



LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017

ROBERT LIVERMORE COMMUNITY CENTER
4444 EAST AVENUE, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA

REGULAR MEETING
7:00 P.M.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Directors Faltings, Furst, Palajac, Pierpont and Chair Wilson

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Barry, Rod Attebery, Jill Kirk, Patricia Lord, Gretchen Sommers

1. **CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. All Directors were present.
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
Chair Wilson opened public comment. No public comment. Closed public comment.
3. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - 3.1 **BOARD MINUTES**
 - 3.1.1 Regular Meeting of October 11, 2017.
 - 3.1.2 Special Meeting of October 16, 2017.
 - 3.2 **COMMUNICATIONS**
None.

Moved by Director Faltings, seconded by Director Palajac, approved the Consent Agenda by the following voice vote:

AYES: *Pierpont, Faltings, Palajac, Furst and Chair Wilson*
NOES: *None*
ABSTENTIONS: *None*
ABSENT: *None*

4. **CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS**
None.

5. BIDS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 SPRINGTOWN OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN

Chair Wilson announced that the Board will receive a presentation on the recommended Springtown Open Space Concept Plan and will consider recommending the Plan to the Livermore City Council. A public hearing will be held to receive public comment.

Chair Wilson recused herself from the meeting at 7:17 pm, explaining that she is a Springtown resident.

Vice Chair Faltings explained the process of the discussion, saying that the General Manager will present the staff report, the RRM Design Group consultants will make their presentation on the concept plan and the public will have the opportunity to comment.

General Manager Tim Barry provided background information regarding the development of the Springtown Open Space Concept Plan. He said that the consultant's report was posted on the District website last week; it explained the process and included the concept plan. GM Barry introduced Jeff Ferber and Lief McKay of RRM Design Group.

Mr. Ferber and Mr. McKay presented information on the plan, including the project schedule; existing site; planning process recap; outreach summary; elements of the final concept plan, including changes from last plan (parking distribution; usable lawn areas; disc golf); features of creek, library, nature discovery, Iris Way and Heather Lane areas; anticipated costs; potential funding sources and next steps of the project.

Vice Chair Faltings asked if Directors had specific questions. Vice Chair Faltings asked if there is now one dog park area in the plan (yes).

Vice Chair Faltings opened public comment.

- 1) William Peper said that he has heard complaints about the duck ponds. He wants to keep the geese and ducks at the ponds. He feels that the pond should not be taken away from the birds. It's their home.
- 2) Denise Monday asked if the pond is being moved or eliminated. Vice Chair Faltings said that the lower pond will go away and the upper pond will stay in this plan. Ms. Monday stated that she is in favor of keeping the lower pond. She feels it is the center of town, and it would be a shame to get rid of something so beautiful. She asked what will be in the pond area.
- 3) Nancy Thorn expressed concern about fire danger and security; she would like these to be prime considerations of any plan. She said it would be a mistake to wipe out the pond. It is a focal point when you come into Springtown and it's fun to see the ducks and geese, and children and families need exposure to nature.

- 4) Rebecca Ellefsen thanked everyone for all of the work that has gone into this project. She said that it is heartwarming to hear citizen concerns about the fowl in the area. She had several questions: Will there be anyone to safeguard the transfer of these fowl? She would like clarification on expanding and/or removing the library. She did not see a tennis court in the plan. Are we leaving the arroyo the way it is? Will there be improvements and new vegetation, and how will that proceed over time? Is there a completion date to this entire project?
- 5) Perry La Manna thanked everyone for their time spent on this project and the fine job being done. He asked if there will be a charge for parking and asked about the pedestrian bridge on Golf Drive. He said that free parking would cause congestion on that street. He expressed concern that the pedestrian bridge lines up with his front door.
- 6) Mike Ralph, speaking on behalf of thousands of bike riders, skateboarders and scooter riders, expressed gratitude that the plan keeps the bike/skate parks. He thinks they will get a lot of use, and said the consultants have put together a charming park.
- 7) Joshua Williamson said that it looks like there will be a lot of traffic on Bluebell Drive. Bluebell already has a lot of traffic; will there be any improvements to keep up with the traffic, especially from Springtown Blvd. to Sunflower Road?
- 8) Doug Jorgensen had several questions. What is the difference between the multi-use lawn and grassy meadow? Is the grassy meadow going to be maintained? What is the envisioned use of the multi-use lawn? Will it be used for sports activities/ practices? Many lawns in LARPD parks are used for practices. He said that the map indicates that there are 27 stalls in the Heather parking lot, and the presentation shows 13 stalls; there is a discrepancy. How will you get the water to irrigate this park?

Vice Chair Faltings closed public comment.

Mr. Ferber responded to questions.

Will there be an expert to care for birds? There will be a CEQA process performed when the plan is put into final form. This is the environmental review process, which includes wildlife issues. The same goes for the arroyo. Any enhancements would be encouragement of the existing habitat (notwithstanding anything that Zone 7 would do--this plan does not address flood control).

No tennis court. Tennis courts did not come through in the process.

