

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2022
3:00 P.M.**

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 in the meeting electronically.

Committee Members Present: Jan Palajac, Maryalice Faltings

LARPD Staff Present: Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider, Jill Kirk,
David Weisgerber, Linda VanBuskirk, Patrick Lucky

Members of the Public Present: None

1. **Call to Order:** Committee Chair Palajac called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
2. **Public Comment:** None.
3. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Teleconference During a Proclaimed State of Emergency:** Resolution No. 2748-c determining to conduct meetings of the LARPD Program Committee using teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code 54953 as amended by AB 361 was approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of the Minutes of the Program Committee Meeting held on April 20, 2022:**
The meeting minutes of April 20, 2022, were approved unanimously as submitted.
5. **Community Gardens – Update on List of Alternates:**
Parks and Facilities Manager (PFM) Fred Haldeman reported that he has no update on the list of alternatives because this was discussed at the April 20th Program Committee meeting, then at the April 27th Board Meeting. The Board agreed to allow **PFM Haldeman** to proceed with his investigation of first choice Mocho Park along with Livermore Downs as the second-choice alternate. He explained that this will go through the Project Evaluation Form (PEF) process. Now that the location(s) has been determined, the next phase is to come up with a project cost estimate. **Business Services Manager (BSM) Jeffrey Schneider** asked if there is a sense of what kind of financial commitment this will amount to. **PFM Haldeman** suggested that construction of the community garden itself, including fencing, lumber, soil amendments,

irrigation, plus design and layout of the accessible pathway and parking, striping, signage, and permits will probably range between \$60-75k. This may be eligible for AB 1600 funding.

Action: The Committee recommended going directly to the full Board with the cost estimate as they have already approved moving forward with the location(s). Hopefully, the Board will then give permission to proceed up to a certain dollar amount.

6. Bothwell Building (Discussion):

BSM Schneider and PFM Haldeman reported that they recently met with Chris Carter who runs LVPAC and the Bankhead. Together they walked through the Bothwell facility and Mr. Carter pointed out certain areas throughout the building that may need attention such as light fixtures and ideas to add more dividers to house the artists. **PFM Haldeman** reiterated that everything brought up was clearly described in the lease agreement as their responsibility. **GM Fuzie** has tasked **PFM Haldeman** to find a firm that will do an evaluation on what the appropriate lease would be, and on top of that, to establish what the property value and replacement value of the building would be since those services would be provided by the same vendor. **PFM Haldeman** has contacted four different companies so far but has only heard back from one that said they were not interested. He will continue to pursue this to get numbers, both for CAPRI/insurance as well as for our own benefit in case we opt to modify the lease, so that we have justification to back up an increase in our rates. The Committee and staff discussed potential highest and best use of the property, whether the Board should decide to keep and repurpose the building or not. A recurring suggestion was to use the property for pickleball courts and a group picnic area.

Action: No Committee action was taken, but the following suggestions were made:

- If PFM Haldeman does not get a response from the three firms discussed above, he could query CSDA or CARPD for recommended firms to assess the Bothwell building. CMAS is also an option. GM Fuzie could query other GMs of other districts.
- Whatever LARPD decides to do with the property/building, the BOTHWELL name must stay.

7. Program Updates (to include Aquatics Programs: Classes at both pools, teams, etc.)

Community Services Manager (CSM) Jill Kirk thanked **Recreation Supervisor (RS) Patrick Lucky** and the Aquatics staff for all their hard work during the pandemic and recently to get the May Nissen Aquatic Center and pool to where it is today. Being open year-round is a huge benefit to the community.

The Committee received an update on summer programs at the Robert Livermore Aquatic Center (RLAC) and May Nissen Aquatic Center from **RS Lucky**. He made the following announcements:

- a) The May Nissen Aquatic Center is open year-round, due in large part to the addition of partnerships with two new swim teams, the Livermore Aqua Cowboys, and the Ruby Hill Aquatics Club, both with over 200 swimmers. This has been a driving force our aquatics program within the last year.

- b) The May Nissen Aquatic Center is offering swim lessons in the fall for underprivileged kids, especially those from Marilyn and Junction Schools. With both pools open, we can offer more scholarship-based lessons for the community.
- c) Branching into the school district, RS Lucky has been teaching Lifeguard Training classes at the school. Holding these classes at the school district means we don't have to take classrooms away from our own programs or cancel Water Exercise or Lap Swim to get pool time. Lifeguarding costs have been reduced from \$250/class to \$100/class. We have already hired on 14 people from those classes.
- d) This summer we are going to be expanding our swim lesson program at May Nissen. In conjunction with the LARPD Foundation, scholarships for swim lessons will be available to the community kids.
- e) School parties are back. Jackson Avenue will be using the RLAC, and Marilyn Avenue will hold its end of the year school party at May Nissen Swim Center.
- f) By popular demand, we are bringing back Late-Night Swims at the RLAC every Friday night, also known as "Friday Night Hot Nights".
- g) Before COVID, new hires for Aquatics staff were between 65-75 employees; summer of 2021 was at 40 employees. We still have a significant number to get to in order to offer more lessons.
- h) The Café is now open. The Business Services Department will now run this, not Aquatics. Administrative Assistant Michelle Newbould will be working closely with RS Patrick Lucky, RS Joseph Benjamin, and RS Vicki Wiedenfeld to manage the Café. They will offer packaged foods at both locations – May Nissen and the RLCC. If successful, we will consider whether we want to continue the operation in the fall.
- i) The Aquatics Program will be receiving two awards from the American Red Cross for a gold standard in teaching First Aid, CPR and Lifeguard Training classes and providing Swim Lessons.

Action: The Committee suggested that CSM Kirk and/or RS Lucky give a presentation to the full Board so that they may hear about what has been happening in Aquatics and recognize the Aquatics team. CSM Kirk added that, with the help of Community Outreach Supervisor David Weisgerber, a video similar to that created for Open Space will be done featuring the Recreation team including Aquatics, Sports and Facilities, etc.

8. Directors' Reports and Announcements

- a) Chair Faltings will be present at the LARPD Foundation fundraiser Wine Down in the Grove on Saturday, May 21st.
- b) Director Palajac asked Executive Assistant Linda Van Buskirk to show the group how the Blue Sky Timer works. This application can be customized with the District Logo and used in future committee and Board meetings during Public Comment periods and/or whenever a timer feature would be useful.
- c) Director Palajac announced that The Patch ran a story about a vegetation fire on May 16th near Ravenswood. CSM Kirk will check in with Ranger Doug Sousa to get more details on what the rangers know about it.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

/lvb