



Livermore Area  
Recreation and Park District  
*An independent special district*

**LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT**  
**REGULAR MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**DRAFT MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022**

7:00 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), members of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District Board of Directors and staff participated in this meeting via teleconference (Zoom). In the interest of maintaining proper social distancing, members of the public also participated in this meeting electronically.*

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Directors David Furst, Jan Palajac, Philip Pierpont, Vice Chair James Boswell, and Chair Maryalice Faltings

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mathew Fuzie, Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider, Jill Kirk, Celene Resong, Julie Dreher, Linda VanBuskirk, Megan Shannon, Patrick Lucky

**GENERAL COUNSEL:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Amy Gile, David Lunn, Virginia Miner

**1. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chair Faltings called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All Directors were present via Zoom. Chair Faltings led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**David Lunn** addressed the Board regarding the desire of the Sons in Retirement (SIR) group to have a guided hike on the Patterson Ranch Trail.

**Virginia Miner** addressed the Board regarding the equestrian facilities at Robertson Park. The arenas have been locked for about two years. She will leave her contact information for General Manager Fuzie so they may discuss LARPD's plans for these equestrian facilities.

**3. CONSENT ITEMS:**

- 3.1 Resolution No. 2731 determining to conduct meetings of the LARPD Board of Directors using teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code 54953 as amended by AB 361 for the period January 12, 2022 to February 11, 2022.
- 3.2 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 8, 2021
- 3.3 General Manager’s Monthly Update to the Board – January 2022
- 3.4 2022 Board Meeting Schedule
- 3.5 Resolution No. 2732 approving District Notice 0009 – Role of the Personnel Commission

**MOTION:**

Moved by Director Palajac, seconded by Director Furst, approved the Consent Agenda, by the following roll call vote:

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

**4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:**

**4.1 RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR CELENE RESONG**

The Board presented a resolution commending Celene Resong for her years of service on the District Personnel Commission. Business Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider and Human Resources Officer Megan Shannon spoke on the pleasures of working with Ms. Resong and thanked her for the many contributions she has made while serving her term on the Personnel Commission. GM Fuzie announced that Ms. Resong has transitioned into a position with LARPD as its Procurement and Contract Specialist. Ms. Resong was present at the meeting.

Chair Faltings opened public comment. There were no public comments. Chair Faltings closed the public comment period.

**RESOLUTION:**

Moved by Director Palajac, seconded by Director Pierpont, approved Resolution No. 2733, commending Celene Resong for her years of service on the District Personnel Commission, by the following roll call vote:

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

**4.2 APPOINTMENT TO THE PERSONNEL COMMISSION**

As Chair of the Personnel Committee in 2021, Director Furst thanked the three candidates who submitted letters of interest to fill the vacancy on the Personnel Commission due to Mr. Jack Roach’s term expiration in January 2022. The Personnel Committee recommends Mr. Robert E. Nuddleman.

During the Board discussion period, Chair Faltings stated that she is a strong supporter of candidate Barbara Kraybill who has decades of experience with the District.

Chair Faltings opened public comment. There were no public comments. Chair Faltings closed the public comment period.

**RESOLUTION:**

Moved by Director Boswell, seconded by Director Palajac, approved Resolution No. 2734, appointing Robert E. Nuddleman to the Personnel Commission for the 2022-2026 term, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: *Directors Pierpont, Furst, Boswell, and Palajac (4)*  
NOES: *Chair Faltings (1)*  
ABSTENTIONS: *None (0)*  
ABSENT: *None (0)*

**4.3 DIRECTOR ATTENDANCE AT 2022 CONFERENCES**

Chair Faltings stated the Board would review the list of 2022 training opportunities/conferences and discuss their desire to attend.

**DIRECTION:**

Discussion ensued regarding the desire to attend various conferences throughout 2022, with the following suggestions made:

- Director Furst expressed interest in the California Trails & Greenways conference in Modesto, depending on COVID-19, from April 27-29, 2022. He is also interested in the CSDA Annual Conference in Palm Springs in August.
- Director Palajac expressed interest in the CARPD Annual Conference in Lake Tahoe, May 18-21, 2022. She is also interested in the CSDA Annual Conference in August.
- Director Pierpont expressed interest in the California Trails & Greenways conference, depending on COVID-19.
- Chair Faltings expressed interest in the CPRS Annual Conference & Expo in Sacramento in March at the host hotel.
- Director Boswell abstained at this time, stating it is relative to the COVID-19 situation and his impending retirement from the Sheriffs Department.

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (No Action Required)**

**5.1 2022 COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Chair Faltings announced the 2022 board committee appointments which were included in the board agenda packet and made available to the public.

**5.2 GENERAL FINANCIAL UPDATE**

GM Fuzie announced that the District received \$1.2 million from the State of California's COVID Relief Fund. LARPD will receive the funds in January, 2022. Allocation of the funds will be outlined in the District's mid-year Budget update. Business Services Manager Jeffrey Schneider advised the Board that financial results through November show the District continues to perform well

versus the original Budget in terms of revenue as well as in expense control. He highlighted the noteworthy accuracy of ESS' planning during such uncertain times and that the group is now exceeding the Budget in terms of revenue and net operating contribution, that field, gym, and facility rentals are improving versus Budget, and personnel costs continue to be favorable versus budget for the District as a whole. The impact of the District's pension obligation bonds (POBs) on ACERA expenses continues as expected and the District's use of casual staff is less than Budget but in line with program-driven needs. We will be making our annual principal payment of \$660k for the POBs in late January, which will more than offset the year-to-date ACERA savings, though those savings will continue and, for entire fiscal year the impact of the POB debt service will almost exactly be offset by the 10 months of ACERA savings we will realize this year. Regarding the District's General Fund, he reported that the unplanned/unbudgeted expense of for the Trevarno Sewer Assessment District of approximately \$460k will offset much of the District's year-to-date favorable variance in net operating results, which are \$537k better than Budget through November.

