



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 21, 2013

ITEM NUMBER: 9d

SUBJECT: FAIRVIEW PARK ANNUAL REPORT

DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2013

FROM: PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

PRESENTATION BY: BALTAZAR MEJIA, PARKS PROJECT MANAGER

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BALTAZAR MEJIA AT (714)754-5291

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Fairview Park Master Plan goals for 2014.

BACKGROUND:

At the October 19, 1998 meeting the City Council adopted Council Policy 500-11 (Attachment 1), which provides direction for the implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan. The Fairview Park Master Plan was updated on July 17, 2000, revised on January 9, 2003 and updated in November 2008 (Attachment 2).

Item "D" of the policy requires the Department of Public Services to submit an annual report to the Parks and Recreation Commission in December of each year discussing any progress that has been made on the implementation of the Master Plan, and to describe the efforts and plans for the following year. Since the Parks and Recreation Commission does not meet in December (due to Council action), staff is bringing this item forward in November of each year.

ANALYSIS & DISCUSSION:

The following is a brief discussion of the progress made this past year on the implementation of the Master Plan in 2013 and staff goals for 2014:

2013 Accomplishments

A) Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project

The City Council, on September 6, 2005, awarded a contract to Moffat and Nichol Consultants for the design of a water delivery system to treat dry weather flows and for the creation of approximately 40 acres of wetlands and riparian habitat along the Placentia Drain connecting to the Fairview Channel.

The project has been designed in three phases. Construction of Phase I was completed in 2009 and Phase II was completed in 2013. Staff was successful in securing a \$2,000,000 grant from the OCTA M2 Freeway Mitigation Program, \$225,000 from the California Department of Parks and Recreation Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF), and \$350,000 from the Miocean Foundation for funding to complete Phase II of the project. OCRP Inc. has also donated an amount of approximately \$41,000 for the installation of irrigation for their southern tarplant mitigation project as outlined in Section D below. Phase II construction improvements included the completion of the wetland ponds, a water delivery system, the

planting of 23 acres of native habitat, a 12 ft. wide multipurpose trail and 2 miles of DG trails. The project is currently pumping urban runoff from the Greenville Banning channel at a rate of 300 gallons per minute to the wetland ponds.

B) Harbor Soaring Society (HSS)

For over thirty years, HSS has been using a portion of Fairview Park to fly radio-controlled aircrafts. In the mid 1980's, the southern portion of Fairview Park at the northern end of Canyon Drive was developed as a flying field. This area was designated as the launch/land site for silent flyers in the approved Fairview Park Master Plan

The model aircraft flying permit process began in 2007 and has been very successful. In 2013, approximately 260 permits were issued for the flying of model aircrafts at Fairview Park.

C) Orange County Model Engineers (OCME)/Fairview Park East

Staff has worked with the OCME in an effort to plan and implement a number of capital improvement projects within the train yard and surrounding train facilities. A Master Plan of the OCME facility was prepared and approved by this Commission on January 26, 2005. The OCME Master Plan included near-term (to be completed within two years) projects as well as long-range projects to be completed within ten years. OCME provided over 30,000 train rides to the public over the past 12 month period.

D) Orange Coast River Park (OCRP)

OCRP, Inc. and the City have entered into an agreement for the restoration of 1-acre of southern tarplant, which is a rare and endangered California native plant, in Fairview Park. OCRP funded a portion of the irrigation system in the lower northern portion of the wetlands project and is responsible for the planting and maintenance of the restored native habitat.

E) Fairview Park Wetlands Boardwalk Project

The City Council approved funding for the design of the Fairview Park Wetlands Boardwalk. The boardwalk will be approximately ¼ mile in length and span over the wetlands ponds to give the public a bird's eye view of the constructed wetlands. Education signage will be installed along the boardwalk to inform visitors of the native flora and fauna. Staff has submitted grant applications to the California Department of Parks and Recreation for funding to complete the construction of the boardwalk.

F) Fairview Park Bike Trail Improvement Project

Staff was successful in receiving a grant from the Bicycle Corridor Improvement Program administered by OCTA for the design and construction of a mile long concrete multipurpose trail. The multipurpose trail will replace the old asphalt trail in the park that connects Fairview Park with the Santa Ana River Trail. The project also includes the construction of new park entrances, a turnaround at Pacific Avenue and a playground in the southern portion of the park.

