

# LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE MINUTES

**WEDNESDAY, January 19, 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, Vicki Wiedenfeld

**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 2:30 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment, as there were no members of the public present.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Teleconference During a Proclaimed State of Emergency (Resolution No. 2729-d):** Committee members approved Resolution 2729-d unanimously.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Program Committee held on December 16, 2021:** The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **Equestrian Program:** Committee members and staff discussed the future of the program. GM Fuzie indicated this will not be a staff project, as too much work needs to be done. He added that he has had discussion with public member Virginia Miner, as she is very familiar with the issues with the covered arena. It was suggested that staff also contact Sheila Fagliano (current President of the Livermore Rodeo Association) for her input. GM Fuzie expressed the need to have discussion with all stakeholders and bring collective feedback to the Board for direction. He went on to emphasize the need for a community -based approach to addressing the future of the program. The covered arena is not in use at this time as the footings were deemed unsafe for the animals and will be investigated. The upper arena will also be inspected for usability.  
**Action:** Staff were asked to contact the current President of the Livermore Rodeo Association for her input. They will hold discussion with all stakeholders and report back to the Board for direction.
6. **Sycamore Grove Park Programming:** The Committee asked for an update on the new Park Interpreters. Community Services Manager Jill Kirk noted that some of the crowds over the past weeks were at pre-pandemic levels. CSM Kirk also reviewed several programs, adding that some activities are new, some were brought back.

Programs discussed included:

- Science Camp
- Junior Rangers
- Applefest
- Brushy Peak hikes
- Hoot Owl program

She added that the (Junior) Ranger program may be ongoing for 5<sup>th</sup> graders this spring, as a replacement for 5<sup>th</sup> grade science camp. ESS ranger programs were also held at Believes, with interpretive staff coordinating the program at Junction and Marilyn.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of Ranger led hikes at Brushy Peak for adults. This poses some logistical issues, since pre-Covid, we were able to transport hikers there in a van.

The LARPD Foundation is considering holding an event at Sycamore Grove Park.

The Commemorative Bench program has been reorganized, with 5 benches so far, 2 still waiting for materials. Staff have done a great job getting this program back up and running.

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

7. **Living Arroyos Update:** GM Fuzie reported that the Zone 7 Water Agency coordinator was surprised to hear we no longer want to host the Living Arroyos program. GM Fuzie explained the reasons, (liability issues) and will put our concerns in writing to submit to Zone 7 and partners. The existing agreement is scheduled to terminate at the end of June.

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

8. **LARPD Liaison to Livermore Downtown, Inc.:** The committee asked if there was a staff member assigned to work with Livermore Downtown, Inc. GM Fuzie asked for clarification and direction from the Board. The request is that staff to do such things as attend farmers market, street fest etc. and to represent the LARPD and attract public attention to what we do. The intent is to get staff to community events, to include the information booth. We are early in discussion about how we handle special events and our involvement. The committee has asked to be kept updated on our efforts in this regard.

GM Fuzie mentioned that we were approached about fireworks in Robertson Park. Doing so was very expensive and cost prohibitive in the past.

**Action:** The Committee asked staff continue to provide updates regarding special events and our involvement with Livermore Downtown, Inc.

9. **COVID-19 Progress Updates:** GM Fuzie shared that we are waiting for Omicron to dissipate. We are still offering programs with the caveat of Health Department compliance. The mask mandate is still the biggest issue. Director Palajac requested that we do some sort of announcement (such as banners on our website) to show District closure dates. She also asked what the difference was between standard holidays vs non-standard? Non-standard holidays are paid holidays for staff who have non-standard schedules. Standard holidays are Federal holidays.

10. **Directors Reports and Announcements:**

Director Palajac commented that Livermore Downtown, Inc. is in the process of selecting a new Executive Director.

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 p.m.