

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 2011

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

7:00 P.M.

CRESTA BLANCA BALLROOM

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Director Faltings, Director Hutchinson, Director Turner, Director Wilson and President Goodman

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Aizawa, 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.

2. PRESENTATION

President Goodman stated that there will be a presentation on the operation of the District Parks Division.

General Manager said that Mr. Aizawa has done a great job and has been with the District for about a year. He noted that there are employees from the Parks Division in attendance at this meeting.

Mr. Aizawa thanked staff for their help in developing his presentation. Mr. Aizawa presented the following information: Parks Division highlights; organizational changes that have occurred; a sampling of District Parks and their features and amenities; parks overview with statistics; staff structure and how services are provided and tasks are performed.

Directors inquired about and commented on the following: number of vehicles and staff; doing a fantastic job and appreciates staff attending tonight; the District park facilities are beautiful, clean and well maintained; received positive feedback from the neighbors at recent public meetings at parks; with limited resources and budget cuts, the parks look great; the increase in water and fertilizing shows; the parks are the best they have been in a long time; turf at the RLCC looks great; appreciates the parks staff's versatility of abilities and skills.

3. PUBLIC FORUM

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA

4.1 BOARD MINUTES

4.1.1 Meeting of July 13, 2011.

4.2 COMMUNICATIONS

None.

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Wilson, approved the Consent Agenda, passing 5-0.

5. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS

None.

6. BIDS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 SYCAMORE GROVE RESTORATION PROJECT

President Goodman stated that the Board will receive a project status update on the Sycamore Grove Restoration Project.

Assistant General Manager John Lawrence stated that this is a status report for the Board, and that the Facilities Committee has reviewed the project. He reported that, in September 2007, LARPD received a \$425,000 funding grant from the State Coastal Conservancy for: restoration and enhancement of the upper pond; realignment of a trail section around the pond; re-vegetation of native plantings and riparian habitat downstream of the pond; improved public access and observation area; and interpretive signage. Mr. Lawrence said that a component of the project is being managed on the District's behalf by the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD); this component encompasses the pond restoration, dam repair and trail realignment, and ACRCD is out to bid on this. He said that the rest of the project is re-vegetation work downstream of the pond and an observation area; LARPD has yet to contract out that portion.

Director comments included the following: thank you for the diagram of the project; pointed out that this is on the upper property of Sycamore Grove Park, that the pond is up in that area.

General Manager Barry noted that people say that we should apply for grants--this project is partly funded by a grant. He said that staff has done a good job seeking grant funding and will continue to do so.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 PERSONNEL COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

President Goodman stated that the Board will consider making an appointment to the Personnel Commission.

General Manager Barry said that there is a position vacant on the District Personnel Commission, due to the relocation of a Commissioner. He reported that the District advertised the vacancy and one person expressed interest. He said that the Personnel Committee interviewed Mr. Jack Roach and is recommending that the Board appoint him to the Commission.

President Goodman stated that he is on the Personnel Committee. He said that Mr. Roach brings a unique perspective. He is a retired school district administrator and that he negotiated both for the district and for the employee union at different times. President Goodman said that he feels that Mr. Roach will be a great addition to the Commission. Director Hutchinson, also a member of the Personnel Committee, commented that it would be a difficult task to convince a school district administration that one should be accepted on that side of the table once one has been on the employee side, and Mr. Roach did so.

Moved by Director Turner, seconded by Director Wilson, adopted Resolution No. 2301, appointing Jack Roach to the Personnel Commission, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: *Turner, Wilson, Faltings, Hutchinson and President Goodman*
NOES: *None*
ABSTENTIONS: *None*
ABSENT: *None*

8.2 RAVENSWOOD VINEYARD FENCING

President Goodman stated that the Board will consider approving permanent fencing for the vineyards at Ravenswood Historic Site.

General Manager Barry said that the District was approached by Michael Princevalle of Coastal Viticultural Consultants, Inc. (CVC), which maintains the vineyard at Ravenswood Historic Site. Mr. Barry said that CVC has erected temporary fencing to protect the vineyards from deer, and is proposing that a more permanent fence be erected at its own cost. He said that the proposed fence runs parallel to the existing Annie Quinn trail segment of the South Livermore Valley Train (in front of the Ravenswood site on Arroyo Road). Photos of the current temporary fencing and a photo of what is being requested as a more permanent solution are in the agenda packets. Mr. Barry said that one can see through the fences pretty well to look at the historic site and vineyards, so the fence would not be a great detriment, aesthetically. He said that another consideration besides aesthetics is the setback from the trail; CVC needs room to turn its harvesting equipment around, which will bring the fence close to the trail, but it will be adjacent to the decomposed granite (DG) portion, which will not pose a hazard to the public. Mr. Barry said that he likes that CVC is willing to pay for the fence. He added that it is important to protect the grape crop, and that it is a common practice in the south valley to do this. Mr. Barry said that staff recommends approval by the Board.

