

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

2:00 PM

Via Zoom Webinar

Committee Members Present: David Furst, Jan Palajac

Staff Present: Mat Fuzie, Patricia Lord, Jeffrey Schneider, Jill Kirk, Allie Ikeda, Fred Haldeman, Julie Dreher, Natalie Kaaiawahia, Stacey Kenison, Patrick Lucky, Michelle Newbould, Linda VanBuskirk, Vicki Wiedenfeld

Members of the Public Present: None

1. Call to Order:

Director Furst 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 Facilities committee Meeting held on January 23, 2020 and February 27, 2020

The minutes of January 23, 2020 and February 27, 2020 were approved as submitted by unanimous vote.

4. Park Hours of Operation and Recommended Amendments to Ordinance No. 8 Section 301:

The Committee received a report by Assistant General Manager Patricia Lord regarding proposed amendments to the District's Rules and Regulations (Ordinance No. 8) concerning hours of operation. AGM Lord stated the current hours of operation have caused safety concerns with park use after dark and inconsistent practices throughout the park system. Additionally, staff recommended the Board consider an amendment to the current Rules and Regulations related to retractable dog leashes due to safety issues occurring with dogs on retractable leashes while on park trails shared with pedestrians, bicycles and equestrians. Timing for

consideration by the full Board was discussed due to the current pandemic and shelter in place order.

Committee questions/comments included: Clarification to the closing time, i.e. 10:00 p.m. vs. 10:30 p.m. plus “as permitted”; timing preference is to hold the public hearings during the June meetings; changes to leash requirements may be a longer process in order to work in conjunction with the City and its leash law.

- Staff will continue forward with drafting the hours of operation for presentation to the full Board.
- Dog leash issue will be a separate item.

5. Trail Etiquette Signs

GM Fuzie reported that the District has received multiple complaints regarding the way people have been treating each other on Open Space trails due to the increased volume of visitors. There is a need for a creative way to teach the public about trail etiquette.

The Committee questions/comments included: Use of videos similar to those Ranger Amy has been producing; there is already an abundance of signs at entrances and throughout the parks; the message may be relayed via the LARPD website; training for Rangers on enforcement of social distancing requirements with assistance from police or sheriff, if needed.

- Humorous signage to be placed in Open Space
- Reminders of social distancing to be placed on LARPD website

6. LARPD Aquatics in light of USA Swimming

GM Fuzie and Recreation Department Manager Alexandra Ikeda reported that LARPD is in receipt of the USA Swimming’s guidance plan for re-opening of aquatics facilities in a way that promotes physical and mental health opportunities compliant with public health directives. The guidelines are provided to assist in the development of a Facility Use Plan to be shared with local public health officials and facility operators. Aquatics Supervisor Patrick Lucky will act as the COVID-19 liaison on the pool deck to ensure that physical distancing and other safety practices are followed.

- The Committee recommended bringing this item to the next full Board meeting to hear details about the program with financial information included.

7. Trash Management in Park System

AGM Lord provided a report on plans to implement operational efficiencies in managing trash collection and promote “Pack it In -- Pack it Out” efforts throughout the District’s parks, trails and open space areas. This includes discontinuation of dog waste bags and removal of “Mutt Mitt” stations throughout the parks system. GM Fuzie clarified that the District has an existing program for replacement of receptacles, and staff has suggested changes including ways to address the economics within that program.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed trash receptacle designs, cost estimates, safety factors, and draft Marketing information as a public information campaign.

This item will be presented to the full Board.

- The Committee suggested that cost estimates for each receptacle design be included in Attachment A when presented to the full Board.
- The Committee suggested that information regarding the anticipated timing of how and when this program will be implemented, should the full Board approve it, should be included in the report.

8. Update on Mowing Schedule

At the request of Director Furst, Acting Parks and Facilities Manager Fred Haldeman provided a verbal update on mowing in the parks.

- ✓ Mr. Haldeman’s email to Director Furst was regarding Sycamore Grove and Holdener specifically. Both the contract work as well as staff work has been completed there.
- ✓ Mowing work throughout the remainder of the parks has been caught up and is back on schedule.

Jill Kirk, Community Services Manager, provided further information on Sycamore Grove Park (SGP) and Holdener Park as follows:

- ✓ Working from a May 1st deadline, mowing has been completed at the backside of SGP, all SGP firebreaks, all SGP shoulders of major trails, all SGP single tracks, Wetmore Road, Nature Area parking lot, all Holdener firebreaks, all of Holdener shoulders of major trails, all Holdener single tracks, and the Arroyo and Wetmore parking lots. As Mr. Haldeman stated, some smaller areas may need removing as the grass continues to grow. Park Rangers will continue maintenance/mowing as needed.

- In response to Director Furst's question about the Cattail Pond Loop Trail at SGP going counterclockwise and appearing to be mowed on only one side rather than both sides of the trail, Ms. Kirk will check with Ranger staff to find out the extent of mowing completed there, and will report back.
- In response to Chair Palajac's question about the use of goats in the Arroyo Mocho near the disc golf area, Mr. Haldeman stated the goats are scheduled to begin next Friday. LARPD met recently with representatives from Living Arroyos and Zone 7 Water Agency to address the delicate areas within the arroyo where new plantings, trees, and shrubs should not be accessible to the goats.

9. Matters Initiated

- a) Please provide an update on the pickleball restriping. (See Facilities Committee Minutes from January 23, 2020.) [Palajac] – *GM Fuzie responded that this item has been placed on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic and shelter in place orders. Once cleared for re-opening, this item will be revisited during a Facilities Committee meeting with estimated budget figures for this project.*
 - Mr. Haldeman to report on this item at an upcoming Facilities Committee meeting.
- b) Please provide an update on efforts to ensure that those who respond to local 911 calls have documentation on the LARPD trails. (See Facilities Committee Minutes from February 27, 2020.) [Palajac] – *GM Fuzie responded that this item was discussed during a recent Intergovernmental Liaison Committee meeting. The City of Livermore has accepted the responsibility for this project and will work through the 911 dispatch system.*
- c) Please provide a status on drafting the rental agreement for Livermore Downtown, Inc. to occupy the lower level of the Carnegie Building. (See Facilities Committee Minutes from February 27, 2020) [Palajac]
 - ASM Schneider will work with his team to draft a month-to-month agreement.
- d) At the Veterans' Park area within Sycamore Grove Park, there are signs in the ground with donor names in front of some of the trees. Who put them there? Why are they there? [Palajac] Chair Palajac stated these signs belong closer to the bridge vs. inside Veterans' Park.
 - Director Furst explained that he spoke with Laura Mercier, Executive Director of the Tri-Valley Conservancy. She has been working with the Rangers to place those signs acknowledging people that gave at least \$5,000 to help build the bridge. Ms. Kirk will call Ms. Mercier to discuss location.
- e) Please provide a status on Shade Structures at various parks. (See Facilities Committee Minutes from January 23, 2020) [Furst]
- f) Stacey Kenison, Marketing and Public Information Officer, announced that LARPD will receive an Award of Distinction from the California Association of

Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) for **Outstanding Renovated Facility** for May Nissen Park. Recognition will take place at the CARPD virtual event in May.

- g) Administrative Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider reported that the solar project is moving forward. Approval of the lease documents will be on the City of Livermore's City Council agenda in June.
- h) ASM Schneider suggested that an item regarding the Michell ESS building(s) be placed on an upcoming Facilities Committee agenda.
- i) ASM Schneider stated the Sunset playground project is back in business.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.