

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

**Thursday, June 17, 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, Jeffrey Schneider, Jill Kirk, David Weisgerber, Joseph Benjamin, Julie Dreher, Linda VanBuskirk, Megan Shannon, Nancy Blair, Patrick Lucky, Vicki Wiedenfeld

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 May 20, 2021:**
The minutes of May 20, 2021 were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.
4. **Ravenswood Historic Site and the Ravenswood Progress League:**
General Manager Fuzie led a discussion on the history and current status of the Ravenswood Progress League volunteers and their part in programming at the Ravenswood Historic Site. They are LARPD volunteers, but somewhat of a hybrid. They've been trained specifically in providing tours at Ravenswood – the grounds, facility, and their history, and supporting Ravenswood through fundraising events. The RPL was a 501(c)(3) but lost its standing. The group is working to get that standing back. The IRS form requires LARPD to concur that RPL is providing a benefit to a public agency in order to be a 501©(3). This has not yet been requested.

No Committee action was taken; however, the following action items were suggested before the Committee can make a recommendation to the Board:

Action Items:

- The goal at Ravenswood is to have a balanced program that honors the historic aspect of the site, while utilizing other areas for programming such as weddings, Senior activities, and Open Space programs. A new Open Space Interpreter has been hired, and this position will help facilitate more programming at Ravenswood.
 - Could LARPD partner with others, such as winery groups?
 - Could rental tents be erected for program instead of using the buildings on site?
 - Prior to COVID, the RPL gave Ravenswood Historic Site tours on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Coming out of COVID, there is currently a lot of demand for wedding facilities regionally. LARPD staff will work with the RPL to coordinate programming on those Sundays based on District priorities.
- Both the Program and Facilities Committees must discuss priorities at Ravenswood. LARPD does not own Ravenswood – it is owned by city of Livermore and LARPD operates it under an agreement which should be brought to the Program and Facilities Committees for dissection.
- Member Furst advised that there is an existing plan to expand the parking lot on the south side of the current lot toward Wetmore. This could increase parking to twice its current size. If the goal is to increase programming at Ravenswood, do we want to spend the time, money, and energy to expand the lot, paved with additional spots?
- Committee members asked Staff to provide a breakdown of how many events have been held at Ravenswood [historically/pre-COVID]; how many of those events have been weddings; how much revenue is realized from the various events and what the expenses have been. This must be quantified so the Board has a clear picture moving forward to discuss whether LARPD wants to continue to operate and maintain Ravenswood, or if the City should take it back.
- The facility matrix will be instrumental during the upcoming Board Retreat so that the Board may review and consider the feasibility of owning, operating, and programming these facilities.

5. Recreation Update: Aquatics/Recreation/Facility Rentals:

GM Fuzie and Recreation Department Manager Allie Ikeda provided an update on Aquatics and the use of punch passes.

Aquatics Coordinator Patrick Lucky shared his screen and Recreation Department Manager Ikeda reported on a wide variety of sports and fitness programs highlighted in the current issue of the “Rec Gazette – Summer 2021.” Program information can be viewed, and people may register on the website at LARPD.org

Recreation Supervisor Vicki Wiedenfeld provided an update on booking basketball, baseball and softball tournaments. She is also assisting the public with picnic reservations at May Nissen, Independence, Hagemann and Big Trees Parks.

Recreation Supervisor Joseph Benjamin provided an update to the Committee on facility rentals.

No Committee action was taken; however, the following action items were suggested:

Action Items:

- Committee Chair Palajac commented on the online information provided by the aquatic centers at the City of Pleasanton, City of Dublin and City of San Ramon and recommended that Staff research those sites to compare aquatics offerings. The Committee further recommended that LARPD set its fees on the low side of its competitors.
- Recreation Department Manager Ikeda acknowledged the need to provide a robust and diverse lap swim and punch pass program to the community.
- Member Furst asked Staff to keep the Program Committee in the loop with a heads up before an announcement goes out to the public regarding changes to the punch pass system.
- Member Furst asked for a report to come before the Program Committee regarding all the different programs that offer drop-in passes.
- Recreation Supervisor Vicki Wiedenfeld to speak to GM Fuzie about sending an email to all Board members announcing that the 2021 Little League World Series has been canceled in this area due to the increase in COVID-19 cases.

6. COVID-19 Program Updates:

Business Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider provided an update on re-opening the RLCC and new signage for the public advising “We’re wearing masks for your protection, and we hope you will do the same.” He further reported that the state legislators have pursued and successfully established a \$100million fund targeted toward special districts. LARPD may submit requests against that fund. Staff will work to capture reimbursable items.

Community Outreach Supervisor David Weisgerber gave an update to the Committee on transitioning Senior classes back indoors, although some participants have given feedback that they would like to remain virtually. The senior lunch program [curbside pick-up version] has moved from the front of the RLCC to the Loyola parking lot area near the Community Garden for less of an impact as the RLCC opens again. Open Heart Kitchen anticipates moving indoors in August/September, depending upon COVID-19 conditions and restrictions for congregate dining.

Community Services Manager Jill Kirk provided an update on ESS, Preschool and Open Space camps. She also discussed closures at Sycamore Grove Park due to extreme fire hazard and email notifications to the Board.

No committee action was taken.

7. Directors’ Reports and Announcements:

- a) Director Furst asked if LARPD will be opening the RLCC as a cooling center, and if so, how will the public be informed? Committee Chair Palajac responded that it has been open since yesterday, and she had received notification from Constant Contact plus it is posted on social media.

- b) Chair Palajac shared a question she has seen on social media, which is, “Why does the RLCC Cooling Center close at 5:00 p.m., when its usually hottest later in the afternoon, and that’s when the state is proposing blackouts? Ms. Ikeda responded that we close at 5:00 p.m. due to the current staffing situation. LARPD can look into extending the hours this summer once we are able to hire additional staff.
- c) Director Furst announced that Juneteenth, the holiday commemorating the end of slavery by marking the day enslaved people in Texas learned they were free, is now a federal holiday. The East Bay Regional Park District has decided that June 19th will be a free entry day for all its parks. He asked if LARPD would consider opening Sycamore Grove Park this Saturday as a free day, advertising that it is in honor of Juneteenth, and consider that going forward too.
 - Ms. Kirk will check with GM Fuzie this.

8. Adjournment: Committee Chair Palajac adjourned the meeting at 3:07 p.m.