to air again on TV6. The team pulled together a panel of medical professionals to answer resident questions about COVID-19 safety and reopening.

Directors Annie McCary, Elsie Addington, Lynn Jarrett and Juanita Skillman, and Advisors Carmen Pacella and Tom Nash, discussed the reopening of the pools and how that gets communicated in the Village Breeze and other resident media. Ms. Paulin discussed following the same guidelines for all the amenities.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION:

Advisor Frank Tybor, Director McCary and Chair Soule discussed using a personal hotspot for iPhone and Android as a backup when the internet is down.

11. GRF Survey

Director Perak and Chair Soule discussed a committee that has formed to survey and interview Village residents.

12. Sewing Supers' Mask Distribution

Ms. Paulin discussed the Sewing Supers' mask distribution project. She commended Directors Skillman and Addington for their help setting up mask distribution at the library, where residents can pick up a reusable cloth mask and make a \$5 donation to the Sewing Supers if they wish.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

West Coast Internet and Broadband Group progress report

CONCLUDING BUSINESS:

13. Committee Member Comments

Director Skillman commented that mask distribution works well at the library outside patio.

Director Perak thanked Ms. Paulin, Ms. Rothrock, Mr. Ortiz and their team for anticipating what might happen and addressing it proactively in an effective and timely way.

Director Jarrett commended Ms. Rothrock for her work on the Village Breeze.

Director English thanked the committee for their hard work and good work.

Director McCary concurred with Director Jarrett and thanked the committee, Ms. Paulin, her team and Chair Soule for a good job on the meeting.

Director Addington commended Ms. Rothrock, Ms. Paulin and Chair Soule for a good job on the meeting.

Mr. Ortiz commended and thanked the committee for the meeting.

Ms. Rothrock said that she will send information about the next Village Breeze deadline, thanked the committee for all the kind words and invited feedback.

Ms. McCracken thanked the committee for their patience and encouragement.

Ms. Paulin commended Mr. Ortiz, Mark Weiss and Lisa Hart for their work behind the scenes to get the news out. She commended the Media and Communications staff for their work and team effort on the medical roundtable. She mentioned that Granicus did not stream today's meeting. She encouraged everyone to continue to be safe.

Chair Soule commended the committee and Village Management Services employees.

14. Date of Next Meeting – July 20, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

15. Adjournment

2:44 p.m.


Annie McCary, Director
Media and Communications Committee