

CITY OF COSTA MESA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

July 28, 2004

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., July 28, 2004, at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harris followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Burciaga.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

Mark Harris, Chairman
Byron de Arakal, Vice Chairman
Mima Burciaga, Commissioner
James Fidler, Commissioner
Wendy Leece, Commissioner

Also Present:

Steven E. Hayman, Assistant City Manager
William J. Morris, Public Services Director
Marc Puckett, Director of Finance
Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager

MINUTES

A motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Leece and carried 5 to 0 to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2004 meeting with one change to page three, paragraph three; "Commissioner Fidler indicated" will be changed to "Vice Chairman de Arakal indicated".

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Robert Graham, Dakota Avenue, Costa Mesa addressed the Commission regarding the Parks and Recreation Divisions not having a department head, Talbert Park turf and parking in lower area, and the County river trail from MacArthur Boulevard to Newport Beach.

Mr. Chris Palmer, 18952 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 220, Irvine, California 92612 representing Assemblyman John Campbell's Office regarding and in support of item 9f (Update on Implementation of Fairview Park Master Plan for Placentia Drain) and hopes the project moves forward because it is essential to the quality of life here in Orange County.

Chairman Harris granted authorization for Mr. Palmer to speak to an agenda item during Oral Communications.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Consent Calendar items.

the deposit is returned. However, if the tree dies then the deposit would be retained to cover the cost of tree removal and replacement. Mr. Hartley also stated that the applicant would be responsible for the cost of transplanting the tree, approximately \$500. Additionally, the removal and transplant would be done by the property owner, who must use a certified, licensed and bonded arborist. Lastly, if the request is approved, the approval to remove the tree would expire in one year.

Commissioner Leece stated that she would approve a motion to remove/transplant the tree because it is affecting the quality of life and the safety of the children.

Commissioner Fislser stated that he met with the applicant, looked at the property and the tree does not fit in aesthetically with his landscaping plans. He also stated that he met his neighbor who likes the tree.

MOTION

A motion was made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Chairman Harris and carried 5 to 0 to approve the request and directed that the tree be relocated at the applicant's expense and to post a bond to cover the cost in case the tree dies within one year of transplant.

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN FOR PLACENTIA DRAIN

Mr. William Morris presented the item for Mr. Molendyk.

Vice Chairman de Arakal expressed concerns regarding elements of the design such as "first flush" run off before it gets into the riparian area, and the flow of water so that there is no stagnate water.

Mr. Morris informed the Commission that design specifics of screening of litter and types of water quality to be delivered to the headwaters of this area will be addressed by the consultant that the City hires.

At the request of Vice Chairman de Arakal, Mr. Morris explained how the system is designed, where the run off water source will come from, what happens to it as it comes down and works its way into the seasonal creek community. Mr. Morris also stated that two major purposes will be served, 1) re-establishing a wetlands habitat area, and 2) cleaning the water before it gets to the ocean. He also stated that the water is currently taken to the treatment plant, but this is a temporary solution and should not continue. The ultimate solution will be to treat it naturally. This multi-faceted program will create a wetlands area as well as an educational source.

In response to questions from Chairman Harris, Mr. Morris stated that the water will be brought through the wetlands area and at the end of the process the water will be discharged directly back into Greenville Banning Channel and out to the ocean. It will have the type of water quality that does not need further treatment.

Chairman Harris expressed concerns with all projects like this because of the maintenance and operation expenses after the initial funding period, especially during bad fiscal times.

Mr. Morris stated that State Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife have indicated that if a riparian area can be established and maintained in the first five years, from that point on it becomes less intense to maintain. Once established, and as long as all factors continue together, the maintenance costs should drop significantly.

Mr. Morris informed the Commission that one example for funding he can point to is the generation of approximately one million dollars that was created by the need of the flood control district to clean out the lower reach of the Santa Ana River where it has the sandy bottom. That area established vegetation very quickly and with most native species in there. The same kind of thing can, hopefully, happen outside the riverbed in Fairview Park.

Mr. Robert Graham, Dakota Avenue, Costa Mesa displayed a map of Fairview Park and expressed some concerns regarding lack of parking in the lower area near Swan Drive; the picnic area in the lower area not having parking near it; the trail connecting the upper and lower areas of the park; how steep the trail gets; how hot it is during the summer to walk the trail from the upper parking to the lower picnic area; the need for kids to have recreation fields; the desire to give the coastal shrubs in the lower area back to the County of Orange and get a like amount at the end of 19th Street where the City has no fields for the children; and finally, he stated that he liked the idea of water flow and natural growth of the trees.

Former Parks Commissioner David Stiller, 2879 Regis Lane, Costa Mesa addressed the Commission stating that he agreed with Mr. Graham regarding the playing fields. He also stated that he had concerns about mosquito abatement and the West Nile Virus, adding that a concept will need to be developed for continual positive flow of water through the basin and a way to ensure constant movement.

Neil Horgan, 2827 Nevis Circle, Costa Mesa, stated that he likes the plan, however he expressed three concerns, 1) parking, 2) the setting up of a miniature water treatment plant and 3) stagnant water and mosquitoes.

In response to question from Commissioner Leece regarding adding the community concerns to their recommendation, Mr. Morris explained that the process to be followed is included in the Council Policy for Implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan, Attachment 3. Any changes, such as a request for a parking lot would have to follow those same procedures, which is not part of the agenda item being considered tonight. Additionally, there are certain requirements that must be followed and if it would take four or more hours of staff time that must go to City Council first before following through with any request and then Council would give direction to either proceed or to not proceed.

Commissioners discussed parking in the lower area, surplus land that would be good for ball fields, the educational opportunities of the Fairview Park Master Plan, minimizing the threat of mosquitoes by generating continuous water flow, water quality, request for changes to the Fairview Park Master Plan under City Council Policy #500-11, and conformance of the seasonal creek community plan with the Fairview Park Master Plan.

MOTION

A motion was made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Chairman Harris and carried 5 to 0 to approve staff's recommendation that the improvements to the Placentia Drain conform to the intent of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Ransom began her presentation with the mission statement for the Recreation Division, "We create community through people, parks and programs." She also stated that the Costa Mesa Recreation Division plays an important role in creating a healthy community through diverse and innovative recreation programs. It also provides