

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

April 2, 2014

These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format. A copy of the meeting audio 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 (FPCAC) of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in the Neighborhood Community Center Victoria Room at 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, California.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Moment of Silence – In memory of David Stiller**
4. **Mission Statement**
5. **Roll Call**

Voting Members Present: Chairman Richard Mehren
Vice Chairman Steve Smith
Member Ron Amburgey
Member Terry Cummings
Member Dennis Popp
Member Lee Ramos
Member Anna Vrska

Voting Member Absent: Member Brett Eckles

Officials Present: Council Member Sandra Genis, City Council Liaison
Commissioner Dean Abernathy, Parks and Recreation
Commission (PRC) Liaison

Staff Present: Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Yolanda Summerhill, Attorney
Alfa Lopez, Management Analyst
Denise Cedillos, Administrative Secretary

6. **Presentations:**

Field Allocation & Current Facility Outline

Parks and Community Services Department staff presented this report. Ms. Lisa McPherson, Supervisor, introduced Cecily Renteria, Assistant Recreation Supervisor, who spoke on the

allocation of facilities under the Joint Use Agreement with Newport Mesa Unified School District, current youth and adult groups, and site specific limitations. A PRC Agenda Report regarding the subject matter from the February 27, 2014 meeting was provided to Committee members and copies made available for the public.

Member Vrska inquired on the usage of “significant growth” in the report and indicated she would like to see more data on numbers and usage of allocated time. Ms. Renteria replied the PRC will be doing a review of the Open Space Master Plan (OSMP) including a survey to get numbers showing growth or lack thereof. She clarified that Group 1 users do not report unused allocated hours.

In response to Member Cummings’s comment on the projection of use in the upcoming years, Ms. Renteria stated that is the purpose of the OSMP review.

Member Amburgey queried on the allocation process in regards to breaking groups into different categories and the allocation of the Harbor Soaring Society (HSS). Ms. Renteria listed the identifying factors and requirements for each group category; she added that group status only establishes priority and group residency determines fees. The Field Allocation does not include Fairview Park.

In response to Member Vrska’s request for clarification on the status of Friday Night Lights, Group 1 users that were displaced by Matt Leinart Flag Football, and Robert Knapp’s resignation, Ms. McPherson reported that Friday Night Lights is a Group 3 user and Matt Leinart Flag Football is a Group 5 user; the Group 1 adult softball team was given the option to play another night; and she does not know why Mr. Knapp resigned. Ms. Renteria clarified for Member Vrska that teams are required to turn in their previous year’s roster each allocation period.

In response to Chairman Mehren’s question on fees, Ms. McPherson reported that fees are determined based on residency and fee waivers are recommended by the PRC to City Council for determination.

Member Ramos queried how fee rates are determined to which Ms. McPherson stated other cities were surveyed and rates were established by City Council in 2011.

In response to Member Vrska’s queries on new groups, scheduling, and displacement of Group 4 and Group 5 teams, Ms. Renteria explained the process for new groups and Ms. McPherson explained users were given other field options and were satisfied with the fields they received.

Member Amburgey stated the 24% Costa Mesa residency for Matt Leinart Flag Football is misleading because they did not know they were going to get a field until late in the process so the sign-ups did not start.

In response to Member Vrska’s question, Ms. Renteria clarified that Boys Flag Football did not follow through.

Per Chairman Mehren’s request, Ms. McPherson clarified the Costa Mesa residency of various groups.

7a. Public Comment

Public Comment was requested by Chairman Mehren.

1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa
Ms. Hendricks queried why the meeting started with a presentation on sports fields.
2. Heather Seingreen (spelling), Costa Mesa
Ms. Seingreen and her daughter spoke in favor of protecting Fairview Park as a natural space.
3. Brandon Cochello (spelling), Fountain Valley
Mr. Cochello spoke of his experience using Fairview Park and stated that its open space is an asset to the community.

Chairman Mehren clarified that the presentation on sports fields was made because those issues are part of what the Committee is addressing and they need to know the availability in order to make a good judgment.

4. Jose De la Jara, Costa Mesa
Mr. De la Jara stated he runs an aquatics program, sports fields are necessary, and it is important for everyone to share the space.
5. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
Mr. Pope expressed there are plenty of sports fields and that the Fairview Park Master Plan states it should be planned for future protection.
6. Jules Zuna (spelling), Westminster
Mr. Zuna spoke in favor of protecting the historical value of and preserving Fairview Park as a native sanctuary.

8a. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of March 5, 2014

Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 5, 2014 meeting as presented; Member Popp second; motion carries unanimously.

