



Livermore Area
Recreation and Park District
An independent special district

REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

5:00 P.M.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mathew Fuzie, Jeffrey Schneider, Jill Kirk, Michelle Kleman, David Weisgerber, Linda VanBuskirk

DISTRICT COUNSEL: Gary Bell, Esq. with Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

OTHERS PRESENT: None

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

Chair Boswell called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. All Directors were present, except Director Pierpont, who arrived at 5:04 p.m. Chair Boswell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3. CONSENT ITEMS

- 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on August 9, 2023;
- 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on August 9, 2023;
- 3.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on August 14, 2023;
- 3.4 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting/Public Meeting in the Park on August 16, 2023;
- 3.5 Approval of the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on September 1, 2023;
- 3.6 General Manager's Monthly Update to the Board – September 2023.

MOTION:

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

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

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Director Furst reported on his attendance at the September 12, 2023 Program Committee meeting. The committee agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. The committee received an informative presentation from Community Services Manager Jill Kirk on the *Summer Recap*, to be presented to the full Board at an upcoming Board meeting.
- b) Director Pierpont reported on his attendance, along with Chair Boswell, at the August 23, 2023 Finance Committee meeting. The committee agenda was included in the Board agenda packet.
- c) Director Palajac reported on her attendance, along with Director Furst, at the September 7, 2023 Facilities Committee meeting. The committee agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. She encouraged fellow Board members to review the Facilities Committee agenda packet on the LARPD website for the comprehensive policies related to naming of District Facilities. She was excited to report on the modern monkey bars ready for installation at Robertson Park. Ms. Avery Kohn will be available to be the first to cross the monkey bars.
- d) GM Fuzie reported on the August 10, 2023 Intergovernmental Committee meeting.
- e) Chair Boswell reported on his attendance, along with Director Palajac, at the September 12, 2023 Personnel Committee meeting. One of the items presented, *Employment At Will vs. Competitive Service (The Future Path of the District)*, will be brought to the full Board at an upcoming Board meeting. The Committee also recommended that staff move forward with the *2024/2025 Health Care Premiums and Impact on Employees* as presented.
- f) Director Palajac reported that she and Director Pierpont made up an Ad Hoc Committee re: RFP for Legal Services where they, along with staff, drafted the current RFP for Legal Services for approval by the Board. The RFP has been posted as of September 11, 2023. Staff was directed to remove the two Ad Hoc Committees from the list at this time as their work is complete.
- g) Neither Chair Boswell nor Director Furst was available to attend the September 13, 2023 ACSDA Membership meeting.
- h) Director Furst reported on his attendance at the September 6, 2023 Livermore Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance meeting. Dr. Kelly Bowers spoke on the Three Valleys Community Foundation and its fundraising efforts.
- i) Director Palajac reported on her attendance at the September 11, 2023 LARPD Foundation meeting. A main topic of discussion was the *2024 Wine Down Date Selection* and whether they desired to hold it again at Ravenswood. The event will likely take place on a Friday from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. with the two dates being considered – one in June or one in July to avoid conflicts with many other local weekend events. Director Furst suggested that Community Outreach Supervisor (COS) David Weisgerber reach out to the Livermore Cultural Arts Council because they keep a list of different organizations and when they will be having their events.
- j) Director Furst reported that there was not a meeting in September of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council. Topics included the construction taking place downtown and upcoming fall events such as Witches Night Out on October 4th and Halloween events for kids on October 28th.
- k) Director Palajac reported on her attendance at the August 21, 2023 Alameda County Agricultural Subcommittee on Trails. They discussed the four main trails of concern.

The Department of Water Resources is going to schedule a field trip for committee members to visit the South Bay Aqueduct because that's one of the areas they want to develop, at least a portion of, as a trail.

- l) Director Pierpont reported that there was no meeting in August of the Visit Tri-Valley Destination Strategic Planning Steering Committee. September's meeting may also be pushed into October. There is nothing to report at this time.
- m) Chair Boswell reported on the August 30, 2023 Alameda County Rural Roads Group meeting with Supervisor Haubert.

5. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS

- a) Director Faltings reported that she recently attended the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Annual Conference in Monterey, August 28-30, 2023, along with four other Board members. Overall, it was a productive conference. For the first time, she found herself looking at accessibility issues from a different perspective, particularly concerning ADA compliance in hotels, and these hotels fell short in terms of accessibility, which was quite challenging for her during her stay. She attended the Opening General Session and Keynote. There was another intriguing session titled "What's All the Buzz About? How Partnerships Fuel Drone Innovation" which turned out to be the highlight of the conference for her. She also attended the LAFCO session, Legislative Update, and Sexual Harassment Prevention – Parts 1 and 2.
- b) Director Palajac reported that she also attended the CSDA Conference. One session that stood out for her focused on website accessibility, which she found particularly interesting. The presenter was Streamline, the company currently responsible for the LARPD website. It was reassuring to know that the LARPD website complies with all the necessary accessibility requirements. She mentioned that many of the conference presentations are available on the CSDA forum.
- c) Director Furst reported that he also attended the CSDA Conference. He attended the two main sessions and the LAFCo session. The LAFCO presenter, Joe Serrano with the Santa Cruz LAFCo, stood out because of his strong leadership compared to some other LAFCo executive directors the District has interacted with recently. During the conference, Director Furst visited various booths and interacted with several legal firms and informed them that LARPD plans to issue an RFP for Legal Services soon.
- d) Director Pierpont mentioned that although he was unable to attend the CSDA Annual Conference, the feedback from that event has been extremely good from everybody who he's spoken to on this board, and other people as well.
- e) Director Furst initiated a matter for an upcoming agenda regarding the General Manager's performance review/evaluation.
- f) Chair Boswell reported that he also attended the CSDA Conference. He attended sessions regarding "LAFCOs – An Additional Resource for Special Districts," "Understanding Board Member Liability", "What's All the Buzz About? How Partnerships Fuel Drone Innovation," and the "Surplus Land Act and Special Districts: Know the Impact."

6. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Fuzie made the following announcements:

- a) He participated in phone calls with lawmakers about legislative advocacy efforts related to ACA 1 and ACA 13, organized by CSDA and partners. ACA 1 is a constitutional amendment allowing a 55% bond threshold for special districts, while ACA 13 aims to

counter the California Business Roundtable-sponsored initiative affecting local control over fees and taxes.

- b) The Municipal Service Review (MSR) survey response was submitted with a deadline extension, and staff gathered information with input from everyone. It was reviewed by Gary Bell, Esq., and copies will be provided to the Board members.
- c) He also attended the CSDA Conference and found sessions on future financial planning valuable. He emphasized the importance of networking, especially with other general managers and consultants involved in LARPD's pension obligation fund. He also highlighted the Enterprise rental discounts for Board members.

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

7.1 BOARD RETREAT

- A) Board Best Practices/Roles and Responsibilities
- B) Strategic Planning

GM Fuzie distributed copies to the Board members of LARPD's draft 2023 Strategic Plan for review and discussion.

Discussion revolved around the need for a clear and concise strategic plan that includes the District's vision, values, strategies, goals, and objectives while avoiding excessive wordiness and complexity. Some Board members expressed dissatisfaction with the style of the draft 2023 Strategic Plan and suggested that only the summary page was valuable.

The Board acknowledged the need for further collaboration to finalize the plan effectively, and to provide a framework for the General Manager's goals and objectives.

ACTION:

No Board action was taken; however, the following direction was given to staff:

- a) Chair Boswell suggested that this item be continued to a Special Board Meeting scheduled prior to September 26, 2023 for further Board discussion and collaboration with the objective to complete the 2023 Strategic Plan session;
- b) Executive Assistant Linda VanBuskirk will poll the Directors on their availability within the next week, then send out a confirmation;
- c) Legal counsel confirmed this must be held in Open Session;
- d) Some Board members agreed that it is helpful to have staff present during the discussion of the Strategic Plan;
- e) GM Fuzie will provide the Directors with a list of major questions to serve as a roadmap for the Directors to initiate their collaboration during the Strategic Planning session at the Special Board Meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

APPROVED,



James Boswell
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



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

/Lvb