

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

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

**MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023
6:00 PM**

**Lester J. Knott Park
655 North Mines Road
Livermore, CA**

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Director Palajac

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Mat Fuzie, Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider, Pamela Healy, Julie Dreher, Robin Rasmussen, John Mottashed

OTHERS PRESENT: Lt. Draghi, City of Livermore (COL) Police Department, Members of the Public

Chair Boswell called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Those Directors present, and 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 Lester J. Knott Park is older (29 years old), however most of the equipment is still in reasonable condition.
- ❖ We are budgeted to replace equipment in 2 parks per Fiscal Year. We prioritize based on age and condition. This park is currently scheduled for replacement in 2026.

Community Comments and Questions:

- This is a wonderful park and an important part of why we love living here in Livermore.
- Thank you for repainting the tables and benches. *PFM Haldeman commented, eventually all the tables, benches and trash cans will be replaced.*
- Does the LARPD clean the parks regularly? *LARPD staff do regular maintenance and graffiti removal.*
- When is a permit required for a gathering in the park? *A permit is required to reserve picnic areas for large groups, for special use reservations and for any other special requirements. A permit is generally not needed for family gatherings that do not require reservations or special requests. When in doubt, please contact us at info@larpd.org*
- GM Fuzie asked those community members present if there was a desire for use of this neighborhood park at nighttime. *The consensus was that no nighttime use is desired.*
- When will the basketball court be refurbished? *PFM Haldeman indicated that we are currently exploring options.*

2. Comments and Suggestions Regarding Lester J Knott Park:

Questions and comments received included the following:

- a. Can solar lights be installed? *GM Fuzie explained, our policy is to not install lights, to discourage after-hours use of the park.*
- b. Are there any plans to install public restrooms here? *GM Fuzie explained that it is also our policy not to install restroom facilities in neighborhood parks, as they are primarily meant to be used by local residents. Director Pierpont expanded on this, reviewing the distinction between larger community parks (which often do have restroom facilities) and smaller neighborhood parks.*
- c. LARPD does a great job of maintaining this park, but there is a muddy area at the south end of the park. *One resident commented that he has observed the truck that picks up the park trash cutting the corner. PFM Haldeman will follow up on this as that is a contract service.*
- d. It looks like there are more weeds than grass at this park. *PFM Haldeman noted that this is likely due to the severe drought/excessive rain cycle we just experienced over the last year. Staff have been spraying the planting areas only but plan to begin spraying the turf areas as well.*

3. **Questions for Police Officers:** Lieutenant Joe Draghi from the Livermore Police Department (LPD) was present for this meeting. He 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:

- A resident noted that on Fridays and Saturdays between 10:00 p.m. and 12:00 a.m., he has observed cars doing “donuts” and drag racing up and down Highland Street. He requested additional patrol presence in this area. *Lt. Draghi thanked the resident and indicated that he would request extra patrol presence in the area as staffing allows.*
- When does the new COL Fireworks ordinance take effect? *The new ordinance includes a “social hosting” provision and takes effect on June 23, 2023. More information on the new ordinance is available here: [638211378965930000 \(livermoreca.gov\)](https://www.livermoreca.gov/638211378965930000)*
- Are e-bikes allowed in the park? *All Livermore parks have a speed limit of 15 MPH, whether a vehicle or bike is motorized or not. E-bikes must be pedal-assisted. If any unsafe activity is observed, it should be immediately reported to the Livermore Police Department’s non-emergency line at (925) 371-4987.*
- How can we report traffic flow issues along Portola Ave. and First Street? *Traffic issues may be reported here: [Traffic | Livermore, CA \(livermoreca.gov\)](https://www.livermoreca.gov/Traffic-Livermore-CA)*
- Are police patrols done on a set schedule? *No, these are not done on a pre-set schedule.*
- How is this park late at night? *At this time, the police department does not get called here very often.*
- GM Fuzie commented that the District is very open to community input and reporting issues with all of our parks and facilities. To do so, please email info@larpd.org.

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 \(larpd.org\)](https://www.larpd.org/Parks-Ordinance)

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 \(livermoreca.gov\)](https://www.livermoreca.gov/Police)

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 \(livermoreca.gov\)](https://www.livermoreca.gov/Online-Reporting-System)

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.*
- How can we get a brick with names on it installed at the park? *This is no longer an active program. However, we do have a memorial bench, tree and picnic table program, facilitated by the LARPD Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. GM Fuzie added, the LARPD Foundation has provided \$36k in Community Scholarships through their Community Support Program to provide access to LARPD's recreation programs for everyone. More information about the LARPD Foundation is available here: [Foundation - Livermore Area Recreation and Park District \(larpd.org\)](https://www.larpd.org/Foundation)*
- How can we contact the LARPD Board of Directors? *Director Furst responded; all Director emails are available on our website. Contact information for the LARPD Board of Directors is available here: [Board Members - Livermore Area Recreation and Park District \(larpd.org\)](https://www.larpd.org/Board-Members)*
- Park Maintenance Technicians Robin Rasmussen and John Mottashed were acknowledged for their efforts at our parks. Chair Boswell noted that Robin was named Cowgirl of the Year at the 2023 Rodeo.

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 6:50 p.m.

/ph