# THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
# MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
# FEBRUARY 25, 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:** Vice Chair Eckles

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, Samantha Hall, Administrative Secretary, Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Manager, Bart Mejia, Acting City Engineer, & Jessica Mejia, Deputy City Clerk

4. **Parks and Recreation Commission Reorganization**

   **a)** Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

   Deputy City Clerk Jessica Mejia declares PRC reorganization and opens for public comment.

   **Public Comments**

   1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, recommends Chair Pederson, Commissioner Graham, or Commissioner Harper for Chair of the PRC and expresses disapproval of Vice Chair Eckles and Commissioner de Arakal.

   Deputy City Clerk Jessica Mejia closes public comment and accepts nominations for Chair.

   Commissioner de Arakal nominates Vice Chair Eckles for position of PRC Chairman. Chairman Pederson seconds the nomination.

   Deputy City Clerk Jessica Mejia calls for a motion and a second to close nominations.

   **Chair: MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to elect Commissioner Eckles, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Graham. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.**

Commissioner de Arakal thanks Commissioner Pederson for his leadership over the last year.

Commissioner Pederson thanks Commissioner de Arakal.

Chair Eckles thanks Commissioner Pederson and opens nominations for Vice Chair.

Commissioner Graham asks Chair Eckles if Vice Chair nominations can be delayed until a full committee is available.

Chair Eckles says yes.

Commissioner de Arakal motions to nominate Commissioner Graham to be Vice Chair and advises against the delay.

Chair Eckles seconded the nomination, advises there is a nomination, a motion, and a second, calls for questions from the commissioners, closes the commissioner comments, and calls for the question for Commissioner Graham to be named Vice Chair of the PRC.

**Vice Chair: MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to elect Commissioner Graham, seconded by Chair Eckles. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.**

Five minute recess for chair and name reorganization.

5. **Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2016 Meeting of the PRC.**

Chair Eckles provides amendment to minutes on Page 9 to include Kaiser.

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

6. **Public Comments**

1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke on Fairview Park Preservation Alliance and the Fairview Park Master Plan.

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

3. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke on Fairview Park, showed two slides, and invited everyone to sign their petition and help collect signatures.

4. Rocky Evans, Costa Mesa, spoke on SkatePark and asks for extended hours, and comments that a second SkatePark would be beneficial.

   Vice Chair Graham advises he would like to hear the argument for extension of the hours at the SkatePark.

Chair Eckles advises the discussion could be agendized.

Commissioner de Arakal suggests Vice Chair Graham and Chair Eckles meet with staff to understand the process before agendizing the topic.

Commissioner Pederson asks Recreation Manager Travis Karlen regarding the timeline for updates.

Mr. Karlen advises an update was provided in the last year, and he will review and have a conversation with Vice Chair Graham and Chair Eckles.

Chair Eckles agrees with Commissioner de Arakal's suggestion to meet with staff.

Vice Chair Graham discusses Fairview Park.

Chair Eckles advises that discussion may be better placed at Commissioner Comments.

5. Jay Humphreys, Costa Mesa, congratulates Chair and Vice Chair on elections, thanks Commissioner Pederson and PRC Commission for their years of service to the community, and spoke on Talbert Park and Fairview Park.

**7. Presentation:**

**a)** New Donald Dungan Library & Neighborhood Community Center, Park Improvements at Lions Park

Steve Johnson from Johnson Favaro Architects presents schematic design updates.

Chair Eckles thanks Mr. Johnson for the thorough presentation and opens for commissioner questions.

Commissioner de Arakal thanks Mr. Johnson for the preliminary look and asks if the increased usage that is expected with the new facility sustainable over a few years or if it is a temporary spike.

Mr. Johnson responds that based on previous projects there is some spike but overall attendance is sustained.

Commissioner de Arakal expresses concern over the estimated quadruple use, but the addition of only one parking space, says he likes the addition of one acre of park usage area and would like to see wi-fi coverage from the library in this area and as wide as possible. He also asks if the permeable areas will feed to the detention basins that were discussed.

Mr. Johnson advised engineers were looking into the new infiltration basin that will be completed but it can't be discharged to the storm drains.

Commissioner de Arakal says he was surprised the current meeting spaces are underutilized.

Vice Chair Graham spoke on the need to tear down the old building and the new facility that will be refurbished and asks if rejuvenation will be taken care of.

Mr. Johnson advises that the initial process was to renovate the NCC, but upon closer review, the cost to renovate versus the cost of constructing a new library was not much different, compromises would have to be made, the additional park space would not be added, once a renovation is greater than $100,000 than it is also required to bring the building up to code as well, more lateral resistance is required for that building. He states that yes, that is embedded in the cost and in the program to rehabilitate that building.

Vice Chair Graham asks if there are any special considerations for electric bikes, such as charging stations or covered parking.

