

**LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010**

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

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tim Barry, Jim Carlson, Gloria Jam, Michael Kyle, John Lawrence, Lynn Loucks, Mike Nicholson, Gretchen Sommers

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

President Furst called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All Directors were present.

**2. PUBLIC FORUM**

President Furst opened public comment. No public comment. President Furst closed public comment.

**3. PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 CARPD AWARD OF DISTINCTION FOR BEST INNOVATIVE PROGRAM**

President Furst stated that staff will be presented with the 2010 California Association of Recreation and Park Districts (CARPD) Award of Distinction for Best Innovative Program, "Livermore's Biggest Loser."

Director Faltings stated that she is on the CARPD Board of Directors. She said that she attended the annual conference recently and emceed the awards banquet; it was her pleasure the present this award to her own District. She presented the awarded to Senior Recreation Supervisor Jim Carlson and program instructor Deb DeLisle, commending them for presenting the program, which is a fun and affordable way for people to get fit.

**3.2 GRAZING MANAGEMENT PLAN**

President Furst stated that the Board will receive a presentation on the Grazing Management Plan for Sycamore Grove Park, Brushy Peak and Holdener Park, prepared by consultant Lisa Bush.

General Manager Tim Barry reported that the District contracted with California Certified Rangeland Manager Lisa Bush in 2007 to develop a plan that would give the District direction on how to implement grazing on its properties. This project experienced some delays, he said, in part because the District was waiting to see if the Bobba Property would

be a property that the District could use in the future. Mr. Barry introduced Lisa Bush, in attendance to give an overview of the study and answer questions. Mr. Barry said that he would like the Board's input on formulating a policy for the District.

Ms. Bush presented a slide show and described several reasons why agencies might wish to implement grazing.

Directors inquired about the following: when is the best season to graze (winter to late spring); size of cattle on EBRPD's Brushy Peak-- were they stocker cows--seemed large (unknown); are the rock outcroppings on Brushy Peak fenced? (not currently; barricade could be constructed if necessary); cost for fencing (have not calculated it yet because not sure of the extent; one method would be to trade grazing for installation of fencing by grazer); do any areas have adequate fencing? (Holdener Park and Brushy Peak have some existing fencing, though there is need for some repairs, and Sycamore Grove does not have any cross fencing for individual pastures).

President Furst requested written responses to the following questions:

1) What is the cost of fencing?

2) What is the cost of electric fences and what is the source of electricity?

3) Explain the discrepancy between the low barrier fences that were shown in tonight's presentation and the barbed wire fencing recommended in the written report (Ms. Bush replied: electric fencing is achieved via portable solar charger; barbed wire is recommended for permanent fencing, boundary or pasture fencing; low barrier fencing is recommended only when cattle have access to rocky outcrops; fencing serves as a gate to close off cattle access in certain areas; could use short barbed wire, too, but lower split rail might be more aesthetically pleasing).

4) Are you recommending re-fencing upper and lower Sycamore Grove Park with barbed wire? (Ms. Bush: Yes, in the upper portion where the boundary fencing is in poor condition and new cross fencing between the upper and lower sections.)

President Furst said that parks are for people; fencing tells people to stay out; barbed wire is dangerous to people and to animals. He said that the District just took fencing out at Sycamore Grove, and now we are talking about putting it in again. Why are we talking about putting it in again? Barbed wire is a very hostile type of fence.

5) Seasonal grazing takes place in the winter and late spring; this is exactly the time the trails will be destroyed by the cattle. How will the District manage the fact that we'll be destroying the very trails we are trying to build?

6) Regarding cattle in Brushy Peak, the Native American community is very opposed to anyone going to Brushy Peak; some of the groups are okay with guided tours. Has staff contacted the Native American community on the issue of grazing at Brushy Peak? He said he would like a staff report on this; contact the Native American representatives and get their feedback

(Ms. Bush said that barbed wire is the only fencing that will work with cattle; they will push through smooth wire; barbed wire is only dangerous if you climb it. She said that hiker-

friendly fencing would be put in. Regarding damage to trails, Ms. Bush acknowledged that grazing often presents a conflict. Destruction to trails depends on the soil; most damage occurs when there is a lot of clay in the soil; this can be partially mitigated by using a different kind of dirt for the trails.)

7) Is there any idea of the number of cattle at Brushy Peak? (Ms. Bush said that she believes there are 138 animal units, or animal unit months; this information is included in the Appendix to the Grazing Plan.)

8) How many cattle would be recommended in Holdener Park? (Ms. Bush said 10, and added that the number of cattle is meant to be evaluated on an ongoing basis. Assistant General Manager John Lawrence referred to Attachment A, which listed the information on recommended animal units.)

9) Is there any idea of recovery time for grazed areas? How bad will it look aesthetically? (Ms. Bush: It may look a little ratty, but aesthetics don't tell the whole story of the ecological benefit; grazed land is not necessarily damaged; in reality, grazing often provides ecological value; a choice must be made between balancing ecological needs and recreation needs; grazing is really about managing the non-native biomass; livestock is the only practical way to do it; ungrazed property looks very different from grazed property.)

10) The District has conducted some controlled burns in Sycamore Grove. Do we envision grazing as going along with the burns, being compatible? (Ranger/Natural Supervisor Mike Nicholson replied that the Sycamore Grove Resource Management Plan talks about using a variety of tools, which are not necessarily mutually exclusive; mowing would be done, in addition to burns and grazing; grazing could be a third tool.)

