THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
JANUARY 28, 2016; 6:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order:** The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Pederson at 6:00 p.m. on January 28, 2016 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Commissioner de Arakal

3. **Roll Call**

   Present: Chairman Pederson, Vice Chairman Brett Eckles, Commissioner de Arakal, Commissioner Graham
   Absent: Commissioner Harper
   Staff Present: Tamara Letourneau, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, Travis Karlen, Recreation Manager, Justin Martin, Recreation Assistant Manager, Christian Hernandez, Recreation Coordinator, Samantha Hall, Administrative Secretary, Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Manager, Bart Mejia, Parks Manager, & Jessica Mejia, Deputy City Clerk

4. **Approval of Minutes - November 19, 2015 Meeting of the PRC.**

   MOTION made by Commissioner Graham to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.

5. **Public Comments**

   Beth Refakes, Costa Mesa, spoke on the Military Affairs Team ongoing toy/Easter drive.

   Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Fairview Park Preservation Alliance and read from an initiative that she is collecting signatures for and would like added to the ballot in November 2016.

   Rocky Evans, Costa Mesa, spoke on the current SkatePark, requesting an increase in operating hours and a 2nd SkatePark.

   Commissioner Graham commented on his surprise with the number of people using the SkatePark. Advised it was congested, but impressive, and would like us to consider longer hours.

6. **Presentation:**

   Mr. Justin Martin, Recreation Supervisor, presents 2015 Arts & Culture Update.

7. **Consent Calendar –** No Items.

8. **Old Business –** No Items.

9. **New Business**

a) Tree Removal Request – 2743 Gannett Drive

Commissioner Graham recuses himself due to conflict of interest.

Bruce Hartley presents report.

Commissioner de Arakal comments on the asphalt lift, the repavement of the street, and discusses alternatives to removal such as pruning and root barrier.

Mr. Bruce Hartley responds that he is unsure, but it was paved within the last few years. He advises there is not currently a root barrier, but that it can be a great challenge with a 60' tall tree. Bruce says a localized digout on the street section could be done, but would risk the gutter. Additionally, Bruce reminds everyone to be cautious about removing roots on the wind side, since the Santa Ana winds can cause dangerous conditions in these instances.

Chair Pederson calls for the applicant. The resident is not in attendance.

Vice Chair Eckles discusses brick uplift on the resident's behalf, and also inquires about the lifted street asphalt.

Mr. Bruce Hartley replies that no damage to the sidewalk or driveway is currently noted, and projects pictures of the areas in question. He notes that previous lift may have occurred and been repaired previously. Regarding the lifted street asphalt, Mr. Hartley advises that typically the localized dig out is the method of repair.

Chair Pederson verifies that Mr. Hartley contacted the applicant and advised them of assistance programs.

Mr. Bruce Hartley explains that the arborist met with the applicant, sent them information regarding assistance programs, but did not hear back.

Commissioner de Arakal asks what the associated costs with a localized dig out would cost.

Mr. Bruce Hartley advises that he estimates the repairs to be approximately $1,000 - $2,000, (disposal costs, asphalt costs) but not counting staff costs.

Chair Pederson asks if the issue comes to repair, that if the City would possibly consider removal at that time?

Mr. Bruce Hartley responds that it largely depends on the roots holding up the tree, and

whether they're shallow due to water or deep. He advises that if the roots are shallow and pruning would jeopardize safety, then the tree would be considered for removal.

Public Comments – None.

MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to deny request but with staff going in for remedial action and lifting that segment out and seeing what the roots are doing and repairing it and making a determination after that whether the tree can stay, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION carries 3-0 with Commissioner Graham recusing himself due to conflict of interest.

b) 2015 Fall Field Audit Report and Amendments to the Existing Field Use And Allocation Policy

Mr. Travis Karlen presents report.

Vice Chair Eckles clarifies that the same audit process that was conducted in the fall will be conducted again in the spring and asks about status changes for groups from audit to audit/season to season.

Mr. Travis Karlen advises that is correct, and states that the Fall 2015 audits affect the Fall 2016 field allocations and the Spring 2016 audits affect the Spring 2017 field allocations. He states that a group's status can change from audit to audit if they are able to verify residency requirements.

Vice Chair Eckles asks if a Group 5 loses all access to fields, or only loses priority status.

