



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, MAY 29, 2024

5:00 P.M.

ROBERT LIVERMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
4444 EAST AVENUE, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA
SYCAMORE ROOM

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: David Weisgerber, Community Outreach Supervisor (COS)
Fred Haldeman, Parks & Facilities Manager (PFM)
Jill Kirk, Community Services Manager (CSM)
Julie Dreher, Finance Officer (FO)
Kendahl Hettick, Financial Analyst (FA)
Linda VanBuskirk, Executive Assistant (EA)
Mathew Fuzie, General Manager (GM)
Patrick Lucky, Recreation Supervisor, Aquatics (RSA)
Rene Venus Dalusong, Executive Assistant (EA)

OTHERS PRESENT: Joel Waxdeck, City Engineer, City of Livermore (CE)
Kevin Duffus, Special Projects Coordinator, City of Livermore
Public Member Marlo DiPietro

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

Chair Furst called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All Directors were present.
Chair Furst led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: Marlo DiPietro, a Livermore resident, addressed the Board regarding considering more bat boards to practice tennis in sports facilities in Livermore.

Chair Furst directed the Facilities Committee to discuss and follow up on Marlo DiPietro's request.

There was no further public comment. Chair Furst closed the public comment period.

3. CONSENT ITEMS:

3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on May 8, 2024;

Chair Furst noted the May 8 meeting minutes had corrections and requested further explanation. EA VanBuskirk explained that Director Palajac provided corrections on the May 8 meeting minutes which were captured in the redlined version on pages 5 and 6.

MOTION:

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Palajac, approved the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting on May 8, 2024, as revised, by the following voice vote:

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

4. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

4.1 Discussion and Direction Regarding Springtown Open Space Improvements

The Board received a presentation update from CE Joel Waxdeck regarding the Springtown Open Space Improvements. CE Waxdeck discussed the following:

- Project Background
 - April 2023 Community Meeting
 - Disc golf course
 - Community park in the south
 - Pickleball courts in south or Marlin Pound Park
 - Programmed Project Design in 2023-2028 Capital Improvement Plan.
 - Hired Consultant
 - Developed Conceptual Plans
 - Started Initial Study
- Conceptual Plans/Amenities
 - Open Space
 - 18-hole Disc Golf Course
 - Accessible road crossings
 - Kiosks – educate people about environment
 - Additional benches with shade

- Marlin Pound Park
CE Waxdeck noted that if court noise becomes an issue, the City can install soundproofing.
 - Four pickleball courts
 - Fit within two tennis courts
 - New half-court basketball

- Park in South
CE Waxdeck noted the Homeowners Association (HOA) was working on renovating the pool. Moreover, the south end are preliminary conceptual plans with the goal in working with LARPD and the city's consultant to finalize details.
 - Community garden
 - Playgrounds for various ages
 - Multigenerational plaza
 - Shade structures
 - Multipurpose field and lawn area
 - Temporary parking lot
 - Restrooms
 - Outdoor classroom

- The park design accommodates contemplated future community center and library expansion.
CE Waxdeck noted the City would like to work with LARPD for the conceptual plans for the future community center and library expansion.
 - Temporary parking during expansion then moved to the front lawn
 - Currently not budgeted
 - Add 3-4 berm and trees behind the library to provide neighborhood privacy

- Project Budget
 - Total Project Cost: \$8,000,000
 - Funding primarily from Park Fees. Does not impact Park Facilities Fee Reimbursements to LARPD.

