

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

**August 6, 2014**

**These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format. A copy of the meeting audio tape can be obtained at the Public Services Department’s front counter located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of 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, August 6, 2014, in the Neighborhood Community Center’s 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 Anna Vrska

Voting Members Absent: Member Lee Ramos

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

Staff Present: Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director  
Yolanda M. Summerhill, City Attorney  
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager  
Michael Koziel, Management Analyst  
Denneen Chambers, Administrative Secretary

## 5. Presentations/Update:

- a. Anna Vrska, FPCAC Member, presented a report regarding the Sports Fields Data, and distributed correspondence (copy attached) that she provided to the Parks and Recreation Commission, to the FPCAC members and attendees.
- b. Mel Hitchcock, resident and representative of the Riverside Live Steamers, presented a report with his recommendations of alternative routes for Fairview Park usage. Mr. Hitchcock provided his suggestions for pedestrian access points, delineation, using Riverside as a model railroad, and ensuring the safety for the patrons of the park.

### Committee Discussion

In response to Vice Chairman Smith's query to provide a top three list of more efficient alternatives for Fairview Park, Mr. Hitchcock suggested the installation of a car crossing or railroad crossing with a maximum speed of 5 mph, with sufficient spacing. Mr. Hitchcock suggested the spacing will act as a safety barrier disallowing any field activity to reach the trains.

In response to Vice Chairman Smith's query about installing a 50' foot buffer, Mr. Hitchcock affirms it will be sufficient.

In response to Member Eckles query regarding the hours and daily usage for Riverside members, Mr. Hitchcock responded that approximately 180 members use the 10 to 12-car steam locomotive and also take advantage of the free rides which are offered two weekends per month.

In response to Member Eckles query regarding the Riverside additions to the park and if the response and coexistence has been good, Mr. Hitchcock mentioned there is a great relationship with the City and the people who use the park.

Member Cummings thanked Mr. Hitchcock for his presentation and suggested that the Committee consider taking a field trip to Riverside.

Mr. Hitchcock mentioned it would be possible on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and he would be glad to host one of the visits for the Committee.

Chairman Mehren thanked Mr. Hitchcock for his presentation.

Vice Chairman Smith commented on reaching a justifiable decision on the athletic fields; conducting a proper due diligence by reviewing Riverside's successes and failures; and reporting back the findings.

***Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to table item numbers 2, 5 and 6; Member Eckles seconded; Members in favor: Mehren, Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Amburgey, Smith, Popp, Davern; Motion passed unanimously.***

***Member Cummings made a motion to table item number 10; Member Vrska seconded; Members in favor: Eckles, Amburgey; Davern; Popp, Mehren, Smith; Motion passed unanimously.***

**Chairman Mehren made a motion to move up item numbers 3, 9, 11 and 16; Member Cummings seconded; Members in favor: Davern, Popp, Mehren, Amburgey, Eckles, Vrska, Cummings; Members opposed: Smith; Motion passed 7:1.**

## **6. Public Comment**

1. Harold Weitzberg was opposed to fields on this quadrant.
2. Robin Leffler favored restoring Fairview Park.
3. Jay Humphrey favored restoring Fairview Park only.
4. Kim Hendricks was opposed to fields in Fairview Park.
5. Sara Mooney was opposed to any further development in Fairview Park.
6. Brett Woods favored putting fields in Fairview Park, believes there are not enough alternative fields for children to play.
7. Steve Pope was opposed to fields in Fairview Park.
8. Phil Chipman was opposed to fields in Fairview Park, favors minimal impact.
9. Heather Lewis-Sebring preferred keeping the park as it is so the children can have real nature.
10. Margaret Mooney favored leaving the park as it is.
11. Amy Tindan mentioned that the park is being used by animals; opposed to building in Fairview Park.
12. Patricia Martz, CCRPA, supported passive ideas for Fairview Park, opposed to changes.
13. Sylvere Valentin, mentioned that having fields in Fairview Park is not such a good idea.
14. Adelia Sandoval, representing The Juaneno Band of Mission Indians, The Acjachemen Nation, the indigenous people of Orange County, acknowledged the FPCAC and spoke on the area of the sacred sites in Fairview Park. Ms. Sandoval also spoke on the educational value that Fairview Park holds and requested we protect it.
15. Steven James, Department of Anthropology with California State University at Fullerton, CCRPA, favored preserving the archeological sites of Fairview Park; opposed to any building on the sites.
16. Jill Larrabee, spoke on being happy with the community coming forward, opposed to any building in Fairview Park.
17. John Rubright favored building a field in Fairview Park; spoke about not having enough fields.
18. Michael Hogan favored preserving Fairview Park as is.
19. Cindy Black requested the tabled items be verified by Attorney Summerhill and favored keeping Fairview Park natural.

