



Livermore Area
Recreation and Park District
An independent special district

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

2:00 P.M.

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

In accordance with Governor Newsom's Executive Orders, members of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors and staff participated in this meeting via teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public also participated in this meeting electronically.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Directors Faltings, Furst, Pierpont, *Wilson and Chair Palajac

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mat Fuzie, Alexandra Ikeda, Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider, Jill Kirk, David Weisgerber, Jessie Masingale, Joseph Benjamin, Julie Dreher, Linda VanBuskirk, Lynn Loucks, Megan Shannon, Michelle Newbould, Nancy Blair, Natalie Kaaiawahia, Patrick Lucky, Robert Sanchez, Vicki Wiedenfeld, Rod Attebery

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard and Terry Clinnick, Steve Goodman, Stacey Kenison, Stacey Swanson

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Chair Palajac called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. All Directors were present, via Zoom. Chair Palajac led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

3. PROCLAMATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

3.1 LARPD FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received an update on the LARPD Foundation by Foundation President Steve Goodman. [His presentation is attached to these minutes.]

Chair Palajac opened public comment. Stacey Swanson expressed support for the Foundation and its efforts to provide more visibility to the public and good work. Public comment was closed.

Board members and General Manager Mathew Fuzie thanked Mr. Goodman and commended the Foundation for its ongoing efforts.

3.2 RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2020 AS BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH AND OCTOBER 21, 2020 AS UNITY DAY

Chair Palajac recited the Anti-Bullying Proclamation for the Month of October. The City of Livermore, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD), and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) will recognize Unity Day on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. Unity Day is an annual event with participants joining together nationwide to unite in the commitment to stop bullying and to promote healthier communities through kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Unity Day is celebrated throughout the month of October, which is National Bullying Prevention and Awareness Month.

Chair Palajac opened public comment. No public comments were received. Public comment was closed.

Moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Faltings, adopted Resolution No. 2702, proclaiming October 2020 as Bullying Prevention Month and October 21, 2020 as Unity Day, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Pierpont, Furst, Faltings, Wilson, and Chair Palajac
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: None

4. CONSENT ITEMS (Motion)

- 4.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 9, 2020
- 4.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of September 22, 2020
- 4.3 General Manager's Monthly Update to the Board – October 2020

Director Furst pulled item 4.2 for clarification on "Others Present" listed on page one of the minutes. In response to Director Furst's question asking if "Barb" has a last name and who "Owner" is, Executive Assistant to the General Manager Linda VanBuskirk explained that all "Others Present" were listed exactly as their screen names were represented by the public members and appeared on the Zoom webinar.

Moved by Director Furst, seconded by Director Pierpont, approved the Consent Agenda Items, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Directors Wilson, Faltings, Pierpont, Furst, and Chair Palajac
NOES: None
ABSTENTIONS: None
ABSENT: None

5. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

5.1 DISTRICT NOTICE 0006 – DISTRICT FLAG POLICY

General Manager Mat Fuzie reported that this item came to his attention due to the many social awareness movements taking place this year. The District's Flag Policy was reviewed and shown to be both out of date and provided a great deal of latitude to the General Manager for discretion regarding procedures which were not necessarily in keeping with statute. A revised policy was drafted, based on guidance from the California Special Districts Association (CSDA). District Notice (DN) 0006 supersedes Policy No. FAC-09-51309, and clarifies the responsibilities and processes regarding the display of flags at designated District facilities in compliance with Federal and State law, while maintaining consistency and ensuring proper respect for the National and State of California flags.

Board member comments/questions included: How many places within the District do we fly flags? [*At the RLCC, the Merrit Building, Veteran's Hall, and Ravenswood.*] Appreciates that flags flown outdoors shall be all-weather flags. Are the flags taken down during the rain? [*The purpose of the all-weather flag is that it may fly at all times.*] Are there national standards? [*Yes, flags should be displayed in conformance with Federal and State law, 4 U.S.C.A. §1 et seq. and the State of California Government Code §430-439.*] Director Faltings stated the flag flown at Ravenswood is a replica antique flag showing the number of stars and stripes that were on the flag in the 1890s and may not meet the above requirements. Is a District facility something we operate or a facility we own? At the Veteran's Building, an MIA flag is also flown. [*The Board of Directors will designate which buildings the flags will be flown at.*] Do we have other facilities owned by the City, not by the District, besides the Carnegie Building? [*Not where we are flying flags.*] Is there a way to delineate that the County-owned Veteran's Building is different or exempt from this District Notice? [*Yes.*] Has the District consulted with the Veterans of Foreign Wars? [*We have contact information to do so.*]

Chair Palajac suggested that since some revisions need to be made, and Board members expressed agreement that they would like to see a revised District Notice before approving a resolution on the matter, the Board took no action, but asked the General Manager to address the comments/questions above in District Notice 0006.

5.2 SEPTEMBER 2020 PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Chair Palajac announced that a standing item will be placed on future agendas throughout the pandemic so the Board may receive a report on financial matters as they arise. GM Fuzie added that these will be a summarized check-in on the budget.

