



Livermore Area
Recreation and Park District
An independent special district

BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUBLIC MEETING IN THE PARK

DRAFT MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024
6:00 PM

Ravenswood Park
2636 Tahoe Drive, Livermore

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Directors James Boswell, Maryalice Faltings, Philip Pierpont,
Vice Chair Jan Palajac, Chair David Furst

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Fred Haldeman, Parks and Facilities Manager (PFM)
Harmony Brockman, Child Development Supervisor (CDS)
Jill Kirk, Community Services Manager (CSM)
Linda Van Buskirk, Executive Assistant (EA)
Mat Fuzie, General Manager (GM)

OTHERS PRESENT: Livermore Police Department (LPD):
Patrol Lieutenant Keith Tse
Field Training Officer Steven Clayton

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Mike Ralph (LARPD Foundation trustee),
Approximately 17 park neighbors

Chair Furst called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Those Directors present, and GM Fuzie were introduced to the public in attendance.

1. Update on current LARPD projects: PFM Haldeman was introduced and provided the following updates:

- **Playground Upgrades:**

- Completed park playground equipment upgrades at Ida Holm Park, Bill Clark Park, and Jack Williams Park.
- LARPD aims to upgrade at least two playgrounds annually.
- Playground lifespan: 20-25 years; these at Ravenswood Park were originally installed in 2005.
- New playgrounds include integral shade structures and inclusive features.
- Neighbors are encouraged to visit the updated playgrounds at Jack Williams and Ida Holm Parks.

- **William (Bill) J. Payne Park:**
 - Renovated two baseball fields to accommodate different league plays.
- **Cayetano Park:**
 - Completed the synthetic field replacement.
- **Livermore Downs Park:**
 - Began resurfacing pickleball courts, expected to be completed in approximately two weeks.
- **Public Acknowledgment:**
 - A public thank you was noted for all the new park playgrounds. Quinn and Abby Pierpont have played on all of them, and they are kid-approved!

2. Comments and Suggestions Regarding Ravenswood Park:

Chair Furst asked the public “What do you like to see in your parks?”

Community Comments and Questions:

- a) **Shout Out to John:** A neighbor praised John for his responsive and diligent maintenance of Ravenswood Park, especially with pruning and watering. *(PFM Haldeman was thankful to John as well and discussed irrigation challenges due to gaining infrastructure and water pressure issues.)*
- b) **Grass Removal at Breezeway Rumor:** Neighbors expressed concern about rumors of the grass being removed from the breezeway leading to the park. *(PFM Haldeman will reach out to the City of Livermore [COL] regarding sidewalk and breezeway maintenance. The COL has plans for the breezeway area. If unsure of the responsible organization, direct concerns to LARPD, who will liaise with the COL. Bob Carling is a member of the Livermore City Council, representing District 4. If you need to contact him, you can reach him at (925) 960-4018 or via email at the Livermore City Council.)*

For Questions on the City of Livermore’s landscape maintenance, call Maintenance Division at 925-960-8020, email maintenance-request@livermoreca.gov, or report online at [City of Livermore \(311service.com\)](http://CityofLivermore.com/311service)

- c) **Public Meeting Attendance:** Director Boswell encouraged neighbors to attend LARPD standing committee meetings and Intergovernmental Liaison Committee meetings. Information is available on the LARPD website here: [Board Committee and Liaison Calendar](#). The public is always welcome to attend. Director Pierpont highlighted Livermore City Council meetings also welcome citizens and have a Public Comment section. See [City Meeting Agendas and Calendars | Livermore, CA \(livermoreca.gov\)](#). Chair Furst announced that LARPD Board meetings are held on the second and last Wednesday of each month and are open to the public. Issues can be emailed to the Board or LARPD staff.
- d) **Apple Orchard Watering:** Praise for watering efforts but concern about almost losing the orchard last year. Suggested a dedicated water line. *(PFM Haldeman responded that LARPD has plans to improve the orchard, considering drip irrigation, and replacing dead trees. Currently using city water due to low aquifer levels.)*
- e) **Pathway Maintenance:** Concern about uneven pathways. *(PFM Haldeman agreed on the need for grinding or patching due to root intrusion and will address it.)*
- f) **Sunken Gardens Steel Ramps:** Mike Ralph inquired about maintenance or replacement plans. *(PFM Haldeman stated we are considering different coatings for rusted ramps. No direct plans yet, but it is on the radar, especially with the new pump track coming. The contractor has resubmitted plans based upon the new COL requirements this week.)*
- g) **Proposed Changes to Ravenswood Park:** Are there any upcoming changes? *(PFM Haldeman responded that apart from playground replacement within 5 years and ongoing*

eucalyptus tree maintenance, no significant changes are planned.) Neighbors praised the park for its condition.

