

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

January 23, 2008

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on January 23, 2008 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Graham.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Robert Graham
2. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Mike Brumbaugh
3. Roll Call

Commissioners Present:

Chairman Robert Graham
Vice Chairman Kurt Galitski
Commissioner Mike Brumbaugh
Commissioner Mark Harris
Commissioner Terry Shaw

Commissioners Absent:

None.

Officials Present:

Mr. Stephen N. Mandoki, Director of Administrative Services
Mr. Peter Naghavi, Acting Director of Public Services
Mr. Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Ms. Jana M. Ransom, Recreation Manager
Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Mr. Robert Staples, Fairview Park Plan Administrator
Ms. Donna Theriault, Management Analyst
Ms. Lisa McPherson, Recreation Supervisor

4. Approval of the Minutes of the November 28, 2007 Meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Terry Shaw, second by Commissioner Mark Harris and carried five to zero, to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

5. Oral Communications

6. Consent Calendar

No items.

7. Public Hearing

No items.

8. Old Business

No items.

9. New Business

9a. Review of the Draft Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study Document

Mr. Robert Staples presented the report. Ms. Dana Roachat, Wildlands Conservancy, and Ms. Anne Dove, National Park Service, both made a power point presentation and were available to answer questions by the Commission.

Public Comment:

1) David Kinkade

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Kinkade voiced his concerns to the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. Mr. Kinkade said that the service road, on the east side, of the Greenville Banning Channel is a hidden area in which residents have reported problems with transients and graffiti.

Mr. Kinkade does not believe that parking access to the Talbert Nature Preserve and the Santa Ana River is consistent with the Fairview Park Master Plan, and he believes that this item should be removed.

Mr. Kinkade suggested that staff clearly indicate that the trail along the Fairview Channel is within Fairview Park, adjacent to and south of the Fairview Channel in order to avoid any confusion.

Mr. Kinkade also suggested that there be some mention in the study about Huntington Beach and their side of the Santa Ana River, and possibly if Newport Beach can open the trail to the west side of the river, where it ends at Pacific Coast Highway, in order to have access under the highway.

2) Jill Schoenmehl

Resident, Costa Mesa

Ms. Schoenmehl addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. She is opposed to providing additional parking at the western end of Gisler because she believes that the area is fine the way it is. Ms. Schoenmehl also stated that additional access to Moon Park is not necessary.

3) Don Maher III

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Maher III addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He believes that there should be no public access to the east side of the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety concerns.

4) Griff Corzine

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Corzine voiced his concerns to the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He recommends that the Commission not have additional parking at the western end of Gisler because of safety issues.

Discussion between Commissioner Mike Brumbaugh and Mr. Corzine took place on the presence of party-goers at the western end of Gisler.

5) Tom Reitz

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Reitz addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He does not recommend allowing public access behind peoples homes at the Greenville Banning Channel because it will cause public nuisance and loss of privacy.

6) Patricia Johnson

Resident, Costa Mesa

Ms. Johnson voiced her concerns to the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. She recommends that there be no public access at the Greenville Banning Channel because of loss of privacy. Ms. Johnson mentioned that residents near the Channel were promised by the City, Army Corps of Engineers and the County of Orange that they will have privacy, landscaping, restrictive access signage, and that the access point will be for maintenance use only and that it will not be made available to the public.

7) Clay Epperson

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Epperson addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He believes that there should be no public access to the eastside of the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety concerns.

8) Dr. Anthony E. Smart

Resident, Costa Mesa

Dr. Smart addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He also provided documentation for the Commission to review. Dr. Smart believes that there should be no public access to the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety concerns, increased noise, no privacy for the residents in the area, and reduced property value.

9) Milan Richard Milenkovich

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Milenkovich voiced his concerns to the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He is opposed to allowing public access at Calvert Avenue and on both the east and west side of the Greenville Banning Channel in the Mesa Verde area because he believes that it will allow for criminal activity to occur. Mr. Milenkovich also mentioned that the area is not bicycle supervised.

10) Marianne Plunkett

Resident, Costa Mesa

Ms. Plunkett addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. She is opposed to allowing public access on the east side of the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety issues and increased noise.

11) Linda Stennes

Resident, Costa Mesa

Ms. Stennes voiced her concerns to the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. She is opposed to allowing public access to the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety concerns.