Mr. Travis Karlen responds that they only lose priority, but are still able to use fields as available.

Chair Pederson questions of the five groups that changed status, how many responded to assistance that was offered? He also asks if the school district will verify whether students are in the system.

Mr. Travis Karlen answers that despite reaching out several times and through different methods, no groups asked for assistance. Additionally, the school did not provide an official response, and there are also some data privacy issues, as well as additional staff time to verify those documents.

Vice Chair Eckles inquires as to whether there were any other problems collecting the audit information.

Mr. Travis Karlen verifies there were some instances where coaches did not want to give City staff information, some citing uncomfortableness giving youth information,

however all City of Costa Mesa staff are in proper uniform with badges, and background checked.

Commissioner Graham asks how this audit affected Calvary Chapel school.

Mr. Christian Hernandez replies that Calvary Chapel is currently classified as a high school event, they have limited use at Tewinkle Sports Complex, mostly for baseball because they do not have a football or soccer program that uses our facilities.

Chair Pederson asks for any other staff questions, there are none. He then opens for public comment.

Public Comments

Anna Vrska, thanks the commission for the data and has two questions: 1) what happens if the coaches or the teams did refuse, did that have any kind of impact, was that an automatic fail, or do you get so many where you can refuse a couple of times, so what the process on that was and 2) wanted to clarify if this was a complete list of organizations and um, namely just Matt Lineart came to mind, I kept looking for them, I'm not sure if that's because they weren't using fields.

Chair Pederson allows Christian to respond.

Mr. Christian Hernandez advises that groups that were non-compliant were reported as no, and Matt Lineart is 'So Cal Elite', so the list is Fall 2015 group users, so not everyone that might be participating in the Spring was covered in the Fall audit.

Chair Pederson reiterates that assistance was offered to the groups.

Brett Woods, Costa Mesa, commends PRC and City Staff for taking this issue. Inquires about penalties for defrauding or cheating the system, advises that FNL has cheated and lied and that organization leader is the primary example for a lot of youth and Brett is standing up for the kids and what's being taught to the kids and hopes PRC/City Staff is taking the issue serious and would like to see a penalty of 5 years no field usage or something pretty serious. Reiterates that he appreciates what PRC/City Staff and encourages this to be a serious issue.

Mr. Travis Karlen clarifies that Matt Lineart is operating as 'So Cal Elite', and verifies that audits were completed for all of Fall 2015 teams.

Vice Chair Eckles asks what 'So Cal Elite' is and if that's a non-profit.

Mr. Travis Karlen responds that they do have a valid non-profit status.

Commissioner de Arakal commends Christian and staff for their great work. Advises he is troubled by the resistance of some groups, but the audits are necessary due to the limited fields.

Commissioner Graham asks how close to providing fields to people and children in town that need them without having to go out and uncover additional fields.

Mr. Travis Karlen replies that right now the groups are working very well with each other to allow equal play, have had to be creative, especially on busy nights like Friday nights. Field splitting will be incorporated in Spring.

Chair Pederson addresses reports in *The Pilot* recommends everyone keeping it civil and working together and expresses disappointment in groups not accepting assistance with the audits and criticizing the staff upon completion of the audits. He again articulates his appreciation for the work that has been completed by Staff.

Mr. Travis Karlen adds that there are a few groups that are struggling and City Staff requested those groups to come forward so that they could be assisted.

Vice Chair Eckles thanks staff and advises that the policy is very good and seconds the acknowledgment that we have a limited supply and we have to manage them. He advises that the main objective is for kids to be out there playing and hopes that in the future the policies won't have to be as harsh.

MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to receive and file the 2015 Fall Audit Report and recommend to the City Council that they approve the amendments to the FUAP as proposed by staff, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.

c) Fairview Park Annual Report

Mr. Bart Mejia presents report.

Chair Pederson thanks Mr. Bart Mejia for the report and asks the Commission for questions.

Commissioner de Arakal asks when clearing, were the plants invasive or native?

Mr. Bart Mejia replies that it is a combination of native and volunteer plants that spread.

Commissioner de Arakal asks if a maintenance budget has been established.

Mr. Bart Mejia responds that the budget is typical of a restoration effort and will be $40k - $50k per year and advises that the work is a lot less now that the bulk of the plants have been removed.

