

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, June 15, 2022

2:00 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, Vicki Wiedenfeld, Michelle Kleman

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 2:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment. **Chair Palajac** closed the public comment period.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Teleconference During a Proclaimed State of Emergency (Resolution No. 2750-b):**
Resolution No. 2750-b was approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Program Committee on May 17, 2022:**
The Minutes from May 17, 2022 were approved unanimously.
5. **Rodeo Recap**
General Manager (GM) Fuzie began by welcoming our new **HR Officer (HRO), Michelle Kleman**, asking her to introduce herself. **HRO Kleman** shared that she came to the LARPD from a non-profit animal rescue organization. She added that she has a diverse background and is looking forward to working with everyone.

Next, **GM Fuzie** shared that he received a complaint letter via email about an incident that took place during the rodeo: during the rodeo, the rodeo clown wore a t-shirt displaying a derogatory political statement. **GM Fuzie** will provide more specific complaint details to the Board.

Director Palajac mentioned other issues she and **Director Faltings** observed during the rodeo:

- The area around the rodeo grounds and VIP area were difficult to navigate from an ADA perspective due to uneven and/or unpaved surfaces and lack of transportation between the parking lots and event grounds
- Lack of shade in the area reserved for disabled patrons

- The rodeo programs were only available in digital format and difficult to download onsite at the rodeo grounds due to poor wireless signal.
- Concerns were expressed about overflow parking on field 3. The Committee noted this is as it has always been but needs to be reviewed for future events.
- The facility used by the rodeo belongs to the LARPD, yet the District was not acknowledged during the rodeo, except for the flag used during the opening ceremony and **Board Chair Faltings'** message in the rodeo program.

Parks and Facilities Manager (PFM) Fred Haldeman and Community Services Manager (CSM) Jill Kirk reviewed LARPD's outreach efforts and expenses for the rodeo:

- \$30k spent on lighting and electrical repairs
- \$12k spent on tree removal
- Since December 2021, we have spent 300 hours of staff time (\$15k value)
- Rodeo Parade Entry: LARPD Board vehicle, Flatbed Truck/Float, walking staff/family participants
- The LARPD was a major rodeo parade sponsor, contributing \$1,000.
- In-kind sponsorship for rodeo facility use
- Letter from Chair Faltings for inclusion in the rodeo program
- LARPD flag at rodeo grounds
- Provided use of our dishwasher to the LSRA prior to 2 rodeo events
- Sponsored the teen roping contest (\$1,200 contribution)
- The LARPD received 20 VIP tickets for each day, as well as tickets to attend the Rodeo Mixer.

It was also noted that the rodeo parade was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The Committee expressed thanks to LARPD staff for their efforts.

Action:

- **GM Fuzie** will draft a letter outlining the concerns noted, to be signed by **Chair Faltings** and provided to the Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association (**LSRA**) **President, Sheila Fagliano**.
- **GM Fuzie** agreed to address the above issues with the Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association (LSRA) President, Sheila Fagliano.
- **Director Palajac** added, this should be brought to the Board for further discussion.

6. Program Updates: (Standing Item)

a. Living Arroyos Program:

This is the LARPD's last month as a program partner organization. All individuals from the LARPD crew will be picked up by Alameda County to continue under their guidance. Our partnership concluded on good terms.

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

b. Community Gardens: PFM Haldeman shared a cost estimate. He shared that construction of the community garden itself, including fencing, lumber, soil amendments, irrigation, plus design and layout of the accessible pathway and ADA parking, striping, signage, and permits will cost approximately \$92k. There are two variables that affect this estimate:

- The estimate included 300 staff hours but may be less.

- The estimate included \$15k for ADA modifications for parking, which may also be less.

He will provide a layout when it is available. This project qualifies for AB1600 funding. The proposed plan will include various sizes of plots, with potential to expand since not all available space at Mocho Park will be used. **PFM Haldeman** will be meeting with a City of Livermore (COL) engineer next week to review the ADA parking scheme. **Director Palajac** asked if CEQA and a Community meeting will be required. **GM Fuzie** responded that this item will be brought to the Board first. If approved, we would then post a Notice to the Community prior to holding a Meeting in the Park. If no concerns are raised by the community, we will submit a CEQA Notice of Exemption request.