Administrative Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider provided a presentation comparing actual results with both the Approved Budget [approved in June 2020] as well as with the Forecast that was generated in relation to the organizational changes that the Board approved on September 22, 2020. After receiving input from the Ad Hoc Budget Committee, it was suggested that these two gauges be used to compare Actuals with Forecast and Approved Budget when summarizing District financial results. ASM Schneider explained that the District's preliminary results through September 2020 are \$139k better than Budget and \$335k better than Forecast to a large extent because the District had a favorable variance in property taxes that typically flow in during the month of September. The District also spent

less money than projected on salary and benefit expenses. Services, Supplies, and capital were slightly poorer than Budget (\$28k) and Forecast (\$13k) due to weather conditions driving water usage in the parks group and modest overruns in utility expenses. The bottom line year-to-date Net Operating Results through the end of September are \$492k better than the Forecast.

Board member comments/questions included: Are we putting money into the reserve accounts? [Faltings] [*We are holding funds in the general bank account.*]

- Director Furst asked that the Board have a discussion to consider not taking any travel money during 2021, and to discuss whether or not the Board should continue to receive its full monthly stipend. Other board members concurred. Chair Palajac stated this will be a topic at a future board meeting.

GM Fuzie stated the Ad Hoc Budget Committee will continue to look into the District's Budget in detail as the District operates under the emergency declaration. He also reminded the Board that the approved Budget was presented as a "worst-case scenario" budget, so it should not be surprising that many of the projections presented are better than expected.

Chair Palajac opened public comment. No public comments were received. Public comment was closed.

The Board took no action.

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (No Action Required)

6.1 PROGRAM UPDATES

GM Fuzie stated the County is currently operating in the Red Tier of the color-coded four-tier Blueprint for a Safer Economy and is expecting to move to the Orange Tier next week which allows for further opening of restaurants, etc. LARPD playgrounds will be opening up as of Friday, October 16th with a "Use at your own risk" notification. The expectation is that the public will be responsible for themselves.

The Board of Directors received reports from Department Managers on their specific programs.

Recreation Department Manager Alexandra Ikeda reported the following:

- a) Although there are a lot of restrictions now within the health order, LARPD is working with the Alameda County Public Health Department to be able to offer unique camps and programs. A large part of that is helping/supporting local organizations with renting various facilities, either on the sports fields or within the gymnasium. An example is the PE afterschool camp which is an opportunity for distance learning individuals to be able to participate in camp outside and play. She also highlighted tennis camp and upcoming holiday camps.
- b) Trunk and Boo will provide an opportunity for families to celebrate Halloween festivities on October 24th from 3-5 pm at the RLCC Loyola parking lot. There are currently 20 vehicles registered, with the maximum set at 40.
- c) The Aquatics facility is being utilized Monday-Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for various programs. LARPD has submitted a proposal to the Public

- Health Officer to see if we can get some form of swimming lessons back. In the beginning, this will be a parent/child class. We are awaiting a response.
- d) With the re-opening of playgrounds, the Recreation team is anticipating other opportunities that will pose for picnic reservations.
 - e) Minimonies continue at Ravenswood with two time slots available - either 9am–1pm or 3pm-7pm. The majority of these take place Friday – Sunday. The maximum capacity is 24 people plus one LARPD staff person onsite at all times during the rental.

Director Faltings asked if there been any discussions about the historic program at Ravenswood. *GM Fuzie responded there have been preliminary discussions with President of the Ravenswood Progress League Conni Naylor. The RPL will need to decide how they'd like to move forward, and then coordinate with LARPD.*

GM Fuzie announced that a time trial was allowed at the RLCC Aquatics Center over the last weekend. All reports are that it was very successful.

Community Services Manager Jill Kirk reported the following:

- a) Community Outreach began a new curbside lending library for seniors. Seniors may come by to pick up and return books on Tuesdays from 12pm-1pm during the senior lunch program.
- b) Virtual classes are continuing.
- c) Legal Assistance for Seniors and a free presentation reviewing Medicare and open enrollment will happen this Thursday.
- d) Outdoor classes are continuing.
- e) Social opportunities are expanding. i.e., in addition to the fitness classes, a flower arranging class is scheduled at Ravenswood.
- f) In September, the Community Outreach Department distributed 1,920 meals to seniors. The Hot Meal Program distributed over 3,200 meals. The Safe Parking Program had 24 cars in September. The Tri-Valley Haven Senior Mobile food pantry/grocery delivery totaled approximately 160.

Ms. Kirk reported the following regarding Youth Services:

- a) As of September 30th, we've had 262 kids attending Extended Student Services (ESS.) The major focus is keeping them safe, healthy and able to be with other kids, moving/playing around and not being in front of computer/tv screens. Support for distance learning takes a big portion of the day.
- b) LARPD will be ready to adjust once the schools go to a hybrid learning platform.
- c) Plans are underway to bring Preschool back in January. The current plan is to have three classes to reach both north and south Livermore, beginning with 4-5 year olds, and later expanding to 3-4 year olds.
- d) There are plans to bring PAL back to at least two sites in January along with the BELIEVES program.