Mr. Johnson responds that the project is mandated from Council to be LEED Gold and advises with that, there are credits to be gained with alternative modes of transportation and facilitating that in all forms, so yes, they have to be a part of the project to make it more sustainable and to meet goals.

Vice Chair Graham asks if critique from the three recent Library projects is giving Mr. Johnson good feedback for our design.

Mr. Johnson replies yes, it's usually centered on finishes, maintenance issues with finishes, which are often tied to costs because the longer lasting finish is also the more costly finish, and also regarding fabrics. Durability of finishes, durability of furniture and fabrics, that's a key lesson learned.

Vice Chair Graham asks if roof gardens or roof access has been considered.

Mr. Johnson advises it's been discussed, roof planes are highly desired, meaning mechanical equipment, photovoltaics, the roof gardens you mention, and even an event space has been discussed and they're all competing interests. Looking at all of that, would have to bring elevators and exit stairs another level up and significantly increasing costs for that level, as well as the potential staffing issue for the additional level.

Vice Chair Graham asks about coffee availability at the new library.

Mr. Johnson responds that the park kiosk is really a coffee shop with coffee, beverages, snacks, and food, and advises that businesses don't operate well inside of a library and aren't sustainable, but moving the shop outside of the library is the preference and became positive by serving people in the park and at other facilities. Commissioner Pederson thanks Mr. Johnson, and expresses agreement with the outdoor coffee shop.

Chair Eckles asks for elaboration on parking layout, plans, growth, and maxing out.

Mr. Johnson replies they have reviewed current parking need, all facility and park uses, and city and municipal code specifies the number of spaces for all of those uses so we have confirmed by that measure, that there is sufficient parking, but we will be working with staff because it may meet code but that might not be the real answer, so that is an open question. My partner Jim and I are planners, and we did look at ways to increase parking if growth occurs without taking any more park space and without buying land, and there are ways.

Chair Eckles asks if the twelve parking spots bordering Luke Davis field will remain or be removed.

Mr. Johnson advises they remain.

Chair Eckles asks where contractor laydown area is going.

Mr. Johnson says that a benefit to taking NCC down early and fencing off the entire area gives the contractor more room to work, we will get into that with the phasing of construction as to what makes the most sense, to keep dollars down we want to give the contractor as much room on site as possible for laydown and logistics.

**8. Consent Calendar**

**a)** Donation of Tree and Plaque at Estancia

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve consent calendar, seconded by Commissioner Pederson. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.**

**8. Old Business** – No Items.

**9. New Business**

**a)** Commissioner Liaison Appointments

Travis Karlen presents report and asks Commission to appoint liaisons.

Chair Eckles opens for questions or discussions.

Commissioner Pederson nominates Commissioner de Arakal to remain the City/NMUSD Liasion. Seconded by Chair Eckles who advised this is an ongoing process and would like to see the continuity continue.

Commissioner Pederson asks if any Commissioners are interested in serving as alternate for this Committee.

Chair Eckles advised he would be interested if the Commission is in agreeance.

Commissioner Pederson nominates Chair Eckles as Alternate for City/NMUSD Liasion. Seconded by Commissioner de Arakal.

**City/NMUSD Committee: MOTION made by Commissioner Pederson to nominate Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Chair Eckles. MOTION made by Commissioner Pederson to nominate Chair Eckles as alternate, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.**

Chair Eckles opens nominations for Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Pederson asks if there is a date and time for the Committee to reconvene.

Mr. Bart Mejia advises the anticipation to reconvene the Committee once the Open Space Master Plan is adopted by City Council.

Chair Eckles motions for Vice Chair Graham to continue his position as Liaison to the Committee. Seconded by Commissioner Pederson.

Commissioner de Arakal nominates Commissioner Pederson as the alternate to this Committee. Seconded by Chair Eckles.

**Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee: MOTION made by Chair Eckles to nominate Vice Chair Graham, seconded by Commissioner Pederson. MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to nominate Commissioner Pederson as alternate, seconded by Chair Eckles. MOTION carries 4-0 with Commissioner Harper absent.**

## 10. Maintenance Manager's Report

Mr. Bruce Hartley orally presents with a PowerPoint Presentation reporting on urban forestry, drought impacts, pest damage, El Nino, outsourcing of Parks and Landscape Maintenance over the next two years, current projects in progress, Senior Center fumigation and skylights, multiple completed park painting projects, Wilson Park Bridge repair and waterproofing, Mesa Verde Library gates and fencing, Canyon Park and Fairview Park storm preparation, Wilson Park storm damage, Jack Hammett restroom fire, and Memorial Tree and Plaque installation.

Commissioner Pederson thanks Mr. Hartley and asks who is responsible for watering those donated trees.

Mr. Hartley replies that the municipal code hasn't changed and that the donator is responsible.

Commissioner Pederson asks if the guidelines can be distributed to the city.

