

COSTA MESA CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING

2005-002  
OCTOBER 4, 2005

Member Bever pointed out that the proposed Action Minutes format did not contain the five subjects addressed by the speaker and reflected in the current Summary Minutes format.

Mayor Mansoor asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the matter; there was no response.

**MOTION:** Council Member Bever moved to continue the use of Summary Minutes at this time and that after six months, re-evaluate the matter based on whether the Clerk can expedite the production of Minutes with use of the new technology. Council Member Mansoor seconded the motion for purpose of discussion.

Mayor Mansoor questioned the statement on Page 2 of the staff report relating to bringing the recordings back in-house and maintaining them on a computer or on DVD's following expiration of the time of maintaining them on the Web. City Manager Roeder responded that it is their intent to maintain DVD's of past meetings for Council, staff, and public access, and funding would be part of the Budget process.

Council Member Monahan spoke in favor of going to Action Minutes. He noted that staff has responded to Council's direction to look at new technology to improve accessibility and efficiency. Council Member Monahan stated he believed use of Action Minutes was a part of that.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** On motion by Council Member Monahan, seconded by Council Member Dixon, the City Council approved the use of Action Minutes, with a review in six months.

Council Member Bever requested the maker of the motion to include the current method of Minutes for the reporting of Public Comments. Council Member Monahan stated he would prefer to address the matter at the six-month review.

A vote was taken on the Substitute Motion. Council Members Mansoor and Bever voted "No". MOTION CARRIED.

#### NEW BUSINESS



1. Request for Review of the Fairview Park Master Plan: In accordance with Section C5 of City Council Policy 500-11, request for review of the Fairview Park Master Plan, as follows:
  - a. Bike and walking trail access through the lower park area to connect Placentia Avenue to the River Trail.
  - b. Lack of parking in the lower park area to accommodate people unable or unwilling to use the upper parking lot to gain access to Talbert Park and the proposed wetlands area.
  - c. Trail access between the upper bird Street area and the new pedestrian/bike bridge over Placentia Avenue connecting the east and west sides of the park.

The Deputy City Clerk noted that communications had been received from Ali Haghjoo supporting the retention of the current Fairview Park Master Plan and another resident offering a bicycle route alternative.

William Morris, Director of Public Services, explained Council Policy 500-11, briefed the Council Agenda Report dated October 4, 2005, noted that the request had been received from Parks and Recreation Commissioner Robert Graham, and requested City Council direction to staff regarding the request.

Council Member Bever clarified that the bike and walking trail through the lower park area to connect to Placentia Avenue to the River Trail had been approved by the City Council recently. Mr. Morris stated that was correct and that the City Council had directed staff to work with the County on the matter.

Parks and Recreation Commissioner Robert Graham stated that when he looked at maps and diagrams of the different areas, the 11 acres in the Alluvial area to be designed and the 20 to 30 acres of wetlands being contracted for, it became apparent to him that the interface of the various areas, the Master Plan of Parks, and Talbert Park should be looked at to insure coordinated efforts, especially relating to bike trails. Mr. Graham noted a number of park improvements were to be made in the area and wanted to be sure they were a part of the Master Plan as well, and that with the improvements, parking would be a key issue. He did not want to see City streets impacted and wanted to be sure adequate and convenient on-site parking would be included in any improvement. Mr. Graham stated that the trail access between the upper bird streets and the new pedestrian/bike bridge over Placentia Avenue also needed to be addressed.

In response to Mayor Mansoor, Mr. Graham explained the difference between review of Item 1 above and that which was previously approved by City Council was that the trail had not been designed yet and approval of looking at monies to pave the levee was not favored by residents on Swan Drive.

In response to Council Member Foley, Robert Staples, Fairview Park Plan Administrator, stated there was no trail access from the upper bird streets to the Placentia bridge. He explained the bridge will connect the east and west side and the trail would loop around the existing train tracks and station.

Council Member Bever asked if the Canary access point being proposed would have the same ADA non-compliant issues as was the case several years ago. Mr. Staples answered in the affirmative. Council Member Dixon recalled the engineer at the time stated there was a way to make it ADA compliant. Mr. Graham concurred and stated he believed a ramp had been proposed.

The Mayor asked if anyone wished to address the City Council on the matter.