How will this be paid for? There are a number of potential funding mechanisms. There is no funding in place at this time. The concept plan allows the City and/or District to start to discuss and plan for funding.

Golf Drive and parking/bridge and its location. There are a number of things in the plan that are conceptual in nature. They can be moved or put in a number of

locations. Might people go park there? Yes, they might. RRM's experience is that people tend to go for convenience. They feel that most people will park in the lots. We do not have paid parking in the plan. (GM Barry said that he believes the citizen who asked about parking fees may have been confused by reference to park in lieu fees/ we do not plan to charge for parking).

Parking on Bluebell and would there be improvements? That is possible. Traffic would have to be studied. The plan cannot be completed in its final form until all of these things are looked at during the environmental review. (Vice Chair Faltings said that roadway/library/street traffic is the City's jurisdiction, not LARPD's) An environmental document could address mitigation on a public street. Every mitigation area is assigned responsibility.

Meadow vs. multi use area. The multi-use area is grass and would be intended to be used however the users intend to use it - dads and kids playing catch, picnics, coaches with soccer balls and cones – the area is flat and meant to be used, though not designed to be fields with certain dimensions. It is meant for the neighborhood in general. The meadow could be unmowed native grasses and wildflowers. It would have much less maintenance than lawn. (GM Barry said that a caveat is that whoever is maintaining the site would have to have a firebreak between the homes) The vision is that it is to be used however users decide to use it. RRM will check the discrepancy in the number of parking spaces in the Heather lot.

Where does the water come from? The water will come from the City as potable water. It is a challenge. This plan has much less grass area than the golf course and would use significantly less water than a golf course.

Library size. RRM was asked to identify the increased parcel size.

Priority regarding safety, fire traffic and similar issues. CEQA does analyze all primary services, and these elements are not included in the plan because they are part of CEQA.

Completion date. There is no anticipated completion date—deferred to GM Barry (GM Barry said that the City owns the property. We are the park and recreation agency in the area and want to operate parks, but we have told the City that we cannot take on any park unless there are the funds to build and maintain it. There are funding mechanisms, but it is not easy in this day and age. If LARPD operates it, we would have same standards as with our other parks.)

Pond comments -- no specific questions were asked. If you have attended the public workshops, you can see the evolution of the plans. He did not hear a specific question. (GM Barry reiterated that the upper pond will stay. He anticipates that the ducks would be moved there.)

Vice Chair Faltings thanked the public for their comments.

Director Pierpont asked for clarification on the water. He is not sure everyone understands how the golf course got water, or how we would get water for a future park, or what the feedback from the public was during this process. Many people have told him that they do not like the geese and the mess.

Mr. Ferber said that it is fair to say that they heard lots of feedback from both sides regarding the pond. Some are disgusted by the feces and being chased by the geese. Others like it and its gateway features. From a design standpoint, the pond presents great challenges, in particular, the sanitary considerations and how they work with other features. There is a really nice pond at the top of the park.

Mr. McKay spoke about the water source. He said that there are three ponds -- one near the creek and two separate ponds near the library. They were all constructed as ponds for the golf course; the primary purpose was as irrigation reservoirs, not as landscape features. They are all fed by Altamont Creek. Their sole purpose was to irrigate the golf course. It is clear that the water source is tenuous. A permit must be renewed every two years, and it may or may not be renewed. He explained how the water is piped, etc. and explained some of the challenges. If we are filling a pond with municipal water, it would need to be irrigated from a new municipal water source.

Director Pierpont said that water is a critical issue. The water to fill the ponds is not guaranteed under any circumstance; that was connected to the golf course. Regarding the plan, we are trying to find a compromise between things we would like and things that are doable. He thanked the consultants for the report and emphasized to the public that this is a concept plan. He is glad that a disc golf course was added and that multi-use lawn was added. There is a tremendous demand for more community gardens; he likes that the plan includes gardens. He likes the pocket parking sprinkled throughout the park.

Director Pierpont asked how much this will cost and where we will get the money. He said that a lot of the numbers (construction estimates) look low to him. If these estimates and numbers are low, it creates expectations with the public that LARPD can do more than we can do. There is a lot he likes in the plan, but a lot that he sees as being difficult or challenging down the road.

Vice Chair Faltings complimented RRM on the extent to which they responded to what the Board talked about at its Sept. 11 meeting. She likes a lot of this. She still has concerns about the parking and having it force parking in the neighborhoods. She also thinks the estimates are on the light side. She is more pleased with this revised plan. The amenities sketched in have moved it more toward what she had envisioned, and moved it away from being just a very big neighborhood park to a park that the whole community could enjoy.

Director Palajac congratulated RRM for its work. She said that, as a landscape architect for the City of San Jose for 17 years, she has read a lot of these plans, and this is one of the best written plans that she has had the pleasure to read. She asked that a date be added on the cover. She noted that this is a conceptual plan and the costs associated are accordingly non-specific. A master plan narrows the prices much more specifically. The costs are only for construction, not for staff, planning, etc. The next step is CEQA, then identifying the funding so you can phase the implementation of the plan. The thing she likes about this plan is that it has areas and lends itself to a phasing approach. It also lends itself to getting support from interest groups, such as disc golf enthusiasts, gardeners, etc.