G) Canary Drive Access Improvement

The City Council approved funding for the design and construction of a staircase at the end of Canary Drive to the upper mesa in the northeast quadrant of the park. Design of the project has begun.

H) Fairview Park Drain Project

In Fiscal Year 2012-2013, City Council allocated \$500,000 towards construction of an underground storm drain system at the south end of Fairview Park.

Work completed to date includes field survey and a hydrology study.

2014 Goals

Staff proposes the following goals for the coming year:

1. Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project- Complete year two of the native habitat maintenance and monitoring plan for Phase II. Complete year five, the final year, of the native habitat maintenance and monitoring plan for Phase I.
2. Continue to work with the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee on updates to the Fairview Park Master Plan.
3. Complete the design for the Fairview Park Wetlands Boardwalk Project.
4. Complete the design for the Fairview Park Wetlands Bike Trail Improvement Project.
5. Complete the construction of the Canary Drive staircase.
6. Complete the design of the approved parking lot lighting.
7. Complete the design of the Fairview Park Stormwater Infiltration Project and begin construction.
8. Mitigation Credits – Staff will continue to pursue restoration and development through negotiating mitigation opportunities with private/public partnerships.
9. Grants – Staff will continue to research and apply for grant opportunities, which support funding elements of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

FISCAL REVIEW:

As of November 1, 2013, the remaining unencumbered appropriation in the Fairview Park project accounts is \$2,723,000. For the upcoming year, staff proposed funding distributions are allocated as follows:

Project No.	Description	Amount
1	Canary Drive Stairs	\$65,000
2	Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project (Plant Establishment and Maintenance Phase)	\$96,000
3	Parking Lot Lighting	\$650,000
4	Multi-Purpose Trail	\$1,448,000
5	Storm Drain	\$450,000
6	Construction and Grant Application/Grant Match Contingency	\$11,000
7	Master Plan Consultant Services	\$3,000
Total		\$2,723,000

LEGAL REVIEW:

There is no legal review required with this item.

CONCLUSION:

The implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan continues as funding and/or resources become available. As required by City Council Policy 500-11, this report provides an update on the progress that has been made on the implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan as well as sets goals for the year 2014.



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Attachments: 1- Council Policy 500-11
 2- Fairview Park Master Plan

Distribution: Chief Executive Officer
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CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL POLICY

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IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES FOR THE FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN	500-11	7-17-2000 REV. 1/21/03	1 OF 4

BACKGROUND

The City Council approved the Fairview Park Master Plan in December 1997. In February 1998, City Council, recognizing the unique qualities of the park, directed staff to prepare a policy for implementing the Master Plan.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process for review and approval of the elements of the Fairview Park Master Plan, as well as any amendments to the Plan that may be proposed. It is the intent of this Policy to ensure both thorough and expeditious review of Fairview Park projects. For this reason, time limits have been included for staff and committee review.

PROCEDURE

The intent of the following procedure is to build upon the existing Municipal Code Sections which relate to processing for master plans but which are silent on how to implement a complicated and phased project such as Fairview Park. Costa Mesa Municipal Code (CMMC) Sections 13-28(f) and 13-29(f) describe the process for new master plans, minor amendments to master plans, and substantial amendments to master plans. In addition to these requirements, the following procedure shall be followed for implementation of and amendment to the Fairview Park Master Plan.

A. City Council Review

Due to the increased workload on staff, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning Commission, and the City Council associated with the processing of Fairview Park Master Plan amendments, the City Council shall review all applications prior to staff initiating the review process.

All proposals shall initially be submitted to the Public Services Department. The Public Services Department shall submit the proposals to the City Council which shall review the applications for amendment of the Fairview Park Master Plan and direct staff to either proceed with processing the application or to return all materials to the applicant.

