

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

ROBERT LIVERMORE COMMUNITY CENTER  
4444 EAST AVENUE, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA  
7:00 P.M.  
CRESTA BLANCA BALLROOM

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Director Faltings, Director Wilson and President Goodman

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Director Hutchinson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chiye Azuma, Tim Barry, Michael Kyle, John Lawrence,  
Gretchen Sommers

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

President Goodman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All Directors were present except Director Hutchinson.

**2. PRESENTATIONS**

**2.1 DISTRICT CIP AND PLANNING ADMINISTRATION**

Landscape Architect/CIP Manager Chiye Azuma made a presentation on the District's Capital Improvement Program and Planning Administration.

The Board commended Ms. Azuma for her presentation and thanked her for her work. General Manager Tim Barry recognized Ms. Azuma's excellent work on the projects that she manages.

**3. PUBLIC FORUM**

President Goodman opened public comment.

1) Don Meeker, Livermore, who is photographing and indexing LARPD scrapbooks, spoke about how the concept of leisure was viewed in the 1940's, 50's and 60's and the different ways this affected the development and use of recreation facilities.

President Goodman thanked Mr. Meeker for his presentation. President Goodman closed public comment.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.1 BOARD MINUTES**

4.1.1 Meeting of November 9, 2011.

## **4.2 COMMUNICATIONS**

### **4.2.1 General Manager's Monthly Report (65/5).**

Moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Faltings, approved the Consent Agenda passing 3-0. Director Hutchinson absent.

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **6. BIDS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8.1 TRIAL PERIOD FOR OFF-LEASH DOG AREA IN ROBERTSON PARK**

President Goodman stated that the Board will review the results of the Trial Period for the off-leash dog area in Robertson Park and consider future use of this area by off-leash dogs.

Assistant General Manager John Lawrence summarized the staff report. He provided background on how and why the Meadow area of Robertson Park came to be used as an off-leash dog area. He reported that the 12-month trial period in the Meadow has gone very well. Mr. Lawrence reviewed some of the new projects/developments in and near Robertson Park, including a playground, loss of parking due to a housing development adjacent to the park, the development of synthetic turf fields, trail, etc. He said that CAPRI, the District's risk management provider, and District Legal Counsel have advised the District to fence the area, for liability reasons. He discussed an aerial map of the Meadow area and talked about recommendations for fencing, parking, etc. Mr. Lawrence said that the fiscal impact of new fencing, signs and a water spigot is estimated to be \$16,600, and staff will look at this during the middy-year budget review to see where we can find the funds. Staff recommends Option 1 of the five possible actions the Board could take on this matter, adding that Option 1 was recommended by the Facilities Committee, including the requirement that the area be restricted to dogs under voice control.

President Goodman and Director Faltings asked for clarification about the fencing. Director Wilson described the discussion about fencing that had occurred at the Facilities Committee meeting.

President Goodman opened public comment. He noted that the District had received many e-mails from the dog park enthusiasts and asked those people who will speak at Public Forum not to repeat what prior speakers say.

1. Mercedes Phillips, Livermore, representing the Livermore Pet Alliance (LPA), thanked the Board and staff for working with their group, especially Mr. Lawrence. She also thanked the LPA members for following the rules of use at the Meadow and said that she appreciates their participation and commitment. Ms. Phillips expressed approval of staff's recommended Option 1. She requested that the Board keep the Meadow open as an off-leash dog area, and require that dogs be required to respond to recall. She asked that, if the conditions of the park do not change, LARPD consider keeping the area unfenced.

2. Don Meeker, Livermore, said that he has a dog which cannot respond to recall because it is deaf. He asked whether the voice recall requirement is fair.
3. Stevie Linn, Livermore, clarified that recall is not necessarily voice recall and described some other ways to recall deaf dogs.
4. George spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.
5. Art, Livermore, spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.
6. Anonymous spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.
7. Wendy Morris, Livermore, spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.
8. Steven Cox, Livermore, spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.
9. Jay Morris, Livermore, spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.
10. Hope Michaelson, Livermore, spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.
11. David, Livermore, spoke in support of keeping the off-leash dog area in the Meadow.

President Goodman closed public comment.

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Wilson, that the Board approve the staff and Facilities Committee recommendation for Option 1, including the requirement that the area remain restricted to dogs under voice control or recall.

Director Wilson thanked the LPA members for bringing this matter to the District's attention, and for making the trial period work. She said that she is impressed with staff's work and planning and that they were creative and flexible and made good use of funds. Director Faltings said that the Facilities Committee had discussed this matter at length and that the Committee feels strongly that this is not just one more dog park; it is special. She added that the voice control element is very important. Director Faltings stressed the importance of the District following the recommendations of our risk manager. She complimented staff and all of the users of the Meadow; it has worked for what it is meant for. President Goodman said that he appreciates that people do not want a fence, but that we must follow CAPRI's recommendation. He added that LARPD's Camp Shelly allows dogs. Director Goodman told about the inception of LARPD dog parks.

The motion to approve the staff and Facilities Committee recommendation for Option 1, including the requirement that the area remain restricted to dogs under voice control or recall, passed 3-0. Director Hutchinson absent.

Meeting adjourned for a break at 8:10 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

## **8.2 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2012**

President Goodman stated that the Board will set the time and place for Board meetings and adopt a Meeting Schedule for 2012.

General Manager Barry summarized the staff report and said this is the Board's opportunity to comment and check staff's work. He said that this is the Board's annual organizational meeting, during which the Board needs to adopt the meeting calendar for the next year.

