

**LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008**

**ROBERT LIVERMORE COMMUNITY CENTER  
4444 EAST AVENUE, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA**

**7:00 P.M.**

**CRESTA BLANCA BALLROOM**

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Director Faltings, Director Furst, Director Kamena, Director Wilson and President Goodman

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim Barry, Jim Carlson, Lora Cohen, Sheryl Hardin, Gloria Jam, Jill Kirk, Michael Kyle, John Lawrence, Gretchen Sommers, Maureen Gandara Swinbank

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

Meeting was called to order by President Goodman at 7:01 p.m. All Directors were present.

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

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

**3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**3.1 BOARD MINUTES**

3.1.1 Meeting of April 9, 2008

**3.2 COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

President Goodman asked for motion. On a motion by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Furst, approved the Consent Agenda, passing 5-0.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:**

4.1 Resolution No. 2110, a resolution approving the hiring of relatives of part-time employees.

4.2 Resolution No. 2111, a resolution funding the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA) 401(h) sub-account to provide tax-free health care for LARPD retirees.

President Goodman asked if Directors wished to remove anything from the Consent Agenda Resolutions. No items removed. President Goodman recused himself from voting on Item 4.2, as he was a member of ACERA when he was an employee of LARPD.

On a motion by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Kamena, adopted Resolution No. 2110, approving the hiring of relatives of part-time employees, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** *Director Wilson, Director Kamena, Director Faltings, Director Furst and President Goodman*

**NOES:** *None*

**ABSTENTIONS:** *None*

**ABSENT:** *None*

On a motion by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Furst, adopted Resolution No. 2111, funding the Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association (ACERA) 401(h) sub-account to provide tax-free health care for LARPD retirees, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** *Director Kamena, Director Faltings, Director Furst and Director Wilson*

**NOES:** *None*

**ABSTENTIONS:** *President Goodman*

**ABSENT:** *None*

**5. BIDS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None.

**6. OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**7.1 FRIENDSHIP CENTER**

President Goodman acknowledged the large number of members of the public in attendance at the meeting and requested that those who wished to speak please limit themselves to two minutes.

General Manager Barry stated that staff is recommending closure of the Friendship Center Program due to loss of the facility, and is proposing a retention offer for program staff.

Mr. Barry summarized the staff report and talked about the history of the program; its occupation of the school site; its funding sources; client numbers; operating budget; the fact that LARPD's lease expires at the end of June 2008 due to the Livermore Valley Charter School's need to occupy the entire site; and LARPD's efforts to relocate the program, and the many avenues the District explored, such as building a new center, leasing commercial space, using existing District space, seeking assistance/space from the County of Alameda, City of Livermore and City of Pleasanton.

Mr. Barry reported that the results of all of LARPD's efforts have led him to the sad conclusion that he must recommend closure of the program. He said that LARPD loves this program and that he makes this recommendation with great regret. He stated he is also recommending that the District make a retention offer to staff, the details of which he listed.

President Goodman invited questions from Directors. Directors asked for clarification on the following items: the number of years staff has been searching for a new site; costs for consultant and staff time spent searching for a new site; consultants' fund raising efforts and findings; cities of residency of client base of the Friendship Center and LARPD's efforts to seek assistance from these cities; Community Development Block Grants of \$25,000 from

Pleasanton and \$85,000 from Livermore; the state's removal of half of the District's property taxes; amount clients pay per month; amount of time it would take to obtain a license from the state if a new program site were located; and how the Charter School projects the amount of space it needs, and how far in advance it is able to do so.

President Goodman opened public comment.

- 1) Oliver Echols, 917 Norfolk Rd., Livermore, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 2) J. Michael Miller, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 3) David Stegman, 15 Serene Ct., Danville, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 4) Diane Dunn, Case Manager from Regional Center of the East Bay, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 5) John Tardiff, 3231 Vineyard, Pleasanton, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 6) John Pitts, 6200 Mines Rd., Livermore, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 7) Dave Dolke spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 8) Arlynn Grimm, 3034 Chateau Way, Livermore, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 9) Greg Tabor spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 10) Thomas Ryall, Henchmen Motorcycle Club, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 11) Margo Kirkewoog, 2839 Reed Ave., spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 12) Ron Bernhardt, 447 Malibu Court, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 13) Dr. Matthew Brandstetter, acting Executive Director of the Livermore Valley Charter School, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 14) Cal Wood, 420 Lincoln Ave., Livermore, member of TVADCP, thanked LARPD and the City of Livermore for supporting the program for the past 16 years. Read a statement from TVADCP President Marena Drlik.
- 15) Nancy McGhee, Pleasanton, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 16) Mike Gatzman, 1309 Calais Ave., spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open. Requested that the Board to postpone the decision.
- 17) Julie Orvis, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.