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

Directors commented on the following: the Facilities Committee reviewed this matter and recommends approval; the current fencing does look temporary and not very professional--a permanent fence will have a better look and be more effective as well--feels it will be an improvement, will look fine and help the grape crop; the fencing will maintain a sense that one is in the wine country; and it is historically accurate; once can look right through deer fencing; the proposed permanent fence is okay with it the Ravenswood Progress League.

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Wilson, to permit CVC to erect permanent fencing along the Arroyo Road frontage of Ravenswood Historic Site, passing 5-0.

Director Faltings commented that CVC is keeping vigilant watch on the crops, and that she sees CVC staff at Ravenswood often.

8.3 ACCEPTANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS FOR ROBERTSON PARK PLAYGROUND.

President Goodman stated that the Board will consider accepting the improvements made to Robertson Park Playground as complete, and authorizing the General Manager to file a notice of Completion with Alameda County.

General Manager Barry reported that, on September 9, 2009, the Board of Directors approved the plans and specifications for the construction of a new playground at Robertson Park, adjacent to the Field House. Per the Development Agreement between the City of Livermore and Arroyo Crossing Inc., O'Brien Homes, the Developer, agreed to fully fund the design and construction of a playground at Robertson Park up to \$300,000. Mr. Barry said that the playground construction is complete, we've had the walkthrough inspection and the maintenance period has started. He said that the playground construction project had no fiscal impact on the District, since it was built by the aforementioned developer. Mr. Barry said that we are very please with the result, and that the playground is in a good location. He said that staff recommends that the Board accept the improvements.

Moved by Director Wilson, seconded by Director Turner, adopted Resolution No. 2302, accepting the improvements made to Robertson Park Playground as complete, and authorizing the General Manager to file a notice of Completion with Alameda County, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: *Wilson, Faltings, Hutchinson, Turner and President Goodman*
NOES: *None*
ABSTENTIONS: *None*
ABSENT: *None*

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Goodman reported on the LARPD/City of Livermore/LVJUSD Intergovernmental Committee meeting this morning. Topics included: Amgen bicycle race; school district community day at the Sept. 18 A's game, which is a fundraiser for their athletic program; and the rotation of Committee duties.

10. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS

1) Director Faltings reported on her attendance, along with Director Wilson and General Manager Barry and Assistant General Manager Lawrence, at the Tri-Valley Chamber of Commerce Innovation Seminar today. She said that the seminar featured several experts who discussed bringing innovative businesses and their employees to the Tri-Valley and Livermore.

2) Director Faltings invited the public to attend the Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social at Ravenswood on Sunday, August 14, from noon – 4:00 p.m.

3) President Goodman announced that today is his sister's birthday, and she would have been 50 years old.

11. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GENERAL MANAGER

1) General Manager Barry reported that Ranger/Naturalist Supervisor Mike Nicholson took a group of teens to Camp Shelly for the week-long Sierra Rendezvous program; this is something that Mr. Nicholson and the Open Space staff do each year.

He said that another staff person, Division Manager Jim Carlson, provides his own expertise at LARPD's football camp. Mr. Carlson provides instruction and coaches our coaches; he was an accomplished college football player.

2) Mr. Barry said that the District will be using goats in the Robertson Park arroyo to keep the fire danger down. He said that goats are expected to arrive at the end of this week and that they are a great natural way to keep dry weeds under control.

3) Mr. Barry announced that the LARPD Foundation has launched a fundraising campaign. Donors who make a \$1,000 or larger endowment will be acknowledged by having their name engraved on the golden donation tree in the RLCC foyer. He said that the Foundation helps LARPD.

4) Mr. Barry invited the public to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new playground in Robertson Park on Tuesday, August 2 at 6:00 pm.

Director Wilson remarked that she was camping at Camp Shelly a couple of years when the Sierra Rendezvous was taking place; she said that Mr. Nicholson is in 7th heaven when he runs the program. She said that he is wonderful with kids and loves it; it's a great thing to see.

12. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 7:41 p.m.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

13.1 PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Pursuant to Section 54957 of the Government Code.

Title: General Manager

14. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 8:30 p.m.

15. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action to report.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

APPROVED,



Steve Goodman
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



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