



Livermore Area
Recreation and Park District
An independent special district

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 29, 2026

1:00 p.m.

Robert Livermore Community Center
4444 East Avenue, Livermore, California
Cresta Blanca Ballroom

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

Directors Absent: None.

Staff Present:

Mathew Fuzie, General Manager (GM)

Julie Dreher, Finance Officer

Kendahl Hettick, Financial Analyst

Rene Venus Dalusong, Executive Assistant

David Weisgerber, Community Outreach Supervisor

Marilyn Thomas, Accounting Assistant

Chelynn Watkins, Human Resources Senior Analyst

Celene Resong, Procurement and Contract Specialist

Kathy Lake, Recreation Coordinator

Michelle Newbould, Administrative Assistant

Michelle Kleman, Human Resources Manager

Marc Roberts, Land Agent / Planner

Kelly McClanahan, Recreation Supervisor

Alyssa Smith, Coordinator II

Joseph Benjamin, Recreation Manager

Tami Eaton, Recreation Leader III

Crystal Meyer, Office Assistant

Phyllis Ihle, Senior Office Assistant

District Counsel: Andrew Shen, Esq. with Renne Public Law Group

Others Present: Anne Giancola, Thomasin Dewhurst

1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Pierpont called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. All Directors were present. Chair Pierpont led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Chair Pierpont opened the public comment period.

Anne Giancola and Thomasin Dewhurst asked the Board to consider installing community-created stepping stones at Sycamore Grove Park (Supplemental Item 2).

Chair Pierpont suggested the item be brought to the Facilities Committee for review.

There were no further speakers. The public comment period was closed.

3. CONSENT AGENDA (Motion):

- 3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on April 8, 2026.

MOTION:

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Palajac, approved the Consent Agenda Item 3.1 as submitted, by the following voice vote:

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

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

- 4.1 **Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Workshop** (Discussion and Direction)

The Board reviewed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget assumptions, including property taxes, program revenue, COLA, insurance, legal costs, benefits, staffing, fees, and capital funding (Supplemental Item 4.1).

- **Direction:** The Board provided feedback and direction to staff on preparation of the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) Director Palajac reported attending the April 28, 2026, Facilities Committee meeting with Chair Pierpont. The Committee discussed requests for native plant landscaping and additional dirt jumps at the Sunken Gardens Pump Track, sports stack equipment boxes at LARPD parks, and updates on the School District Facilities Use Agreement, Capital Improvement Projects, and trails. The agenda was included in the Board agenda packet.
- b) Chair Pierpont noted that the April 13, 2026, Personnel Committee meeting was canceled.
- c) Chair Pierpont reported attending the April 27, 2026, LARPD–East Bay Regional Park District Liaison Committee meeting with Vice Chair Faltings. The committee discussed public access and conservation at Doolan Canyon Regional Preserve, trails, and land acquisition updates. The agenda was included in the Board agenda packet.
- d) Director Boswell reported attending the April 20, 2026, Alameda County Agricultural Subcommittee on Trails meeting. The committee discussed GIS data and trails update.
- e) Director Furst reported attending the April 1, 2026, Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance meeting, where guest speaker Dr. Aisha Wahab, California Senate District 10, spoke about her current activities and priorities.

6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS:

- a) Chair Pierpont asked staff to explore alternative funding ideas for the Playground Replacement Program, including park sponsorships, and to bring the item to a future Facilities and Program Committee meeting for discussion.
- b) Director Boswell reported attending the California Trails and Greenways Conference, held April 14–17, 2026, in San Ramon, California.
- c) Director Boswell suggested LARPD communicate with Alameda County Supervisor David Haubert about current land acquisitions.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER:

- a) GM Fuzie introduced new Aquatics Supervisor Kelly McClanahan.
- b) LARPD received a \$101,196.99 donation from the Ruth C. Bauman Trust for Sycamore Grove Park. The Board will decide how to use the funds at a later date.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

APPROVED,



Philip Pierpont
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



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

MF/Rvd

From: [Info](#)
To: [Rene Venus Dalusong](#)
Cc: [Jill Kirk](#); [David Weisgerber](#)
Subject: Fw: For Board meeting April 29 - public comment
Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 5:40:40 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-sufwgn3h.png](#)

Hi Rene,

Please see the email below regarding public comment for the 4/29 meeting.

Thank you,
Andrea



Andrea McGovern
Community Outreach Coordinator
Livermore Area Recreation and Park District
An Independent Special District
4444 East Ave., Livermore, 94550

925-373-5724

amcgovern@larpd.org; LARPD.org

***Mission Statement:** The mission of Livermore Area Recreation and Park District is to provide the people of the Livermore area with outstanding recreation programs and a system of parks, trails, recreation areas and facilities that promote enjoyment, lifelong learning and healthy active lifestyles.*

From: Anne Giancola <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 11:02 PM
To: Info <info@larpd.org>
Subject: For Board meeting April 29 - public comment

To the Board of LARPD,

This email is a request to get on the agenda for an LARPD facilities meeting for discussion of the feasibility of installing a stepping stone public art project.