- Schedule and Next Steps
 - LARPD Board Meeting
 - May 29, 2024
 - Community Meeting
 - June 2024
 - CEQA and Project Entitlement
 - Obtain Summer 2024
 - Planning Commission
 - City Council
 - 18-hole Disc Golf Course
 - Fall 2024
 - Community Park Adjacent to Library
 - Summer 2025

Director Comments/Questions:

- a) Director Pierpont was glad to see the city was working on this project and had the following suggestion and question.
 1. Suggested a bigger lawn/green area at the south end for multiple sports activities/games. *[CE Waxdeck – yes, the lawn area could be expanded in the future for sports activities].*
 2. Questioned the stretch of light green area next to the HOA property. The area could be used for additional parking. *[CE Waxdeck – it's currently a buffer. However, could be a future skatepark or basketball courts].*
 3. Suggested a shorter quarter round option for disc golf course. *[CE Waxdeck – will discuss the option with the disc group].*
- b) Director Boswell attended the city's community meetings regarding Springtown Open Space and had some follow-up questions from that meeting. He inquired:
 1. Was fencing resolved for homes that backed up to the open space? *[CE Waxdeck – No, the City will not provide fencing due to property line issues. The City will be prepared to answer for future fencing issues].*
 2. Will the pool be maintained by the HOA and open to the public? How is the City handling this matter? *[CE Waxdeck – The pool is private property and owned by the HOA. The HOA Vice President is currently obtaining quotes for redoing the pool and working with the City Building Official. The City is interested in having an agreement with the HOA to update the parking lot and small trail leading up to the park.*
 3. Community Gardens location may not be ideal due to the limited parking.
 4. Will the Library be torn down and be replaced with a new building? *[CE Waxdeck – the plan is to tear down the old library and build a new and bigger library and try to combine a community facility].* Is Ben Barrientos comfortable with this plan? *[CE Waxdeck – yes].*
- c) Director Palajac was pleased with the City proceeding with the project and had questions.
 1. Questioned if the anticipated project construction costs – funding from park fees – was this referring to AB1600? *[CE Waxdeck – Yes].* LARPD will still obtain the monies that were planned while still building the project? *[CE Waxdeck – Yes].*
 2. Community Gardens – If the expanded Library and Community Center are added, what is the impact on accessing the Community Gardens? *[CE Waxdeck – The City will set-up temporary/alternate access into the community gardens].*
 3. Are there plans for a second phase and what are they? *[CE Waxdeck – second major project is still far off. LARPD and the City can discuss what is next or expand another portion of the park].*
- d) Director Faltings is pleased to see this project moving forward.
- e) Director Furst had a few inquiries.
 1. Is there anything else the City needs from LARPD? *[CE Waxdeck is working with LARPD staff on maintenance, replacement, and programming on the park; and working on costs and will bring to*

another board meeting for a recommendation; City putting up capital; maintenance on open space/LARPD park maintenance; replacement amount at \$30,000].

2. Does the City envision collaborating with the HOA after the pool is renovated to provide life lifeguards for the pool? [CE Waxdeck – the City has no desire in maintaining the pool. It would be a great scenario if the HOA works with LARPD with programming].
- f) GM Fuzie reminded the Board regarding the Master Property Agreement with the City. Would the Board accept this project with LARPD operating and maintenance, programming, and day-to-day facility maintenance? The Master Property Agreement spells out any capital improvements will be borne by the owner. Before the City moves forward, are we going to operate the park?
- g) Chair Furst asked if the Board is on board to operate the park?
1. Director Pierpont supports the project that will benefit the community.
 2. Director Boswell supports the project, however reiterated his concerns about the details and mitigating the problems. However, still supports the projects.
 3. Director Palajac supports the project and agrees with Director Pierpoint in ensuring the space is programmable.
 4. Director Faltings supports the project.
 5. Director Furst supports the project and suggested a sports field in the conceptual plans.

ACTION:

No Board action was taken at this time.

- CE Waxdeck received sufficient comments. He will incorporate the Board's suggestions, consult with City Engineering staff, and then present them at a subsequent District Board meeting.
- Director Furst suggested GM Fuzie to provide status updates on the Springtown Open Space Improvements project during Board meetings.

4.2 Public Hearing: Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Final Operating and CIP Budget

The Board considered approving the District's Fiscal year 2024-2025 Final Operating and CIP Budget. (Public Hearing and Resolution).

