

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

June 4, 2014

These meeting 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 (FPCAC) of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, 2014, in the Neighborhood Community Center Victoria Room at 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, California.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Mission Statement**
- 4. Roll Call**

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

Officials Present: Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Mensinger, City Council Liaison
Commissioner Dean Abernathy, Parks and Recreation
Commission

Staff Present: Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
Fariba Fazeli, City Engineer
Yolanda M. Summerhill, City Attorney
Bart Mejia, Senior Engineer/ Parks Project Manager
Alfa Lopez, Management Analyst
Denneen Chambers, Administrative Secretary

5. Presentations

None

6. Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa

Mr. Weitzberg favors lighted fields at Fairview Development Center. Suggested that if the citizens all get together to try to acquire the property, can be usable for fields and affordable housing.

Chairman Mehren mentioned he would be happy to participate in that endeavor.

2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black wants to propose something that is not on the agenda. Favors starting a restoration program for Fairview Park similar to Talbert Regional Park's program. She envisions an area by the train station. She requested it to be on a future agenda.

Chairman Mehren, mentioned possibly agendizing it for the next meeting.

3. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa

Mr. Humphrey favors keeping Fairview Park as natural as possible. Mr. Humphrey referred to the Seven Year Capital Improvement Plan. The plan shows a total of 9.5 million dollars for sports fields over the next seven years; and all the rest of sports, including a major bike path to be put in, is currently less than 3 million dollars. He spoke about swimmers getting 150k. He expressed concerns about the city being well-balanced in having fields and not in the other after-school programs that teach kids sportsmanship and well-being. He advised to keep that in consideration when you look at the different uses within Fairview Park, and whether or not they should become fields.

4. Robin Leffler, Costa Mesa

Ms. Leffler referenced Member Vrska's comments from many months ago. Ms. Leffler spoke on the current sentiment of the community against any sports fields in Fairview Park.

5. Gabe Mauer, Costa Mesa

Mr. Mauer favors keeping Fairview Park the same as it always been.

7. Approval of Minutes:

a. Meeting of April 2, 2014

Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2014 meeting; Member Ramos second; motion carried unanimously.

b. Meeting of May 7, 2014

Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2014 meeting; Member Eckles second; motion carried unanimously.

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

Chairman Mehren stated to get to three items: 1. BMX Concept for the Southwest Quadrant, 2. Pickle Ball Concept for the NE Quadrant, 3. The Naming of the Ponds after The Great Lakes.

- a. Request from Committee Members & PRC Liaison to consider the following items for possible addition to the list of proposed changes:

i. Pickle Ball Concept (Northeast Quadrant)

Member Amburgey introduced the item and invited Mr. Phil Dunmeyer to make a presentation.

Pickle Ball presentation by Mr. Phil Dunmeyer, described the sport and its benefits.

Committee Discussion

Member Eckles inquires to Mr. Phil Dunmeyer about the closest play area in relation to Costa Mesa.

Mr. Dunmeyer stated there are ten courts in Tustin. He mentioned four courts were voted on by Planning in Newport Beach; voted by Park and Planning Commission. Mr. Dunmeyer mentioned Tustin is exploring eight courts in Crown Valley, four to six in Huntington Beach and ten in Anaheim. He mentioned no Pickle Ball courts currently exist in Costa Mesa.

Chairman Mehren requests the BMX concept presentation from Mr. Cummings.

ii. BMX Concept (Southwest Quadrant)- No presentation

Member Cummings stated the idea came from BMX participants. BMX presents a likely balance for users of the park that everyone can participate in.

Committee Discussion

Member Popp requested clarification if it is SE quadrant for this proposed addition.

Clarification of it should be SW Quadrant.

Member Amburgey commented on the kids will end up with a track somewhere no matter what is done at the meeting.

Chairman Mehren mentioned the community's children have a facility down by Victoria Pond in Talbert Park. He states he is not sure if it is legitimate but knows one exists.

Member Amburgey mentioned why not give them an area in the SE quadrant. Do not add anything to the SW.

Chairman Mehren inquired if it will be satisfactory to change the proposed location. He states where it is now, it cannot stay.

Member Cummings mentioned he did not think a BMX course in the SE Quadrant will be compatible with the current uses of the park.

iii. Naming of the ponds after the Great Lakes

Presentation from Commissioner Robert Graham

Commissioner Graham stated he is on the Parks and Recreation Commission but speaking on his own behalf.

Commissioner Graham presented his reasons for naming the ponds after the Great Lakes. He suggested following the geographical locations of the Great Lakes to correspond with the location and names for naming Fairview Park ponds.

Vice Chairman Smith commented that if Commissioner Graham does not succeed tonight then he can try again in a couple of years.

Public Comment (all three items)

1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa

Ms. Hendricks suggested following the guidelines of the Fairview Park Master Plan and inquired if it is in the SE or SW Quadrants. She reminded the committee of the archeological sites and expressed her concerns by referencing the Fairview Park Master Plan.

2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black spoke on all three items. Ms. Black opposes BMX concept in Fairview Park. Ms. Black opposes Pickle Ball in Fairview Park. Ms. Black suggested naming the ponds after the people whom have protected Fairview Park.

