



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2004

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF TERM FOR FAIRVIEW PARK PLAN ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2004

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT/ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

PRESENTATION BY: WILLIAM J. MORRIS, PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: WILLIAM J. MORRIS at (714)754-5343

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Extend the term of the Fairview Park Plan Administrator position through June 30, 2008.
2. Direct staff to provide information to City Council, as part of the Fiscal Year 08-09 budget deliberations, outlining the status of the Fairview Park improvements, and to make a recommendation on the disposition of the Fairview Park Plan Administrator position.

BACKGROUND:

At the October 1, 2001, meeting, City Council approved the job description for the Fairview Park Plan Administrator position (Attachment 1), and directed that it be a limited term position of three (3) years (Attachment 2). Subsequently, the City hired Mr. Ron Molendyk in March 2002 to fill the position on a part time, limited-term basis. Therefore, the term of the position would end in March 2005.

Over the last two and one-half years, Mr. Molendyk has worked an average of 18 to 20 hours per week in performing his duties. He has done an excellent job in bringing all of the various interested parties together, and has pushed forward with a number of master-planned improvements in the park. These include, among other things, conducting Master Plan reconfirmation hearings, applying for various State grants, conducting a bluff erosion study, completion of design of Planning Areas "A," "C," and "D," completion of design of the multi-purpose trail, installation of informational and directional signage, installation of benches and trash cans, concept approval of the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Placentia Avenue, restoration of four vernal pools, protection of sensitive areas from motocross bicycle usage, coordination with the Orange Coast River Park committee, coordination with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers on the Santa Ana River Habitat Mitigation project, conceptual design approval of the Placentia Drain/Seasonal Creek Community element of the Master Plan, and monitoring of the park to protect its resources.

Attached for Council's information (Attachment 3) is the latest update of Fairview Park as required annually by Council Policy 500-11, titled "Implementation Procedures for the Fairview Park Master Plan."

ANALYSIS:

Unfortunately, Mr. Molendyk has resigned his position with the City of Costa Mesa as of August 30, 2004, to accept an interim Parks and Recreation Director position in another city. A significant amount of work remains on a number of important Master Plan elements for the park, as follows:

- Construction of the multipurpose trail.
- Construction of the pedestrian/bicycle bridge over Placentia Avenue.
- Hire a consultant to perform a Biological Study of the entire park to identify all significant plants, animals, habitat, etc., in anticipation of Master Plan implementation; monitor and oversee consultant work.
- Design of Planning Area "F" to eliminate drainage issues (south end, west side of park).
- Work with the Orange County Model Engineers (OCME) to develop a master plan for the east side of Placentia Avenue.
- Hire a consultant and oversee the design Planning Area "E" (restroom and upper parking lot on west side).
- Hire a consultant and oversee the design of the Placentia Drain/Seasonal Creek Community; oversee construction.
- Continue negotiations with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and State Fish and Game officials to obtain a grant for construction/maintenance of the Placentia Drain project.
- Continue negotiations with the City of Los Angeles to provide mitigation funds for the design/construction of Planning Area "F."
- Obtain State grants for the construction of Planning Areas "A," "C," and "D"; oversee construction.
- Day to day stewardship of Fairview Park.

As can be seen from the above list, a significant amount of work must still be accomplished in order to fully implement the Fairview Park Master Plan. Therefore, staff requests consideration of an extension of the term of the Fairview Park Plan Administrator position. The "part time" status is proposed to remain.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:

One alternative is to attempt to hire a part time employee to fill the remaining six months of the term. However, it may be difficult to hire a qualified person for that short of a period.

Another alternative is to absorb the existing and future Fairview Park workload with existing manpower. This alternative would slow down the Fairview Park implementation process, and would also affect the delivery of current and future Capital Improvement Projects such as street rehabilitation, parkway repair, and improvements for other parks.

A third alternative is to approve an extended term for the position, which is shorter than as recommended by staff, or extended with a condition that it be reviewed annually to determine if

