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THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FAIRVIEW PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 4, 2013

These meetings minutes represent an "action minute" format. A copy of the meeting audio tape can be obtained at the Public Services Department front counter located on the 4th floor of the Costa Mesa City Hall.

The Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4, 2013, in the Neighborhood Community Center Victoria Room at 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, California.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Mehren

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Member Eckles read the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee (FPCAC) Mission Statement.

2. Roll Call

Voting Members Present:	Chairman Richard Mehren Vice Chairman Steve Smith Member Ron Amburgey Member Brett Eckles Member Dennis Popp Member Lee Ramos Member David Stiller Member Anna Vrska Member Terry Cummings
Officials Present:	Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Mensinger, City Council Liaison Commissioner Dean Abernathy, Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison
Staff Present:	Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director Fariba Fazeli, City Engineer Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager Yolanda Summerhill, Attorney Alfa Lopez, Management Analyst Denise Cedillos, Administrative Secretary

3. Presentations/Update: None

4a. Public Comment

Public Comment was requested by Chairman Mehren.

1. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Weitzberg spoke in support of an impact needs assessment.

2. Gilbert Collins, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Collins expressed concern with the FPCAC's procedures and the creation of the proposed changes to the Master Plan list.

3. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Pope spoke in favor of a more democratic matter of receiving input from the community regarding changes to Fairview Park, such as a ballot measure.

4. Chuck Barry, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Barry spoke in favor of fields in the area east of Placentia Avenue.

5. Resident, Costa Mesa
   A resident spoke in favor of finding alternate ways to utilize spaces that may become available in a short period of time instead of changing Fairview Park.

6. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa
   Ms. Hendricks stated there is not a shortage of fields; utilization is the problem.

4b. Correspondence from the public

Committee members were provided copies of all public correspondence received since the date of the last meeting. Copies for the public were also made available.

5a. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of November 6, 2013

Ms. Lopez stated Committee Members will be sent the minutes via e-mail in the upcoming days. They will have until the next meeting to review and approve the minutes.

6a. Evaluation of Proposed Changes – Northwest Quadrant

i. Staff Presentation

Mr. Mejia presented a PowerPoint overview of the quadrant. He explained the process to remove items that are specific to other quadrants and taking a vote that will determine the priority of the remaining items. After the Committee has determined the items it wants to examine for the quadrant, staff will perform a preliminary feasibility analysis to present at the following meeting. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the items at the next meeting.

Committee members were provided a memorandum explaining the process of developing a priority list, a map of the northwest quadrant depicting easements, an approximate scale of measurement, and a numbered list of the proposed changes to the Master Plan. Copies were also made available for the public.

No questions were asked by the Committee.

ii. Develop Priority List

Mr. Mejia presented the proposed list of changes to the Master Plan; items circled in red were specific to other quadrants (Attachment 3). **Member Eckles made a motion to eliminate the**

circled red items from the proposed changes to the northwest quadrant, Member Cummings second, motion carries unanimously.

The remaining items were presented individually to allow Committee discussion and recommendation.

Member Popp made a motion to look at item 12 first, keep Master Plan as-is, then go in numerical order; Member Eckles second; Member Amburgey abstained; motion carries 8 to 1.

Member Popp clarified his intention was to look at what is currently planned, not to eliminate the other proposed items. Committee discussion ensued.

Member Eckles made a motion to keep the Master Plan as-is for the northwest quadrant, not deleting anything in the current Master Plan; Member Popp second. (Motion Tabled)

Member Stiller stated 'as-is' means not adding or subtracting and that the Master Plan has to be amended by a very specific process. He understood the motion to mean if item 12 carried, then the discussion of the other proposed items ended.

Member Popp made a motion to table Member Eckles's motion in order to strike words that are objectionable; Member Ramos second; Members Vrska and Stiller abstained; motion carries 6 to 2. Member Eckles was absent for the vote.

Member Popp made a motion to retain the elements of the Master Plan as they read now; Member Cummings second; Members Vrska, Stiller, and Mehren abstained; motion carries 6 to 3.

Item 1, additional picnic structures SW and NW Quadrants

Member Popp made a motion to bring back the previously tabled motion made by Member Eckles for a vote; Member Ramos second; Members Stiller, Mehren, Vrska, and Cummings abstained; motion carries 5 to 4.

Member Amburgey made a motion to add item 1, additional picnic structures in the northwest quadrant; Member Cummings second; Members Cummings and Amburgey in favor; Members Vrska, Eckles, Mehren, Popp, Ramos, Stiller, and Smith abstained; motion fails 2 to 7.

Item 5, expand train routes to northwest quadrant, eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 8, improve handicap access NW Quadrant

Member Cummings made a motion to include item 8, improve handicap access in the northwest quadrant; lack of second; motion fails.

Vice Chairman Smith expressed confidence there will be sufficient handicap access based on staff presentations.

