

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Thursday, August 19, 2021
2:00 PM

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

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

Committee Members Present: Jan Palajac, David Furst

LARPD Staff Present: Mathew Fuzie, Allie Ikeda, Fred Haldeman,
Jeffrey Schneider, David Weisgerber,
Joseph Benjamin, Julie Dreher,
Linda VanBuskirk, Nancy Blair, Patrick Lucky,
Robert Sanchez

Others Present: None

1. **Call to Order:** Committee Chair Palajac called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** There were no comments from the public.
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Program Committee on June 17, 2021 and July 15, 2021:**
Member Furst pulled the Draft Minutes of the July 15, 2021 meeting for clarification at Page 3, Item 7 last paragraph, and inquired about the success or unsuccess of the meeting between LARPD and the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District [LVJUSD]. GM Fuzie suggested a discussion regarding the Board's direction on minutes. He commented that CSDA and others are recommending very sparse minutes. They're recommending basically only actions that the committee took. LARPD goes into much more detail. We must discuss to what degree of detail we want to go in the [committee] minutes?
 - The Committee recommended this topic go to the full Board.
 - EA VanBuskirk will correct the Draft Meeting Notes of the June 17, 2021 as follows:
At page 2, Item 5, second paragraph, change "Aquatics Coordinator" to "Recreation Supervisor."

The minutes of June 17, 2021 and July 15, 2021 were approved, as amended, by unanimous vote.

GM Fuzie announced a change to the August 19th Agenda. Item No. 6: Board Policy No. 4060 – Draft Revisions Update: This should be removed from the Agenda because it has not yet been to Facilities Committee. *Strike the item for today.

4. Park Ambassador Program Update:

Community Outreach Supervisor David Weisgerber reported that this program is in transition. The original intention was to have folks be fixtures in their neighborhood, help to ensure their local park is clean, safe, and green while assisting with future park programs and activities geared towards connecting parks with people and people with parks. The program had lost momentum during COVID-19 but is making a comeback after incorporating some teen volunteers, who were quite active during the summer. A few mentioned they would like to stay on through the school year. Mr. Weisgerber also reported about a community member who moved into the Bill Clark Park neighborhood and become a Park Ambassador. This gentleman is passionate about his individual park and neighborhood and will be facilitating a fundraising event along with his neighbors in partnership with the LARPD Foundation for resurfacing the basketball court facility at Bill Clark Park. He is realizing the full vision of the program. Staff would like to steer the Ambassadors toward that type of community engagement and would ultimately like to continue to grow this program along with community engagement, but it is not there right now.

No committee action was taken.

5. School Meal, Senior Lunch Coordination Update:

Chair Palajac inquired about the use of LARPD's kitchen to prep free school meals for children in coordination with the senior lunch program. GM Fuzie reported that the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD) offered to prepare meals for all LARPD's school programs under a federal grant that feeds students/participants in the program. They did not ultimately use our facilities, but we did hire some teenage students to pick up and deliver the meals to our site locations. The program was very successful.

- Community Services Manager Jill Kirk will gather statistics on the total savings realized over the summer by participating in this program and provide that report to our board and the school district.

Youth Services Administrator Nancy Blair reported that an average of approximately 170 lunches per day were distributed. RLCC camp programs were the largest, followed by Marilyn Avenue Elementary and Jackson Elementary programs being second largest. The program will continue throughout the school year until June 2022.

Community Outreach Supervisor David Weisgerber reported on the Senior Lunch program. Since opening the RLCC in June, the Senior Lunch curbside pickup was moved from the front of the community center to the Loyola parking lot area, just outside the Community Gardens near the fire station. Open Heart Kitchen has purchased a storage unit for their supplies. There are no immediate plans to come back inside at this time.

No Committee action was taken.

6. Board Policy No. 4060 – Draft Revisions Update:

GM Fuzie stated there has been no update since the last meeting. (See the minutes from the July 15, 2021 Program Committee meeting.)

No Committee action was taken.

7. Drought Response – Programmatic Viewpoint:

GM Fuzie reported that LARPD budgets approximately \$1.2 million per year for water. He and Parks and Facilities Manager Fred Haldeman discussed the challenges of maintaining the parks and sports fields in good condition on a regular basis while balancing the need to improve the parks' watering systems and infrastructure. Mr. Haldeman reported on current irrigation systems scheduled for renovation such as Christensen Park, Hagemann, Tex Spruiell, Wattenburger, and Marlin Pound Parks. Bruno Canziani Park uses AG water from Wentle. The group also discussed Park staff's review and monitoring of water bills and the importance of noticing any discrepancies as they occur so that the system may be adjusted accordingly.

- A discussion on water used by the School District for the Granada Little League fields will be discussed at the Finance and Facilities Committees.
- The Committee suggested this topic go to the full Board so that the public and the Board may understand how LARPD is efficiently managing water use in the parks during the drought.

8. COVID-19 Program Updates:

GM Fuzie provided an update regarding current COVID-19 statistics in Livermore. The number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 on a 7-day rolling is 36.8 and still climbing. The Livermore population is reported to be 66.7% vaccinated. The rest of the county is approximately 72% vaccinated. LARPD is requiring masks be worn by everybody indoors in our facilities. We do not require masks outside, except for youth programs where we cannot keep participants socially distanced.

Chair Palajac commented that City Council Member Gina Bonanno announced during a recent Livermore Downtown, Inc. meeting that the City is quite concerned about the low rate of vaccination in Livermore, so they will be organizing a Task Force consisting of members from different organizations, and LARPD will be one of them. GM Fuzie responded that LARPD has not been asked to participate yet. This was discussed at this morning's Intergovernmental Liaison Committee Meeting where the City mentioned they are just forming. GM Fuzie will reach out to them.

Recreation Manager Alexandra Ikeda reported on Aquatics programs, the monthly unlimited swim passes, and the challenge of hiring instructors for the water exercise program. She announced that the May Nissen pools should be open around September 1st.

Recreation Supervisor Joseph Benjamin reported on rentals and bookings. He stated that from July through September of this fiscal year, rentals range from 28 to 42 with gross revenues between \$27,000-\$69,000 for those months. Most rentals have been requested in the Cresta Blanca Ballroom as well as Ravenswood. There is an interest in the Veterans Memorial Building coming back as well.

Member Furst asked if staff could present a comparison between the rentals we are facilitating now between what we've done pre-COVID. GM Fuzie shared his screen and reported on "Ravenswood Historic Site – Facility Rentals – 5 years in review – Pre-COVID Information." The chart highlighted a year over year comparison: 14/15 = 69 rentals, \$32k plus in revenue. In 15/16 = 122 rentals \$93k + revenue. The peak of revenue was 18/19 with 137 rentals producing \$160k. 16/17, 17/18 and 18/19 were all good years.

- Member Furst asked staff to provide a graph specific to Ravenswood showing costs/expenses so that the Committee may see to what extent the District is making or losing money at this facility.
- Business Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider reported that staff continues its work to populate the Facility Matrix and that information may be brought to the Program Committee for its review.

Youth Services Administrator Nancy Blair reported that ESS enrollment has increased. The first day of school will begin with a little over 400 kids. Preschool will open September 7th with five classrooms and a total of approximately 70 students. The teachers are all excited and looking forward to having their preschool classrooms back.

The Committee thanked each program manager for their updates.

9. Directors' Reports and Announcements:

- a) Member Furst thanked staff for being ahead of the ball re: closing Camp Shelly due to smoke dangers and the safety/liability issues to the District.
- b) Chair Palajac stated the Board would like an update on the District's Fire Management Policy or Program. Director James Boswell brought up the topic at the last Board Meeting.
- c) Chair Palajac inquired if the RLCC is open for the public during times of unhealthy air quality. GM Fuzie explained the system is in place to be activated by either the county or under the EOC by the city. The RLCC was successfully operated as a Cooling Center and Clean Air Center last year, and at that time it was operated on the weekends. If directed to do so by the EOC or County, we are prepared to do so again. LARPD employees in general follow the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's recommendations. Parks and Facilities Manager Fred Haldeman explained the high level of filtration, comparable to a HEPA, which has been installed in each of our air handling units at the RLCC.

10. Adjournment: Committee Chair Palajac adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

/lvb