

Council Meeting October 20, 2003

Agreements on behalf of the City.

PUBLIC HEARING
2003 Local Law
Enforcement Block
Grant

The Deputy City Clerk announced that this is the time and place set for the public hearing to consider a Resolution authorizing application for and acceptance of 2003 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) allocation of \$51,036.00; and LLEBG Citizens Advisory Committee recommendation to allocate the LLEBG proceeds and matching funds for the purchase of an Olympus Digital Voice Recorder for \$56,707.00; and Budget Adjustment No. 04-021 appropriating \$51,036.00 of the 2003 LLEBG funds, and appropriating \$5,671.00 in matching funds from the 2003 Citizens Options for Public Safety, for a total appropriation of \$56,707.00. The notice of Publication is on file in the City Clerk's Office. The Police Administrative Services Commander reviewed the Agenda Report dated September 23, 2003, and responded to questions from Council.

There being no speakers, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

MOTION/Adopted
Resolution 03-66
Approved Budget
Adjustment No. 04-021

A motion was made by Council Member Cowan, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Steel, and carried 5-0, to adopt Resolution 03-66: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPTANCE OF YEAR 2003 LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION; the recommendation of the LLEBG Citizens Advisory Committee was approved; and Budget Adjustment No. 04-021 was approved.

→ OLD BUSINESS
TeWinkle Park Softball
Field Dimensions

The Deputy City Clerk presented from the meeting of August 4, 2003, TeWinkle Park softball field dimension options. Communications were received from the following Costa Mesa residents: George and Jeannine McGhee, 940 Presidio Drive, urging Council to vote no on the softball field expansion; Eric Bever, 1046 Westward Way, expressing his opposition to the removal of mature trees; Lance Thompson-Hallstone, 1002 El Camino Drive, opposed to any expansion; Beverly Hughes (via email), asking that the baseball fields not be transformed; Tina Seri (via email) urging Council not to remove any trees; David and Jeanne Brown, 951 Presidio Drive, asking that no trees be removed; Dennis and JoAnne VanSandt, 957 Presidio Drive, urging Council to save the open space and trees at TeWinkle Park; Robin Leffler, 3025 Samoa Place, opposed to trees being removed; Walter and Eleanor Strojny, 2825 La Salle Avenue, asking that no changes be made to TeWinkle Park; and Clark Chapman (via email), in favor of the expansion. The Public Services Director reviewed the Agenda Report dated October 9, 2003, presented an overview of Option No. 9, which was included in a Supplemental Agenda Report dated October 16, 2003, and he and the Recreation Manager responded to questions from Council.

Mayor Monahan commented on the comparative field distances in surrounding cities, as reported in Attachment 11 of the Agenda Report, and expressed his motivation has been to have decent fields for softball players, including young adults. He explained that the topic has been studied during the years that he has been on council, and that the proposal presented was to address the low performing fields, to provide fields for all age groups and to have competitive softball fields. He emphasized that the removal of trees was not intended to compromise the screening it offers the neighborhood. He felt that to spend the money to upgrade the facility but not to include the recommended improvements would not be enough to attract the players to the fields. He also responded to

a comment he had received stating that per the Acting City Attorney there was not a conflict of interest with his participation in any actions taken in this matter due to his involvement with his sponsoring of various team sports groups.

The Recreation Manager confirmed for the Mayor that there has been a drop in participation in the softball leagues in the City due to the quality of the fields.

Mayor Pro Tem Steel thanked the community for coming to the meeting, the emails and letters he has received on this item, and expressed the three reasons he appealed the decision made at the July 7, 2003, Council Meeting; the City did not provide notice to the residents of the Mesa Del Mar tract; Council did not take into consideration the proposed tree removal, and took no action to ensure that any of the trees removed would be replaced by trees of equal size; and no consideration was given to the need for a sufficient buffer area between the outside fences and the adjoining residents, prior to making this decision to expand the outfield fences there was no analysis performed to assess the potential impacts on the adjoining residents, an assessment should have been prepared and made available to the public beforehand. He did not agree with the removal of any trees, hoped that 50 trees could added, for replacement of the shelter and picnic tables with improved structures, and wanted to keep the concrete walkways.