Ms. Kirk reported the following regarding Open Space:

- a) Both Sycamore Grove Park and Holdener Park are closed due to PG&E work. Some individual trails may be affected. During closures, there will be an opportunity for ranger staff to perform fire damage cleanup.
- b) Weekend Ranger programs continue and all have a wait list.
- c) The Junior Ranger program began last Saturday.

- d) Wednesday Science Camp has been a hit. A new session begins next week.
- e) Staff continues work on bringing the watershed grant program to the schools while we are still distance learning.

Parks and Facilities Manager Fred Haldeman reported the following:

- a) On Friday, October 16th, LARPD will be opening up all the playgrounds and replacing all the COVID-19-related signage in the parks.
- b) The Parks Department has been performing a major turf replacement at Marlin Pound Park.
- c) The Pack It In/Pack It Out campaign: Trash receptacles have been removed from 20 neighborhood parks. LARPD is trying to reduce the total number of cans in the parks by 50% of the original amount. This should be completed by the end of this week.
 - a. Is there any way for LARPD to monitor the amount of trash and figure out whether the condition of the parks is suffering? [Faltings]
 - i. Mr. Haldeman responded that yes, through regular park inspections we are making note of this. This is a pilot program, and the idea is to try to reduce the amount of trash coming into the parks and that we are taking out. If the program doesn't work, we will need to know. GM Fuzie added that we are not removing trash cans altogether, we are simply reducing the number. We are also tracking the number of workers' compensation cases associated with this activity as well, since this issue came up through the Safety Committee.

Administrative Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider reported the following:

- a) The IT team is transitioning to vendor All Covered. They've been doing a good job.
- b) IT is working with Extended Student Services (ESS) on connectivity challenges.
- c) HR is gearing up for Open Enrollment.
- d) Finance continues to work on organizational changes administratively in KRONOS to make sure that all changes are approved and properly reflected in the system.
- e) The District is on track with the audit. Audit results will be presented to the full Board in December.
- f) In response to a question from GM Fuzie, ASM Schneider reported that, after the organizational actions recently taken, the number of pensions the District currently has is at 43, down from 56 (when GM Fuzie joined the District). This will be an important aspect in future discussions regarding the District's pension obligation.

*Director Wilson left the meeting at 3:23 p.m.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Director Faltings reported her attendance at the September 21, 2020 Finance Committee meeting.
- b) Director Furst reported his attendance at the October 8, 2020 Facilities Committee meeting.

- c) Director Furst reported his attendance at the September 17, 2020 Program Committee meeting.
- d) Director Furst reported his attendance at the September 15, 2020 LARPD Foundation committee meeting.
- e) Director Furst reported his attendance at October 7, 2020 Livermore Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance meeting.
- f) Director Pierpont reported his attendance at the September 21, 2020 Finance Committee meeting.
- g) Director Pierpont reported his attendance at the September 29, 2020 Intergovernmental Liaison Committee meeting between East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). Chair Palajac also attended this meeting.
- h) Chair Palajac reported on her attendance at the September 29, 2020 Intergovernmental Liaison Committee meeting between EBRPD and LARPD.
- i) Chair Palajac reported that the Ad Hoc Budget Committee is continuing its work and will be meeting again soon.
- j) Chair Palajac reported her attendance at the September 15, 2020 Livermore Downtown, Inc. meeting.
- k) Director Faltings reported her attendance at the October 13, 2020 Personnel Committee meeting.

8. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS

- a) Director Furst mentioned that last month he pointed out a dangerous condition on the connector trail from the Edward R. Campbell Bridge going in the direction of the Arroyo Road staging area for Del Valle as it crosses the blacktop road. He complimented Mr. Haldeman and Ms. Kirk for facilitating the appropriate changes. He stated the equestrian community is very appreciative of the new, safer crossing.
 - The equestrians have requested signage on each side directing the equestrians where to safely cross the DG portion rather than going across the blacktop road itself without realizing there is now a safer portion just below the normal crossing.
 - They also have asked to have gravel put down at the Wetmore entrance to Sycamore Grove in the equestrian parking area before the winter to avoid extreme muddy areas and for better footing.
- b) On behalf of the Ravenswood Progress League (RPL), Director Furst stated that the RPL has lost its 501(c)(3) status. He asked if the District can help them retain/retrieve their non-profit status.


9. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Fuzie made the following announcements:

- a) He reiterated that Alameda County Public Health announced that the County has moved into the Orange Tier of the State's Four-Tier Blueprint for a Safer Economy. LARPD now has permission to open playgrounds as of Friday, October 16, 2020.
- b) He sat on the community panel for the City of Livermore Police Chief interviews, and was very impressed with the caliber of the seven candidates who were interviewed.


10. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

APPROVED,



Jan Palajac
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Mathew L. Fuzie
General Manager and
Ex-officio Clerk to the Board of Directors