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

- c. **Bothwell Appraisal:** **PFM Haldeman** shared that Alliance Insurance sent us a schedule of values from CAPRI which lists all our assets. On July 6 or 8, we will get replacement values for the Robert Livermore Community Center (RLCC), Bothwell Building and other assets. The estimated cost to review and assess will be \$120-\$600 per location. **GM Fuzie** shared that he met with **LVPAC Executive Director Chris Carter** to discuss LVPAC plans: they do not plan to leave the Bothwell Building anytime soon. They also toured the RLCC for other LVPAC programming options, however, the Bothwell Building was found to be more suitable for an artist co-op. Meanwhile, the LVPAC will remain on a month-to-month lease of the Bothwell Building. **GM Fuzie** commented that our continued involvement in the Arts may come up for discussion with the COL. He asked if the Committee wanted this issue brought before the full Board. The Committee agreed this should be brought forward for clarity on the Board position on our involvement in the Arts.

Action: **GM Fuzie** was asked to bring the discussion of the District's continued involvement in the Arts to the full Board to identify the Board's position.

- 7. **Neurodiversity (Discussion):** **Director Palajac** requested this topic as an agenda item and asked if the LARPD staff was trained in this. A handbook on the topic will be available for staff and the public to review.

Director Faltings asked for the definition of the term. **CSM Kirk** explained that everyone learns differently; the term may refer to various ways of learning, such as dyslexia or autism. Staff encounters this everyday with Program participants. **Youth Services Administrator (YSA) Nancy Blair** discussed the need to normalize the difference between brain function and behavior, as it is how a particular person navigates their life. She added, when children come into our programs, we have no way of knowing what their learning methods are. We learn along with them and help them navigate our programs. **Director Faltings** asked if this takes up extra staff time, or if there was any difficulty coordinating between our staff and school district staff. **YSA Blair** explained that meetings are held with the parents to identify strategies used at home or in the classroom so that continuity is the same for the child. Our staff has excellent communication with special day teachers and parents and do very well with this. **Director Faltings** asked what percentage of children in our programs are Neurodiverse. **YSA Blair** noted that we have at least 30-35 children across all programs.

Executive Assistant (EA) Linda VanBuskirk entered the following comment in the Zoom Chat feature:

“Neurodiversity describes the idea that people experience and interact with the world around them in many different ways; there is no one “right” way of thinking, learning, and behaving,

and differences are not viewed as deficits.

The word neurodiversity refers to the diversity of all people, but it is often used in the context of autism spectrum disorder (ASD), as well as other neurological or developmental conditions such as ADHD or learning disabilities.”

EA VanBuskirk added:

above info came from <https://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/what-is-neurodiversity-202111232645>

Recreation Supervisor (RS) Vicki Weidenfeld was asked to share how this concept is experienced in the recreation programs. She explained that camps are run for a week at a time and a child may be in a program for up to 9 weeks. Every child learns differently, so staff tries to find ways to include everyone. There are about 60-70 children in our program and if one (or more) does not want to participate, we provide an alternative of quieter activities.

Action: The Committee suggested this topic be brought to the full Board for a possible presentation by the same parent that presented to the Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC) and for further discussion.

- 8. Little League World Series: RS Wiedenfeld** shared that the 2022 dates for the Little League World Series (LLWS) are July 31- August 7, 2022. It will be a 12-team series, with 6 US teams and 6 International. On June 25 we will host a movie in the park (The Sandlot) on the LLWS field. Staff will lead games and activities for kids. A Board member may throw the first pitch. There will also be an opportunity for the LARPD to place an ad in the program. The LLWS will be televised.

ESPN has done the filming of the LLWS championship game and will now film all LLWS games. The LARPD did special work on the field so ESPN would have good camera angles. In a past LLWS, the outfield was not up to par with what was needed. Outfield cameras had to be shut off due to patches in the outfield; irrigation work was done by the LARPD to repair dead parts of field so cameras could be turned back on.

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

9. Directors' Reports and Announcements:

None.

- 10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

/ph