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Wilson, approved the Board meeting schedule for 2012, passing 3-0. Director Hutchinson absent.

## **8.3 ANNUAL BOARD POLICY MANUAL REVIEW**

President Goodman stated that the Board will discuss suggested changes to the Board Policy Manual.

General Manager Barry said that this is another item that is discussed at the annual organizational meeting. He noted that tonight the Board was given supplemental material which included updates that the Board approved last year, and which hadn't been inserted into the manual; the revisions will be incorporated in the next revised edition. Mr. Barry said that this is an opportunity for Board members to identify places in the manual that may need improvement, and to make suggestions. He said that we plan to have a Board workshop in the future to discuss a couple of areas of the manual that President Goodman and he have discussed, as well as some recommended formatting changes. The workshop will be scheduled after a new Director is in place.

Director Faltings referred to page 15, Policy No. 4040.97; she said that she felt that the language is too specific in saying, "In the case of the resignation or death of the Vice President..." Discussion ensued with the following suggestions: replacing the text with, "In the event that the VP assumes the Presidency/ascends to the office of President/ In the event of a vacancy in the office of Vice President...."

Director Faltings referred to page 23, Policy No. 5010.40; she suggested that the language referring to "its regular meeting in December" is probably a holdover from when the District held one regular and one special meeting each month. She suggested that, "the first regular meeting of the month" is more appropriate. Staff will review the manual to go through and check for similar references.

Director Faltings referred to page. 28, Policy No. 5040.21 and asked whether it is true that a member abstaining is considered absent. Discussion ensued. No revision suggested.

Director Faltings explained that the Board Policy Manual was created because, at the time, there was no District Policy Manual. She said that, now that we have a District Policy Manual, she feels it would make sense to fold the Board Policy Manual into the District Policy Manual, as a chapter perhaps. President Goodman stated that, if this is done, then the Board would have to review that specific section of the manual each year.

General Manager Barry said that we will look at the purpose of this and discuss it at the next meeting.

#### **8.4 LARPD BOARD VACANCY**

President Goodman explained that a vacancy has occurred on the LARPD Board of Directors, due to the recent election of Laureen Turner to the Livermore City Council, and that the Board will determine whether to fill the vacancy by calling a special election or by making an appointment.

General Manager Barry reviewed the staff report's analysis of the cost, process and timing of a special election vs. an appointment.

President Goodman opened public comment. No public comment. President Goodman closed public comment.

Director Faltings made a motion, seconded by Director Wilson, to approve Resolution No. 2316, announcing LARPD's intention to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors by appointment.

Director Wilson stated that, in theory, it is a better idea to hold an election so that the citizens can vote, but that the prohibitive cost and time make that unfeasible. President Goodman said that he agreed with Director Wilson. He said that he is aware that the City of Livermore and the School District have both opted to fill their current vacancies have by appointment. He said that it would be fiscally irresponsible to call an election. President Goodman stated that the Board will do the best it can in screening and interviewing applicants.

Resolution No.2316, announcing LARPD's intention to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors by appointment, was adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	<i>Faltings, Wilson and President Goodman</i>
NOES:	<i>None</i>
ABSTENTIONS:	<i>None</i>
ABSENT:	<i>Hutchinson</i>

#### **8.5 ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2012**

President Goodman stated that the Board will elect a President and Vice President of the Board of Directors for calendar year 2012.

President Goodman opened the floor for nominations for President. Director Faltings nominated Director Wilson for President of the Board for 2012. No other nominations made. All Directors voted in favor, passing 3-0. Hutchinson absent.

President Goodman opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. President Goodman nominated Director Faltings for Vice President of the Board for 2012. No other nominations made. All Directors voted in favor, passing 3-0. Hutchinson absent.

### **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Goodman reported on his attendance at the Dec. 7 LCAC meeting. Topics included: the LARPD liaison is responsible for providing refreshments for the January meeting; discussed trying

to coordinate overlapping dates and arts events; and a teacher from Jackson Avenue School requested funding to send students to see the Nutcracker;

**10. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS**

1. Director Faltings reported that the Victorian Yuletide event at Ravenswood last Sunday was very successful. She said that it was a beautiful day, with good attendance, and lots of activities and that four nonprofit groups were there hosting crafts tables.
2. Director Wilson congratulated the Ravenswood Progress League on the Yuletide event. She thanked Don Meeker and his wife for being Mr. and Mrs. Claus.
3. Director Wilson said that she attended a dedication event for the utility boxes in town, as part of a program, called UrbanArt. She said that she met artists, and it was a wonderful event.
4. President Goodman thanked the rest of the Board for their support over the past year, as well as staff and Legal Counsel. He said that he wished the District could have done more, but that it did good things.

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

1. General Manager Barry announced that the LARPD class and activity guide is being mailed this week, and contains the listings of winter/spring activities. Also, the annual Polar Bear Slide event will take place at the RLCC pool on the first Saturday in January.
2. Mr. Barry called to the Directors' attention the committee request forms at their places. He said that Directors will complete the form and indicate to President-elect Wilson the committees on which they would like to serve. President-elect Wilson will announce at the 2012 committee appointments at the January 11, 2012 Board meeting.
3. Mr. Barry thanked outgoing Board President Goodman for doing such a great job. He said that President Goodman has a unique relationship with staff and has established good communication. Mr. Barry said that we have done a lot this year, and President Goodman has embraced the job well. President-elect Wilson presented President Goodman with an engraved gavel and block and thanked him.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

APPROVED,



Steve Goodman  
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Timothy J. Barry  
General Manager and ex-officio  
Clerk to the Board of Directors

