



Western Gateway Recreation & Park District

MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Regular Meeting 6:30 pm

Buttermaker's Cottage

- 1) **Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by Chairman 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** Blake Peterson, Nan Spier, Jim Ettlin, Jet Lowe
- 4) **Agenda Approval** – Vice Chair Lewis motioned to move agenda items 10a, 10b and 10c to follow Public Comments. Director Towne seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.
- 5) **Public Comments** - Comments relating to topics not already included on the agenda. Comments relating to agenda items will be heard during discussion of those items. Official board action can only be taken during discussions covered under Old and New Business. Please be brief and limit comments to a maximum of five minutes per person.
- 10) a. Dog Park Sign - Nan Spier advised that the Dog Park could use more exposure, noting that people attending rattlesnake classes from out the of the area often have issues finding the class location. The Dog Park is proposing several signs placed at various distances that would alert park users within the park and on Penn Valley Drive. Chairman Lindsen stated he was not opposed to signs and suggested combining a dog park and bike path sign at the main entrance. He added the park was moving toward metal signs and poles as the older signs and posts have been deteriorating. Director Eck also voiced his approval of additional park signs. Ms. Spier would like to have signs installed by the Buttermaker's Cottage, in the woods and at the entrance. The Dog Park is willing to pay for signs but they need park assistance with the installation. Ms. Spier had a couple of image options. Chairman Lindsen prefers the simpler 'big dog' image. The entrance sign will have an arrow rather than the specific "west" entrance. Director Towne moved to approve the signage and Vice Chair Lewis seconded. Unanimously approved.
- 10) b. Memorial Tree - Jim Ettlin proposed planting a memorial tree for Glen Newman. Mr. Newman had previously dedicated two park trees for his deceased sons, and had also run a fishing derby for thirty years which included a couple hundred Penn Valley participants. Mr. Ettlin does not have a variety picked up yet but will choose something that will beneficial to the park. Chairman Lindsen asked if there was also a plaque for Mr. Newman's sons. Mr. Ettlin is not sure but plans to speak with Mr. Newman's widow about adding a plaque at a later date. Vice Chair Lewis moved and Director Towne seconded to approve the proposal. Unanimously approved.
- 10) c. E-Bike Policy – Chairman Lindsen advised that there have been issues with e-bikes and e-motos on the bike paths, tearing up the paths and jumps, dictating the need for a policy. Director Towne noted that there is a big difference between e-bikes and motorized bikes. E-bikes have pedals and motorized bikes reach greater speeds. Mr. Peterson noted that most e-bikes are not powerful enough to tear up the bike paths. Director Towne added that generally e-bikes reach 20 MPH while motorized bikes can hit 40 to 60 MPH. Signs were suggested. Mr. Peterson thought that enforcement would be difficult. Director Eck

replied that signs were needed for liability issues. Various signage was discussed, including NO MOTORIZED and PETAL BIKES ONLY. Chairman Lindsen mentioned a green sticker (off road only) policy. Chairman Lindsen will draft a policy, suggesting verbiage may dictate the bike park is petal only, and include a Strider only (no petals) zone. Director Eck suggested wording "bicycles only," "no e-motos" and "helmets required." The park speed limit is 10 MPH which will be extended to bike paths as a maximum safe speed. Director Towne suggested tabling the matter until May, with a written policy based on input. Chairman Lindsen added that a policy would include adherence to all state and local regulations.

6) Correspondence – no correspondence

7) Board Minutes – Minutes from March were reviewed. Director Towne moved and Vice Chair Lewis seconded to accept the minutes as presented. Unanimously approved.

8) Financial Report – March Financial reports were reviewed. Chairman Lindsen brought up that there are amounts under RECEIVABLE and UNDEPOSITED FUNDS, wondering why these funds were not listed under GENERAL ACCOUNT. He also requested that the 4008 category Tennis Courts be changed to Pickleball Courts. Vice Chair Lewis moved and Director Towne seconded to accept the financials as presented.