- 18) Wara Alexander, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 19) Tom McLaughlin, LVJUSD Board of Directors, asked the Board to postpone decision.
- 20) Larry Sampson, 4373 Cornell Way, Livermore, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 21) Terry Moore, Pleasanton, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open. Asked Board to postpone decision.
- 22) Dennis Gambs, TVADCP Board, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 23) Marge Jergentz-Stout, 1776 Lomas Ave., spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 24) Thomas Heath, TVADCP Board, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 25) Sharon Garcia and mother, Lois Odell, 544 Briarwood Court, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 26) Rosemary Coleman, 947 Via del Paz, Livermore, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 27) Seanna Crouch, 4933 Charlotte Way, Livermore, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open. Asked Board to delay decision.
- 28) Richard Cambria (Frosty), Livermore Henchmen, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open. Urged Board to postpone decision.
- 29) Wendy Peterson, Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County, urged Board to postpone decision. Spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open.
- 30) Ann Warner-Reitz, Adult Day Services Network of Alameda County, spoke in favor of keeping the Friendship Center open. Urged board to postpone decision.

President Goodman closed public comment.

Director Kamena made a motion, seconded by Director Wilson, to support staff's recommendation to close the Friendship Center when the current lease expires.

President Goodman invited Board discussion. Directors discussed the following: whether LARPD could have tried harder to find a new program site; appreciation for citizens' suggestions this evening; the fact that the license for this program is tied to the site, not the operator of the program; agreement that demand for the service is not in question; enormous cost of creating a new site; cannot postpone the decision for more than 2 weeks; the fact that LVJUSD is obligated to provide a site for charter schools; appreciation for the LVJUSD Board's support; the fact that there has, indeed, been publicity about the program's predicament; the fact that LARPD has been working vigorously to keep the program open; appreciation for the General Manager's efforts, and others' efforts; need for all of the Tri-Valley communities to step forward; the fact that LARPD is unwillingly be evicted; urging education system to help LARPD; call upon the Livermore City Council, School District and Charter School families to help keep the program open; urge public to petition the School District and City Council to help keep this program open; how near the program is to

LARPD staff's and Directors' hearts; and how wonderful the staff of the Friendship Center is.

Director Kamena made an amending motion, seconded by Director Wilson, to postpone the vote on this matter to the next Board meeting. The motion passed 5-0.

President Goodman thanked everyone for attending. Meeting recessed at 9:35 p.m. Meeting resumed at 9:45 p.m.

## **7.2 FEE INCREASES FOR DISTRICT FACILITY USE**

President Goodman stated that the Board will consider approval of new fee schedules for rental of District facilities.

Assistant General Manager John Lawrence referred to the staff report, which addressed three areas for which rental fee increases are being proposed: Camp Shelly; the equestrian facilities at Robertson Park; and LARPD's various indoor facilities. Mr. Lawrence summarized the different changes being recommended for these three areas, saying he hopes this will bring significant improvements in District revenue. He added that staff's recommendations had been reviewed and approved by the Facilities Committee.

President Goodman invited Director questions. Directors asked for clarification on the following items: whether the half-day rental fee shouldn't be higher; whether non-profit agencies must have a 501(c)3 to qualify for non-profit rates; rationale for having a 5% increase for indoor facility rentals in the third year, instead of 10%, as is being recommended for the first two years; whether notices were sent to groups that used District facilities last year; and whether the change in rental times at the RLCC coincides with LARPD's operating permit with the City.

President Goodman opened public comment.

1) John Pitts, 6200 Mines Road, Livermore, representing the Lawrence Livermore Lab Retirees Association and the Sons in Retirement (SIR), requested that fees not be raised for current rental commitments. He also asked that the Board reconsider raising fees during off-peak times.

2) Arne Kirkewoog, representing SIR, said that the SIR cannot afford LARPD rentals in the future.

President Goodman closed public comment.

Director Kamena made a motion, seconded by Director Faltings, to approve the new fee schedules for rental of District facilities.

President Goodman invited Director discussion. Directors discussed the following items: whether the District wants the rental groups who can't afford LARPD's fees looking elsewhere; flexibility in the rental fees and how that is currently achieved; that the increases seem fair and appropriate; difficulty in comparing equestrian facilities because they are all very different; and the recommendation that staff monitor rental usage to see if the fees are appropriate.

