



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: APRIL 6, 2010

ITEM NUMBER:

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL TO USE A PORTION OF FAIRVIEW PARK FOR A CIVIL WAR RE-ENACTMENT

DATE: MARCH 25, 2010

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: PETER NAGHAVI, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: ERNESTO MUÑOZ, CITY ENGINEER, (714) 754-5335

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve the proposal by the American Civil War Society and Marching Thru History Exposition to use a portion of Fairview Park for a Civil War re-enactment on May 14th through May 16, 2010.

BACKGROUND

The American Civil War Society (ACWS) is a Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) Educational Corporation dedicated to the historical period known as "The War Between the States" (Attachment 1). This war has remained the bloodiest conflict in American's history pitting brethren against brethren. ACWS are re-enactors portraying these vulnerable pages in our country's history. The re-enactors have researched and developed period correct uniforms, weapons, civilian attire, and living history encampments to portray some of the conditions back in that period of our country's archives.

Marching Thru History Exposition (MTHE) is the largest time-line living history event west of the Mississippi River (Attachment 2). MTHE has nearly one-thousand historical interpretive specialists representing many different aspects of world history from Ancient Rome, to Elizabethan England, to Colonial America and beyond. MTHE is a family-oriented, educational atmosphere, celebrating the history of those who have defended their civilizations throughout history. Visitors are invited to walk through the camps of the participants and learn about the lives of the common man or woman or of the great names in history through interpretive specialists. There are battle re-enactments that demonstrate the technology of the times, and each encampment is an opportunity to walk back into time and relive the rich history that is now only available in two-dimensions – through reading materials or the internet.

ACWS and MTHE performed a similar Civil War re-enactment at Fairview Park on May 8-10, 2009 and the event was a great success. (Pictures of the event are available on the City's website.) Staff reported no major areas of concern at the conclusion of the event.

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION

The ACWS proposes to utilize the landscaped area east of the main parking lot at Fairview Park (Attachment 3) and the Orange County Model Engineers (OCME) parking lot on May 15th and 16th for a Civil War re-enactment. Set-up will begin on Friday, May 14th and tear down of the camps would occur on Sunday evening May 16th. The event would involve 100 to 150 re-enactors, equipment, and artillery camped out at Fairview Park on Saturday and Sunday. ACWS will set-up

two camps on the turf area of the park and perform battle re-enactments between the camps. The battles include infantry and black powder artillery being fired. Above ground cooking fires will be set-up in the camps.

The event will be similar to last year's event, and will be free to the public. ACWS is working with staff at Estancia High School to utilize the school's parking for the public. The public will be directed by ACWS volunteers to the reenactment site. OCME parking on the east side of Fairview Park may be used for staging and re-enactors equipment.

During the day, visitors will experience living history in the camps which are set up with hospitals, civilian and military tents, trades and crafts. Two times per day the re-enactors will perform the battle re-enactments. The Estancia Football Boosters Club will be selling food to the public to raise funds for their organization. On Saturday night a period correct dinner and dance may be held for invited guests. ACWS expects approximately 2-3,000 attendees over the two day period.

ACWS and MTHE are responsible for all public relations and advertising, providing security, porta-potties and trash containers, insurance and applying for a Special Event Permit which contains conditions set forth by the Public Services Department, Fire Department, Police Department, and Administrative Services.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The City Council may approve the request with conditions or deny the use of Fairview Park for a Civil War re-enactment.

FISCAL REVIEW

ACWS and MTHE will be funding the event through sponsorships and donations.

LEGAL REVIEW

There is no legal review required with this item.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that the City Council authorize use of the landscaped portion of Fairview Park for a Civil War re-enactment on May 14th through May 16th, 2010 to the American Civil War Society (ACWS) and the Marching Thru history Exposition (MTHE).

ERNESTO MUÑOZ
City Engineer

PETER NAGHAVI, Director
Department of Public Services

- Attachments: 1. [American Civil War Society Overview](#)
2. [Marching Thru History Exposition Overview](#)
3. [Fairview Park Master Plan with Event Layout](#)

c: City Manager
Assistant City Manager
City Attorney
City Clerk
Fire Chief
Police Chief
Administrative Services Director
Maintenance Services Manager
Parks Project Manager
Recreation Manager
Fairview Park Plan Administrator