

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

OCTOBER 24, 2013

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2013, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

1. Call to Order: Chairman de Arakal

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Abernathy

3. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairman Byron de Arakal
Vice Chair Kim Pederson
Commissioner Dean Abernathy
Commissioner Robert Graham

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Donald Harper

Officials Present: Mr. Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
Mr. Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Mr. Robert E. Knapp, Recreation Manager
Ms. Lisa McPherson, Recreation Supervisor

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 26, 2013, Meeting

(followed Item 5)

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Graham; carried 3 to 0, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2013 meeting. Chairman de Arakal abstained (not present at the Sept. 26, 2013 meeting), and Commissioner Harper was absent.

5. Presentation of Chairperson's Award – Costa Mesa Community Foundation

(presented prior to Item 4)

A video presentation was provided by the Costa Mesa Community Foundation.

6. Oral Communications

1. Mr. Rocky Evans – Costa Mesa

Mr. Evans spoke about the skate park hours and encouraged a continuation of communication from participants. Mr. Evans would be interested in volunteering with this effort.

Chair de Arakal explained the concerns from the police department in respect to the skate park.

Chair de Arakal read a prepared statement in regard to the skate park.

2. Jay Ward

Mr. Ward, a Monarch Pet Spa representative, spoke of the self-service functions they could provide at the Costa Mesa Bark Park for pet owners.

3. Beth Refakes – Costa Mesa

Ms. Refakes spoke of the Trunk or Treating candy donations for Camp Pendleton Marine families.

7. Consent Calendar

No items.

8. Public Hearing

No items.

9 Old Business

9a Tree Removal Request – 115 Broadway

Mr. Hartley presented the report.

Vice Chair Pederson questioned what would occur if the tree was trimmed at this time.

Mr. Hartley indicated they may get longer results from the trimming.

Commissioner Abernathy commented the tree is a set of five (5).

Mr. Hartley concurred.

Commissioner Abernathy asked if this was a tree still on the list to use.

Mr. Hartley indicated the pear trees used now are more upright.

Commissioner Graham asked Mr. Hartley if awnings were allowed at that location.

Mr. Hartley indicated he wasn't aware of that.

Chair de Arakal called for the Applicant from the audience.

The Applicant was not present.

Chair de Arakal called for public comment on this item.

There were no public comments.

Chair de Arakal asked Mr. Hartley if the tree gets bigger.

Mr. Hartley indicated they do get about 30-feet in height.

MOTION made by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson; carried 4 to 0, to deny the request for the removal of one (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 115 Broadway.

9b Tree Removal Request – 2009 Lemnos Drive

Mr. Hartley presented the report.

Chair de Arakal called for the Applicant from the audience.

The Applicant was not present.

Chair de Arakal called for public comment on this item.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Graham suggested recommendations be provided to homeowners with options on landscaping parkways.

Vice Chair Pederson stated a plumbers video would help in the decision making.

Chair de Arakal inquired of the proximity of the sewer lateral to the tree.

Mr. Hartley indicated it is not within 10-feet.

Commissioner Graham reminded the audience that homeowners are responsible for their sewer out to the sewer lateral.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy; carried 4 to 0, to deny the request for the removal of one (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 2009 Lemnos Drive.

10. New Business

10a Tree Removal Request – 2116 President Place

Mr. Hartley provided the report.

Commissioner Abernathy asked if the root system is what makes the tree a problem species.

Mr. Hartley indicated the roots are invasive.

Mr. Hartley relayed he received a telephone call from a resident in this neighborhood who suggested they did not want the tree removed. The residence stated such in writing and those comments were forwarded to the commission.

The Applicant, Paulo Rosa, was present.

Mr. Rosa proposed he would like the tree removed and he would assume responsibility for the damage that it has caused. Mr. Rosa believes the damage to his home has been caused by the trees roots.

Mr. Rodolfo Salinas, a contractor and architect, spoke on behalf of the condition of Mr. Rosa's home (interior) due to the tree roots. Additionally, he requested the city repair the driveway.

Mr. Salinas suggested they would be requesting the city pay for the driveway repair. The interior of the home would be assumed by Mr. Rosa.

Chair de Arakal shared that the commission does not have the authority to pay for the driveway and that business can be conducted with the City Clerks Office.

Vice Chair Pederson acknowledged the photographs displaying damage.

Mr. Munoz explained a claim needs to be submitted to City Clerks Office and the city will evaluate that claim and provide a response to the Applicant.

Chair de Arakal asked for photographic evidence of the driveway.

Vice Chair Pederson asked Mr. Hartley if a root trimming and barriers would substantially take away any further damage.

Mr. Hartley shared he wasn't aware of the structural damage until this meeting, but was only aware of the driveway.

Commissioner Graham indicated when he went to see the tree/driveway it seemed that the tree was a significant distance from the home.

Mr. Hartley shared a photograph of the tree and its proximity to a wall.

Mr. Rosa indicated they have lived in the home 24 years. For the last 1½ to 2 years the home has been rented. He suggested another tree species could be put in the location that would not cause damage.

Vice Chair Pederson asked Mr. Rosa if the wall shown in the photo was going to be repaired.

Mr. Rosa suggested they would replace that.

Mr. Salinas suggested that if the tree is removed, the homeowner would replace with a new tree.

Chair de Arakal called for public comment.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Graham offered a letter from a resident on the street in question stating they oppose removal of the tree. He further reiterated that there was some missing information that was needed before making a decision. Commissioner Graham asked if Mr. Hartley would go to the home and see what can be done.

Chair de Arakal clarified with Mr. Rosa that he doesn't intend to replace the driveway until he gets disposition from the city regarding the claim he will file.