- h) **We love this park!**
- i) **Memorial Tree or Bench:** Inquiry about costs and the process. *(GM Fuzie responded that LARPD has a memorial bench program in conjunction with the LARPD Foundation.)* More information is available on the LARPD website here: [Memorial Donations FAQ - Livermore Area Recreation and Park District \(larpd.org\)](https://www.larpd.org/faq)
- j) **Splash Pads:** Are there any plans for putting in splash pads in Livermore? *(PFM Haldeman discussed requirements and costs. No immediate plans due to budget constraints, but it is a future consideration, and one close to Director Falting's heart. The May Nissen Pool will need some improvements within the next 5-10 years. That might be a suitable location to consider in conjunction with renovating the pool.)*
- k) **Kudos to LARPD:** This park has been lovely for a lot of years. The park was praised for being well-maintained and safe, enjoyed for generations.
- l) **Volunteer Trees and Weed Spraying:** Suggestion to manage volunteer trees threatening the asphalt and spray weeds. *(PFM Haldeman's team recently started spraying herbicides in neighborhood parks and will continue managing weeds with public notifications at least 24 hours in advance.)*
- m) **Park Usage for Rehabilitation:** A few groups recovering from surgeries appreciate the park for its safety and few tripping hazards. People do not realize how cathartic it is to walk around the greenbelt and the park.
- n) **LARPD and School Board Bond:** Suggestion for LARPD to remain separate from the School Board bond. *(GM Fuzie said it was considered, but decided it did not make sense.)*
- o) **Subcontracting Maintenance Work:** Inquiry about subcontracting plans. *(PFM Haldeman reported that approximately 1/3 of maintenance is subcontracted out. LARPD works with Terracare. Considering expanding subcontracting while maintaining high standards. Employees remain specialists in certain tasks. GM Fuzie added that subcontracting helps manage insurance costs related to high-risk tasks.)*
- p) **Maintenance Work Division:** How is maintenance work divided? *(PFM Haldeman noted employees are cross trained to manage various tasks, ensuring flexibility, and efficiency.)*
- q) **Ravenswood Grounds Maintenance:** Who is responsible and how to address weed abatement along the fence line? *(PFM Haldeman is responsible for that.)*

3. **Questions for Livermore Police Officers:** Patrol Lieutenant Keith Tse and Field Training Officer Steven Clayton from the LPD were present for this meeting to answer resident's questions and concerns.

Community Comments and Questions:

- a) **Rude Behavior at Sunset Park:** A neighbor with young great-grandchildren asked how to deal with rude middle and high school kids who monopolize the swings and are mean and disrespectful. *(Lieutenant Tse advised the public to call the police or Park Rangers to address such behavior. Officers are available to manage quality-of-life issues.)*
- b) **School Visits for Behavior Management:** Do police visits to schools help deter such behavior? *(Lieutenant Tse commented that it depends on the schools. It is difficult to gauge effectiveness, but having an officer present can deter unruly behavior.)*
- c) **Addressing Behavioral Issues:** A neighbor mentioned some school districts have social/emotional learning programs and spoke on the importance of speaking up about children's behavior. Use local apps like NextDoor to inform the community about kids' misbehavior and ask neighbors to address it with their families.
- d) **Calling the Police:** Residents should not hesitate to call the police, even for quality-of-life issues. *(Officer Clayton expressed the importance of reporting issues so they are on the police's radar. The community's satisfaction is a priority.)*

- e) Residents voiced concerns about safety and discussed what actions to take regarding non-street-legal motorized bikes / electric dirt bikes / mini motorcycles (pocket bikes). *[Electric dirt bikes are illegal. LPD is doing their best to combat the issue. If any unsafe activity is observed, it should be immediately reported to the Livermore Police Department's non-emergency line at (925) 371-4987. Lieutenant Tse added that cases involving DUI crashes on e-bikes are going to court. GM Fuzie stated that parks have a 15-mph speed limit. Motorized cycles that are not pedal assist are illegal. Director Pierpont agreed the most problematic are bikes with throttles and no pedal assist. Officer Clayton stated patrol officers face challenges with e-bikes due to their maneuverability. Enforcement focuses on gathering intel and tacking action when safe.]*
- f) **Thanks to LPD:** The Board expressed gratitude to the Livermore Police Department for attending the public meetings in the parks. *(Lieutenant Tse appreciates the relationship with the LARPD.)*

For more information:

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 www.police.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 Report a Problem - www.police.livermoreca.gov

To request new road signage/markings, call the City of Livermore's Engineering Division at 925-960-4500, email engineering@livermoreca.gov, or request online at [City of Livermore \(311service.com\)](http://City of Livermore (311service.com))

4. Questions for LARPD Board of Directors and Staff:

- **Praise for the LARPD Board and Staff:** Residents praised the Board and staff for their work and continued maintenance of this beautiful park.
- **Appreciation for Attendance:** Residents expressed gratitude for the Board and staff attending and engaging with the community, noting it was nice to see the people they voted for. *(The Board thanked the neighbors for attending and speaking with them as well.)*
- Residents thanked the Board and staff for their service, expressing deep appreciation at all times.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Inquiry about volunteering in the parks.

For more information:

- [Neighborhood Park Ambassador Program](#)
- [General Volunteer Information](#)
- [Ravenswood Progress League](#)

There were no further questions or comments. Chair Furst thanked all community members for their contributions and for attending. He reiterated that all Board of Director emails are posted on the LARPD website.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

/LVB