GM Fuzie introduced the final budget draft at the May 13, 2024, Finance Committee meeting. There was a recommendation to approve and meet with each director to discuss the budget. However, GM Fuzie was only able to meet with Chair Furst to discuss the budget.

This year, there was a different budget process: staff budget review/process; Board Budget Workshop in March; May 29th Final budget review to allow concerns/corrections from the Board; and meet July budget deadline.

The District's operating budget for FY24-25 will result in a positive net contribution of \$136,893. The projected surplus is based on the needs of the program and conservative estimates on revenues.

FA Hettick provided a brief background on how the water expense numbers were budgeted, salary and benefit assumptions, and CIP Project spending.

GM Fuzie provided a brief on the Reserves Trend through June 2025.

Recommendation: Staff recommended that the Board of Directors approve the District's Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Final Operating and CIP Budget.

Director Questions/Comments:

- a) Chair Furst asked about Item 2 in the CIP Budget Highlights. Item 2 mentions the Cayetano synthetic turf replacement will be completed in the FY 23-24, however, it is mentioned again on the CIP Project Spending View as "Not Yet Begun"? *[GM Fuzie – the project is underway but began after the agenda packet was printed].*
- b) Chair Furst asked about Item 3 in the CIP Budget Highlights. Item 3 mentions "...Sycamore Picnic Area Restroom and Amphitheater.", however, it is mentioned as "Restroom at Sycamore Picnic Area" in the CIP Project Spending View and does not mention the Amphitheater. *[FA Hettick – in the CIP Project Spending View they are noted as two separate projects].*
- c) Director Faltings asked if we are putting more money in the reserves? *[GM Fuzie – we are ensuring we do not have too much].*

Public Hearing: A public hearing was held to receive public comment. Chair Furst opened public comment. No public comments were received. Chair Furst closed the public comment period.

RESOLUTION:

Moved by Director Pierpont, seconded by Director Faltings, adopted Resolution no. 2808 approving the Final Operating and CIP Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, by the following roll call vote:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| AYES: | <i>Directors Palajac, Boswell, Pierpont, Faltings, Furst (5)</i> |
| NOES: | <i>None (0)</i> |
| ABSTENTIONS: | <i>None (0)</i> |
| ABSENT: | <i>None (0)</i> |

4.3 Renew Special Tax 97-1 and Set the Rate for Fiscal year 2024-2025

The Board considered adopting a resolution to renew Special Tax 97-1 and set the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) rate at \$39.42 for Fiscal year 2024-2025 (Resolution).

Recommendation: Staff recommended that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution to renew Special Tax 97-1 and set the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) rate at \$39.42 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, a 2%, or \$0.77 increase per EDU over the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 rate of \$38.65.

Director Questions/Comments:

- a) Director Faltings noted that in the past the District was constrained to raise the percentage to 2%. [*FO Dreher – yes, we are proposing raising to 2% for this year*].
- b) Chair Furst inquired if the Board had ever voted against the increase. [*FO Dreher – does not recall the Board ever voting against the increase*].

Public Comment: Chair Furst opened public comment. No public comments were received. Chair Furst closed the public comment period.

RESOLUTION:

Moved by Director Palajac, seconded by Director Faltings, adopted Resolution no. 2809, authorizing renewal of Special Tax 97-1 and setting the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) rate at \$39.42 for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, by the following roll call vote:

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

4.4 Establishing the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Appropriations Limit

The Board considered approving a resolution establishing the Fiscal year 2024-2025 Annual Appropriations Limit at \$28,953,116 (Resolution).

Recommendation: Staff recommended that the Board of Directors adopt a resolution establishing the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Appropriations Limit at \$28,953,116.

The Board had no further questions or comments.

Public Comment: Chair Furst opened public comment. No public comments were received. Chair Furst closed the public comment period.

