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

March 5, 2014

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, March 5, 2014, 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. Vice Chairman Smith 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 Terry Cummings Member Dennis Popp Member Lee Ramos Member Anna Vrska
Voting Member Absent:	Member David Stiller
Officials Present:	Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Mensinger, City Council Liaison Commissioner Robert Graham, Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) 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:

Archeological Survey Update
Mr. Mejia provided an update on the letter received from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). A draft report has been

submitted to Native American representatives for their review. It is estimated that it will be completed by the end of the month then filed with the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) and submitted to SHPO.

There were no Committee Member questions for Mr. Mejia.

Harbor Soaring Society (HSS)
Henry Smith, HSS Vice President, presented a PowerPoint report. HSS has been flying at Fairview Park for more than 40 years and is requesting a five (5) year renewal of their use permit to allow for long-range plans and to install amenities in a portion of the park at no cost to the City. Mr. Smith stated that HSS uses less than 1.5 acres of Fairview Park and works with the City to maintain rules to operate the flying field. HSS members have insurance covered by the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) in an amount up to $2.5 million. HSS is involved in the community through various projects, park clean ups and aerial photography.

John Anderson, HSS member, provided a report on Design-Build-Fly classes offered by HSS at no cost. Mr. Anderson is a volunteer instructor with the Costa Mesa Teen Center, Girls Inc., and other community based organizations to provide a fun classroom learning experience. There is a demand for pilots, aeronautical engineers, and related occupations which is fueled with participation in model airplanes. HSS worked with the UCI Design-Build-Fly team which won the 2013 world championship; HSS is also considering an environmental outreach program in Fairview Park.

In response to Member Eckles's inquiries on the time length for the permit renewal and additional amenities proposed, Mr. Anderson stated HSS did not have a formal Use Agreement until a few years ago, but the first renewal was for five (5) years. Ideas for additional amenities include a sun shade, repairs to the existing container, and an area for observers—all of which would be done through HSS with approval from the City. HSS is not seeking to expand their area.

In response to Member Cummings's questions on usage and relocating to a different area, Mr. Anderson stated the area is open to other people and relocating would not be impossible.

Member Ramos inquired regarding regulations and the number of members. Mr. Anderson confirmed there are currently 85-90 members but the number increases throughout the year; there are at least 100 flyers that have not joined HSS. HSS encourages all flyers to follow regulations and notifies the Park Ranger of inappropriate behavior.

In response to Member Amburgey's query on residency, Mr. Anderson stated possibly one dozen members reside in Costa Mesa.

4a. Public Comment

Public Comment was requested by Chairman Mehren.

1. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Weitzberg spoke in favor of leaving Fairview Park in its natural state and expressed support for STEM programs and HSS in Fairview Park.

2. Gilbert Collins, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Collins spoke in favor of keeping the Southwest quadrant without development. He feels that HSS's footprint is bigger than that presented.

3. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa
   Ms. Hendricks stated no youth sports groups were turned away this year, only two (2) adult groups. She spoke in favor of preservation, restoration, and protecting the vernal pools.

4. Christian Redman, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Redman provided an update on his Eagle Scout project and requested a spigot be placed closer to the area.

Mr. Ernesto Munoz indicated the Maintenance Services manager will look into that possibility.

5. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Humphrey spoke in favor of maintaining Fairview Park as an open, natural area and utilizing Park Impact Fees to purchase land for sports fields.

6. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Pope spoke in favor of HSS and maintaining Fairview Park as a natural space for perpetuity.

7. Jane Olinger, California Cultural Preservation Alliance
   Ms. Olinger commended the City on its Open Space policy. She inquired if the letters from NHPO and SHPO are available for the public to read, which Native American groups the completed survey was passed on to, and if the survey will be made available to the public.

8. Lynn Redman, Costa Mesa
   Mr. Redman stated he is a mechanical engineer and offered to purchase the materials and install the spigots for the Eagle Scout project, with the City's approval.

Chairman Mehren expressed agreement and suggested Mr. Redman check with Mr. Munoz.