Director Furst congratulated and thanked the consultants. He said that he has read a number of master plans, and has seen terrible ones. This is one of the best ones he has ever seen, and is well written. This is a concept plan. We do not have specific placements for park benches, tables, etc. He read in the report about the public comments expressed at the workshops. He was interested in a number of fields for sports practice. We are calling this an open space. Why not leave it as open space, put in a trail and mow a couple of times a year and leave it at that?

Director Furst said the he would like to move forward with what we've got right now. He had some questions about cost estimates. He had asked staff about costs for the bridge in Sycamore Grove Park, as relates to a bridge in the concept plan from Marlin Pound Park. It is more flexible to go forward with a detailed plan, and then winnow it down to a minimalist park if we do not have the funding. If we change it at all, we have a lot of conflicting wishes from the community. The City Council and staff will be weighing in on it, too. As we do CEQA, and go forward with plans, he can guarantee it will be more than \$20 million, as estimated. We can see what funding will provide us, but it will be a long way down the road.

GM Barry said that he would like the consultants to give us a basis for their cost projections. Mr. McKay said that RRM does have more detail than the lump sum that is in the report. Much of it is from recent experience. RRM has built numerous parks on the scales of these different areas. They can cost more or less, depending on the amount of detail. This design is fairly modest - it would not be urban or overbuilt. It is simple, elegant and not as expensive as something that functions the same. GM Barry asked if RRM has built similar things. Mr. McKay said that, yes, they have, and this information is the best aggregation of recent experience.

Moved by Director Furst, seconded by Director Palajac approved recommending the Springtown Open Space Concept Plan to the Livermore City Council, by the following voice vote:

AYES:	<i>Pierpont, Palajac, Furst and Vice Chair Faltings</i>
NOES:	<i>None</i>
ABSTENTIONS:	<i>Wilson</i>
ABSENT:	<i>None</i>

Chair Wilson rejoined the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Chair Wilson stated that the Board will consider approving a revised District Mission Statement.

GM Barry reported that the Board met in a Special Meeting on October 16 and discussed the District's mission statement, among other topics. He read the proposed revised mission statement:

“To provide the people of the Livermore area with outstanding recreation programs and a system of parks, trails, recreation areas and facilities that promote enjoyment, lifelong learning and healthy active lifestyles.”

(The current Mission Statement is: “To provide the people of the Livermore area with outstanding recreation programs and a system of parks, trails, recreation areas and facilities that stimulate, educate and enrich our lives.”)

Chair Wilson opened public comment. No public comment. Closed public comment.

There was no discussion or inquires by Director.

Moved by Director Palajac, seconded by Director Pierpont[, adopted Resolution No. 2599, approving a revised District Mission Statement, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	<i>Palajac, Furst, Pierpont, Faltings and Chair Wilson</i>
NOES:	<i>None</i>
ABSTENTIONS:	<i>None</i>
ABSENT:	<i>None</i>

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Director Furst reported on the Oct. 19 Facilities Committee meeting.

Director Faltings reported on the Oct. 17 ESS Parent Advisory Committee meeting.

Director Palajac reported on the Oct. 17 Livermore Downtown meeting.

9. MATTERS INITIATED/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DIRECTORS

1) Chair Wilson encouraged people to go online and give their thoughts on a variety aspects of the downtown planning process.

Chair Wilson invited GM Barry to report. GM Barry made the following announcements:

- 1) The Oct. 15 Dogtoberfest event was a great success; provided details.
- 2) Invited the public to participate in the LARPD Family Dance on Friday, Nov. 3.
- 3) LARPD Rangers are leading a 5-mile hike in Sycamore Grove Park on Sunday, Oct. 29; encouraged the public to participate.

10. OPEN SESSION DISCLOSURE REGARDING CLOSED SESSION ITEMS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.7

At 8:33 p.m., Chair Wilson announced that the Board would adjourn to Closed Session to discuss item 11.1.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 8:44 p.m.

11. CLOSED SESSION

11.1 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.8

Property: APN: 904 001000202

Agency Negotiators: T. Barry/R. Attebery

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment

Adjourned to Open Session at 9:05 p.m.

**12. OPEN SESSION REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT
CODE SECTION 54957.1**

No action to report.

13. ADJOURNMENT

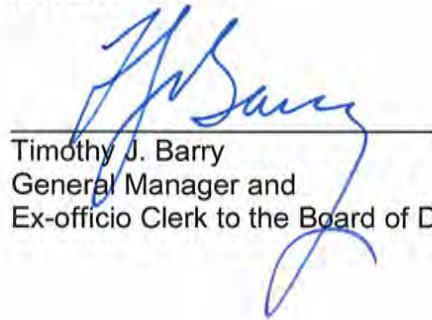
Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

APPROVED,



Beth Wilson
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



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