The Board of Directors had no comments or questions. This was information only and no Board action was taken.

### **5.3 COVID-19 PROGRAM UPDATES**

GM Fuzie reported that both he and Chair Faltings attended the Alameda County Chapter of the California Special Districts Association (ACSDA) membership meeting earlier today. The group received a presentation from Dr. Nicholas Moss, the Alameda County Public Health Officer, entitled "COVID-19 Update." Dr. Moss reported that the Omicron variant is moving very quickly through the population and has not yet reached its peak regarding the daily case rate or hospitalizations. It has been stated that this Omicron variant is not as severe as the Delta variant and the original COVID-19 strain. LARPD itself has been hit very hard in the offices both this week and last due to the rapid spread, with 18 individuals affected, either testing positive or having to quarantine due to having proximity to somebody who tested positive. If the situation gets any worse, we will consider shutting down some facilities. Managers and supervisors are doing a good job determining which of their individual programs may continue and which cannot. It is a good thing that we did not lift the general emergency declaration because we may need to act quickly both as a General Manager and as a Board during the next few weeks if the situation does not improve dramatically.

Chair Faltings added that Dr. Moss stressed the importance of wearing a properly fitted mask.

Director Furst added that Dr. Moss mentioned that last week the daily case rate was 114 per 100,000 and this week the case rate is 200 per 100,000, and made the comment that he expects everybody to be infected with the Omicron variant at some point.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- a) Chair Faltings reported her attendance, along with Director Palajac, at the January 6, 2022 Facilities Committee meeting. The agenda was included in the Board meeting agenda packet.

- b) Director Pierpont reported his attendance, along with Director Boswell, at the December 20, 2021 Finance Committee meeting. The meeting notes were included in the Board meeting agenda packet.
- c) Director Furst reported his attendance, along with Director Boswell, at the December 14, 2021 Personnel Committee meeting. The meeting notes were included in the Board meeting agenda packet. The three candidates applying for the Personnel Commission were reviewed.
- d) Director Palajac reported her attendance, along with Director Furst, at the December 16, 2021 Program Committee meeting. The meeting notes were included in the Board meeting agenda packet.
- e) Director Furst reported his attendance at the January 5, 2022 Chamber of Commerce Business Alliance meeting.
- f) Director Furst reported that the January 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Livermore Cultural Arts Council was canceled.
- g) Director Palajac reported her attendance at the December 14, 2021 Livermore Downtown, Inc. meeting. At this meeting they brought in two new board members.

## **7. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS**

- a) Director Furst asked for clarification regarding the Board meeting scheduled for January 26, 2022. It was originally set as a Board Retreat on that date. GM Fuzie explained that it was changed from a Board Retreat back to a Regular Board Meeting given the meeting in person restrictions and the desire of most board members to continue meeting virtually due to the rapid spread of Omicron at this time.
- b) Director Palajac asked about small signs placed at Sycamore Grove Park due to defacing of certain sycamore trees and broken branches caused by people climbing on them. She then noticed that some of the trees appeared to be carved into. She strongly encouraged bringing public awareness to that situation to stop it. Community Services Manager Jill Kirk confirmed that Ranger Doug Sousa advised that the rangers have been seeing more of this activity. An educational campaign will be pushed out onto social media to remind the public that it is unhealthy for the trees to be defaced in this manner. GM Fuzie stated that the addition of a Resource Ranger will be helpful in the education and enforcement regard. This is working its way through the system. He commended Open Space staff for being proactive.
- c) Chair Faltings reported on the January 10, 2022 LARPD Foundation meeting. The Foundation is financially relatively healthy with \$98k in the account. New officers were elected:
  - i. President: Steve Goodman
  - ii. Vice President: Bill Whalen
  - iii. Treasurer: Jill Fracisco
  - iv. Secretary: Stacey Kenison
- d) Director Boswell spoke regarding the need for a Board Retreat relative to strategic planning. He commented that given the current revenue stream coming in from program and the tax base, there is not enough to cover deferred maintenance costs related to 47+ parks and other areas the District is responsible for as we move forward. He stressed the importance of strategic planning at the Board level to discuss these issues along with potential solutions and recommendations in detail. He commended the Board

and staff for resolving the UAAL issue last year, which was a monumental achievement by all parties. GM Fuzie advised that we have opportunities within our plan to discuss these at length with the Board within our Reserve Policy and our pricing schedules, activity guides, and on the various committees. If the Board has a direction that it wants to move or go, we will certainly go in that direction. We are discussing with our partner agencies big pictures issues such as revenue sharing or parcel taxes.

**8. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER**

GM Fuzie made the following announcements:

- a) At today's ACSDA membership meeting, the CSDA representative mentioned that we are now members of the National Special Districts Coalition. On February 23, 2022 there will be a video conference to spell out funding/grants available on a national level. LARPD will track that and ensure that somebody attends on our behalf.
- b) GM Fuzie will prepare thank you letters for the legislators involved in the disbursement of COVID-19 relief money for special districts and will discuss these with the Board Chair.
- c) LARPD hosted a vaccine clinic today in partnership with the school district.
- d) Recreation Department Manager Alexandra Ikeda has accepted a new position as Parks Director at the City of American Canyon. GM Fuzie thanked Ms. Ikeda, in absentia, for her contributions to LARPD over her five-year tenure with the District.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

APPROVED,

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Maryalice Faltings  
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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

/lvb