9) Old Business

- a. Pollinator Garden – No update, other than the Nevada County Beekeepers Association is still preparing the site.
- b. Playground Shade Structure – *Chairman Lindsen has approved a bid for a 20x50 foot shade structure from MLU for just under \$38K. This will include a concrete base for which New Life Landscapes and Director Potter will prepare the ground for the pour. Chairman Lindsen is anticipating the concrete pour is two to three weeks out and is hoping for completion in June. There will be a retaining wall providing extra seating. He will be looking into round picnic tables for this area.*
- c. Rural Recreation & Tourism Grant – *Engineering surveys have been completed and plans for the RV park will begin.*
- d. Park Lighting – Brenda Bailes is no longer available to oversee this project. Director Eck will look into purchasing lights from Costco. Director Towne moved and Vice Chair Lewis seconded a motion to purchase three lights, to be reimbursed through the Foundation. Unanimously approved.
- e. Parcel Fee Increase – Chairman Lindsen advised that after a consult from the Roseville organization, Ridgeline, the park will be holding off on a parcel fee increase. There is a possibility that a proposition (Save Prop 13 Act) might be on the November ballot and will pass a two-thirds vote for the Citizens Initiative. There is a lack of confidence that the park will win a two-thirds vote. The park is now putting efforts into the Foundation and park user groups to raise awareness and money to support the park. Director Towne noted that raising gas prices, estimated up to \$10/gallon, could effect the outcome of a vote. The goal is to direct as many user groups and interested parties to the Foundation as possible and utilize that energy to benefit the Foundation.
- f. Creekside Village Sledge Removal - *No update*

10) New Business

- a. Dog Park Sign – *see above.*
- b. Memorial Tree – *see above.*
- c. E-Bike Policy – Board and invited guests to discuss and create of e-bike policy. Vote.
- d. By Laws Amendment – By laws amended with the inclusion of parcel fee increase process. Director Towne moved and Vice Chair Lewis seconded a motion to approve the amended by laws. Unanimously approved.
- e. Resolution 26-002 – Resolution approving update to bank signatories. Resolution approved unanimously. District Secretary will coordinate with Tri Counties Bank. Chairman Lindsen noted that the Tri Counties solar loan will be paid off this week.

11) Advisory Groups - Presentations

- a. Buildings and Grounds.
 - i. General Park Maintenance – Mowers experiencing constant problems, irrigation and pump delayed but Valley Pump will be pulling the pump to assess if repair or replacement is required. Two new employees have been added to the

- groundskeeping staff; the two positions should equal 30 hours per week. One is very mechanical to help repair equipment. The roll off dumpster only totaled \$700, half of the expense expected. The new park host caretaker is a cleaning machine and is a great find.
- ii. Farmers Market and CRV Program – The Farmers Market has been approved by the county. Will start May 3rd. The park host will collect the monthly fees. Chairman Lindsen added that the rock will be cut out at the same time we get the shade structure concrete started. The park will supply our trailer to the PV Rodeo to collect recyclables and provide sorting after the event, with the expectation that the proceeds will be split.
- b. Upcoming events and reservations report
 - i. Upcoming Events Report – Two tournaments on April 25th, Wildfire Ready event on May 2nd. Johnny Cash tribute on May 17th. Nevada County Toy Run on June 27th will end at the park.
 - c. WGP Foundation Update – Chairman Lindsen reported that the Foundation will be electing a president and is looking for a treasurer with accounting experience. The flea market is still scheduled for June 7th. This is currently the only fundraising event scheduled. The Foundation is going back to holding monthly meetings. Their next meeting will be attended by Joey Jordan of the PV Fire Dept Thrift Store and other local organizations. Well working nonprofits will be invited to June and July meetings to share their strategies. Director Eck suggested using the “main drag” Hwy 20 fenceline to promote the Foundation.
 - d. Pickleball Courts Update -Locks have been broken; park host has caught teens climbing the fence at night.
 - e. YBONC Update- no update

12) Director Comments

Director Eck – Park looks great! He has identified a couple potential grant writers.

- 13) **Adjournment** Director Towne moved and Director Eck seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM