

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

**PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, August 17, 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, Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider, Pamela Healy, Vicki Wiedenfeld, Michelle Kleman, Julie Dreher

**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 2:32 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. 2759-b):**  
Resolution No. 2759-b was approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Program Committee on June 15, 2022:**  
The Minutes from June 15, 2022 were approved unanimously.
5. **Program Updates: (Standing Item)**  
The following program updates were provided:
  - There are no new programs to announce, no new updates to report.
  - In response to a question from the Committee about a Rodeo issue, GM Fuzie commented that it will be a future agenda item and we are waiting for staff and legal research to be completed before we can proceed. We are only interested observers on the issue. His recommendation to the Board is do not comment.

**Action:**

- Director Faltings will contact legal counsel for a status update on the rodeo issue.
  - Moving forward, staff will no longer list Program Updates as a standing item on the agenda. When updates on individual programs are requested or available, they will be added.
6. **Little League World Series Recap:** Recreation Supervisor Vicki Weidenfeld shared this was another great event. The host team from Danville ended up winning the event. Director Maryalice Faltings spoke at one of the games, and Director James Boswell threw out the first

pitch at the final game. Many attendees commented on the excellent job done on the field upkeep. More information will be available at the next meeting.

Committee members also commended Bill Aboumrad for his efforts, as well as the LLWS committee who does maintenance. The field looked amazing!

**Action:** Chair Palajac requested that staff bring back more information, as it is available.

- 7. The Role of the LARPD in the Arts Community:** Chair Palajac is the liaison for the Livermore Cultural Arts Council (LCAC), however, it is unclear what the LARPD's position is on this topic. GM Fuzie shared that the City of Livermore (COL) engaged a consultant to do a study/survey on support for the arts in general. That report should be available soon. As we are in the middle of updating our Master Property Agreement, he anticipates there will be discussions about the Barn and the Carnegie Building, what programs look like in the future and who will support those facilities. Discussion with the LARPD Board will be needed as to what our continued involvement looks like. There is no mention of the Arts in our Mission statement. The Committee concurred we have an opportunity to change some things, especially if the report says the COL should take a bigger role. If that is the case, we may want to consider taking a back seat and allowing them to do so.

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

- 8. Potential Apiary Programs (Discussion):** Director Palajac attended a recent East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) meeting, where they discussed their apiary (beekeeping) program. They allow experienced beekeepers to use their parks for this purpose. She requested this item on our agenda for discussion because she wanted to know if we have ever explored this for the LARPD.

**Committee Questions and Comments:**

- We would need to do extensive research to identify potential locations for such a program.
- Can we contact the staff at EBRPD who implemented their apiary program for more specifics?
- This is a big topic within the environmental community because the native population of bees are not doing well. Pollinators, in particular, are critical right now.
- Another option is to consider increasing pollinator plants, not necessarily bees.
- The Native Garden at Sycamore may be growing pollinator plants. The President of the Ravenswood Progress League, Conni Naylor, who also volunteers at Sycamore Grove, may have more information about the current plants in the native garden.

**Action:** Staff were requested to contact EBRPD staff for more information on how their apiary program was implemented.

**9. Directors' Reports and Announcements:**

- Chair Palajac asked for more information about the volunteer appreciation event taking place that evening at Ravenswood. Community Outreach Supervisor (COS) David Weisgerber explained that it will be about an hour-long event that includes catered food and provides the opportunity to chat with volunteers. Director Faltings will say a few words. It is an opportunity to celebrate our volunteers and show our appreciation.
- Director Faltings shared that the Ice Cream Social at Ravenswood this past weekend went very well. Approximately 350 attended, including many younger families. There

was perfect (mild) weather for the event. She also shared a reminder for another event at Ravenswood this coming weekend, Applefest.

**10. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

/ph