Council Member Cowan expressed her appreciation to staff for presenting Option No. 9, but had concern about the funding needed for the option and offered the replacement of the new sidewalks, the new picnic shelters as funding priorities to the extension of the northeast field. Council Member Cowan welcomed comments from residents from the Mesa Del Mar tract regarding Option 9.

Council Member Scheafer reiterated the need for the renovation and reported of his contact with some people and teams that no longer utilize the fields at TeWinkle Park that it was due to the "terrible" condition of the fields. He confirmed with the Public Services Director that the home plate could not be moved back without major changes to the infrastructure, and expressed his preference of the northwest field with a shorter fence and a longer fence in the northeast field.

Mayor Pro Tem Steel confirmed with the Public Services Director that Option No. 9 would remove nine trees, to include: six Palm trees, one Pine and two Brazilian Pepper trees.

Jeff Wilcox, 924 Junipero Drive, Costa Mesa, President of the Mesa Del Mar Homeowners Association, which represents 865 homes, urged the Council to listen to the comments of the residents of Mesa Del Mar who needed to be heard over the few that would benefit from the expansion. In response to Council Member Mansoor's inquiry Mr. Wilcox expressed his support of Option No. 9.

Bill Leever, 816 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, applauded staff and Council for Option No. 9 but pointed out that in the TeWinkle Master Plan, a survey, conducted in 2002 regarding recreational use in the City, that adult softball did not rank in the top 20 percent as a recreational priority for residents in Costa Mesa. He agreed that the fields need some renovation, but was not supportive of the additional expansions.

William Kuhn, 1086 El Camino Drive, Costa Mesa, agreed that

Option No. 9 was viable but did not agree with the removal of three additional trees for the expansion, he also supported the higher fence.

JoAnne VanSandt, 957 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, disagreed that expansion of the softball fields at TeWinkle Park was necessary.

Byron deArakal, 2977 Redwood Avenue, Costa Mesa, agreed with Option No. 9 and complimented staff for their efforts. He disagreed with a comment from Mr. Wilcox stating that the Parks Commission did not "listen to the community and advised that in the decision making process that he was "looking into the future" for the benefit of the community.

Denise Lavigne, 949 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, advised that she is opposed to the expansion of the softball fields at TeWinkle Park, and the removal of trees.

Matt Parsons, 913 Junipero Drive, Costa Mesa, indicated that he plays softball in the City, and reported that the dugouts and infields need renovation but did not agree with removing any trees in order to expand the fields.

Jeanne Brown, 951 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, advised that the palm trees shield the lights from her home, the neighborhood kids are not able to use the fields, and felt that the picnic shelter should not be moved any closer to the residents surrounding the park.

Irene Engard, 931 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, felt that while Option No. 9 was a better solution, she did not want any trees removed. She asked the City to make the improvements needed, but opposed the expansion.

Greg Bingham, Post Office Box 3605, South El Monte, Executive Director of the Southern California Municipal Athletic Federation, an organization responsible for providing the rules for Orange County Softball Leagues, expressed that softball has changed over the years, which requires expansion and improvement of the current softball fields at TeWinkle Park.

Jim Gray, 215 Knox Street, Costa Mesa, asked that Council remember when funding the softball field expansion that in the Recreation Master Plan 3.3 percent of the residents play adult softball, and 11.1 percent skate and skateboard.

Paul Kelly, 2736 Mendoza Drive, Costa Mesa, agreed with Mr. Gray regarding the priority of a skateboard park over the expansion of the softball fields, commenting that there is a diminishing population of adult softball players.

Dick White 2763 DeSoto Avenue, Costa Mesa, felt that the aesthetics of the park would be damaged, and asked that only the Northwest field be expanded. He suggested the placement of the softball fields and a skateboard park at Placentia Avenue, at Fairview Park, as a solution that would not negatively affect the residents.