1. Martin Mallard, Costa Mesa, stated that Fairview Park was a natural park and cautioned the Council not to over-engineer the park.
2. Sam Clark, Costa Mesa, spoke in favor of reviewing the Park Master Plan; believed a parking lot was necessary; but did not want to see the park over-engineered either.
3. David Kinkade, Costa Mesa, suggested the City Council consider the issues separately; believed the multipurpose trail proposed is already in the Master Plan, but making it hard surfaced could be easily implemented as part of the ongoing engineering services contract; review of the parking lots should include impacts on the riparian project, impact on the picnic area, compatibility of automobiles in a sensitive habitat, traffic hazards of vehicles entering and exiting Placentia Avenue, and lack of restrooms and drinking fountains; and he would like to see access to the park from Canary Drive, but the slope is a vertical dirt strip and contains large water pipes.
4. Cindy Breneman, Costa Mesa, agreed with the previous speaker's comments, spoke in opposition to review of the Park Master Plan, expressed disfavor of making Canary Street accessible to park users and urged the planting of materials on the vertical slope.
5. Bill Reichler, Costa Mesa, favored leaving the existing Park Master Plan in place; stated that perhaps a bike trail on the levee was flawed, but he supported a bike trail at Point A; did not want a parking lot in the lower park and suggested a shuttle service on certain days to the lower park so that seniors and citizens with disabilities could enjoy it.
6. Steve Devey, Costa Mesa, expressed support for the existing Park Master Plan, believed that any changes could be accomplished through a compromise between the Park and Recreation Commission and park users, and applauded everyone involved in making Fairview Park a premiere park.
7. Beth Refakes, east side Costa Mesa resident, expressed support for keeping Fairview Park a passive park, did not want to have a parking lot in the lower section, and expressed concern about access from Canary Street, noting park visitors would create parking problems for residents living on that street.

The Mayor asked if anyone else wished to address the City Council on the matter; there was no response.

The Mayor then expressed appreciation to Robert Graham for his efforts in bringing the proposal forward, but stated he was not inclined to review the Fairview Park Master Plan at this time.

Council Member Dixon expressed concern about ADA-approved parking at Talbert and Fairview Parks and stated she believed eventually the City will have to address the issue; stated an additional 60 parking spaces in the lower portion of the Fairview Park was very desirable; was not certain that access to the Park from Canary Street was appropriate, but access somewhere from that side of the Park should be addressed; and encouraged the City Council's support of the request for review of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

In response to Mayor Mansoor, City Attorney Barlow stated there is no ADA requirement to provide access to all sections of a natural habitat park, noting some National Parks as examples, and that only reasonable access to park was required. In response to Council Member Dixon, Ms. Barlow stated that a number of factors would be considered to determine reasonable access, how much access was provided, the cost, and the impact on the natural facilities of a park, and that a discussion with Mr. Morris, Mr. Staples, and the engineer would be appropriate to clarify accessibility issues in the Master Plan.



**MOTION:** On motion by Council Member Mansoor, seconded by Council Member Monahan, the City Council moved that the Fairview Park Master Plan should remain as is, to deny the review request, and to return all submitted materials submitted to the applicant.

Council Member Foley stated she could not support a parking lot in the lower section of the Park because she believed it would change the Park from passive to active and people would then promote the use of sports fields in that area. Council Member Foley commented that Item No. 1 in Mr. Kinkade's comments relating to the bike trail was being looked at presently, and that access to the park from Canary Street was not favored by the residents of the street and could create parking problems. She noted, however, there was no access to the Park from the east side of town without going on major arterials and that some access would eventually be needed.

In response to Council Member Dixon, Public Services Director Morris stated that a shuttle service down the levee falls within the purview of the Orange County Flood Control District, since they are the owners. Council Member Dixon requested Mr. Morris to discuss the matter with the District.

Council Member Bever pointed out there does not seem to be much community interest in reviewing the Master Plan, noting the correspondence he has received.

Council Member Foley questioned if there had been any discussions about parking at the south end of the Park, closer to 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Public Services Director Morris responded that the Master Plan provides for additional parking on the south end of the Park at the end of Pacific Avenue to accommodate ten cars and at the main entrance of the Park opposite the existing parking lot to accommodate 35 cars. Mr. Morris pointed out that a smaller width trail with switchbacks, which would have the effect of flattening out the slope, was in the Master Plan and would provide access in the lower section of the Park.

A vote was taken on the foregoing motion. Council Member Dixon voted "No." MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION:** On motion by Council Member Foley, seconded by Council Member Dixon, the City Council directed the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission to review the existing Master Plan of Bikeways, solicit public input, and submit recommendations to the City Council.

Council Member Monahan pointed out the motion related to a non-agendized matter, and, therefore, was inappropriate. The City Attorney concurred. City Manager Roeder advised he would prepare a staff report clarifying the tasks and direction and agendize the matter for a future meeting.

Council Member Foley withdrew her motion.

REPORTS

City Attorney: None

City Manager: City Manager Roeder complimented the following Engine 84 Fire personnel, as well as the Fire personnel remaining on duty in the City backing them up, for their efforts in the Topanga and Burbank fires this past weekend: Captain Coates, Fire Engineer Gagne, and Fire Fighters Bibler and Homer, later relieved by Captain Ohde, Fire Engineer Dyer, and Fire Fighters Jones and deFluiter.

ADJOURNMENT: The Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. and noted the next Regular Meeting would be held October 18, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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JULIE FOLCIK, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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ALLAN R. MANSOOR, MAYOR