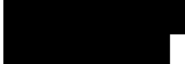
Here is a description of the project and photos attached.

Artist Thomasin Dewhurst and myself were awarded a grant for a public art project that was funded by the Alameda County Clean Water Program. We created 5 large stepping stones (3' diameter each) and 2 small stepping stones (18" diameter) that tell the story of water that falls, follows the creeks, and ends in the Bay. Originally, The City of Livermore had agreed to install them in the Springtown green space but now they said they have a hold on all art projects. Thus, I was hoping to see if LARPD might agree to have them installed as public art; ideally at Sycamore or another such space that is public. They are made of cement with wire support running through each stepping stone, mosaic beads and cement paint. They are about 2.25" thick. We included student artists to help with the project so it was very much a community project.

Ideally, we have a timeframe of installation by the end of June. The stepping stones are done and ready. Thank you for your help and I look forward to sharing the project with the LARPD Board in the public comment section of the April 29 Board meeting.

Warm Regards,

Anne Giancola
--
Anne Giancola
Decorative Art







Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

Staff Report

TO: Chair Pierpont and Board of Directors

FROM: Mathew L. Fuzie

PREPARED BY: Mathew L. Fuzie

DATE: 04/22/2026

SUBJECT: 2026/2027 Budget Preparation

COMMITTEES: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board of Directors discuss and provide direction to staff for budget development.

BACKGROUND: Every year in preparation of the District Budget for Board of Directors' approval, the Board of Directors has participated in a Budget Workshop. The purpose of the Budget Workshop is for staff to provide data and assumptions related to the data for the Board of Directors to discuss. After discussion the Board of Directors will provide directions to the General Manager to complete a draft Budget for approval at a future meeting prior to the next fiscal year.

This topic was discussed at the March 25 meeting of the full board.

DISCUSSION:

The following data points pertain to the development of the draft budget.

Property Taxes- The County of Alameda is forecasting a flattening of the property taxes as they relate to the past few years. The County is projecting that property taxes will grow no more than **2.5 percent in the next fiscal year. Property taxes are expected to generate approximately 17 million dollars in 26/27.**

No recommendation regarding property taxes.

Program Revenue- In all of the previous budgets prepared under this administration we have budgeted program revenues very conservatively and tend to outperform our

projections. Our position in the market has been as the value proposition in the service area.

Recommendation- Adjust program fees to be market competitive.

COLA- In approving the budget for fiscal year 2025/2026 the BOD approved a COLA of 2% be approved in January of 2026, 2027 and 2028. Setting the COLA expectation for 3 years. CPI for 2025/2026 was 2%

Recommendation- Affirm the previous cola decision. Make no change.

Insurance- CAPRI, our insurance pool, is recommending that we plan for a 15% increase in General Liability. There may be a slight decrease in Workers Compensation insurance.

No recommendation necessary

Legal – We anticipate spending approximately 35% more in legal expenses than in FY25/26.

Fee Schedule- The Fee Schedule for LARPD programs and services was last changed 3 years ago.

Recommendation- Approve new fee schedule with modest increase for next 3-year cycle.

Employee Benefits- Employee Benefits including medical are expected to increase by 7% next fiscal year with the administrative fees from the County of Alameda are going from 2% to 5%.

Recommendation- Maintain 75% of Kaiser contribution for one more year and revisit in committee.

Salary and Wages- Salary and wages continue to climb as we grow back from the pandemic as demand for our services continue to grow.

Recommendation- add positions only as they relate directly to increasing revenue absent any additional revenue stream.

CIP- No reserve fund will exist beyond the current fiscal year for deferred maintenance projects. The Two Parks program will have to be funded through the general fund. No new projects have been added to the CIP list unless they are funded through AB1600.

Recommendation- continue Two Parks Program with facilities committee and finance committee review. Incorporate asset replacement into the fee schedule.

East Bay Regional Parks annual open space contribution of 200k was not budgeted in their annual budget for this fiscal year.

Recommendation- Track EBRPD budget discussions

We are looking at an approximately 27 Million Dollar Budget with 17 million from taxes and 10 million in operating revenues and no planned surplus.

NEXT STEPS:

The discussion and direction given at this meeting will be used to complete the draft budget for fiscal year 2026/2027. The Board will receive a draft proposed budget for fiscal year 2026/2027 at the May 13 regular board meeting for consideration of approval.