

Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Robert Livermore Community Center
4444 East Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550-5053
West Wing Conference Room

Committee Members Present: Chair Jan Palajac, Director Philip Pierpont

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: David Weisgerber, Community Outreach Supervisor (COS)
Fred Haldeman, Parks & Facilities Manager (PFM)
Jill Kirk, Community Services Manager (CSM)
Mathew Fuzie, General Manager (GM)
Rene Venus Dalusong, Executive Assistant

Members of the Public Present: Cathy Edwards, Director Membership & Public Relations,
Tri-Valley Pickleball Club
Kirby Wong, President, Tri-Valley Pickleball Club

1. **Call to Order:** Committee Chair Palajac called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Committee Chair Palajac opened the public comment period. There were no speakers. The public comment period was closed.
3. **Approval of the Minutes - Facilities Committee Meeting held on February 17, 2026:**
 - **Action:** The minutes of the Facilities Committee meeting held on February 17, 2026 were approved, as submitted.
4. **Pickleball Recycling Bin Proposal**

Kirby Wong and Cathy Edwards from the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club asked the Committee to consider adding pickleball recycling bins in May Nissen and Livermore Downs parks (Supplemental Item 4). The Club will supply the bins, collect and recycle the balls, and keep the bins clean. GM Fuzie proposed a 3-month pilot program using their blue bins at Livermore Downs Park. PFM Haldeman will work with Club staff to secure the bins at the park.

 - **Action:** The Committee approved a 3-month pilot program at Livermore Downs Park. The Club will report results to the Committee after the pilot ends.
5. **CIP Update/List of all CIP Projects (Standing Item):** PFM Haldeman and COS Weisgerber shared an update on current Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) as of March 17, 2026. The detailed CIP project updates were included in the Facilities Committee agenda packet.

Community Garden at Mocho Park: Staff will review the Community Garden waiting list and confirm continued interest in garden plots

Playground Replacement Program: PFM Haldeman noted that El Padro Park and Lester Knott Park are next in line for playground replacement.

- **Action:** This was a discussion only: no Committee action was taken; however staff will review the Community Garden waiting list and confirm continued interest in garden plots.

6. Planning for Future Trails and Trail Connectors (Standing Item):

T11 Shadow Cliffs to del Valle Regional Trail: GM Fuzie shared that Zone 7 approved the easement underneath Vallecitos Road.

7. Future Agenda Items / Matters Initiated / Announcements:

- a) Sunken Gardens Pump Track Project: Chair Palajac added a request to consider native plants to the April Facilities Committee agenda after a public comment from Sondra Tosky at the March 11, 2026 Board meeting.
- b) Sunset Park: GM Fuzie informed the Committee that land next to Sunset Park is for sale. *[CSM Kirk will confirm details with the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD).]*
- c) Facilities Committee Goals and Objectives Matrix: COS Weisgerber asked the Committee for input on how to better define and improve the matrix.
- d) LVJUSD Facilities: Chair Palajac asked about progress on using school district facilities (pool, track, gym, etc.). *[CSM Kirk will meet with the school district next week and provide an update.]*
- e) GM Fuzie shared an update on ongoing litigations.

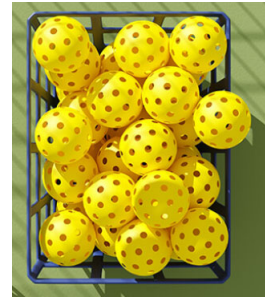
8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

/Rvd

Proposal to LARPD

Implement Pickleball Recycling Bins at District Facilities

Enhancing sustainability through recycling initiative



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Pickleball Recycle Proposal

Agenda

- Growth of Pickleball in the District and Nationally
- Environmental Concerns Associated With Pickleball Ball Disposal
- Pilot Study Results and Recycling Feasibility
- Proposed Recycling Program



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Growth of Pickleball

Pickleball's Rapid Growth

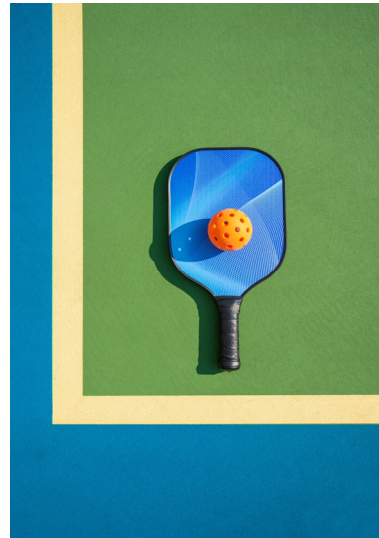
- Fastest growing sport in the U.S.
- 36 million players at 8.9% growth annually through 2028.

Expanding Demographics

- The sport now attracts millennials and youth, expanding beyond its original retiree demographic.

Tri-Valley Pickleball Club

- Started in 2021, TVPC averages over 500 members per year.
- LARPD Courts Usage: May Nissen Park and Livermore Downs Park average 2,500 players per month in summer and 1,500 in the winter.



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Environmental Concern = Pickleball Disposal

Material Composition

- Pickleball balls made from polyethylene plastic. These balls take between 100 to 500 years to decompose in landfills.
- Outdoor balls typically last 5 -10 games before they crack or lose their bounce.

Environmental Impact

- Slow degradation leads to microplastic pollution, threatening ecosystems and complicating waste management.



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2025 Pickleball Recycling Pilot



Tri-Valley Pickleball Club Pilot Program Outcomes

- We conducted a 3-month pilot collecting over 700 discarded pickleballs at May Nissen and Livermore Downs courts
- 100 were donated to a local Little League for training
- The balance were shipped to recycle partners
 - P3 Cares in North Carolina
 - BounceBackPickle in Florida
- Partners process used pickleballs into reusable materials.
- Estimated 2,500 – 3,000 unusable balls could be collected at LARPD facilities each year

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Proposal – Pickleball Bins at LARPD facilities

TVPC Responsible for

- Supplying clearly labeled outdoor-ready Collection Bins
- Installation at LARPD approved Pickleball Facilities
- Ongoing Collection, Maintenance and Volunteer Labor
- Package, Shipping and Recycling Coordination
- Program Administration and Reporting

LARPD Responsible for

- Granting permission and approval for the placement of Collection Bins at District-Managed sites



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Benefits to LARPD and the Community

Cost-Free Environmental Impact

- The proposed program requires no financial or operational commitment from LARPD
- Aligns with Regional sustainability goals and community expectations

LARPD Leadership

- Reinforces LARPD's role as steward of public parks and recreational areas
- Reduces plastic waste and landfill impact
- Promotes community engagement in sustainable practices
- Fosters community goodwill and serves as a pioneering model for sports-related recycling in public parks.