B. Lead Department

The Public Services Department is the lead department for processing phases, projects or plans. The Parks Project Manager and the Fairview Park Plan Administrator shall oversee and coordinate all activities related to implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan and upon direction from the City Council shall process proposals as per the following procedure:

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C. Processing

1. All Projects

All proposals shall be submitted to or originate from the Public Services Department. Upon direction from the City Council to proceed with processing a proposal, the Public Services Department shall present the proposal in writing to the Development Services Department, Engineering and Transportation Services Divisions, Police Department and Fire Prevention Division who shall determine whether the proposal is:

- a. consistent with the Master Plan;
- b. generally consistent but has minor amendments; or
- c. inconsistent with the Master Plan.

These Departments shall recommend refinements to the project, if necessary, to meet code requirements, mitigation measures or other requirements. All recommendations shall be returned to Public Services within 7 days.

2. Projects Consistent with the Master Plan

Projects consistent with the Master Plan might include but not be limited to: restoration plans for the habitat areas, construction of trails, installation of utilities, construction of the bridge over Placentia Avenue, installation of the botanical garden, construction of picnic and restroom facilities, etc.

- a. Projects shall be submitted to various City departments as described in Section 13.11.
- b. All projects shall be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for comments regarding consistency with the Master Plan and refining the scope of work. Review of each project shall be limited to one Commission meeting. The Public Services Department shall consider the Commission's comments and make refinements to the project, if deemed necessary.

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- c. The Fairview Park Citizens' Advisory Committee shall be restructured as an ad hoc committee. The City Council may call upon the committee's expertise when reviewing plans, specifications, ideas, and changes to Fairview Park, on an as needed basis.
- d. Consultant contracts and budget requests shall be approved in accordance with purchasing policy. Project plans do not require Council approval.
- e. The Public Services Department is responsible for monitoring compliance with all mitigation measures approved as part of the Master Plan. The mitigation monitoring reports shall be kept up to date at least annually and made available for public review.
- f. If conflicts arise between staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission, the issue shall be clarified by City Council.

3. Projects with Minor Amendments to the Master Plan

- a. Projects shall be submitted to various City departments as described in section C.1.
- b. Minor changes in a master plan are defined in CMMC section 13-28(f). Projects which may involve minor amendments shall be forwarded to the Planning Division for initial review for compliance with provisions of section 13-28(f). Plans and the findings of the various City departments shall be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for comments regarding whether the changes requested are actually minor as defined by Code and for refining the scope of work, if necessary. Review of each project shall be limited to one Commission meeting. The Public Services Department shall consider the Commission's comments and make refinements to the project, if necessary.
- c. Requirements described in sections 2(c), (d), and (e) above also apply.

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4. Projects Inconsistent with the Master Plan

- a. Projects shall be submitted to various City departments as described in Section 13.1.
- b. Substantial amendments to a master plan are described in CMMC Section 13-28(f) and normally require only Planning Commission review and approval. However, amendments to the Fairview Park Master Plan shall first be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission (one meeting) for review and recommendation. The Planning Commission shall consider these recommendations and forward its recommendations to City Council for final action.
- c. Requirements described in sections 2(c), (d), and (e) above also apply.

5. Request for Changes to the Fairview Park Master Plan

Staff and members of the public may, from time to time, request changes, additions, or deletions to the Fairview Park Master Plan. These requests must be submitted to the City's Parks Project Manager or Fairview Park Plan Administrator in writing, along with supporting evidence to substantiate the request(s). A map showing the proposed change should accompany the request(s). The item shall then be agendaized for the next available Parks and Recreation Commission meeting for review prior to staff initiating the formal review process. The Parks and Recreation Commission shall review the request for amendment to the Fairview Park Master Plan, along with staff's recommendation, and direct staff to either proceed with processing the request in accordance with section 4 (above) or to deny the request(s) and return all material to the applicant.

Requests for a particular change, addition, or deletion will be addressed no more than once in a twelve (12) month period.

D. Annual Report

In December of each year, the Public Services Department shall send an annual report to the Parks and Recreation Commission describing the progress that has been made on implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan. The report shall also describe efforts to be undertaken for the next year.



MASTER PLAN

FAIRVIEW PARK

CITY OF COSTA MESA

Approved by City Council March 1998
 Revised February 2001
 Revised again November 2002