



# *CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT*

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**MEETING DATE: MAY 7, 2013**

**ITEM NUMBER: CC-10**

**SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF THE USE AGREEMENT WITH THE HARBOR SOARING SOCIETY**

**DATE: APRIL 18, 2013**

**FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT/ENGINEERING DIVISION**

**PRESENTATION BY: ERNESTO MUNOZ, PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: FARIBA FAZELI, INTERIM CITY ENGINEER, 714.754.5378**

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

Recommend to renew the Use Agreement with the Harbor Soaring Society for one year for the use of a portion of Fairview Park.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Harbor Soaring Society (HSS) is a radio controlled soaring club committed to promoting and improving the enjoyment of radio-controlled aircraft flying in Orange County. HSS is an Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) gold-rated charter club. All members of HSS belong to the AMA, which provides each flyer with \$2,500,000 in liability insurance.

For over thirty years, HSS has been using a portion of Fairview Park, between the end of Canyon Drive and the park restroom, to fly radio-controlled aircraft. This area was designated as a launch/land site for silent flyers in the approved Fairview Park Master Plan (Attachment 1).

## **ANALYSIS**

In 2007, a permit system was developed by the City and required amendments to the Costa Mesa Municipal Code for its proper establishment and enforcement. The permit system includes a permit application, rules and regulations, field rules, and the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) Safety Code. With the creation of a model aircraft permitting process, anyone wanting to fly a radio-controlled model aircraft at Fairview Park registers with the Recreation Division and obtains a permit for a fee of \$25.00. A total of 266 permits were issued to the public in 2012.

With the passage of the permit process in 2007, after review by the Parks Commission, the City Council approved a Use Agreement between HSS and the City for the group's use of Fairview Park (Attachment 2). The agreement allows HSS to use the launch/land site at Fairview Park and ensures that all members and the organization are insured. HSS oversees the use of the launch/land site and maintains the graded site by clearing weeds, mowing, and removing loose impediments. The agreement was renewed by the City Council for a one-year term in January of 2012. The Public Services Department administers the agreement and meets with the club's president at the site on a regular basis to walk the area and review any proposed HSS improvement projects.

Over the years, HSS has improved the flying field and performed several community service projects in the park. The club assisted a local Eagle Scout with the construction of a frequency board for use by the model aircraft flyers, installed a battery charging station, and graded a portion of the field to move the launch/land site farther from the bicycle trail. Club member volunteers assisted staff with the installation of ten interpretive signs along the trails, provided staff with aerial photographs for use in grant applications, and performed an annual clean-up of the upper mesa. HSS members also provide free model aircraft flying lessons during the week and for special events.

At their March 27, 2013 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the Use Agreement and recommended that it be renewed for a one year term (Attachment 3).

### **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

No alternatives were considered regarding this item.

### **FISCAL REVIEW**

No fiscal review is required.

### **LEGAL REVIEW**

The City Attorney's office has reviewed and approved the Use Agreement.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the Council renew the Use Agreement with the Harbor Soaring Society for a term of one year.

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**ERNESTO MUNOZ**  
Public Services Director

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**FARIBA FAZELI**  
Interim City Engineer

Attachments: 1 - [Fairview Park Master Plan](#)  
2 - [Use Agreement](#)  
3 - [Action Minutes from the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting of March 27, 2013](#)

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