Mr. Rosa indicated that is correct.

Chair de Arakal suggested that this item be moved to the November meeting and staff could visit the property to see if the damage to the home is caused by the tree. He also suggested some sewer video would be helpful in making this

determination. Chair de Arakal asked the Applicant if he could wait one (1) month so staff could evaluate the damage.

Mr. Rosa indicated the repairs to the home have been conducted.

Chair de Arakal asked if one can see where the repairs were conducted.

Mr. Rosa said he currently has some people working at the home.

Chair de Arakal suggested the item be moved to the November meeting.

Vice Chair Pederson offered to survey the property damage with staff.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Graham; carried 4 to 0 to defer Item 10a (Tree Removal Request – 2116 President Place) to the November 2013 meeting, pending examination by City staff of damage caused by the tree, returning with a report.

10b Tree Removal Request – 2197 Santa Ana Avenue

Mr. Hartley provided the report.

Chair de Arakal called for the Applicant.

The Applicant was not present.

Chair de Arakal called for public comments.

No public comments were offered.

Chair de Arakal expressed concern about the pine needles in proximity to the roof.

Vice Chair Pederson asked Mr. Hartley if the Applicant has agreed to replace the trees.

Mr. Hartley concurred that will happen and it has been stated in the Applicant's letter.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy; carried 4 to 0, to approve the request for the removal of three (3) City-owned parkway trees located in the public right-of-way on the side property of 2197 Santa Ana Avenue, with the Applicant assuming the cost and replacement.

10c Tree Removal Request – 950 Cheyenne Street

Mr. Hartley presented the report.

Commissioner Abernathy discussed with Mr. Hartley the appearance of the sidewalk and the curb and gutter.

Chair de Arakal called for the Applicant.

The Applicant was not present.

Chair de Arakal called for public comments.

There were no public comments.

Vice Chair Pederson suggested basic maintenance of the area surrounding this type of tree is necessary.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy; carried 4 to 0, to deny the request for the removal of one (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way of 950 Cheyenne Drive.

10d Modifying Volcom Skate Park Hours and Posting Signage

This item was removed from the agenda.

10e Request to Place a Memorial Plaque at the Estancia Park Adobe

Ms. Lisa McPherson presented the report.

Vice Chair Pederson asked how the plaque is secured.

Ms. McPherson and Mr. Hartley both contributed to the size of the concrete.

Public comments were request.

1. Beth Refakes – Costa Mesa

Ms. Refakes spoke of the importance of the plaque by recognizing individuals in this manner.

Chair de Arakal thanked the historical society for their advocacy.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy; carried 4 to 0, to approve the request to place a memorial plaque at the Estancia Park Adobe.

10f Streetscape and Median Development Standards

Report presented by Mr. Hartley.

Commissioner Abernathy spoke of the structure of sidewalks/streets making them safe for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Vice Chair Pederson suggested the commission send this to council and that a consultant may assist with this project.

Chair de Arakal asked if the project to assist homeowners with dilapidated walls, etc. is still in effect.

Mr. Munoz indicated he believes this was funded up until last year. There was a lack of interest and he doesn't believe it's in the budget for this year.

Chair de Arakal asked if any arterial walls at thoroughfares qualify for any OCTA grants.

Mr. Munoz indicated they are within private property.

Chair de Arakal hoped that there would be a community outreach to the neighborhoods with this process. Chair de Arakal asked Mr. Munoz if they could request a RFP process be started for this.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson; carried 4 to 0, to request City Council to initiate a RFP process to retain a consultant to assist City staff and the Commission in developing a more contemporary Streetscape and Media Development Standards document. Commissioner Abernathy consented to take the lead on this project by working with the consultant, City staff and the community.

12. Maintenance Services Manager Report

Report presented by Mr. Hartley on Urban Forestry Management, FY 2012-2013.

Commissioner Graham and Chair de Arakal expressed gratitude for Mr. Hartley's report.

13. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Abernathy spoke of a grant received by the City to study bikeways in Costa Mesa.

Commissioner Graham suggested a theme of the month for students to participate in that would display the beauty of Costa Mesa.

Vice Chair Pederson congratulated Costa Mesa High School for winning the Battle of the Bell. Vice Chair Pederson stated the individuals requesting tree removals should be encouraged to come to the meetings as it helps the commissioners make their decisions. An email was received about lights at Harper Park and Vice Chair Pederson offered to visit the situation.

Chair de Arakal spoke of the received email regarding lights at Harper Park and asked Mr. Knapp to address this issue.

Mr. Knapp commented that if a group is present, a staff member will turn on the lights at dusk. If there is no team present, the staff member will wait for a period of time. At 6:45 a staff member will go to Harper to make sure the lights are off at

7:30 PM. Cost of blankets was learned to be between \$6,000 and \$8,000. A sound test is going to be conducted with residents present and the commissioners are invited to attend. The configuration and timeframe of the lights are the same as last year.

Chair de Arakal asked to be told when staff is going out to do the sound test, as he would like to attend. Vice Chair Pederson expressed interest in attending.

Chair de Arakal hopes that artificial turf at Field #1 at Jack Hammett will be in next year's budget. Chair de Arakal shared a review of his first NMUSD meeting, including naming Fairview Park bridge. Dr. Navarro will be presenting this idea to the teachers. The Mesa Verde Classic Golf Tournament, which raises funds for organizations and youth sports, is scheduled for January 20, 2014.

Chair de Arakal asked if there would be options in regard to Volcom would be available for the January meeting. Mr. Munoz will provide an update to this request at the November meeting.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **8:30 p.m.** to the next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, November 21, 2013, at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 3A of City Hall, followed by the Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Submitted by:

ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director