Item 9, soccer/football fields, eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 13, install a two-tier building that includes an interpretive center and terrace/viewing deck, is eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 15, community garden NW Quadrant (in unused portion)

Member Popp made a motion to do a study on a community garden on the buffer strip; Member Amburgey second; Members Popp, Amburgey, Eckles, Ramos, and Cummings in favor; Members Vrska, Mehren, Stiller and Smith abstained; motion carries 5 to 4.

Item 17, basketball/handball courts, eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 20, install information kiosks with pamphlets NW and SW Quadrants

Member Cummings made a motion to include item 20, install information kiosks with pamphlets; Member Eckles second; Members Popp, Amburgey, Eckles, Ramos, and Cummings in favor; Members Vrska and Smith abstained; motion carries 7 to 2.

Item 21, trail exercise stations

Member Amburgey made a motion to include item 21, trail exercise stations; Member Cummings second; Members Popp, Cummings, Eckles, and Amburgey in favor; Members Vrska, Smith, Mehren, Ramos, and Stiller abstained; motion fails 4 to 5.

Item 23, roller hockey surface, eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 25, improve/designate bike paths

Member Cummings made a motion to include item 25, improve/designate bike paths; Member Amburgey second; Members Amburgey and Cummings in favor; Members Vrska, Eckles, Smith, Mehren, Popp, Ramos, and Stiller abstained; motion fails 2 to 7.

Item 29, dog park, eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 30, expanded concert area, eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 31, skate park, eliminated by lack of motion.

Item 33, nature center – bird watching platforms

Member Eckles made a motion to include item 33, nature center – bird watching platforms; Member Popp second; Members Stiller, Ramos, Popp, Cummings, Eckles, and Amburgey in favor; Members Vrska, Smith, and Mehren abstained; motion carries 6 to 3.

Item 34, archery area

Member Cummings made a motion to include item 34, archery area; Member Amburgey second; Members Cummings, Amburgey, and Popp in favor; Members Vrska, Eckles, Smith, Mehren, Ramos, and Stiller abstained; motion fails 3 to 6.

Item 35, marked running courses

Member Amburgey made a motion to include item 35, marked running courses; Member Cummings second; Members Amburgey and Cummings in favor; Members Vrska, Eckles, Smith, Mehren, Popp, Ramos, and Stiller abstained; motion fails 2 to 7.

Member Eckles made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes; Member Vrska second; motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Munoz stated staff will look at the feasibility of the passed items relative to where the sensitive areas are. Based on that information, the Committee will vote and prioritize the items again, and those items will be moved to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) for further analysis. The PRC will look at the items and make a recommendation to the City Council, once they have all the items in all the quadrants, as to what may be funded for a full environmental, archeological, and biological and feasibility study.

7. New Business – None

8. Committee Member Reports

Member Eckles agreed with the expressed public need for open space for athletics and different items. He stated the State owns Fairview Developmental Center and it is not an option. He said fields are not under utilized and invited anyone to join him when he is scheduling teams.

Member Vrska addressed her voting on the items stating this quadrant needs a delicate balance between what people want to see and utilize but also allowing animals space.

Member Cummings expressed the park is becoming overgrown with tumbleweed. As tumbleweed becomes more prevalent, walking options shrink a lot.

Member Amburgey stated the Committee is strictly advisory. He stated some people want a natural park while some see a possibility for athletic fields – maybe 50 out of 208 acres with a natural dividing area of a street. He referred to an article in The Register regarding the Great Park being downsized and still attracting young families, even with carved sections for athletic fields.

Member Popp stated the Committee is to advise the PRC on items to look at in depth that would help citizens. He expressed appreciation for staff.

Member Ramos thanked staff. He hopes the instrument passed to the PRC will reflect adjustments and compromise showing that the park belongs to all. He takes a lot of notes during the Committee meetings and places himself as a member of the public in addition to his role as a Committee member.

Member Stiller stated there has been a lot of news regarding vernal pools and archeological evidence. Thoughts may need to be changed and adjusted; these are areas of government regulations which we do not control.

Member Smith had nothing to report.

Chairman Mehren agreed with Member Cummings's comments regarding the tumbleweeds and added we need to start ridding parts of the park that have other invasive and non-native plants.

9. Public Services Director Report

Mr. Munoz stated the City received a letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) directing the City to remove the DG trails that are impacting vernal pool 6 and the telephone poles that are delineating those trails. A copy was included in the packet provided Committee members and was made available to the public. The City has retained a consultant and is in the process of putting together a plan to remove the trail. USFWS has approved the consultant and the work will be monitored by a biologist. He foresees the work will happen by the end of next week.

SRS conducted a field archeological survey yesterday. They will prepare their report and provide it to the State. A copy will be provided the Committee once available.

10. City Attorney Report

Ms. Summerhill had nothing to report.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. to the next regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, February 5, 2013, at 6:00 p.m., at the Neighborhood Community Center, Victoria Room.

Submitted by:

ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director