CITY OF COSTA MESA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

February 22, 2006

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on February 22, 2006 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman de Arakal, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Stiller.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:
Wendy Leece, Chair
Robert Graham, Vice Chair
Byron de Arakal, Commissioner
Mark Harris, Commissioner
David Stiller, Commissioner

Also Present:
William J. Morris, Director of Public Services
Stephen N. Mandoki, Director of Administrative Services
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Jana M. Ransom, Recreation Division Manager
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Robert Staples, Fairview Park Plan Administrator
Robby Waite, Recreation Coordinator

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

Chairman de Arakal declared the Chairman position vacant and called for nominations.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Commissioner Graham and carried five to zero, to appoint Commissioner Leece as Chairperson.

Chair Leece declared the Vice Chair position vacant and called for nominations.

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to appoint Commissioner Graham as Vice Chairperson.

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried four to zero with Commissioner Harris not voting, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2006 meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Doug Bacon
2606 Elden Avenue, Unit D, Costa Mesa 92627
Representing: Homeowner's Association-Birch Briar Lane
Item of Concern: Lot on the northeast corner of Del Mar and Elden Avenue
Mr. Bacon suggested that the Commission landscape the lot for the following reasons:

1. To provide a pleasing and aesthetic access to the eastside neighborhood;
2. To provide some natural protection to the adjacent homes; and,
3. To provide an upgraded environment for access to the community gardens.

CONSENT CALENDAR

DONATION OF TWO BENCHES AND TWO DONOR PLAQUES FOR INSTALLATION AT THE VOLCOM SKATE PARK OF COSTA MESA

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to accept the donation of two benches and donor plaques to be placed at the Volcom Skate Park of Costa Mesa.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 2527 LOYOLA ROAD

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation. Ms. Rhonda Decooto and Mr. Erwin Sauer were present to voice their concerns with the staff recommendation and to answer questions by the Commission.

Public Comment:

Ms. Rhonda Decooto, daughter of Ms. Betty Wakeley, spoke on behalf of her mother to have the tree removed because it is a big problem and she is concerned with her 89-year-old mother's safety, health and well being.

Mr. Erwin Sauer, resident at 2523 Loyola Road, Costa Mesa, is concerned with the cracked driveway apron and that he anticipates it getting worse over time.

Mr. Brian Burnett
402 Bucknell Road, Costa Mesa 92626
Written correspondence was received from Mr. Burnett stating that he is in favor of the staff recommendation to deny the request for removal of the tree at 2527 Loyola Road.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued on the cracking and settling of the drive approach at Mr. Sauer's residence.

Vice Chair Graham stated that the beauty of the tree has a positive effect on the whole street.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Decooto took place on how often Ms. Wakeley is in the area of the pods on her driveway and whether or not Ms. Wakeley parks her car in the garage.

Commissioner Stiller stated that he believes the tree is causing damage to the driveway apron, and he is in favor of having the tree removed and for the City to redo the concrete on Mr. Sauer's driveway apron.

Chair Leece stated that she believes that senior citizens should be shown respect and that requests like this should be honored. She also believes that the City would be spending more money and time in trying to keep the tree and make repairs caused by

the tree.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley occurred on the number of trees in the City.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Hartley ensued on whether or not the tree could be sprayed to prevent it from producing pods for a season.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Chair Leece and failed two to three with Chair Leece, Vice Chair Graham and Commissioner de Arakal voting "No," to authorize the removal of the tree, with the applicant not required to pay for the removal and replacement costs, and to not require a three to one ratio for the replacement of the tree.

SECOND MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Graham and failed two to three with Chair Leece, Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Stiller voting "No," to deny the request for the removal of one City parkway tree located in the public right-of-way between 2523 and 2527 Loyola Road.

THIRD MOTION

Motion made by Chairperson Leece, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried four to one with Vice Chair Graham voting "No," to authorize the removal and replacement of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree, to be planted in the parkway where the Southern Magnolia tree was removed, and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay for removal cost of approximately $180 and that the estimated replanting costs of $273 to be paid by the City.

The tree must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLANS FOR THE FAIRVIEW PARK WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN HABITAT PROJECT

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation. Mr. Chris Webb, Senior Coastal Scientist from Moffatt and Nichol, Dr. Richard Meyer, Public Health Entomologist from Vector Management Technical Services, and Ms. Nancy Palmer, Landscape Architect from Lynn Capouya, Inc., were present to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Webb ensued on the approximate length of a certain trail proposed in the park.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Palmer took place on the plant type for the Fuel Modification Planting.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Mejia occurred on whether or not one or both types (Sand Bar Willows or Arroyo Willows) of willows will be planted or if some other variety, that is not listed, will be used.

Discussion among Vice Chair Graham, Mr. Mejia and Ms. Palmer ensued on the trails for public access and acreage set

aside for the ponds.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Webb took place on whether or not a valve system will be in place to isolate the water levels from the Greenville Banning Channel when a storm occurs.

