

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PUBLIC MEETING IN THE PARK**

**Bill Clark Park
5451 Hillflower Drive
Livermore, CA**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Chair Boswell, Vice Chair Furst,
Director Faltings, Director Palajac

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Director Pierpont

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mat Fuzie, Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider,
Linda VanBuskirk, David Weisgerber

OTHERS PRESENT: Sergeant J. Lash, Detective T. Burress, Lieutenant S. Goard
with the City of Livermore (COL) Police Department,
Members of the Public

Chair Boswell called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Those Directors present, and General Manager (GM) Fuzie were introduced to the public in attendance.

1. **Update on Current LARPD Projects:** Parks and Facilities Manager (PFM) Haldeman was introduced and discussed the following:
 - ❖ LARPD has 32 playgrounds to maintain.
 - ❖ The reasonable life expectancy for our parks is 20 years. The playground here at Bill Clark Park is the oldest playground LARPD maintains (38 years old), however most of the equipment is still in good condition.
 - ❖ We are budgeted to replace, at minimum, two playgrounds per fiscal year. We prioritize based on age and condition. This park is currently scheduled for replacement this fiscal year.
 - ❖ This is the only playground that is not ADA compliant, so we will be bringing the playground up to current ADA standards.
 - ❖ The basketball court was resurfaced and a new backboard was installed a couple of years ago. That was a partnership instigated by one of your neighbors, Mr. Cory Hahn.
 - ❖ GM Fuzie introduced Community Outreach Supervisor (COS) David Weisgerber, our staff liaison to the LARPD Foundation, and informed the group that the LARPD Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization, spends much of their monies providing community scholarships through their Community Support Program to provide access to LARPD's recreation programs for everyone. Last fiscal year they approved \$12,000 plus the Livermore Rotary matched that amount for community scholarships totaling \$24,000. He encouraged the public to get involved with the

LARPD Foundation. More information about the LARPD Foundation is available here:
[Foundation - Livermore Area Recreation and Park District \(larpd.org\)](https://www.larpd.org)

Community Comments and Questions:

- This is a wonderful park and an important part of why we love living here in Livermore.
- GM Fuzie commented that the District is very open to community input and reporting issues with all our parks and facilities. To do so, please email info@larpd.org.

2. Comments and Suggestions Regarding Bill Clark Park:

Questions and comments received included the following:

- Many dog owners leave their pet's poop behind. Prior to the pandemic, LARPD provided poop bags, but no longer. Will those be available again? *GM Fuzie explained LARPD will not be reinstating that program due to cost of over \$75,000/year and health considerations. That money now goes towards educating the public and other projects.*
- COS Weisgerber spoke about the Park Ambassador Program, a volunteer program throughout the district where Neighborhood Park Ambassadors who are passionate about their neighborhood parks help to ensure their local park is clean, safe, and green while assisting with future park programs and activities geared towards connecting people with parks. For more information about the program please check out our Park Ambassador Handbook on the [LARPD website](https://www.larpd.org). To become a Neighborhood Park Ambassador, email letspark@larpd.org
- Can you provide more information about the new playground structures? *PFM Haldeman noted that it will follow the same footprint very much. We will not be altering the overall shape, so the fall zones will stay within that area. It has not been designed yet so we may be able to post it to our website once design is settled.*
- Will there be shade structures? *Yes, the modern designs all have a shade component, and if they do not, we ask for the built-in shade structure.*
- Can solar lights be installed? *GM Fuzie explained, our policy is to not install lights, to discourage after-hours use of the park.*
- When will the playground upgrades begin? *GM Fuzie noted it is funded for this fiscal year.*
- Last year there were a few trees planted in this park. Two of them are still here. The trees are great, except one was right in the center of this field which was a very unpopular location because this is where the community likes to play frisbee or fly a kite. We are not sure what happened to it, but there are other great spots to plant trees on the side, just not in the center of the field where kids like to play soccer, baseball, etc.
- The graffiti cleanup here has been very good.
- How does LARPD decide when to install public restrooms in the parks? *GM Fuzie explained that it is also our policy not to install restroom facilities in neighborhood parks, as it invites other issues and causes other activities. LARPD does place restroom in larger community parks and sports fields.*
- Chair Boswell asked those community members present if there have been any issues with electric bikes throughout the park and street? *The consensus was that there is currently no issue with e-bikes.*

- 3. Questions for Police Officers:** Lieutenant S. Goard, Sergeant J. Lash, and Detective T. Burress from the Livermore Police Department (LPD) were present for this meeting. They welcomed community comments and questions, sharing that this park is usually very quiet and the LPD does not get many calls for service here.