Attorney Summerhill affirmed items 2, 5, 6 and 10 were tabled.

20. Terry Welch referred to Banning Ranch and trying to preserve the habitat; and favored restoring the habitat of Fairview Park.
21. Resident enjoys the natural aspects of the field; opposed to changes to Fairview Park.
22. Mark Arblaster mentioned there was a shortage of fields in Costa Mesa; favored building fields. Mr. Arblaster also mentioned that in order to have a fair consensus, the Hispanic community must have representation at the meetings.

23. Jim Jones mentioned a letter from Fish and Wildlife Service and supports protecting the park.
24. Anthony Steinmetz, resident of Anaheim, member of Orange County Model Engineers, mentioned that the concept will destroy eagle projects; favored leaving the park as it is.
25. Myla Moore stated that visitors enjoy Fairview Park as it is; favors leaving it alone.

***Member Eckles made a motion for a short intermission at 7:30 p.m.; Member Smith seconded; Members in favor: Davern, Popp, Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles, Vrska, Cummings; Motion passed unanimously.***

**Chairman Mehren called the meeting back into order at 7:37 p.m.**

#### **Public Comment**

26. Matthew Teutimez, representing the aboriginal tribe of LA, spoke on the land of Fairview Park still providing for the community with all the natural resources; opposed to any demolition of Fairview Park; and does not want any of the sacred sites within the park destroyed.
27. Dr. Gary Stickel, Ph.D. at University of California at Los Angeles, commented on the inadequacies of the previous archeological surveys and favored preserving the remaining artifacts. Dr. Stickel favored keeping the park as it is so the People's culture can be preserved.
28. Jerry Koken spoke on the fields in the City being locked and closed to people who want to use them. Mr. Koken favored keeping the fields available to the residents.
29. Roger Turk thanked Committee Member Vrska and supports building fields. Mr. Turk favored keeping the City progressive and building a place for kids to play. Mr. Turk mentioned that people have good intentions and they do not want to destroy the burial sites. He also inquired about the security of the sacred areas.
30. Mike Burgess, Soccer Coach, favored building lighted fields in Fairview Park.
31. Marc Todd favored building fields in Fairview Park; creating a balance.
32. Colin Browne was opposed to building near the trains in Fairview Park.
33. Gil Simmons was opposed to building in Fairview Park.
34. Larry Amor mentioned that he favors leaving Fairview Park as it is.
35. Heather Lewis-Sebring mentioned that the Hispanic population is not represented but enjoys Fairview Park just as it is.
36. Lorraine King was opposed to any changes made to Fairview Park.
37. Resident favored leaving Fairview Park as it is.
38. Resident referenced page 8 of the Fish and Wildlife Service letter and is opposed to any changes in Fairview Park.
39. Chuck Perry favored building a field where kids can play.
40. Cindy Black requested more time to speak.

#### **7. Approval of Minutes:**

***Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 2, 2014; Member Eckles seconded; Members in favor: Davern, Popp, Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles, Vrska, Cummings; Motion passed unanimously.***

**8. Old Business:**

None

**9. New Business:**

- a. Consideration to add an item to the list of proposed changes: Community Garden in the Southeast Quadrant.

**Public Comment**

- 1. Sandy Johnson was opposed to the concept; mentioned a community garden is not for Fairview Park.
- 2. Resident was opposed to having a garden in Fairview Park; deemed not appropriate.
- 3. Resident was opposed to a garden in Fairview Park and suggested a garden will attract wildlife that may not belong in the park.

***Member Amburgey made a motion to add the community garden to the Southeast Quadrant; no second; Motion failed by lack of a second.***

- b. Consideration to add an item to the list of proposed changes: A Native Plant Nursery.

**Public Comment**

- 1. Cindy Black mentioned that to restore the habitat in Fairview Park, a plant nursery is needed.

***Member Eckles made a motion to add the native plant nursery; Amburgey seconded; Members in favor: Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles, Vrska, Cummings; Members opposed: Davern, Popp; Motion passed 6:2.***

Item No. 3: Recreate Heritage/Native American Village:

**Committee Discussion**

Member Cummings mentioned that the Native American input is appreciated and suggested it will be a learning center. Member Cummings spoke on it bringing recognition to the tribes and provides education about the tribes to the community.