3. Council Member Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa

Council Member Genis commented that the BMX course is officially approved for Talbert Park.

4. Jane Olinger, Rep. of the California Research Preservation Alliance

Ms. Olinger spoke about the proposed BMX course and how it will impact ORA-506. The proposed BMX item will disturb these important conservations and values for this site and requested a vote to preserve this site.

5. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa

Mr. Weitzberg opposed the BMX concept. Mr. Weitzberg favors creating a park compatible with BMX. Mr. Weitzberg opposes the Pickle Ball concept. Mr. Weitzberg suggested using Estancia tennis courts and requested to leave Fairview Park alone. Mr. Weitzberg favors the name change, mentioned it will bring cultural awareness to the park and the kids.

6. Robin Leffler, Costa Mesa

Ms. Leffler referenced the Fairview Park Citizens Work Plan map. Ms. Leffler stated the quadrant is close to homes. Ms. Leffler requested to leave the SE and the NE Quadrants the way they are. Ms. Leffler spoke on the naming of the ponds, mentioned it to be a great idea to name the ponds after the people who protect the park or after the people who live in Costa Mesa. Ms. Leffler mentioned BMX Park seems to be a disruptive, hazardous and dangerous park. Ms. Leffler mentioned it would hold liability issues.

7. Boyer, Costa Mesa

Ms. Boyer suggested leaving BMX where it is now. Boyer suggested naming a contest for people who use and love the park and leaving Fairview Park as it is.

8. Brandon Procelo, Costa Mesa

Mr. Procelo spoke on the BMX and Pickle Ball concepts and supports passive activities. Suggests naming the ponds after Native Americans tribes, individuals or species.

Member Eckles moved that the committee consider the pickle ball concept for the NE quadrant, to be studied by staff and brought back to the committee; as well as reopening of the NW quadrant discussion for naming of the ponds and bring it back to the agenda; Second by Member Amburgey.

Committee Discussion

Member Vrska suggested separating motions.

Member Eckles amended his motion as follows; first motion would be for BMX Concept, second motion for the Pickle Ball, third motion for Naming of the Ponds; Member Ramos seconds motion; Motion carried unanimously.

1. BMX concept (SE quadrant)

Members in favor: Cummings; Members opposed: Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Davern, Eckles, Popp, Ramos, Vrska. Motion failed 8 to 1.

2. Pickle Ball concept (NE quadrant)

Members in favor: Popp, Amburgey, Eckles; Members opposed: Mehren, Smith, Cummings, Davern, Ramos, Vrska; Motion failed 6 to 3.

3. Naming of the ponds

Members in favor: Davern, Amburgey, Eckles, Cummings; Members opposed: Popp, Mehren, Smith, Vrska. Member Ramos Abstained; Motion failed 4 to 4.

b. Northeast Quadrant List of Proposed Changes

1. Dry Land Wildlife Viewing Area

Committee Discussion

Member Davern commented on adding a viewing area (a bench).

Member Cummings questioned if there is a current schedule to build stairway access to the summit.

Mr. Mejia answered that staff is working in the environmental phase. Construction will follow after clearing the environmental phase and is in the process of being completed.

Member Cummings favors having a viewing area.

Chairman Mehren mentions there will not be a need for using a lot of acreage.

Public Comment

1. Robin Leffler , Costa Mesa

Ms. Leffler mentioned hundreds and hundreds of ground squirrels that are there. Ms. Leffler expressed her opposition of viewing area. Resident mentions Mr. Davern's comments, opposes drinking in the park.

2. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa

Ms. Hendricks referenced pg. 24 of the Fairview Park Master Plan discusses viewing opportunities. Hendricks favors having access to the views and opposes anything else.

3. Gail Rider, Costa Mesa

Ms. Rider commented that there are views everywhere.

Council Member Genis requested that staff add the CEQA document to the website that Mr. Mejia referred to earlier.

Chairman Mehren mentions that Alfa tells me that on the back of the Agenda states that there is a website that you can access for that.

Mr. Munoz stated that the environmental document for the stairs will be added to the website.

Member Davern made a motion to add Dry Land Wildlife Viewing Area; Motion failed by lack of second.

2. Soccer/Football Fields

Committee Discussion

Member Vrska mentioned she wanted to hear everybody who wanted to comment.

Chairman Mehren acknowledged that they are trying and asked if anybody was missed.

Member Eckles mentioned it is not appropriate for this quadrant.

Member Eckles made a motion to combine item number 2, Soccer/Football fields and number 4, Multi-use Athletic fields; Second by Member Smith. Members in favor: Davern, Amburgey, Eckles, Mehren, Smith, Cummings, Ramos, Popp; Member opposed: Vrska; Motion carried 8 to 1.

Public Comment

1. **Robin Leffler, Costa Mesa**
Ms. Leffler commented retaining the elements of the Fairview Park Master Plan and leave it as it reads now.
2. **Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa**
Mr. Weitzberg stated that the site may not be suitable for fields due to its topography. Mr. Weitzberg opposes having fields in Fairview Park.
3. **Deborah Koken, Costa Mesa**
Ms. Koken opposed athletic fields.
4. **Cindy Black, Costa Mesa**
Ms. Black opposed athletic fields in Fairview Park.