Public Comment:
David Kinkade
2001 Swan Drive, Costa Mesa 92626
Mr. Kinkade mentioned that the fire department enters the access point along the base of the hill in order to put out grass fires; wants City staff to ensure that the running trails connect to the park; concerned that there will be no restrooms at the picnic area; suggests that fences not be used for security purposes; and, he spoke about graffiti around the Fairview Channel, which is County property.
Written correspondence was also received from Mr. Kinkade addressing some issues of concern.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley occurred on whether or not City staff could assist the County with the removal of graffiti around the channel.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Mejia ensued on the Fairview Park Vector Management Guidelines Draft.

Commissioner de Arakal stated that he is proud that the Fairview Master Plan is moving forward.

Vice Chair Graham mentioned that he is concerned with the lack of access and parking to the lower park area, restrooms, playing fields that the property could provide and stated that he does not like this plan.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Mejia occurred on the annual maintenance cost for the City.

Chair Leece is concerned with the issue of the restrooms and requested that staff take it into consideration.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried four to one with Vice Chair Graham voting "No," to confirm that the proposed wetland and riparian habitat improvements conform to the intent of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 1781-C NEWPORT BOULEVARD

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley occurred on whether or not there is concrete damage near the tree.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Hartley took place on the type of business at the subject location.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley ensued on

whether or not there is a sign ordinance limit.

Commissioner Harris mentioned that he believes, within one year, that the tree will grow above the sign and the building and there will no longer be a problem for the business owner.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried five to zero, to deny the request for the removal of one (1) Queen Palm located in front of 1781-C Newport Boulevard.

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 292 KNOX PLACE

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued on the existing dimensions for the parkway and the driveway and on planting of trees on Knox Place.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley took place on the proposal to transplant the tree and on the cost for a three-to-one ratio for a tree replacement.

Public Comment:
Mr. Gary Gonzalez
292 Knox Place, Costa Mesa
Mr. Gonzalez has no objection with a three-to-one ratio for the tree replacement and he would like to have more trees planted on Knox Place.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Gonzalez occurred on having more trees planted on Knox Place, in addition to the three-to-one ratio for a tree replacement.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal and carried five to zero, to authorize the removal of one City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 292 Knox Place, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted on City property, with an additional two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted along the street at or near 292 Knox Place. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

The tree must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

NEW INSTRUCTIONAL CLASS AND PROGRAM FEE PROPOSALS

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report. Mr. Robby Waite was present to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Ms. Ransom took place on the fees for the Day Camp and the Early Childhood Program.

Discussion among Vice Chair Graham, Ms. Ransom and Mr. Waite occurred on who makes the decision to cancel a class.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom took place on the revenues generated from the Day Camp and Early Childhood Program.

Commissioner de Arakal stated that he believes that the City should not offer the Sign Language, Spanish for Kids and Introduction to Computer classes because he considers them to be academically oriented and not appropriate as recreational classes.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Ransom ensued on the City of Newport Beach's Junior Lifeguard Program and on the Aquatics Camp Program.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chair Graham, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried four to one with Commissioner de Arakal voting "No," to approve seven (7) new contract instructional classes and fees as proposed in Attachment "A," as well as program fee increases for the "Camp Costa Mesa Day Camp" and the "Early Childhood Program" in Attachment "B."

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. William Morris presented the report.

Committee Assignments were made as follows:
City/School District Liaison – David Stiller, Alternate Byron de Arakal
Bristol Street Specific Plan – Wendy Leece, Alternate David Stiller
Skate Park – Mark Harris, Alternate David Stiller
Fairview Friends – Robert Graham, Alternate Wendy Leece

REQUEST FOR STUDY SESSION ON FIELD USE AND ALLOCATION POLICY

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report.

Commissioner de Arakal mentioned that he is in favor of holding a study session because he is concerned with the demand of fields and what the field inventory will be in the next 18 months.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to set Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Community Center (NCC) to hold a study session to review the Field Use and Allocation Policy.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

- Kiosk in Canyon Park has been assigned to Ms. Marian Stueve, Administrative Secretary in Maintenance Services Division, to program and maintain current information.

- An on-going three-year renovation project of the Costa Mesa Senior Center was completed prior to the 19th Street Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The project included renova-

tion of the irrigation system, landscaping, driveway relocation and replanting of trees.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner de Arakal congratulated Chair Leece and Vice Chair Graham on their newly elected position.

Vice Chair Graham thanked everyone for the bridge project at Fairview Park.

Chair Leece mentioned the dedication for the bridge has been scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on March 7, 2006 and that the street lamps and palm trees on 19th Street look beautiful.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **9:50 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. at the Neighborhood Community Center.

The next regularly scheduled Commission meeting is on Wednesday, March 22, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, preceded by a Study Session at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 1A.

Submitted by:

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services