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.

Chairman Mehren stated most correspondence received express opinions not to add anything to the park. He read a previously received e-mail to the Committee indicating it may not have been read by all.

5a. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of February 5, 2014

Member Eckles made a motion to approve the minutes for the February 5, 2014 meeting as presented; Member Cummings second; Members Amburgey, Mehren, Smith, Eckles, Cummings, Ramos, and Vrska voted in favor; Member Popp abstained; motion carries 7 to 1.

6. Old Business - None

7a. Southwest Quadrant Report

i. Staff Presentation
Mr. Mejia presented a PowerPoint overview on the southwest quadrant including Master Planned projects, current and completed projects, and opportunities and constraints. Twelve (12) of the

twenty-four (24) items the Committee selected for further consideration at the February 5, 2014 meeting will be reviewed and voted on.

In response to Member Vrska's question if any sensitive species need to be considered under constraints, Mr. Mejia replied the Committee may vote on items to evaluate in more detail, after which a preliminary feasibility report will be provided including constraints.

ii. Develop Priority List

1. Additional Picnic Structures

- Committee Discussion

Chairman Mehren stated there will be a picnic shelter north of the entrance and suggested placing one in the grassy area south of the existing shelter, close to the fence line with Estancia High School. He added that it is close to that bathroom and a better location than placing one near Pacific Avenue.

Member Cummings expressed agreement with the item indicating it is a way to gain additional use of the park.

- Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
Mr. Weitzberg spoke in favor of the item being near a bathroom and without overhangs.

2. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa
Ms. Hendricks spoke in favor of the item in a specified location, not into Pacific Avenue.

- Vote

Chairman Mehren made a motion to forward for further review adding additional picnic structures in the southwest quadrant; Member Eckles second. Members Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Amburgey, Mehren, Popp, and Ramos voted in favor; Vice Chairman Smith opposed; motion carries 7 to 1.

2. Baseball/Softball Facilities

- Committee Discussion

Member Cummings expressed agreement in maintaining both options of sports fields development and undeveloped space for further consideration and review.

- Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
Mr. Weitzberg opposes sports fields in Fairview Park but stated it is important to look at options for sports fields around the City.

2. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
Mr. Pope objected to tax dollars being spent on options that are unavailable and suggested moving forward.

3. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black opposed the item stating it is a nature park that needs to be protected.

4. Resident, Costa Mesa
A resident expressed dissent with sports fields in Fairview Park.

5. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa
Council Member Genis stated it would behoove the Committee to be supplied the Master Plan prepared by Reynolds Group as part of the purchase agreement for the park, and referenced to in the deed, detailing that the City will adhere to that plan.

Chairman Mehren indicated Committee Members have received copies of the master agreement entered into between the City, County, and State on which item 7 on page 2 lists observing Fairview Park as an open space in perpetuity but he would like a copy of the document Council Member Genis referred to, if available.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

3. Expand Train Routes

- Committee Discussion

Member Cummings reported this item would give access to more people with less on-the-ground footprint activity. The proposed track would run from the eastside of the park, across the steel bridge, into the flatlands, and around the perimeter of the bluff. It would be approximately a 2-mile train ride compared to the current 1-¼ mile and would have a negligible impact on anyone's view.

In response to Member Popp's question on the possibility of having the trains go through a tunnel instead of over the bridge, Member Cummings stated it currently looks very difficult and further studies would be required. A study has been completed on having the train run over the bridge and Member Cummings would propose the Orange County Model Engineers place test tracks on the existing lines to evaluate it.

- Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
Mr. Weitzberg spoke in favor of the trains but opposed their placement in the southwest quadrant.

2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black supported the trains remaining on the eastside only and indicated digging a tunnel could affect archeological resources.

3. Resident, Costa Mesa
A resident stated any developments in the southwest quadrant would impact the natural historical landmarks and archeological resources.
Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke in favor of maintaining the trains on the east side only indicating an archeological impact in the southwest quadrant.

4. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa
Mr. Humphrey spoke in favor of maintaining the trains on the east side stating the bluffs on the southwest quadrant are already destabilized.