President Goodman called the motion. The motion to adopt Resolution No. 2112, a resolution approving new fee schedules for rental of District facilities, passed by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** *Director Faltings, Director Furst, Director Wilson, Director Kamena and President Goodman*

**NOES:** *None*

**ABSTENTIONS:** *None*

**ABSENT:** *None*

**7.3 USE OF FIREARMS IN DISTRICT FACILITIES**

President Goodman stated that the Board will defer this agenda item to a future meeting. However, he opened public forum on the item, as a citizen had been waiting all evening to speak.

1) Sue Koopman, 2873 Chateau Way, Livermore, requested that no shooting events be permitted in District parks.

President Goodman closed public comment.

**7.4 NEW JOB DESCRIPTION AND SALARY RANGE FOR POSITION OF ELIGIBILITY ENROLLMENT SPECIALIST**

President Goodman stated that the Board will consider approving a new job description and salary range for the position of Eligibility Enrollment Specialist.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Jill De Bow-Kirk stated that the Personnel Commission and the Personnel Committee had reviewed and approved staff's recommendation on this item. Ms. Kirk presented background information on LARPD's process for assisting families who receive subsidies for participation in the ESS/KZ program. She listed the main changes in the job description from that of the position of Administrative Aide, which were: to speak and understand Spanish fluently; to interview effectively and obtain occupational, financial and educational information; and to learn or demonstrate the skills necessary to accurately obtain, evaluate and verify information to determine initial or continued eligibility. Ms. Kirk noted that the salary would be the same as for the Administrative Aide position.

President Goodman invited questions from the Board. Directors requested clarification on the following: whether this was a new position or a reclassification; whether the position is already funded in the District budget; salary; and the requirement for fluency in Spanish and English.

President Goodman asked for a motion. On a motion by Director Furst, seconded by Director Wilson, adopted Resolution No. 2113, a resolution adopting a new job description and salary range for the position of Eligibility Enrollment Specialist, by the following roll call vote:

**AYES:** *Director Furst, Director Wilson, Director Kamena, Director Faltings and President Goodman*

**NOES:** *None*

**ABSTENTIONS:** *None*

**ABSENT:** *None*

## **7.5 CSDA BOARD VACANCY – REGION 3**

President Goodman stated that the Board will consider whether to nominate staff or a Director for a seat on the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) - Region 3 Board of Directors.

Director Faltings provided information on the structure and meeting schedule of CSDA, stating that a Board vacancy is occurring because someone has chosen not to re-run. Director Furst expressed interest in being nominated to serve on the Board. Director Faltings nominated Director Furst to serve on the CSDA-Region 3 Board of Directors.

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

1) Director Furst thanked the O'Brien Group for installing the Robertson Park sign, which he said is beautiful.

2) Director Faltings announced that the Livermore Farmers' Market season will be starting at Carnegie Park on May 15, and that LARPD will be there promoting the Scottish Games, scheduled for May 17 & 18 at Robertson Park.

3) Director Wilson said she doesn't see anything in this year's budget regarding the Garaventa Wetlands Preserve. She asked if the District plans to put anything in next year's budget for preservation. She also asked if anything is being planned for a trail around it.

4) Director Kamena asked for an update on the status of the Bothwell Park softball field replacements. General Manager Barry replied that the two replacement fields have been completed.

5) Director Kamena announced the birth of his son Evan on April 24.

6) President Goodman stated that the Robertson Park sign is nice, and that he wished to commend LARPD Landscape Architect/Project Manager Chiye Azuma and LARPD staff for pursuing this project and getting it done.

7) President Goodman stated that a meeting of the ad hoc Rock Gym committee was held Monday, April 28, and that he and Director Faltings attended. He showed a rock gym shirt that he had purchased. He invited the public to go to the rock gym and he challenged any Board member or public official to climb against him, any time.

8) President Goodman commended Assistant Community Center Director Sheryl Hardin and staff on the May 26 Emergency Survival Expo, held at the RLCC. He talked about the sponsors and the large attendance. He said that the first 300 attendees received an emergency supplies can, which were available to others for \$10. President Goodman said that LARPD donated 100 cans each to low income seniors and low income ESS families.

## **9. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER**

1) General Manager Barry said he wished to recognize staff for the great job it did on the Emergency Survival Expo and Earth Day events at the RLCC.

2) Mr. Barry invited the public to attend the Scottish Games event being held at Robertson Park on May 17 and 18.

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 10:30 p.m.

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**10.1 REAL ESTATE NEGOTIATIONS**

Pursuant to Section 54956.8 of the Government Code  
Property: 13.5 acres of land, Robertson Park Rd., Livermore, CA  
Agency Negotiator: District Staff and/or Legal Counsel  
Negotiating Parties: Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District  
Under Negotiation: Terms of Purchase

**11. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION**

Reconvened to Open Session at 10:45 p.m.

**12. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No action to report.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 p.m.

APPROVED,

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Steve P. Goodman  
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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