Mayor Monahan advised that there have been several proposals brought forward for Fairview Park, and all have been "shot down" overwhelmingly. He indicated that there are environmental issues, as well as a very strong lobby asking that Fairview Park be "left alone."

Jay Litvak, 2895 Velasco Lane, Costa Mesa, supported Option No. 9 as the second best option. He, however, did not want any trees removed, and stated that even a dead tree has ecological benefits.

Dana Ramos, 813 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, supported Option No. 9 but without the removal of the three trees.

Terry Shaw, 420 Bernard Street, Costa Mesa, read a statement from Laura Nichols, 993 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, who supported Option No. 9, but was concerned about the cost of \$2,000,000.00.

Norm Snow, 2746 San Juan Lane, Costa Mesa, commented that every facility that exists in TeWinkle Park could be moved to Fairview Park without disturbing anyone. He read the dictionary definition of Park and Recreation, and asked that nothing further be added to TeWinkle Park.

Carl Spadee, no street address given, agreed with Mayor Monahan that many of the adult softball players have left Costa Mesa due to the condition of the fields, and supported improvement of the fields.

Sandra Genis, 1586 Myrtlewood Street, Costa Mesa, offered the possibility that softball is not as popular a sport as it once was. She disagreed with CEQA findings reported in the Agenda Report and stated that the park would not qualify under a categorical exemption as the park would be an expansion as it may include a portion of the Davis school site, and would result in substantial impact on the environment.

Tom Lentz, 2766 Portola Drive, Costa Mesa, thought that Option No. 9 was the most reasonable, but preferred the fences not be moved so to preserve the green space.

Beth Refakes, 320 Magnolia Street, Costa Mesa, felt that while Option No. 9 was an improvement and the fields are in need of renovation, she did not agree with the necessity for expansion at this time. She asked that Council consider the impact of the proposed changes on the residents, and the lack of additional funding available.

Douglas Toohey, 1149 El Camino Drive, Costa Mesa, supported Option No. 9 stating that it has less impact on the residents.

David Stiller, 2879 Regis Lane, Costa Mesa, complimented staff on the proposal of Option No. 9. He advised that the lights proposed for the softball fields are those used at the Farm Sports Complex, where there have been few complaints. He noted that the majority of the players on a softball field are in the infield, which is 330 feet from the property line of the residences on Presidio Drive, which should create no additional noise.

Katrina Foley, 2778 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa, clarified that the Planning Commission's review of the TeWinkle Park Master Plan did not include the softball fields, as it did not fall in the commission's jurisdiction. She felt that Option No. 9 was a reasonable compromise, but expressed concern that fields would accommodate all of the teams and leagues except for girls fast pitch softball, that there would be delays in the improvements in the fields due to any expansion, and advised that the Planning Commission had removed the picnic shelter from the Master Plan, and that there were no plans for them to be replaced. Ms. Foley expressed her

appreciation of Mayor Pro Tem Steel who appealed the decision, as well as staff and Council their hard work in coming up with a compromise plan that she felt took into consideration the needs of the residents as well as the future improvements of the park.

Ed Keane, 2777 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa, supported Option No. 9 for TeWinkle Park, but questioned why a skateboard park could not be built at Fairview Park where it would not impact any residents.

Karl Ahlf, 181 Merrill Place, No. A, Costa Mesa, commented that he has played softball in the Special Olympics, asked that the softball fields remain the same at TeWinkle Park and not to remove any trees.

Kimberly Belanger, 967 Presidio Drive, Costa Mesa, advised that she lives directly behind the softball fields at TeWinkle Park, and currently the lights do not affect her, but was concerned that if the trees were removed the lights would shine into her bedroom. She asked that Council not make any changes to the softball fields.

Teri Yuen, 2854 Velasco Lane, Costa Mesa, reported that she previously played softball in Costa Mesa until the condition of the fields had become so bad, and asked that the softball fields at TeWinkle Park be reconditioned. She commented that she would like her daughters to be able to play fast pitch softball in the City.