RESOLUTION:

Moved by Director Pierpont, seconded by Director Palajac, adopted Resolution no. 2810, establishing the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Annual Appropriations Limit at \$28,953,116, by the following roll call vote:

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

4.5 LARDP Contributions to the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association 401(h) Sub-Account for Retirees' Medical for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

The Board considered authorizing funding of LARPD's contribution to the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association 401(h) Sub-Account for Retirees' Medical for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year

Director Questions/Comments:

- a) Chair Furst inquired the number of employees that are currently working or will be in the system when they retire? [*FO Dreher – 36 employees*].

Public Comment: Chair Furst opened public comment. No public comments were received. Chair Furst closed the public comment period.

RESOLUTION:

Moved by Director Palajac, seconded by Director Faltings, adopted Resolution no. 2811, authorizing the funding of the 401(h) Sub-Account for Retirees' Medical with the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA) in the amount of \$374,274 for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025, by the following roll call vote:

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

4.6 Discussion and Direction Regarding Bothwell Recreation Center Feasibility

The Board discussed the uses for the Bothwell Center including hiring a consultant for a feasibility study and provided direction to staff.

GM Fuzie provided a verbal report and recommended obtaining a professional assessment with an outside consultant.

Director Questions/Comments:

- a) Director Faltings asked if the art group is still using the building. [*GM Fuzie – yes*].
- b) Chair Furst inquired if there is still a monthly contract with Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center. [*GM – yes*].
- c) Director Boswell commented that the item was discussed during the Facilities Committee and the committee agreed to obtaining an outside consultant.
- d) Director Faltings agrees with the recommendation.
- e) Director Palajac suggested the term "feasibility study" be replaced with "opportunities and constraints study" with rough estimates.
- f) Director Pierpont agrees with hiring an outside consultant and advises hiring with careful thought.

NEXT STEPS:

- The Board agreed to hiring a consultant for an opportunities and constraints study for Bothwell Center uses. The Board directed staff to return to a future meeting with consultant recommendations and cost analyses sometime in July or August.

4.7 Discussion and Direction Regarding the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule

The Board considered revising the 2024 Board Meeting Schedule to reschedule the June 19, 2024, Public Meeting in the Park, which is a District holiday.

ACTION:

- The Board agreed on rescheduling the June 19, 2024, Public Meeting in the Park to Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Director Pierpont reported on his attendance, along with Director Palajac, at the May 13, 2024, Finance Committee meeting. Its agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Operating and CIP budgets were discussed at that meeting.
- b) Director Palajac reported her attendance, along with Director Furst, at the May 13, 2024, Personnel Committee meeting. Its agenda was included in the Board agenda packet. The employee public comments from the April 24, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting were discussed at that meeting.
- c) Director Pierpont did not report his attendance at the May 21, 2024, Livermore Downtown, Inc. meeting due to the Street Fest event happening in May. The Street Fest event went well. Director Pierpoint will provide an update at the next Board meeting.
- d) Director Palajac reported on her attendance at the May 20, 2024, Alameda County Agricultural Subcommittee for Trails meeting. At that meeting, a draft presentation regarding the opening of the South Bay Aqueduct from 580 to Mines Road was reviewed before presenting to Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan.

6. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS

- a) Director Palajac reported she was approached by the pickle ball group regarding adding stripping on tennis courts.
 - Director Furst directed the Facilities Committee to follow-up on the request.
- b) Director Pierpont commented about the temperature in the Sycamore Room.
- c) Director Furst reported his attendance at the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) Conference in May. One of the meeting highlights was legislative representations.

7. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

GM Fuzie made the following announcements:

- a) Reported his attendance at the CARPD Conference and California Association for Park & Recreation Indemnity (CAPRI) meeting. The event highlights were as follows:
 - 1) CAPRD Board Meeting – updated mission statement which included quality of life statement.
 - 2) CAPRI Meeting – Rapid response – active shooter.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

APPROVED,

David Furst
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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

Lvb/rvd