Community Comments and Questions:

- Despite the signs at every entrance, there is an issue with off-leash dogs. *To report a dog running loose or for more information about the leash law ordinance, please call the Livermore Police Department Animal Control at (925) 371-4987.*
- A resident noted that he has noticed a night-time issue here over the years is that people park on the street alongside the park and leave their trash on the sidewalk. *If you can take down the license plate number, that is helpful; then report the non-emergency incident with the Livermore Police Department, at (925) 371-4987.*
- A resident noted that she has observed suspicious people parking along the road next to the park. *Detective Burress indicated they do not receive many calls for service in this area, but if any suspicious activity is observed, it should be immediately reported to the Livermore Police Department's non-emergency line at (925) 371-4987.*
- What can be done about kids causing problems such as playing doorbell ditch? *You could call and ask for increased patrol if the situation is happening around the same days or times or report the non-emergency incident with the LPD at (925) 371-4987. Cameras and lights help make your home less appealing to these activities.*

For more information:

LARPD's Ordinance No. 8 – District Rules & Regulations covers allowed use of parks and may be viewed here: [Parks Ordinance - Livermore Area Recreation and Park District \(larpd.org\)](http://larpd.org)

To report a non-emergency incident with the Livermore Police Department, call (925) 371-4987. For more information, please visit the Livermore Police Department website at [Police | Livermore, CA \(livermoreca.gov\)](http://livermoreca.gov)

Non-emergency reports or other concerns with any of the LARPD parks or facilities can also be filed online on the City of Livermore Police Department's website at [Online Reporting System | Livermore, CA \(livermoreca.gov\)](http://livermoreca.gov)

4. Questions for LARPD staff and Board of Directors:

- How do we report broken sprinklers? *Please report broken sprinklers and/or any other non-emergency park issue or concern to info@larpd.org.*
- Marlin Pound Dog Park needs attention.
- What can be done about the gopher holes at Marlin Pound Park? *PFM Haldeman commented, gophers, ground squirrels, moles and voles are a nuisance in every park. Marlin Pound Park is a particularly challenging location due to its proximity to the adjacent waterway. Parks and Facilities staff use every means available to combat this menace. In an effort to stem the tide, staff have created a dedicated Critter Abatement Task Force including owl boxes.*

- What can be done about foxtails inside the dog park at Marlin Pound Park? *PFM Haldeman indicated he will look into this. We currently use herbicides for the turf area. Regular mowing should take care of this.*
- Can volunteers help with cleanup of the parks? *COS Weisgerber commented that LARPD is actively seeking volunteers to assist with our programs, services, and community events. For more information, go to www.larpd.org/volunteer*
- What is the status of the Springtown Golf Course Park? *GM Fuzie advised that the Springtown Golf Course is a City of Livermore (COL) property. They have recently announced that they are going to undertake several projects there including pickleball courts, disc golf course, and a community garden. These projects are in the planning phase at the COL. There was a public meeting around two months ago. Council member Ben Barrientos is the COL representative on the project.*
- Who can we contact regarding planting trees in the center divides on city streets? *If it is within a park there is a great probability that you should contact LARPD; if it is within a median or on the roadside, that would be the City of Livermore – Public Works.*
- What is going to happen with Camp Shelly? Is it still on track to open next year? *GM Fuzie explained that Camp Shelly was closed this year due to major flooding. Staff have a lot of repairs and tree removal to be done. We certainly want to open again next year, and that is the goal.*

There were no further questions or comments. Chair Boswell thanked all community members for their contributions and for attending.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

APPROVED,



James E. Boswell
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Mathew L. Fuzie
General Manager and
Ex-officio Clerk to the Board of Directors

/lvb