Commissioner de Arakal inquires whether Fish & Wildlife have given an opinion on when survey work, delineation of pools, etc. will be completed?

Mr. Bart Mejia replies that they have not, they are working on it, but they are short staffed.

Commissioner de Arakal asks if the plan is to bring the Fairview Park Citizen's Advisory Committee back after that report is in?

Mr. Bart Mejia advises the plan is to reconvene after the Open Space Master Plan has been completed and approved by City Council and states that at that time we will have all the information that was missing from the Master Plan.

Commissioner de Arakal asks if the Open Space and Recreation Master Plan (which will include the Fairview Park Master Plan) will reflect whatever constraints the Fish and Wildlife Service has placed on Fairview Park?

Mr. Bart Mejia confirms that is correct.

Vice Chair Eckles references the OCME and asks what are some of the projects that are current or future planned with the allocated budget.

Mr. Bart Mejia says that last year the goal was to continue offering the free rides, he doesn't think they completed any of their anticipated master plan goals, and we will see what they propose for this year.

Commissioner Graham states that he walks through the park everyday and that it's a really unique thing to have in our community and is happy with what has been accomplished there.

Chair Pederson comments that it is often frowned upon to remove a native species in a biologically monitored area, and asks if it's endangering other species, then that would be where you get permission to remove that?

Mr. Bart Mejia agrees that is correct and advises that the open water was not intended to have any plant material.

Chair Pederson spoke on the budget and the need to understand that California habitats can't just be created, they must also be maintained, which takes a lot of work. He confirms the City is in the 4th year of the 5-year plan.

Mr. Bart Mejia advises that the 4-5 year plan is for the establishment of the habitat, but maintenance continues for the life of the project.

Chair Pederson clarifies that residents are concerned about a lighting issue, but nothing is taking place other than plans.

Mr. Bart Mejia confirms that is correct, the project is still in the environmental phase, the lighting issue will be brought before the Commission once all of the environmental items have been addressed and the Commission will review and determine if the project is consistent with the Fairview Park Master Plan.

Chair Pederson further clarifies the goals have already been approved by the Commission, but that nothing is concrete, just plans.

Mr. Bart Mejia agrees that is correct, if allowed to continue to work on the plans, the proper information will be presented to the Commission and the public.

Commissioner de Arakal asks for clarification that the parking lot lighting project has already been approved and funded.

Mr. Bart Mejia confirms that is correct, the project went through the budget process which means that it went through a public review process and then adopted by city council as a funded project.

Chair Pederson asks for any other staff questions, there are none. He then opens for public comment.

Public Comments

Flo Martin, Costa Mesa, presents photo slideshow and spoke on vernal pools, downed protective roping, and shoe prints and asks the City Staff to be more proactive in protecting protected areas and to pressure Fish & Wildlife to have a decision so that permanent barriers can be erected.

Cindy Black, questions how many times an annual report has been done in the last 8 years and when was the last report done.

Chair Pederson allows Mr. Bart Mejia to respond. Mr. Mejia advises he believes the reports are done every year in November or January for the Commission to review

Kim Hendricks spoke on the multi-purpose trail as an illegal canyon fill, a lack of funding, the City destroying the park, illegal City activity, the allowance of invasive plant species, the lack of need for ball fields and lying from the top within the City, and they're morons that don't do their job.

Jay Humphrey spoke on seeing a boat and a restoring area, the size and layout of the maps, park lights and the case against them, and requests for change occurring once in a 12-month period. Time expires, but Mr. Humphrey asks to speak and requests information on a current grant, repercussions, and potential violations.

Chair Pederson thanks Mr. Humphrey and advises that's a perfect question for Costa Mesa Connect, send it in and get your answer.

Andy Campbell, Costa Mesa, spoke in agreeance with plant removal and maintenance budget, and addressed ADA laws allowing trails to be greater than a 5% grade with conditions such as every 200 feet a level resting area be made available. Mr. Campbell estimates that resting areas could be implemented for under $100,000 and that the $1-million-dollar budget for the asphalt is unnecessary. Mr. Campbell states his agreeance with Mr. Humphreys regarding parking lot lights and offers to send studies in his favor. In conclusion Mr. Campbell asks for removal of the lights and multi-purpose trail.