9a. Old Business – None

10a. New Business – Southwest Quadrant Report

i. Staff Presentation

Mr. Mejia presented a PowerPoint overview on this report and reviewed the eleven (11) items the Committee removed from further consideration, the twelve (12) items that were evaluated at the meeting of March 5, 2014 including four (4) items that were recommended for further review, and the remaining twelve (12) proposed changes to the Master Plan that the committee will be reviewing today.

ii. Develop Priority List

1. Trail Exercise Stations

- Committee Discussion

Member Amburgey inquired as to the type of exercise station and which trail it would include. Chairman Mehren replied that is something staff would need to determine and present to the Committee.

- Public Comment
 1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa
Ms. Hendricks stated any type of exercise station should not be done.

2. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
Mr. Pope stated the existing stretching stations are sufficient.

- Vote
Eliminated by lack of motion

2. Roller Hockey Surface

- Committee Discussion - None

- Public Comment
 1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black opposed this item and an archery area.

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

3. Anonymous
A member of the public asked if there was a map showing where it will be constructed

Chairman Mehren replied staff would have to return with the appropriate area.

- Vote
Eliminated by lack of motion

3. Expand OCME Tracks Across Bridge

- Committee Discussion
Chairman Mehren stated a similar item was examined and eliminated at the meeting of March 5, 2014.

Member Popp made a motion to strike item 3 – Expand OCME Tracks Across Bridge – and item 9 – Build Train Track Around SW quadrant – as having been discussed last time; Member Vrksa second; Members Vrksa, Amburgey, Smith, Mehren, Popp, and Ramos voted in favor; Member Cummings abstained.

4. Improve/ Designate Bike Paths

- Committee Discussion
Per Member Amburgey's inquiry, Mr. Mejia presented a report on improvements that have been approved by City Council.

In response to Chairman Mehren's question if the trail that goes down the path on the north end is part of the project, Mr. Mejia stated it is one of the trails that is being examined to ensure a 5% maximum slope can be achieved; it is under design.

Member Cummings stated bicycle users have been underrepresented in public meetings so he proposes the item be selected for further consideration to advance this key use of the park.

In response to Member Ramos's query on the distance of the trails, Mr. Munoz stated the project will be brought to the Committee at the next meeting showing specifics and answering any Committee questions.

Member Cummings suggested considering motocross users.

Chairman Mehren stated the area that is being utilized for motocross is over the Native American burial grounds and that has to be protected.

Member Cummings suggested deferring the determination of that area to the archeological community and the possibility of establishing an alternate site within the park for motocross.

- Public Comment

1. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa

Mr. Humphrey spoke against motobikes and suggested fixing the problems that currently exist before making decisions on what will be built.

2. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke in favor of improving cycle access to the park for residents of Costa Mesa stating cyclists use it as a destination.

3. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black inquired if the new trails will be made with concrete where there are not currently existing trails. She expressed opposition until further information is presented.

4. Brandon Cochello (spelling), Fountain Valley

Mr. Cochello spoke in favor of access to the park stating it is a cyclist destination. He clarified that motocross is motorized bicycles and spoke against it in Fairview Park.

5. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa

Ms. Hendricks stated the area contains vernal pools, archeological resources, and high biological sensitivity.

6. Teresa Drain, Costa Mesa

Ms. Drain spoke in favor of the addition of a bicycle rack. She spoke against considering user defined paths as paths and paving them.

Ms. Summerhill clarified that the motion and discussion should be on improving designated paths so any motocross should not be part of the discussion.

- Vote

Member Amburgey made a motion to include bicycle use in the future design tradeoffs for the park; Member Cummings second; Members Cummings, Amburgey, Ramos, and Popp voted in favor; Members Vrska, Smith, and Mehren opposed; motion carries 4 to 3.

5. Plant Native Drought Resistant Plants Center of SW Quadrant

- Committee Discussion

Chairman Mehren stated Christian Redman did this as an Eagle Scout project in the area he was concerned about.

In response to Member Popp's queries for additional areas and expansion, Chairman Mehren stated he would like to see it extended to the south in the area where everything died due to the drought and he would consider his proposed change to include expanding the existing native plants.

- Public Comment

1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa

Ms. Hendricks spoke in favor of the Eagle Scout project and expanding the native plants.

2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black suggested providing irrigation so plants can establish themselves indicating it is a good way of illuminating paths to channel people.

3. Jules Zuna (spelling), Westminster

Mr. Zuna spoke in favor of adding additional similar projects to the agenda for the next meeting.

4. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope stated a lot of people are disappointed that they were not able to participate in setting the agenda.

- Vote

Member Popp made a motion that drought resistant native plants be planted from the center to the extent possible; Member Ramos second; Members Vrska, Amburgey, Mehren, Popp, and Ramos voted in favor; Members Cummings and Smith opposed; motion carries 5 to 2.

6. Dog Park

- Committee Discussion

Member Vrska stated she does not think it is necessary because it was previously removed from the Master Plan.

Chairman Mehren expressed the original FPCAC tried to establish it and it was decided that it was unnecessary.

Member Amburgey stated he thinks dog parks are a good idea.

- Public Comment

1. Margaret, Costa Mesa

Ms. Margaret spoke against this item stating it would destroy plants and native grasses.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

7. Expand Concert Area

- Committee Discussion - None

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black spoke against this item.

2. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope expressed the concert area should be restricted and not be allowed to spill out to the natural area.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

8. Skate Park

- Committee Discussion

Member Amburgey spoke for this item on the eastside of Fairview Park.

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black spoke in favor for skateboarders but stated this is not the place for it.

2. Marty Jimenez, Huntington Beach

Mr. Jimenez stated he works in Costa Mesa for Volcom clothing. He spoke in favor for another skate park in Costa Mesa, possibly on the eastside of Fairview Park.

3. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke against this item in Fairview Park.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

9. Build Train Track Around SW Quadrant

This item was determined to have been previously discussed and voted on.

10. Nature Center – Bird Watching Platforms

- Committee Discussion

Member Cummings expressed curiosity as to why a platform is needed stating the area is full of vegetation for people to walk around and enjoy.

- Public Comment

1. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa

Mr. Humphrey suggested the Committee make motions when they do not wish to see an item in the park, instead of 'eliminated by lack of motion'.

2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black spoke against this item.

3. Brandon Cochello (spelling), Fountain Valley

Mr. Cochello spoke against this item and in favor of informational kiosks instead.

4. Rick Hoffman, Costa Mesa

Mr. Hoffman spoke against a building platform/structure and in favor of keeping it natural with more educational opportunities and signage.

5. Resident, Costa Mesa

A resident expressed concern over the liability a platform would create.

- Vote

Member Vrska made a motion to not move forward with Nature Center – Bird Watching Platforms in this quadrant; Member Cummings second;

Per Member Popp's request, Ms. Summerhill clarified that negative motions are allowable, cautioned it is a different direction than the first ten (10) votes, but stated not having a positive vote is in the discretion of the Committee.

Member Amburgey stated it was interesting that the environmental people are against platforms but okay with the airplanes going off the bluffs.

Members Cummings, Vrska, Amburgey, Smith, Mehren, and Ramos voted in favor; Member Popp abstained; motion carries 6 to 1.

11. Archery Area

- Committee Discussion

Member Vrska spoke against this item due to liability issues.

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black spoke against this item.

2. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke against this item.

- Vote

Member Vrska made a motion to not move forward with an archery area in the southwest quadrant. Eliminated by lack of motion.

12. Marked Running Courses

- Committee Discussion – None

- Public Comment

1. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke against this item.

2. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa

Mr. Humphrey spoke in favor of using flora and fauna to mark trails instead of physical markers.

3. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke against this item.

- Vote
Eliminated by lack of motion

11. Committee Member Reports

Member Cummings reported an increase in property damage experienced by the Orange County Model Engineers (OCME) and its railroad tracks and station at Fairview Park. He thanked the public for the donations the club has received.

Member Amburgey referred to the presentation on sports fields stating it is important to recognize that 21 of the 27 different facilities are on school district property. He stated that is important to keep in mind when the Committee looks at the eastside of the park where there is 53 of the total 208 acres and hopes it can see it as non-passive, which can be used for the strong community need.

Member Popp stated he has had several parents contact him with views on what they want in the park but express they do not want to attend the meetings because of the hostile atmosphere. He appealed to the public to treat individuals with respect even if they share a different perspective. He stated the Committee has received 50 letters favoring sports fields and not one is from families that contacted him.

Member Ramos emphasized being precise when talking about the usage and nature of the park. He thanked the public for their comments and expressed the Committee should not be shortchanged.

Chairman Mehren stated he enjoyed the information provided by the Recreation Department on field allocation and will follow up with staff members on additional questions.

12. Public Services Director Report

Mr. Munoz had nothing to report.

13. City Attorney Report

Ms. Summerhill had nothing to report.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. to the next regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Neighborhood Community Center, Victoria Room.

Submitted by:

ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director