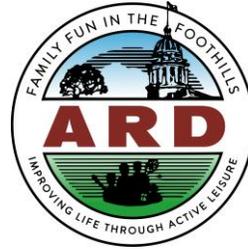


May 20, 2020

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For immediate release**

**ARD to discuss and vote on proposed FY 20/21 Budget; cuts to services proposed**

The Auburn Area Recreation and Park District (ARD) Board of Directors is scheduled to discuss and vote on their final FY 20/21 Budget at the Board meeting on May 28, 2020. The virtual Zoom meeting will take place at 10am and can be accessed by clicking on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/98007246802> or calling 1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 980 0724 6802

ARD, like all private and public agencies, has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. The proposed final FY 20/21 budget, which began April 1, features many cuts to offset the projected \$1.2 million in projected revenue losses (based on a \$5.9 million pre-COVID budget). These proposed cuts include, but are not limited to:

- Not opening the Placer Hills (Meadow Vista) or Splash Pool (Recreation Park) in 2020.
- Limiting aquatics activities to modified swim lessons, lap swim and water aerobics, once ARD has been permitted to open the pool. Public swim is not being planned for summer 2020. Robalos Swim Team and Mermaids Synchronized swim teams have already been cancelled at a league level.
- Eliminating all special events. This is based on information from the State that mass gatherings will not be allowed until Stage 4
- Not opening the ARD Preschool and possibly Alta Vista Discovery Club site as well as greatly modifying Day Camp and offerings at other Discovery Club sites, as per State guidelines.
- Postponing several projects, including restroom and parking lot improvements, as well as planning for future development of the “24 Acres”. Renovation of the Recreation Field infield may also be postponed.
- Cutting a variety of recreation programming, including knitting, adult dance and 5x5 adult basketball.

ARD is proposing \$560,000 in staffing and benefit cuts and reduction in hours as part of the budget.

District Administrator Kahl Muscott remarked “We hope that some of the positive changes that we have been seeing continue, and that some of the proposed cuts can be eliminated”. He went on to add that “ARD staff and the Board have been working hard to try and stabilize our budget. Thankfully we have a forward-thinking Board of Directors that have been insistent on keeping healthy reserve accounts. These reserves, along with the proposed cuts, will allow ARD to weather this unprecedented storm”.

Members of the public wishing to share their concerns, ideas and comments can participate in the Zoom Board meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Comments can also be sent to [kmuscott@auburnrec.com](mailto:kmuscott@auburnrec.com) before the meeting.