5. Gilbert Collins, Costa Mesa
Mr. Collins opposed trains in the southwest quadrant indicating an impact on archeological resources and wildlife.

- Vote

Member Popp clarified the Committee is suggesting an in depth study of the item to decide if it is valid. The PRC will take into consideration the further studies including legality and effect on wildlife.

Member Eckles added the purpose of the motion is to continue research on this item for further information.

Member Cummings made a motion to forward for further review expanding train routes to the southwest quadrant; Member Amburgey second. Members Cummings, Amburgey, Eckles, and Popp voted in favor; Members Vrska, Smith, Mehren, and Ramos opposed; motion fails 4 to 4.

4. Improve Information Kiosk

- Committee Discussion

Chairman Mehren commented the present kiosk looks dilapidated.

Member Vrska indicated the current information kiosk is not being utilized and can include a map or a self-guided phone tour.

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black suggested placing a map showing what can be found in the park.

2. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
Mr. Weitzberg spoke in favor of further consideration of this item stating technology can be utilized, depending on cost, for visitors to preload tours of the park onto their cell phones.

3. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa
Ms. Hendricks spoke against this item and technology at the kiosks.

4. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa
Mr. Humphrey spoke in favor of big maps but against paper maps.

5. Resident, Costa Mesa
A resident spoke in favor of an informational kiosk including archeological history.

- Vote

Member Eckles made a motion to include improving the information kiosk in the southwest quadrant for further review; Member Ramos second.

In response to Member Vrksa's suggestion to amend the motion to include an emphasis towards including a map in the improvement, Ms. Summerhill stated an amendment is not necessary – the Committee can ask staff to take that into consideration when exploring options.

Members Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Amburgey, Mehren, Popp, and Ramos voted in favor; Vice Chairman Smith opposed; motion carries 7 to 1.

5. Vernal Pools Preservation with Cables/Signage and Delineation

- Committee Discussion

Chairman Mehren spoke in favor of the item indicating that it is already in the works pending a response from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black suggested the impact on the watershed to the vernal pool be examined when other items are considered in the park, not just the vernal pool itself.

Chairman Mehren expressed agreement with Ms. Black.

- Vote

Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to include vernal pools preservation with cables/signage and delineation as prescribed by USFWS for further review; Member Vrksa second.

In response to Member Eckles's request for clarification, Chairman Mehren stated per USFWS is part of the motion because they are in charge of the vernal pools now.

Mr. Munoz clarified that this element is part of the Master Plan currently, and will remain in the Master Plan, even if the committee took no action other than to delete it.

Members Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Amburgey, Mehren, Popp, and Ramos voted in favor; Vice Chairman Smith opposed; motion carries 7 to 1.

6. Soccer/Football Fields

- Committee Discussion

Member Amburgey stated he is in favor of soccer and football fields – not here but on the other side of the park.

- Public Comment

1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa

Ms. Hendricks stated it was shown at the PRC meeting that no groups were turned away; there is not a need.

2. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa
Mr. Humphrey stated there should not be any fields at Fairview Park.

3. Henry Smith, Tustin
Mr. Smith stated that soccer/football fields are a poor fit in Fairview Park.

4. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
Mr. Weitzberg thanked Member Amburgey for keeping an open mind.

5. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
Mr. Pope spoke in opposition of this item.

- Vote

Member Eckles stated he has been listening to the public and agrees this is not the right place for the item.

Eliminated by lack of motion.

7. Retain the Elements of the Master Plan as it Reads Now

- Committee Discussion

Vice Chairman Smith provided clarification on this item.

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black suggested the committee vote either way and move on.

2. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa
Mr. Weitzberg indicated the missing choice is to keep the Master Plan as-is without adding any recommendations.

3. Gilbert Collins, Costa Mesa
Mr. Collins encouraged the Committee to thoroughly read the Master Plan.

4. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
Mr. Pope stated a valid and reasonable thing is to do nothing and keep the Master Plan as-is.