Council Member Cowan commented that fast pitch softball would not be precluded from these fields because temporary fencing could be used. She expressed her concern over funding, and asked the City Manager how much was earmarked in the budget for the project, and where additional funding would come from. The City Manager responded that there is slightly in excess of \$2,000,000.00 budgeted for this project which includes elements of rehabilitating and rebuilding the existing fields, as well as non-visible elements such as the replacement of a major sewer main that serves the softball field complex, as well as the park site. He advised that the additional improvements in Option No. 9 would add approximately \$175,000.00 to the current estimated cost of the project, but actual costs would not be available until competitive bids are received. The City Manager indicated that staff would be required to go through the current list of capital improvement projects and either cancel or postpone some of the existing projects in order to structure a financial plan to meet the additional costs for this project. He reported that it was important to receive Council input on the TeWinkle Park softball complex, amendments to the TeWinkle Lake project, as well as a skateboard facility because all three of them will have implications to the capital improvement program.

Council Member Mansoor confirmed with the City Manager the projects that would not possibly be postponed would be Measure M projects and would instead come from other park improvement projects.

Council Member Cowan commented that she appreciated the need for the expansion of the softball fields, and believed that the improvement of the fields will return players to Costa Mesa softball leagues.

On motion by Council Member Cowan, seconded by Council

MOTION/Approved
Option No. 9 for
TeWinkle Park Softball
Fields

Member Mansoor, and carried 4-1, Council Member Scheafer voting no, Option No. 9 was approved for the Southwest and Northwest fields; the Northeast field was approved as originally proposed; it was determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA requirements; and staff was directed to return in 30 days with additional funding options.

The Mayor declared a recess at 9:30 p.m., and reconvened the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

RECESS

OLD BUSINESS
Assistant City Manager
Job Classification

The Deputy City Clerk presented from the meeting of September 2, 2003, resolution amending Resolution 02-85 by establishing the new Assistant City Manager job classification and salary range; and Budget Adjustment No. 04-029 for \$90,433.00. A communication was received from Judi Berry (via email) who was in favor of the addition of the position. The Principal Personnel Analyst reviewed the Agenda Report dated September 4, 2003, and responded to questions from Council.

Council Member Mansoor commended the City Manager for the job he does, but thought that Council should take responsibility and be selective when making requests that require an abundance of staff time.

MOTION/Adopted
Resolution 03-67;
Approved Budget
Adjustment No. 04-029

A motion was made by Council Member Cowan, seconded by Mayor Monahan, and carried 4-1, Council Member Mansoor voting no, to adopt Resolution 03-67: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING RESOLUTION 02-85 AND ESTABLISHING A NEW JOB CLASSIFICATION IN THE EXECUTIVE SALARY SCHEDULE; and Budget Adjustment No. 04-029 was approved for \$90,433.00.

OLD BUSINESS
TeWinkle Park Skate
Park Location

The Deputy City Clerk presented consideration of TeWinkle Park as the location for the first permanent skate park, and review of potential additional sites for permanent and pocket-size skate parks. Communications were received from Cathy Mitchell (via email) stating proper public notification was not given; Johanna Segesser (via email) advising that Costa Mesa High School would not be a good site for a future skate park; Mark Jeffries (via email) in opposition to location of a skate park in TeWinkle Park; and Mark Andrews (via email) supporting a skate park. The Recreation Manager reviewed the Agenda Report dated October 14, 2003, and she and the Public Services Director responded to questions from Council.

Mayor Monahan confirmed with the City Manager that financial contributions could be accepted through the Costa Mesa Community Foundation for the skate park.

Council Member Mansoor confirmed with the City Manager that if the skate park was located at Lion's Park it would take up less green space.

Mayor Pro Tem Steel expressed his appreciation of the pictures that were provided to Council of the site at TeWinkle Park, and commented he would like to include the City of Newport Beach in a joint venture of a skate park. He was also concerned with the increase in traffic for the nearby neighborhood.

Council Member Scheafer commented that the proposed location is a place that he always felt was a prime location for the skateboard