

LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

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

DRAFT MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
6:00 PM

Bothwell Park
2486 Eighth Street, Livermore

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jan Palajac, Maryalice Faltings James Boswell, Phil Pierpont

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Director Furst

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Fred Haldeman, Jeffrey Schneider, Linda VanBuskirk, Pamela Healy

Chair Faltings called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Those Directors present were introduced to the public in attendance.

1. Update on Current LARPD Projects: Parks and Facilities Manager (PFM) Haldeman introduced himself and gave updates on the following projects:

- ❖ Replacement of Synthetic Turf at Robertson Park was recently completed.
- ❖ A restroom will be added at the Sycamore Grove Picnic Area.
- ❖ A shade structure will be added at Mocho Park.
- ❖ The Joe Mitchell Building project is complete.
- ❖ The Trevarno Rd Sewer/Improvements project will go out for bid later this year.
- ❖ The Rodeo Stadium Infrastructure Improvements project will focus on the overhead canopy.
- ❖ The Bike Pump Track at Sunken Gardens project will be funded by AB1600 money, which comes from developer fees.
- ❖ Mocho Park is being considered for the addition of a Satellite Community Garden. It will be smaller than the one at the original site.

Community Comments and Questions:

- **How are the projects funded?** Some funding comes from AB1600 funds, the rest is from our Operating Budget, which includes revenue and property taxes.
- **Why was Mocho Park selected for the community garden?** Locations north of Highway 580 were originally targeted. Mocho Park was ultimately selected because there is a large area suitable for the project.
- **Are there any projects underway at Bothwell Park?** Yes, it is currently undergoing turf renovation, which includes irrigation modifications and a re-seeded lawn.

2. Comments and Suggestions Regarding Bothwell Park:

Chair Faltings asked the public "How can our parks serve you better? Questions and comments received included the following:

- a. Is it true that something different might be done with the Bothwell Arts Center? It is an amazing resource to the community.

- b. The Arts community feels they are frequently left out of discussions until after a decision has been made and would like to be part of the discussion concerning the future of the Bothwell Arts Center.
- c. Thank you to LARPD for all the years we have had the Bothwell Arts Center.
- d. We love Bothwell Park and the Bothwell Arts Center.
- e. We appreciate the new lighting however, it is very bright, especially later at night. Can you please adjust it to be less bright?
- f. What can be done about the growing off-leash dog issue? Some visitors observe others with their dogs off leash and think it's allowed.
- g. Can signs at the park entrance be re-worded?
- h. Youth in the Arts community have been left behind due to city expansion and the growing income gap. There are many talented young people here who can benefit from the Bothwell Arts Center.

3. Questions for Police Officers: Officer Taylor Burruss and Lieutenant Joe Draghi from the Livermore Police Department (LPD) were present for this meeting and were asked the following questions:

- **What can be done about the off-leash dog issue?** Lt. Draghi explained, this is a City of Livermore Municipal Code violation. The public may call the LPD non-emergency number to report it. Officer Burruss discussed other options available to address the issue, such as implementing dog run areas and sharing information about the locations of existing dog parks.
- **Is there a fine for dogs off leash?** Yes, while this is not a frequent occurrence, if someone is cited to appear in court, the judge decides the fine when the person appears in court.
- **Do you walk through the park frequently?** Yes, beat officers drive through the area. If there was a call for service at the park, they would respond. This park is usually very quiet and the LPD does not get many calls for service here.

LARPD's Ordinance No. 8 – District Rules & Regulations covers allowed use of parks and may be viewed here: [LARPD Ordinance 8 Rules and Regs](#)

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 \(livermoreca.gov\)](#)

Non-emergency reports or other concerns with any of the LARPD parks or facilities can also be filed online on the Livermore PD's website at [Report a Problem | Livermore, CA \(livermoreca.gov\)](#)

4. Questions for LARPD staff and Board of Directors:

- a. Can the LARPD send flyers to all houses within a certain range explaining leash law and dogs off leash are not welcome at the park? Can existing park signage be more strongly worded to include reference to the Municipal Code? Can you add signage or post a QR code with this information at the park?
 - This park is a little different because the playground is a centerpiece. Review of additional sign placement will be conducted by LARPD staff, however, there is a certain degree of responsibility by the owner. The public may provide additional feedback via the LARPD website at [Livermore Area Recreation and Park District - Community Feedback \(larpd.org\)](#)

- b. There are no restrooms in this park, will there ever be one added?
 - Generally, neighborhood parks tend to not have bathrooms. Bothwell Park is unique because of the Arts Center building. We will take all requests under consideration.
- c. Have any real decisions been made about the Bothwell Arts Center building yet?
 - No, everything is under consideration. The public is encouraged to attend all LARPD Board and Committee meetings and participate.
- d. Why is today's meeting at Bothwell Park?
 - We try to go out to all parks. Director Boswell added, the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District covers the entire area known as Murray Township, a 243.5-square-mile area bounded by Contra Costa County to the north, San Joaquin County to the east, Santa Clara County to the south and the cities of Pleasanton and Dublin to the west.
- e. Can you please give an update on the status of the Patterson Ranch trail?
 - A community member expressed that he helped with the trail building, but the trail now appears to be overgrown. Director Pierpont explained that the Zone 7 Water Agency is the lead on this as they own the land that adjoins the trail. Resolution is pending agreement by all involved parties. The same community member commented, this would be great location for biking trails. Unfortunately, there is a Zone 7 restriction prohibiting this activity.

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

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

/ph