- Vote

Member Vrska made a motion to retain the elements of the Master Plan as it reads now for further review; Vice Chairman Smith second. Members Vrska, Cummings, Amburgey, Smith, Mehren, Ramos, and Popp voted in favor; Member Eckles opposed; motion carries 7 to 1.

8. Install a Two-Tier Building that Includes an Interpretive Center and Terrace/Viewing Deck

- Committee Discussion

Member Ramos stated the way the item is written is not how he perceived it.

Chairman Mehren indicated the area explained is on the north end of the mesa and one of the key archeological sites.

- Public Comment

1. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
Mr. Pope stated there is a wonderful view from the top of the bluffs and more elevation is not necessary.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

9. Westside Grass Area/Sprinkler System Improvements

- Committee Discussion

Chairman Mehren stated the current sprinkler system has been ineffective in watering all the areas.

In response to Vice Chairman Smith's queries, Chairman Mehren stated the scope would include grass that has been allowed to dry out and needs soil replacement; he does not have the square footage for it.

- Public Comment

1. Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa
Council Member Genis stated her observation as a contributing reason to the dried grass is the use of motorized cars in the area.

2. Gilbert Collins, Costa Mesa
Mr. Collins stated a reason the area has deteriorated is in part to its heavy use such as the carnival and concerts in the park series. Activities should not exceed the available parking.

3. Henry Smith, Tustin
Mr. Smith stated that cars are not approved for use in Fairview Park and HSS has been discouraging people from that.

4. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa
Mr. Humphrey stated it seems like a maintenance issue of the park rather than a project.

5. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black indicated the grass may need to be replaced with turf that tolerates higher traffic.

6. John Anderson
Mr. Anderson stated grass conditions vary with the season; low spots get a considerable amount of water and ponding occurs in grass areas leading to rot.

- Vote

Member Cummings indicated there are a number of maintenance issues throughout the park including the grass area, tumbleweeds, drainage, and low spots.

Member Eckles stated it is a maintenance issue that does not go in the Master Plan.

Member Cummings made a motion to adopt Westside Grass Area/Sprinkler System Improvements for further consideration; motion fails for lack of second.

10. Basketball/Handball Courts

- Committee Discussion

Member Amburgey spoke in favor of the item but not in the southwest quadrant.

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black spoke against this item.

2. Resident, Costa Mesa
A resident agreed it is not an appropriate location and opposed taxpayer money being spent on items that will get installed and later removed, similar to the handball courts at Lyons Park.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

11. Eroding Bluffs: Install Staircase

- Committee Discussion

Chairman Mehren commented that this item is currently in the Master Plan so a vote may not be needed.

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black stated that if it is in the coastal zone it will need a development permit.

Mr. Munoz clarified that it is not in the coastal zone.

2. Resident, Costa Mesa
A resident commented that if a staircase is developed it will require an archeological monitor.

12. Install Information Kiosks with Pamphlets

- Committee Discussion

Member Eckles stated this item has already been discussed and does not need to be voted on because improving the current informational kiosk in this quadrant has already been recommended for further examination.

Member Vrksa agreed with Member Eckles.

- Public Comment

No public comment was heard.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

8. Committee Member Reports

Member Eckles expressed offense at Chairman Mehren's earlier comments when reading the correspondence and stated that Roberts Rules of Order have not been followed, he does not represent any group on the Committee, and Committee Members should not be disparaged with preconceived notions.

Member Amburgey expressed agreement with Member Eckles.

Member Popp agreed with Member Amburgey stating the position of Chair is to facilitate discussion, not to promote a particular point-of-view.

Member Vrska reported she has not expressed an opinion one way or another and has only asked for information and data. She stated the chairperson has leeway in running the meeting and does not think anything was out of line.

9. Public Services Director Report

Mr. Munoz had nothing to report.

10. City Attorney Report

Ms. Summerhill had nothing to report.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. to the next regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Neighborhood Community Center, Victoria Room.

Submitted by:

Dariba Diazel

FOR: **ERNESTO MUNOZ**
Public Services Director