BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 11, 2026
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Studio-MLA
251 S Mission Rd,
Los Angeles, CA 90033

I. **Welcome** – The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

II. **Roll Call**
Joe Mendoza – present
David Ford – present (arrived at 3:38PM)
Norma E. García-González – present
Ernesto Martinez – present
Rebecca Friedman - present
Mia Lehrer – present
Ginger Chan – present (virtual)
Jonathan Kagen – present

Attendees:
Alina Bokde – present
Sandi Mejia-Ramirez – present
Teresa Villegas – present
Jessica Lopez – present
Chester Kano – present for Department of Parks and Recreation Report
Aaron Volen – present for Agenda Item V.d

III. **Approval of the Minutes** – October 29, 2025 LACPF Meeting Minutes; Rebecca Friedman moved motion to approve, Jonathan Kagen seconded. No discussion. Unanimously approved as presented.

IV. **Reports**

a. Presidents Report – President Mendoza gave an overview of the search process for LACPF Executive Director. The Executive Director Search Committee (Mendoza, Ford, Friedman, liaison Bokde) started with 24 applicants, and conducted interviews with 5 candidates on February 10th. Will be moving two candidates forward for a final interview with the board. The board discussed schedules and decided March 17th as the final interview date. President Mendoza then gave an update on a partnership with the LA Phil and shared an interview he did with KTLA5 with Ginger Chan. The interview featured LACPF's work, particularly at Loma Alta park.

b. Financial Report – Treasurer Ernesto Martinez and Accountant Sandi Mejia-Ramirez provided an update on the Foundation's balance sheet.

Highlighted the restricted versus unrestricted funds available. Any investments will be focused on the unrestricted funds. Restricted funds are mainly from grants, which are performance based and timeline bound. Also keeping in mind the rules that govern public dollars versus private dollars. The infrastructure on the backend, does separate the funding sources by line items.

c. Department of Parks & Recreation Report – Director Norma García-González gave gratitude for funding that LACPF has provided and shared some performance metrics. Funding from the foundation is being leveraged with other funding sources. Director García-González also shared a budget update with the board and the date of her public budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors (February 13th). Following that, Chester Kano, Deputy Director of Planning and Development at Department of Parks and Recreation presented an update on Rebuilding Altadena parks. Including an overview of improvements at Farnsworth Park and Eaton Canyon Natural Areas

V. Action Items

a. Review and Consideration of Resolution No.1 Authorizing the Board of Directors to accept grant funding from the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) for Farnsworth Park Fire Recovery Project. Interim Executive Director Teresa Villegas presented an overview of the grant and resolution. The RMC grant is for $3,000,000 for improvements at Farnsworth park and is being leveraged with other grants. RMC approved the grant in January. To move forward with the grant agreement, RMC needs an acceptance of the grant by the board. LACPF will work closely with LA County Parks to complete the project. Jonathan Kagen motioned to approve, Ernesto Martinez seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Review and Consideration of Letter of Acceptance of Grant Responsibilities and Administrative Capacity ("Eaton Letter") and Resolution No. 2. Interim Executive Director Teresa Villegas presented an overview of the grant, letter, and resolution. The RMC grant is for $1,877,000 for improvements at the Landscape Recovery Center and is in conjunction with and Regional Park and Open space District (RPOSD) grant. LA County Parks and LACPF are requesting the transfer of the Eaton Canyon Landscape Recover Center Project from LA County Parks to LACPF as the grantee. This item is scheduled to go over to the RMC board in March. RMC needs Eaton Letter and Resolution No. 2 to bring forward to their board. Rebecca Friedman motioned to approve, Jonathan Kagen seconded. Mia Lehrer recused herself from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Review and Consideration of the creation of a Board Member Selection Committee. President Mendoza gave an overview of the need for the Board Member Selection Committee. Currently there is 7 Board Members. There can be up to a maximum of 11 Board Members. Would like to establish a committee to first convene when the new LACPF Executive Director is onboarded. It is important to formalize the process. Rebecca Friedman motioned to approve, David Ford seconded. Unanimously passed.

d. Review and Consideration of entering into a Nonprofit Agency Agreement with Merril Lynch, a Bank of America Company, to serve as a financial advisor for LACPF. Note: This item was moved and discussed prior to Agenda Item V.c. President Mendoza gave an overview of a search for a financial advisor

leading up to this recommendation. President Mendoza, Treasurer Martinez, and Accountant Mejia-Ramirez met with four asset management firms. After reviewing fees, fit, and experience, they recommend Merrill Lynch as financial advisor. Aaron Volen, Merrill Lynch Relationship Manager/Vice President attended to discuss their services and answer questions the Board had. To take the vote, Aaron Volen stepped out. Ernesto Martinez motioned to approve, Jonathan Kagen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Announcements

a. LACPF Project Management Search – Laison Bokde shared the work being done to solicit a project manager for the foundation. The project manager would be paid though the grants they manager.
b. Grants Received – Interim Executive Director Villegas shared the grants LACPF received in this year. LACPF received funding from the Pasadena Rotary club for the amphitheater at Farnsworth park, Southern California Edison for the SNAP program for seniors, and a private donor for Raptor Rescue.
c. LA Phil Gala – President Mendoza shared this update alongside his President's Report.
d. CA State Grants – Liaison Bokde shared that likely at the next board meeting staff will bring forward three CA State grants for LACPF's considerations.

VII. Round Table

a. New Business from Board Members

VIII. Adjournment

a. Jonathan Kagen motioned to adjourn at 5:11 pm, Mia Leher seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Next meeting on April 8, 2026 (virtual)