



Livermore Area
Recreation and Park District
An independent special district

REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DRAFT MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2023

5:00 P.M.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Directors Maryalice Summers Faltings, Jan Palajac, Philip Pierpont, Vice Chair David Furst, Chair James Boswell

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mathew Fuzie, Jeffrey Schneider, Jill Kirk, Linda VanBuskirk, Michelle Kleman, Pamela Healy

DISTRICT COUNSEL: Tom Terpstra, Jr. with Neumiller & Beardslee

OTHERS PRESENT: Melanie Sadek with Valley Humane Society

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

Chair Boswell called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. All Directors were present. Chair Boswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Chair Boswell opened public comment. No public comments were received. Chair Boswell closed the public comment period.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

- 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Budget Workshop on May 31, 2023;
- 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on May 31, 2023;
- 3.3 General Manager's Monthly Update to the Board – June 2023.

MOTION:

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

AYES: *Directors Pierpont, Palajac, Furst, Faltings, and Chair Boswell (5)*
NOES: *None (0)*
ABSTENTIONS: *None (0)*
ABSENT: *None (0)*

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

4.1 AMBASSADOG

The Board reviewed and discussed the Livermore Ambassador Program with Melanie Sadek from the Valley Humane Society.

General Manager (GM) Fuzie presented a staff report to the Board of Directors regarding the Ambassador Program, which is a partnership opportunity with the Valley Humane Society (VHS). The program aims to raise funds for the Valley Humane Society while providing a positive public-facing opportunity for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD). The program would be promoted through marketing efforts by both organizations, including LARPD's website and throughout Livermore through marketing that VHS already provides.

Melanie Sadek from the VHS spoke about the program and the opportunity to partner with LARPD. The VHS is a nonprofit animal welfare organization that offers various programs and community services, including dog and cat rescue, an AniMeals pet food pantry that distributes pet food to those facing food insecurity in Livermore, and a Canine Comfort Pet Therapy program. VHS has been successfully running the Ambassador program in Pleasanton, and the society aims to extend the program to Livermore due to popular demand.

The Ambassador program involves auctioning off the title of "Livermore Ambassador" at the Valley Humane Society's annual gala. This year's event will be held on September 30, 2023 at the Palm Event Center in Pleasanton. The winner of the auction will receive a package that includes various benefits, such as receiving a proclamation from LARPD, being featured on TV and in newspapers, and participating in different activities as a representative of the canine community in Livermore.

Recommendation: Staff recommended that the Board of Directors support the implementation of the Livermore Ambassador program. If approved, GM Fuzie will come back to the Board for a proclamation to confer upon the winning dog the distinct honor of serving as the 2024 Livermore Ambassador.

The Board members had some questions and concerns regarding the program, including the selection process for the Ambassador, the type of dogs chosen in the past, and the possibility of incorporating LARPD branding on the dog's vest or accessories.

Public Comment: Chair Boswell opened public comment. No public comments were received. Chair Boswell closed the public comment period.

Action: The Board thanked Melanie Sadek for her presentation and expressed their support for the Ambassador program.

4.2 ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT

Chair Boswell stated the Board would consider approving a resolution establishing the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Appropriations Limit at \$28,093,333.

In response to a question from the Board asking how much the figure has increased compared to last year, Business Services Manager (BSM) Jeffrey Schneider responded that this is an increase of \$1,067,294 over the FY22-23 Appropriations Limit of \$27,026,039, or the equivalent of 3.9%. BSM Schneider also mentioned that the District is currently \$12 million below the Appropriations Limit with property and parcel taxes.

Recommendation: Staff recommended that the Board of Directors adopt Resolution No. 2787 establishing the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Appropriations Limit at \$28,093,333.

Public Comment: Chair Boswell opened public comment. No public comments were received. Chair Boswell closed the public comment period.

