

KENSINGTON POLICE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

**Wednesday, March 9, 2023
Special & Regular Meeting (Hybrid)**

Special Closed Session Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

President Aquino-Fike called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Director Cassandra Duggan, Vice-President Sarah Gough, Director Sylvia Hacaj, and President Alexandra Aquino-Fike were present at roll call.

Staff present included Interim General Manager David Aranda, General Counsel Ann Danforth, and Clerk of the Board Lynelle M. Lewis.

Public Comment

None.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss pending litigation.

Regular Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

President Aquino-Fike called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Director Cassandra Duggan, Vice-President Sarah Gough, Director Sylvia Hacaj, and President Alexandra Aquino-Fike were present at roll call.

Staff present included Interim General Manager David Aranda, General Counsel Ann Danforth, and Clerk of the Board Lynelle M. Lewis.

3. **President's Comments**

President Aquino-Fike announced that there was no report from the closed session meeting. Next, she welcomed new Interim General Manager David Aranda to his first official meeting and pointed out that board correspondence had been saved on the website.

4. **Public Comment** [\[53:53\]](#)

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Catya de Neergaard offered thanks for the hybrid Zoom meeting and expressed concerns about the tree removal work in the park; 2) Linda Lipscomb, President, Kensington Improvement Club (KIC), thanked the Board for the transformation of the Gore Lot and invited residents to the Elsie Neilson

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Park dedication and ribbon cutting event on April 14th; 3) Gail Feldman commented on the District’s authority for work on the paths and urged the Board to not move forward with the proposed work on the Ardmore path; and 4) Paul Dorrah commented that he would like to hear further discussion on the paths.

5. **Meeting Minutes for February 9 and February 23, 2023.** [1:06:51]

- Motion by Director Duggan, seconded by Director Gough, to approve the minutes for February 9 and February 23, 2023, carried (4-0) by the following roll call vote: AYES (Directors Aquino-Fike, Duggan, Gough, and Hacaj); NOES (None); ABSTAINED (None); and ABSENT: (None).

Approved meeting minutes.

6. **Financial Reports and Ratification of Bills for February 2023.** [1:07:36]

Interim General Manager David Aranda reported that the recommended action was to ratify the February bills and not approve the financial reports until further research is done.

- Motion by Director Hacaj, seconded by Director Duggan, to ratify the bills for February 2023, carried (4-0) by the following roll call vote: AYES (Directors Aquino-Fike, Duggan, Gough, and Hacaj); NOES (None); ABSTAINED (None); and ABSENT: (None).

Ratified bills for February 2023.

Discussion and Action

7. **Updates from *Ad Hoc* Board Committees** [1:08:53]

President Aquino-Fike provided updates from the Police Department & District Office Permanent Location Committee. She reported that the collaborative discussions are going well, they remain optimistic about joint occupancy of the Public Safety Building (PSB), need more time for information gathering, and hope to have a report in the next month.

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Larry Nagel, Director of Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD) suggested that the Committee pursue a location other than the PSB to house the Police Department (PD) and presented alternate locations; 2) David Spath, representing Kensington Property Owners’ Association, commented that the Board should expand its search to other options for housing the PD, and it should keep the public informed of the costs and impact on services; 3) Mabry Benson asked to have Larry Nagel’s comments posted on the KPPCSD website and suggested that the Committee look at the parking lot area for housing the PD; 4) John Gaccione asked about corroboration of the community’s interest in the PSB and said that option doesn’t make sense; 5) Catya de Neergaard commented that the community wants to see creative solutions regarding the housing of the PD, and urged that the Committee to present the numbers for all options.

Director Duggan provided an updates from the Park Re-planting Strategy Committee. She reported that since the last meeting she and Director Gough have done the following: 1) held a

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community meeting on February 27th to receive input; 2) met with representatives of Blake Gardens and U.C. Berkeley Botany Department on what and how to replant; 3) met with current park maintenance staff regarding irrigation and replanting; 4) met with KPPCSD Administrative Clerk Rosa Ruiz to get her input about replanting and concerns about the park; and 5) they received calls and emails from citizens about replanting ideas. She asked for recommendations on landscape architects and soils experts to be sent to her or Director Gough. Director Gough added that they are about to submit a proposal to engage indigenous partners to get their thoughts on the land and how to care for it. There was Board discussion about having some of the committee's information placed on the web and included as part of the meeting agenda packet. Director Gough said the committee is gathering information and anticipates submitting a report in July.

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Marie Korn suggested landscaping the dog park area; and 2) Mabry Benson requested that all written updates be included on the website.

Director Gough announced the Elsie Neilson Park dedication, jointly hosted by the KIC and KPPCSD, was scheduled for April 14th at the park on Coventry and Arlington. Next, Director Gough reported that a Joint Special Board Meeting was scheduled for April 24th at 7:00 p.m. to hear a presentation on consolidation of the two districts from Lou Ann Texeira, the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Committee Chief Executive.

Comments & Reports

8. **Police Chief Report** [[TS 1:47:36](#)]

Police Chief Mike Gancasz provided highlights from the February 2023 report (i.e. incidents, traffic enforcement stops, dispatch calls, storm event response, catalytic theft update, officer response times, traffic safety, staffing updates, and officer training). Regarding community security camera systems, Director Hacaj requested that the Board consider this item before it is submitted as part of the budget process.

9. **General Manager's Report** [[TS 1:57:25](#)]

Interim General Manager David Aranda reported that he had provided written updates on the following: Kensington Community Council Recreation Report, Ardmore Paths, tree removal, part-time General Manager recruitment, the board vacancy, Contra Costa LAFCO vacancy, and the Eliza Neilson Park dedication.

The Board discussed the proposed solution for repairing the Ardmore Paths with the County, the District and a property owner sharing in the cost of \$2,700 and no party accepting responsibility for the path itself.

- Addressing the Board were the following persons: 1) Rodney Paul commented that the proposal is a good solution for the paths and supported moving forward; 2) Lisa Caronna commented that the recommendation is the responsible thing to alleviate the hazard and urged further research into path ownership; 3) David Spath commended the Interim General Manager for his action to prevent the hazard and future liability; 4) Paul Dorroh

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commended the Interim General Manager for crafting this proposal; 5) John Gaccione commented that the cleaning of gutters is the responsibility of the County rather than the PD; and 6) A. Stevens Delk commented she had trouble raising her hand and participate in the meeting.

The Board discussed ways to move forward with the project. There was consensus to move forward with the repairs to the path following review by the General Counsel on how to structure the agreement.

10. **Director Comments** [TS 2:20:55]

- Director Duggan asked to have an item on the next meeting agenda proposing the end of the mask requirement at meetings. She commented that she is delighted that board meetings have switched to the Zoom meeting format versus webinars since it allows increased visibility of the public; announced that board correspondence would be posted on the KPPCSD website; and thanked the Arlington Community Church for letting the KCC use their main hall for classes.
- Director Hacaj commented that on April 3rd the more stringent requirements around COVID are being relaxed for health care facilities and other congregant settings. In line with what is happening, she supported staff to propose some newer policies that the Board could consider and potentially adopt.

11. **Board Correspondence** [TS 2:20:44]

Correspondence was filed on the KPPCSD website.

12. **Adjournment** [TS 2:26:59]

President Aquino-Fike adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.


The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2023.

SUBMITTED BY:

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 Lynelle M. Lewis, District Clerk of the Board

APPROVED: March 9, 2023

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David Aranda, Interim General Manager

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Alexandra Aquino-Fike, President of the Board

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