

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

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

**Northfront Park and Trailhead
6315 Almaden Way
Livermore, CA**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023
6:00 PM**

MINUTES

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Lieutenant Radcliff, Sergeant Lash and Officers Loudon,
Ford and Kutsuris with the City of Livermore (COL) Police
Department; Members of the Public, members of the Tri
Valley Pickleball club, members of the Livermore Disc Golf
club.

Chair Boswell called the meeting to order at 6:02 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:

- ❖ The reasonable life expectancy for our parks is 20 years. The playground here at Northfront Park and Trailhead was installed in 2001 (22 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. The playground at this park is currently scheduled for replacement in the next 5 years.

Community Comments and Questions:

- We appreciate the way that LARPD cares for this park.
- 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 Northfront Park and Trailhead:

Questions and comments received included the following:

- Can solar lights be installed? *PFM Haldeman explained, our policy is not to install lights to discourage after-hours use of the park. He also explained that*

spotlights/motion sensing lights are sometimes used to address specific issues but are only temporary.

- Can you please consider installing exercise equipment, such as circuit stations? *PFM Haldeman took note of this request, adding, this has been done successfully at other parks.*
- Can you add a basketball court here? *There is no basketball court at this park due to the elongated shape of this park, however, there are three basketball courts nearby: one at Marlin Pound Park, Altamont Creek Park and one at Bill Clark Park.*
- Why aren't there any bathrooms at this park? *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 restrooms in larger community parks and sports fields.*
- The graffiti cleanup here has been very good. We appreciate how well this park is maintained; however, we have noticed clippings left stacked along the wall area. *GM Fuzie indicated that specific area of concern may be within another agency's jurisdiction. LARPD will look into this issue and address it, if we are able to do so. He added, LARPD staff try to remedy issues as soon as possible.*
- Member of the public Ethan Ha (sp?) introduced himself. He thanked the LARPD Board members and the COL Police Department. He then expressed the following concerns:
 - He is concerned about the health of the streambed that is adjacent to the park, given the potential for soil erosion, and contamination from fertilizer runoff. *PFM Haldeman explained that the streambed area is outside of the LARPD's jurisdiction, but he will pass along the concerns to the responsible agency.*
 - He feels the lawn area in the park uses too much water to maintain and requested that it be replaced entirely with drought tolerant landscape. He also suggested adding a community garden. *PFM Haldeman explained that turf areas provide a place to recreate. We actively use drought tolerant landscaping in all of our parks, including this one. To replace all of the turf in this park would not be practical. PFM Haldeman added that the City of Livermore (COL) already has a community garden concept in the works for the nearby Springtown area.*
 - He reviewed the LARPD budget and is concerned that 2.5 million dollars was allocated for artificial turf in our parks. He questioned that choice, citing potential for microplastics and contributing to an urban heat island. *GM Fuzie explained that turf replacement in our parks is a balancing act. He noted that we aim for the highest and best use. Cost is one factor, as well as durability. Artificial turf is more stable and allows for extended playtime. The level of artificial turf at Robertson Park is competition grade. Chair Boswell added, for any environmental concerns, the public are encouraged to reach out to the Alameda County Resource Conservation District (ACRCD), President of the Board of Directors, Karen Sweet. The ACRCD contact number is (925) 453-3863.*

Chair Boswell asked those community members present if there were any other comments or suggestions specific to Northfront Park and Trailhead. There were no additional comments.

3. **Questions for Police Officers:** Lieutenant Radcliff, Sergeant Lash, Officers Loudon, Ford and Kutsuris with the City of Livermore (COL) Police Department (LPD) were present for this meeting. They welcomed community comments and questions.

Community Comments and Questions:

- 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 an ongoing issue with graffiti and has observed loiterers in the park after dusk. Is the LPD patrolling this area? *Yes, police officers patrol this area. Suspicious activity and/or graffiti should be immediately reported to the Livermore Police Department's non-emergency line at (925) 371-4987. More information about reporting graffiti may be viewed here: [Graffiti | Livermore, CA \(livermoreca.gov\)](https://www.livermoreca.gov/departments/community-development/neighborhood-preservation/parking-and-inoperable-vehicles)*
- A resident asked if there were parking guidelines or requirements for the neighborhood. Many vehicles park on the streets near the park entrance, with some blocking driveways and curbs with access ramps. *Such concerns should be reported to the Livermore Police Department's non-emergency line at (925) 371-4987.*
- Can street curbs get painted to prohibit parking in certain spots? *Information on vehicles and parking issues is available on the City of Livermore website here: <https://www.livermoreca.gov/departments/community-development/neighborhood-preservation/parking-and-inoperable-vehicles>*
- A resident noted that she has observed suspicious people along the creek area next to the park. *If any suspicious activity is observed, it should be immediately reported to the Livermore Police Department's non-emergency line at (925) 371-4987.*
- Disc Golf Club members expressed thanks to the LPD for efforts to clean up the creek, adding special thanks to Officer Greyhart (sp?), who has been very helpful.

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.livermoreca.gov/departments/community-development/neighborhood-preservation/parking-and-inoperable-vehicles)

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/departments/community-development/neighborhood-preservation/parking-and-inoperable-vehicles)

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/departments/community-development/neighborhood-preservation/parking-and-inoperable-vehicles)

4. Questions for LARPD staff and Board of Directors:

- An email comment was received from a member of the public, Marianne Bidwell. The comment was shared with all Board Members, and is as follows:
"I can't attend the meeting due to work conflict, but as a resident, I would really love to see a splash pad built in our city. I'm so surprised that we only have Lizzie Fountain as a splash pad with the heat we get. Something comparable to Rancho San Ramon would be awesome!"
- As Springtown is developed, how does the LARPD fit in? 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, a 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. As plans are developed, we will discuss them with the COL.

- Members of the Livermore disc golf community expressed thanks and appreciation to the LARPD staff for maintaining the fields at Ernie Rodrigues Park. The group is also requesting new concrete and new baskets be installed. Director Palajac thanked the group and suggested the group make their request to the LARPD Foundation, as this is exactly the type of request they handle. Their next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2023.
- Tri-Valley Pickleball Club President Kirby Wong thanked the Board and staff for their continued support of pickleball at LARPD facilities. He noted that pickleball is becoming increasingly popular and shared the following statistics on the increasing number of players in Livermore:
 - In July 2023, there were 1,796 players
 - From May 2023 - July 2023, there were 5,130 players
 - From August 2022 – July 2023, there were 16,960 players.

Mr. Wong then presented a plaque to the Board, GM Fuzie and PFM Haldeman, on behalf of the Tri-Valley Pickleball Club. (See Attached Photo)

- 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. To become a Neighborhood Park Ambassador, email letspark@larpd.org COS Weisgerber also shared that LARPD is actively seeking volunteers to assist with our programs, services, and community events. For more information, go to www.larpd.org/volunteer

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 6:38 p.m.

/ph