

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY February 16, 2022  
2:30 PM**

*NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19*

*In accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), as amended by Assembly Bill 361 (2021), the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Program Committee Members and staff participated in this meeting via Zoom teleconference. In the interest of maintaining appropriate social distancing, members of the public also participated electronically.*

**Committee Members Present:** Jan Palajac, Maryalice Faltings

**Staff Present:** Mat Fuzie, Linda VanBuskirk, Jill Kirk, Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider, Pamela Healy, David Weisgerber, Julie Dreher, Nancy Blair, David Weisgerber, Michelle Newbould, Robert Sanchez, Megan Shannon, Patrick Lucky

**Members of the Public Present:** There were no members of the public present.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Palajac called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Teleconference During a Proclaimed State of Emergency (Resolution No. 2736-c):** Committee members unanimously approved Resolution 2736-c.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Program Committee held on January 19, 2022:** The minutes were approved with the following correction:

For item 5, the sentence *“The covered arena is not in use at this time, as it has been deemed too unsafe.”* will be clarified to read: *“The covered arena is not in use at this time as the footings were deemed unsafe for the animals and will be investigated.”*

5. **Fireworks/Fourth of July:** The City of Livermore (COL) approached General Manager (GM) Fuzie to ask if the District would be willing to consider hosting Fourth of July fireworks at Robertson Park. Discussion ensued regarding various challenges with hosting. Staff shared that the LARPD stopped doing the Fourth of July fireworks due to financial reasons and because of the installation of synthetic fields at Robertson Park. Additionally, hosting this kind of event requires significant lead planning time and there is not sufficient time left to do so this year. This discussion has been tabled with the COL, and the LARPD will not be hosting this year.

**Action:** This was a discussion only, no Committee action was taken.

6. **May Nissen Programming:** GM Fuzie opened the discussion, saying that we are not yet providing daily services at May Nissen. Aquatics Coordinator Patrick Lucky shared that we have booked year-round use of the pool; we now have a long-term renter (Livermore Aqua

Cowboys) using the facility M-Th from 4-8 p.m. He added that this will be great for the community. May Nissen is also used for lap swim when there are larger tournaments here at the RLCC. Community Services Manager Jill Kirk explained many of the opportunities at May Nissen in partnership with the school district. These include the reopening of the preschool in January, working with the school district on federal funding for after school and summer enrichment, sports programs at both Marilyn and May Nissen, and the possibility of adding swim lessons. Some programs may start in the spring. GM Fuzie added that we continue to use May Nissen for vaccine clinics, have increased the use of the tennis courts and have had several new inquiries for tennis camps and pickleball tournaments. The resurfacing of the basketball courts has also resulted in increased use. He concluded by adding that our next step could possibly include afternoon recreation programming.

**Action:** No Committee action was taken.

7. **Expansion of LVJUSD Childcare Program Offerings (Discussion):** GM Fuzie opened the discussion with an apology for the way the announcement of the expansion was rolled out. CSM Kirk provided some background information, noting that Youth Services staff always pivot; they are creative when it comes to a challenge. When ESS began, the focus was to provide quality before and after school childcare for working families, making it very affordable. Based on youth development, we continue to provide quality programs to our families. She indicated that the school district had received negative feedback about our waitlists, lack of flexibility with schedules, and the inability to provide drop-in care. Parents are wanting these options. She added that this type of schedule and what we offer are two completely different programs. In the past we have had to pivot due to lack of funding, recession, Covid etc. and continued to work with families, staff and the school district-to provide quality care. Changes are happening in the workforce, resulting in an increased need for drop-in and part-time care. She emphasized that we have a very strong relationship with the school district. Director Palajac asked if we had parents come forward with concerns since the announcement. CSM Kirk replied that in the beginning there were because of the way the information initially came out. After we sent parents information, they seemed to be fine. Director Palajac then asked what we plan to do in the event there are families who want to come back to one of our full-time programs. CSM Kirk noted that the school district is doing this as a pilot program, so we would go back to the school district with such concerns. GM Fuzie added that we have been clear with the school district on our concerns. The company the school district is using does not have the same licensing requirements we do. They fall under different requirements, so their staff education levels are not the same as our staff. The school district does not want our programs to go away, they just want more options for the families served. Our major concern has been our employees and our families. Director Palajac asked if we will be looking for any additional staff. CSM Kirk responded that we are very close to fully staffed, focusing on building programs at the sites where we will be staying. GM Fuzie commented that we have a Finance Committee meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and a Board Meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He asked the Committee if they wanted this item to go to Finance first or directly to the Full Board. Director Palajac responded that since we have time to bring this to the Finance Committee, we should do that.

**Action:** Staff were requested to bring this item to both the Finance Committee meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and to the Board of Directors Meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

8. **COVID-19 Progress Updates:** GM Fuzie shared that with the mask mandate lifting, our programs will become more robust. The budget was reviewed this morning as a team. Indoor rentals are not expected to expand because of wariness over cancellations, primarily due to Covid-19. However, overall, it looks like we are coming back strong.

Director Palajac asked if masks will still be required on pickleball, basketball courts? GM Fuzie replied that we have placed signs up in our lobby that masks are no longer required indoors, for the vaccinated; however, staff will still wear them. He added that in our programming we will continue to wear masks as well.

**9. Directors Reports and Announcements:**

Director Palajac attended an “Equine Town Hall” meeting hosted by Alameda County Supervisor Haubert. The focus of the meeting was mainly about the permitting process for boarding and riding academies for horse facilities. Permit requirements at the County level are convoluted; this meeting was an effort to improve the procedures. She noted that with respect to our own covered arena, potentially, management of horse manure disposal may be a big issue.

GM Fuzie shared the following:

1. He had a good meeting with Sheila Fagliano, President, Livermore Stockmen’s Rodeo Association. For the covered arena and upper arena, the Rodeo had some additional recommendations but were good with our ideas. We own the entire rodeo facility. The Rodeo has legal rights to use it for three (3) weeks in June.
2. The draft of the Master Property Agreement was sent off to the COL today. It was also sent to the Ad-Hoc Committee: Master Property Agreement members (Director Furst and Director Pierpont). Note: At the March 9, 2022 Board of Directors meeting, a new Ad-Hoc Committee: Master Property Agreement was created, consisting of Director Jan Palajac and Director David Furst.

There were no further announcements.

**10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

/ph