11) Would like a cost comparison between burns and grazing. (Ms. Bush: The problem with relying on burns is that it is difficult to get a permit and pull off a burn on a burn day; many planned burns never happen, unfortunately; using all three tools is an excellent idea.)

Directors commented and inquired about the following: clarification of the recommended grazing plan (seasonal grazing and targeted high density grazing); what if no fencing at all is installed? (there would be cattle on the road and in areas that might not be appropriate; there are many fencing options); are there long-term benefits and, if so, how long would it take to be effective? (recommends background grazing every year; targeted areas need not be done every year; could see what works; somewhat flexible; feels background grazing is a good idea; develop relationship with a grazer; relationship for background grazing is important); is the primary reason for grazing the control of nonnative species? (primary reason is to mitigate the negative effects of the non-native species, though grazing will never get rid of them); controlling non-native medusa head with sheep; and discussion of disadvantages of using sheep or goats versus cattle.

President Furst asked if staff has proper direction. General Manager Barry replied that staff does and that they will provide responses to these questions. The responses will be brought to the Facilities Committee and then to the Board for policy direction

**3.3 ROBERT LIVERMORE COMMUNITY CENTER CHILDREN’S EVENT PACKAGES**

President Furst stated that staff will give a presentation on a revenue producing program at the Robert Livermore Community Center.

General Manager Barry said this is one in a series of presentations about LARPD activities that staff will be make to the Board. He said that he has asked staff to be creative about bringing revenue to LARPD and maximizing the public’s experience. He introduced LARPD Facilities Coordinator Gloria Jam. Ms. Jam Gloria presented a program idea, that of providing childcare and entertainment to the children of people attending special events, such as weddings, at the RLCC. She noted that children are often at these events and become bored. Ms. Jam described what the children’s package would include, saying that prospective renters would be provided with the information and given the opportunity to provide this service for their event guests. It is an opportunity to incorporate LARPD programs with rentals. Ms. Jam reported that staff did provide a few of these programs last year and they were very successful.

Board inquiries and comments included: how do renters find out about this (information is in all rental packets and package is promoted during initial tour of the building); this is a great idea; complimented staff on it.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA**

**4.1 BOARD MINUTES**

4.1.1 Meeting of May 12, 2010.

**4.2 COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

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

**5. CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**

None.

**6. BIDS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8.1 DISTRICT GENERAL ELECTION**

President Furst stated that the Board will consider a resolution calling for the District’s election on November 2, 2010 and requesting that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County permit consolidation with the statewide general election on November 2, 2010.

General Manager Barry stated that this is a standard procedure in an election year. There are three LARPD Board seats up for election in November, those of President Furst, Vice President Kamena and Director Faltings. The seats will be filled in November 2010, for a 4-year term ending in November 2014. Mr. Barry said that the District has chosen to have its Board elections in even years so that it can consolidate with the state elections.

President Furst asked what the dates are for picking up and submitting nomination papers. Staff did not have the information on hand; Mr. Barry said that the District will send out a news release providing the nomination dates, as well as post the information on the LARPD website. President Furst announced that nomination papers must now be picked up and submitted at the Registrar of Voters office in Oakland; the Registrar has changed the process so that papers can no longer be processed with the LARPD District Office. In the past, candidates could process nomination documents through either LARPD or the Registrar's office.

Moved by Director Kamena, seconded by Director Wilson, Resolution No. 2238, calling for the District's election on November 2, 2010 and requesting that the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County permit consolidation with the statewide general election on November 2, 2010, was approved by the following roll call vote:

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

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Director Goodman apologized for not attending the May 18 Livermore Downtown meeting.

Director Wilson reported on the May 25 Personnel Committee meeting. Topics included: 2010/2011 workforce reduction and the same topics as were covered at the May 19 Board Budget Workshop.

Director Kamena reported on this morning's Intergovernmental meeting. Topics included: budget cuts and layoffs. General Manager Barry added that the District is considering elimination of the 2011 July 4 event; however, this year's event will be held as scheduled.

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

1) Director Faltings reported on her attendance at the California Association of Recreation and Park Districts annual conference, which Mr. Barry and Mr. Lawrence also attended. She said there was much talk about the economy's impact on the recreation field. Conference sessions included a presentation by CAPRI, the joint powers authority that handles the District's risk management.

2) Director Goodman announced the Bothwell Park dedication ceremony on June 2 at 6:00 p.m. He said that it is wonderful to see all of the people using the renovated park.

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

1) General Manager Barry reported that there is a committee of several citizens who are helping the District to market Camp Shelly by developing promotional materials and email lists, attending Farmers' Market to promote the Camp, etc. Mr. Barry said he appreciates their help and congratulates their efforts.

2) Mr. Barry announced a 50+ job conference being hosted by LARPD at the RLCC on June 4 from 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.. People 50 years and older are invited to attend.

3) Mr. Barry announced that daily recreational swimming begins at the RLCC and May Nissen Swim Centers on June 15.

4) Mr. Barry announced that Livermore's annual Rodeo, organized by the Livermore Stockmen's Rodeo Association, will be held on June 12 & 13. The team penning and social event will be held Wednesday, June 9; the regular LARPD Board meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, as staff and Directors will be attending rodeo activities the second week of the month.

**12. ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:08 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 10:04 p.m.

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

No action to report.


**16. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

APPROVED,

  
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David Furst  
President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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