Mr. Hartley says there are a number of ways including social media and advises the City has been "water trucking" as much as possible.

Commissioner Pederson asks if the outsourcing RFP is at minimum manpower.

Mr. Hartley advises his staff is currently discussing this.

Commissioner Pederson asks if the City still has group volunteers.

Mr. Hartley says we have various groups, but one problem is a group will want to pick up papers in a park, but the City's need is more heavy lifting, and that projects are not created for the groups anymore, the projects we have are the projects we have.

Commissioner Pederson asks about progress on Paularino Park cover/shelter.

Mr. Hartley responds that we are in the budget process and have submitted capital improvements and building modifications. He notes we've asked before and it didn't get funding.

Vice Chair Graham asks the reason for protection on indoor lights at DRC.

Mr. Hartley advises Recreation Manager Travis Karlen may be better to answer this question. Mr. Karlen advised that we are exploring other programming options for that space and taking precautions.

## 11. Recreation Manager's Report

Mr. Karlen spoke on the upcoming California Parks and Recreation Society Conference (CPRS) and advises that all full time staff will be attending, acceptance of award for RANCH program, information booth for RANCH program at CPRS Conference, and sports organizations opening days.

Chair Eckles asks for a summary of the current basketball program with the City.

Mr. Karlen advises that the ROCKs program has a youth basketball program that occurs at various sites throughout the City. The participants of the basketball program must also be participants of the ROCKs program in order to participate.

Chair Eckles asks about youth basketball programs outside of the ROCKs program.

Mr. Karlen replies that it is something that we continue to explore, have considered a 'feeder' program, currently nothing has come to fruition, but will continue to research.

Chair Eckles advises he receives many questions regarding basketball and would like to keep this on the hot burner.

Mr. Karlen says he would be excited to hear directly from residents regarding this and advised they can contact him directly.

Commissioner Pederson asks where the CPRS Conference will be held.

Mr. Karlen advises the Conference is at the Long Beach Convention Center, but believes the Awards Ceremony is at the Hyatt.

Commissioner Pederson requests an email to the Commissioners regarding CPRS Conference and Awards Ceremony.

## 12. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Pederson spoke on looking forward to the Master Plan, appreciative of Rocky's attendance and passion for SkatePark, little league days for both National and American little leagues, and congratulates Chair Eckles and Vice Chair Graham on Commission appointments.

Vice Chair Graham spoke on educational mandates, presented on naming of Fairview ponds and supplied information on the Great Lakes in comparison to Fairview ponds and what items can be taught, and thanks everyone for their work.

Chair Eckles thanks Vice Chair Graham and suggests talking with staff to determine the process for naming the ponds.

Commissioner de Arakal congratulates Chair Eckles and Vice Chair Graham on Commission appointment, asks Mr. Bruce Hartley if the loss of trees is net, or equal, or if we're planting more.

Mr. Hartley responds it is a net loss of trees, we've done two planting projects, planting approximately 1,000 trees, but each year we're removing more than are going in.

Commissioner de Arakal says he would like to see a strategy or policy regarding reclaimed water processes for landscaping so we can replace lost trees and wonders if we had ability to use gray water if we would lose less trees.

Mr. Hartley discusses recycled water for use at large sites, and long term goals for recycled water to pump it back to the Santa Ana River. He advises they are not looking for new customers.

Commissioner de Arakal says in East LA the Central Basin Municipal Water District is begging for reclaimed water customers and will build the pipelines for you.

Mr. Hartley says they may not be doing recharging like the water purveyors down here. On the trees, there was a capital improvement for $200,000 to plant trees but because of reluctance due to the drought the money was shifted to wetlands to clear cattails instead and suggests to wait to see what happens with the drought and advises the Street Scape Standards are being drafted by the City Attorney.

Commissioner de Arakal spoke on El Nino and it's expected rainfall in March and April and recommended Home Depot's rain barrels to save water. He also advised he looks forward to the Fairview Park Citizen's Advisory Committee reconvening.

Vice Chair Graham thanks Commissioner Pederson for his work as Chairman and congratulates Chair Brett on his new position.

Chair Eckles spoke on his planned attendance for opening days of youth sports, advised of crowds due to Newport Harbor Davidson Field under construction, and would like to see a student Civic Day at Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Mr. Karlen advises the City is working on a "Youth in Government" program and there will be a "Youth in Government Day" to include a mock council meeting.

Chair Eckles expresses excitement over the "Youth in Government" program, concludes that his Chair appointment is an honor and he looks forward to the challenge, congratulates Vice Chair Graham, and encourages the public to contact the Commissioners and let them know what they're thinking about and thanks the public for coming out.

## 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Eckles at 8:20 p.m.

**The Next Regular Meeting Of The Parks And Recreation Commission**

**is Thursday, March 24, 2016**

Prepared by Samantha Hall
PRC Secretary

Submitted by Travis Karlen
Recreation Manager