**Public Comment**

- 1. Cindy Black envisioned it being an educational aspect for the community; favored the concept.
- 2. Adelia Sandoval noted that such a recreation is invasive, but if it moves forward, the Committee should consult with the local tribes first.
- 3. Resident was opposed to the concept, noting it is too artificial and discussed keeping Fairview Park as it is.
- 4. Resident was opposed to any development in Fairview Park.
- 5. Kim Hendricks referenced page 51 of the Fairview Master Park Plan and was opposed to the concept.
- 6. Jim Jones suggested that the committee focus on the Adobe in Estancia Park as a model.
- 7. Sandy Johnson was opposed to the concept.

**Member Cummings made a motion to advance the Native American Village concept to the next level; Amburgey Seconded; Members in favor: Amburgey, Cummings; Members opposed: Eckles, Vrska, Smith, Popp, Davern, Mehren; Motion failed 2:6.**

Member Eckles requested to move on to Committee Member Reports.

#### **10. Committee Member Reports**

Member Cummings stated he had nothing to report.

Member Vrska stated she had nothing to report.

Member Eckles thanked the young speakers for commenting. In response to Member Vrska's statements regarding the decrease in the Costa Mesa's population, Member Eckles stated the contrary is evident in Costa Mesa. Member Eckles stated his opinion regarding the topic of the shortage of fields in Costa Mesa. Member Eckles also commented on Lions Park being locked up at night for safety purposes, the benefits of lighted fields, and Fairview Developmental Center (FDC) not being owned by the City.

Member Amburgey commented on the available acreage within Fairview Park and the difference between other parks, and noted that TeWinkle Park supports many uses.

Vice Chairman Smith thanked everyone for their patience and civility.

Member Popp echoed Vice Chairman Smith's comments and thanked the young people for coming to the meeting.

Member Davern read a letter from a resident of Costa Mesa, Chris Pena, in which Mr. Pena was concerned about the lack of sports fields and favored adding a sports field in Fairview Park. Member Davern agreed with Mr. Pena's opinion.

Mr. Munoz stated he has nothing to report.

Attorney Summerhill stated she has nothing to report.

#### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

#### **14. Next regular meeting: September 3, 2014, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Community Center (NCC).**

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ernesto Munoz**

**Public Services Director**

# ATTACHMENT

Dear Parks and Recreation Commission,

Based on records obtained from the City, I'd like to request the following revisions/corrections to the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 *Field Allocation and Current Facility Outline* presented to the Commission at the February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and also presented to the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting:

- 1) On page 2, the report states "the City manages field use and allocation for over 19 youth and adult sports organizations." The list obtained from the City lists exactly 19 organizations.
- 2) On page 2, the report states the City "serves over 5,000 participants in each of the fall and spring seasons."

Based on documents obtained from the City, roster records aren't kept from which specific numbers can be calculated. It would be more accurate to state that according to what is reported to the City as each organization's participant numbers, the facilities serve up to 4,998/5,620 participants respectively (for the year and season the table represents).

It would also be helpful to clarify how these numbers are obtained and how the City will keep track of these numbers going forward.

- 3) On page 2, the report states "The City has received feedback from athletic organizations expressing a need for the following:

#### Additional Athletic Fields

~ All of the athletic organizations have seen significant growth over the past 10 years as more and more families have sought healthy activities for their children. While it is difficult to predict future trends in the demographic makeup of the City, we believe that

these programs will continue to grow at a more moderate pace over the next 5-10 years.”

Please note which athletic organizations expressed a need for additional athletic fields (which organizations got turned away, which group 1-3 needs could not be met). Several I spoke with were satisfied with the number of fields they used, but mentioned that more facilities would be nice to have.

Also, from my research and meeting with most of the 19 sports organizations it was clear that not all of them have used City facilities the last 10 years and that not all organizations have grown (and definitely did not significantly grow). In fact, several organizations stated that their participant numbers have been similar over the last several years, and some also stated that the numbers listed by the City as their participant numbers were double than actual.

Furthermore, the City demographic statistics in the July 2012-June 2013 CAFR shows that the City's population has decreased in the last 10 years from 113,011 in 2004 to 111,358 in 2013 and that school enrollment has remained virtually the same (21,806 in 2004 and 21,944 in 2013).

Several sports organizations, however, did have significant growth over the last 3 years, and it would be helpful to tease out those trends in more detail.

- 4) It would be helpful if Table 3, attachment 2 was labeled with a year of participation.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

All the Best,  
Anna Vrška