Items No. 2 and No. 4: Soccer/Football Fields: eliminated for lack of a motion.

3. Forest of Redwood Trees

Committee Discussion

Member Popp spoke on water demand for Redwoods and the need for irrigation.

Member Cummings spoke on Redwood trees and sustainability.

Public Comment

1. **Cindy Black, Costa Mesa**
Ms. Black stated opposition to Redwood trees. Ms. Black comments on it being inappropriate for the present day and stated the high level of water they require.
2. **Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa**
Ms. Hendricks commented on historical origins of Redwoods in the area.
3. **Deborah Koken, Costa Mesa**
Ms. Koken commented on native trees and plants.
4. **Brandon Procelo, Costa Mesa**
Mr. Procelo spoke on Redwoods requiring a lot of water. Mr. Procelo stated his opposition for the Redwood concept.

Chairman Mehren inquired about the landscape buffer in the Master Plan along the fence line.

Mejia stated the Master Plan calls for a 100 foot buffer to be landscaped for fire safety reasons.

Item number 3: Forest of Redwood Trees: eliminated by lack of a motion.

5. Roller Hockey Surface

Committee Discussion

No Committee Discussion.

Member Amburgey proposed a motion to combine all the remaining items except for item no.10

Chairman Mehren asks for clarification to vote on items 5,6,7,8.

Member Amburgey affirms the motion, verifies to combine items no. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Member Vrska objects to combining all remaining items.

Substitute motion made by Member Eckles to combine items 5 and 7; second by Member Ramos.

Members in favor: Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Cummings, Eckles, Popp, Ramos, Davern; Member opposed: Vrska; Motion carried 8 to 1.

Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa

Mr. Weitzberg spoke about the origin location of handball and roller hockey. Mr. Weitzberg opposed artificial services; Roller Hockey and Handball courts.

2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black opposes roller hockey and doesn't want the handball park in the park.

3. Margaret Mooney, Costa Mesa

Ms. Mooney opposes hard surfaces in Fairview Park.

4. Resident, Costa Mesa

Resident spoke on noise coming from the courts, stated opposition. Resident commented on viewing area could be an attractive nuisance.

Chairman Mehren mentioned that the people living at the end of the cul-de-sac complained about telephone poles. He further stated the City removed the telephone poles, put a trash can, no attractive nuisance there anymore.

Item No. 5: Roller Hockey Surface and Item No. 7: Basketball/Handball: eliminated by lack of motion.

- 6. Install a Two-Tier Building that includes and Interpretive Center and Terrace Viewing Deck**

Committee Discussion

Member Cummings mentions incompatibility to having a multiple tier building.

Chairman Mehren mentions it came up but it is not appropriate for this quadrant.

Public Comment

- 1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa**

Ms. Hendricks referenced pg. 32 and pg. 8 of the Fairview Park Master Plan and expressed her opposition.

- 2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa**

Ms. Black commented on not needing a two-tier building; explained opposition.

Item No. 6: Install a two-tier building: eliminated by lack of motion.

Member Eckles made a motion to request an extension to finish the list on the agenda; motion failed for lack of second.

- 8. Trail Exercise Stations**

Committee Discussion

Member Popp mentions that he proposed exercise trails for a different quadrant of the Park and no discussion needed.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Item No. 8: Trail Exercise Stations: eliminated by lack of a motion.

10. Committee Member Reports

Member Smith stated that Mayor Pro Tem Mensinger, is a friend and Council Member Wendy Leese is a friend and they never ask me to vote a certain way and expressed his disapproval regarding the comments and insults directed at the committee.

Chairman Mehren thanked the committee.

Member Popp echoed Mr. Smith's comments. Member Popp also clarified that the committee is not charged with solving the City's parks and fields problems. Member Popp stated the committee's responsibility is recommending whether an area in the park is appropriate to look at.

Member Ramos thanked Mr. Smith. Member Ramos added that some speakers indicated to be speaking on behalf of the citizens of Costa Mesa but fail to prove how they represent them.

Member Davern spoke about the citizen's positive feedback and he continues speaking with citizen's regularly.

11. Public Services Director Report

Mr. Munoz requested that committee members inform staff of future presentations, so they can be agendized accordingly.

12. City Attorney Report

Attorney Summerhill stated nothing to report.

Member Vrska mentions some members may be out of town around July 2nd, and that she would like to do her presentation in August.

Chairman Mehren asked which committee member will be in town for the next FPCAC meeting.

Chairman Mehren mentioned he plans to be here.

Member Popp will be here.

Member Davern will be here.

Member Ramos will here.

Member Cummings will be here.

Member Vrska will be out of town.

Member Eckles will be here.

Member Amburgey doesn't know.

Member Smith hopes to be here.

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

14. Next Regular Meeting: July 2, 2014 at the NCC 6:00pm-8:00pm.

Submitted by:

ERNESTO MUNOZ

Public Services Director