Deborah Koken, Costa Mesa, spoke against the proposed bike trail.

Anna Vrska, Costa Mesa, expresses thanks for the great work that is being done and spoke on protection for the vernal pool area, disagreement for the bike trail, concerns

over the trail shoulders, inappropriateness of concrete, inappropriateness of lighting, and the eroded faith of the people of the City of Costa Mesa, and her support for the Fairview Park Initiative.

Commissioner de Arakal asks about the multi-purpose trail from Canyon Drive to Talbert and asks if the previous section of trail addressed last year that ran from Canyon to Placentia is included in the $1 million dollars.

Mr. Bart Mejia confirms yes, an existing trail from Placentia Ave adjacent to Estancia High School that joins the trail that starts at Canyon Drive, as well as a trail connecting Pacific to Canyon Drive. The project and funding covers the entire length of the trail.

Discussion ensues regarding sequel processes, funding, and outside agency reviews.

Commissioner Graham compliments resident Flo Martin on bringing pictures and spoke in support of the proposed trail.

Commissioner de Arakal asks about vernal pool fencing.

Mr. Bart Mejia responds that the proposal is to maintain similar fencing, aircraft cable, to create a visual barrier. Other times of fencing create a visual impact and do not allow wildlife to go under and through.

Chair Pederson thanks everyone and shares a personal work experience story involving a park that he maintains.

Vice Chair Eckles voiced support for the previously approved items and the goals for the year, and advises that we are a long way from seeing everything come through for a variety of reasons. Mr. Eckles echoed Mr. Humphrey's sentiment about difficulty reading the maps and suggested that as a task for the Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Graham reiterates the impact of pictures, and suggests better dialogue for mutual improvement.

MOTION made by Chair Pederson to approve the Fairview Park Master Plan Goals for 2016, seconded for discussion by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.

10. **Parks Project Manager's Report –** Mr. Bart Mejia spoke on construction at Smallwood Park, Harbor Blvd. bike trail improvements, completion of the City-wide telephone survey, continued with stakeholder interviews, Bark Park renovations, Jack Hammett field improvements, Newport Blvd. landscaping improvements, and the feasibility study for SkatePark # 2.

Commissioner de Arakal asks the sample size for the telephone survey.

Mr. Bart Mejia advises he does not have the details.

Commissioner de Arakal requests the information at a later date, and moves to the RFP for the SkatePark and asks if it includes estimates for expansion on the existing SkatePark instead of a second park.

Mr. Bart Mejia replies that it does not, but that will be another request that will be submitted later this year.

Chair Pederson asks for assurance the Commission will be included on Master Plan and Recreation updates.

Mr. Bart Mejia says yes and it is the goal to schedule the meetings 30 days in advance.

Vice Chair Eckles spoke on the budget and feasibility study on Parsons, Estancia, and Balearic and asked if council approved the feasibility study as part of the budget.

Mr. Bart Mejia advises he does not have that in front of him, but he also believes that it got funded.

Chair Pederson allows public comment.

Cindy Black spoke against budget spending regarding Fairview Park and read from the Parks Project Manager's Report

Kim Hendricks spoke on lighting, and advises the Commissioners that they are not doing their job and they are rude to do this to the residents.

Andy Campbell spoke on the need for dirt at Smallwood Park on the baseball field, and spoke on ADA requirements.

11. Recreation Manager's Report – Mr. Karlen spoke on a new site for the Rocks program at Rea Elementary, welcomed new staff secretary, advised of the CPRS award for the RANCH program, spoke about upcoming Valentine events, pilot program with artificial turf at Bark Park, and shoutout to AYSO 97 with portable lights.

12. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner de Arakal updated community and commissioners on the last City/School District Liaison Meeting regarding the potential purchase of Balearic.

Vice Chairman Eckles spoke on wanting to see more possibilities regarding the existing SkatePark, advised would communicate with Commissioner Harper regarding Smallwood Park, and the success of Costa Mesa United.

Commissioner Graham thanked the staff and those in the audience that stayed the whole time.

Chair Pederson thanked everyone and encouraged the community to keep coming.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pederson at 8:39 p.m.

The Next Regular Meeting Of The Parks And Recreation Commission

is Thursday, February 25, 2016

Submitted by Travis Karlen
Recreation Manager