RESOLUTION:

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Palajac, adopted Resolution No. 2787, establishing the FY 2023-24 Annual Appropriations Limit at \$28,093,333, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: *Directors Furst, Pierpont, Palajac, Faltings, and Chair Boswell (5)*
NOES: *None (0)*
ABSTENTIONS: *None (0)*
ABSENT: *None (0)*

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (No Action Required)

None.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Director Faltings reported on her attendance, along with Director Furst, at the June 13, 2023 Program Committee meeting. A copy of the committee agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. She reported that the Revised Draft LARPD Foundation MOU has been reworked and is scheduled to be presented to the full Board at its July 26th meeting.
- b) Director Palajac reported on her attendance, along with Director Furst, at the June 5, 2023 Facilities Committee meeting. A copy of the committee agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. The primary topic of discussion was the flooding at Camp Shelly. Staff have been encouraged to post more pictures of Camp Shelly on the website, so the public is aware of the current condition. Since GM Fuzie and Community Services Manager Jill Kirk were not at this meeting, most items will be brought back to the Facilities Committee meeting in August for updates.
- c) Chair Boswell reported on his attendance, along with Director Palajac, at the June 13, 2023 Personnel Committee meeting. A copy of the committee agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. Human Resources Officer (HRO) Michelle Kleman and Human Resources Analyst (HRA) Chelynn Watkins provided a comprehensive presentation on

changes to LARPD's 457 plan and the Employee Assistance Program. The presentation will be made to the full Board during an upcoming meeting.

- d) Director Furst reported on his attendance at the June 7, 2023 Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance meeting. Guest speakers were Dr. Dyrell Foster, President, Las Positas College along with Ken Cooper, Executive Director, Las Positas College Foundation.
- e) Director Furst reported on his attendance at the June 7, 2023 Livermore Cultural Arts Council meeting held at the Bankhead Theater. Attendees received a presentation from the marketing staff from LVPAC on how to use social media and how to focus on fundraising. They said they plan to run monthly free 'seminars' on marketing this summer.
- f) Director Palajac reported on her attendance at the June 5, 2023 LARPD Foundation meeting. A copy of the Foundation agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. She reported that the Wine Down in the Grove event raised approximately \$30,000 this year; a big increase compared to the \$12,000 raised last year. The Foundation cashed out a matured CD from First Republic and moved the funds to Fremont Bank. The Foundation also opened a checking account with Fremont Bank as a requirement of having a CD. As Director Faltings reported earlier, the Revised Draft LARPD Foundation MOU has been reworked and is scheduled to be presented to the full Board at its July 26th meeting. Their next meeting will be on August 7th. as the July meeting will be cancelled due to the 4th of July holiday.
- g) Director Pierpont reported on his attendance at the May 24, 2023 Visit Tri-Valley Destination Strategic Planning Steering Committee meeting.

7. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS

- a) Chair Boswell announced that LARPD successfully concluded the controlled burns for the fire management program at Sycamore Grove Park last week. The park staff, led by GM Fuzie and his group, did an excellent job. The program took four days to complete, with a one-day delay due to rain, which increased the moisture content. Overall, the upper park area may appear scorched, but it effectively reduced the fire hazard. Multiple agencies, including CAL FIRE, Alameda County Fire, Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LFPD), East Bay Regional Park District, and Camp Parks Fire Departments participated and did a great job.

8. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Fuzie made the following announcements:

- a) He attended his first CARPD Board meeting and has been given the following committee assignments: Membership Committee, Bylaws Committee, and the Conference Planning Committee.
- b) He has been attending Rotary meetings on a regular basis. This is a great way to connect with the community, and he has been enjoying it.
- c) The ballot for the California Special Districts Association's (CSDA) Board of Directors, representing the Bay Area Network – Seat C has been sent electronically, and GM Fuzie is one of four candidates. He will be attending the 2023 CSDA Annual Conference whether or not he is elected. The conference is scheduled for August 28-31, 2023 in Monterey.

9. OPEN SESSION DISCLOSURE REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.7

District Counsel Thomas Terpstra announced that the LARPD Board of Directors would be convening into Closed Session to discuss the item listed at 10.1 on the agenda. Open Session was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

10. CLOSED SESSION:

10.1 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the California Government Code: (1 potential case).

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION; REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.1

The Board came out of Closed Session at 6:45 p.m. District Counsel Thomas Terpstra announced that no reportable action had been taken in Closed Session.

12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED,

James Boswell
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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

/lvb