12) Susan Kinkade

Resident, Costa Mesa

Ms. Kinkade addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. She does not want to allow public access in the area of Sandpiper Drive because of safety issues and loss of privacy.

13) Erick Weiss

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Weiss voiced his concerns to the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He is opposed to allowing public access in the area of Sandpiper Drive because of safety issues and privacy concerns.

14) Don Growth

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Growth addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He is opposed to allowing public access in the area north and south of Adams on the Greenville Banning Channel because of increased noise and safety concerns.

15) Jim Garmon

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Garmon voiced his concerns to the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He requested that the Commission not allow public access to the maintenance service roads near the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety concerns and the possible increase in crime.

16) John Fletcher

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Fletcher addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He is opposed to allowing public access to the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety issues, loss of privacy and reduced property values.

17) Robert Somers

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Somers voiced his concerns to the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He is opposed to allowing public access to the east side of the Greenville Banning Channel as well as the access points at Calvert Avenue because of security

issues. Mr. Somers said that he is concerned that the City may declare eminent domain in order to have bridges installed for access to the trail.

18) Laura Knight

Resident, Costa Mesa

Ms. Knight addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. She does not want the public to have access to the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety and privacy issues. Ms. Knight also suggested that lighting be installed at the Adams Street bridge for safety reasons.

19) Jeff Harlan

Member, Santa Ana River Trail Blue Ribbon Committee

Mr. Harlan addressed the Commission in regards to the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study.

20) Frank Grant

Resident, Costa Mesa

Mr. Grant voiced his concerns to the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He does not want to allow public access to the Greenville Banning Channel because of safety issues.

21) John Anderson

Member, Santa Ana River Trail Blue Ribbon Committee

Mr. Anderson addressed the Commission on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study.

Commissioner Mike Brumbaugh thanked the members of the Santa Ana River Trail Blue Ribbon Committee for the work and effort put into preparing and presenting the study to the Commission.

Commissioner Mike Brumbaugh suggested that the existing safety issues occurring at the Santa Ana River Trail should first be addressed and resolved. He also said that he will recommend to the City Council to eliminate the option to allow public access to the Greenville Banning Channel maintenance access point.

Commissioner Mark Harris said that the Santa Ana River Trail Blue Ribbon Committee did an outstanding job on the vision study. He suggested that the Costa Mesa TV video record a walk-through of the project once the City Council has made a decision on this item.

Commissioner Mark Harris supports the study with the following recommendations:

- 1) Eliminate the option to allow public access at the maintenance access road of the Greenville Banning Channel; and,
- 2) Install lighting on the I-405 and the Adams bridge crossing.

Commissioner Terry Shaw agreed with his fellow Commissioner's on the work done on the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study. He recommends that the Greenville Banning Channel access needs to be looked at and that careful consideration should be given to the documents that were provided to the Commission by Dr. Anthony Smart.

Commissioner Terry Shaw also recommends that City Council considers the following for the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study:

- 1) Landscaping options
- 2) Enhancement and access to the Gisler Trailhead Site needs to be looked into more carefully
- 3) Removal of the Calvert Avenue access from the study
- 4) Install lighting under the bridges
- 5) Remove the option to install restrooms at the Gisler Trailhead from the study

Vice Chairman Kurt Galitski also agreed with his fellow Commissioner's and he recommends the following to the City Council:

- 1) Remove the option for public access to the Greenville Banning Channel.
- 2) Open the maintenance service access at the Mesa Verde Country Club from Gisler heading south from the bike trail (as submitted and noted on Figure 23 by Vice Chairman Kurt Galitski) and to limit the access to pedestrian traffic only. Vice Chairman Kurt Galitski believes that it will not inhibit any property owner's privacy and/or safety and that pedestrian currently use the service access in this area.
- 3) Remove the Gisler Trailhead option from the study.
- 4) Install lighting under the bridges.
- 5) Remove any mention of eminent domain with regards to Calvert Avenue or the Mesa Verde Country Club from the study.

Chairman Robert Graham stated that the study offers opportunities to enhance the community. He recommends forwarding the Santa Ana River Trail Vision Study to the City Council and to not allow public access to the Greenville Banning Channel.

Chairman Robert Graham recommends that the City Council considers installing a bicycle trail between the Santa Ana River and 19th Street.

Motion made by Commissioner Mark Harris, second by Commissioner Terry Shaw and carried five to zero, to forward Commissioner's comments and public input to the City Council.