

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

**JANUARY 23, 2014**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, 2014, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

1. **Call to Order: Chair de Arakal**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chair Pederson**
3. **Roll Call**

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

Commissioners Absent:

Officials Present: Mr. Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager  
Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager  
Mr. Robert E. Knapp, Recreation Manager  
Mr. Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the November 21, 2013, Meeting**

**MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy, carried five to zero to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2013, meeting.**

5. **Oral Communications**

1. Rocky Evans – Costa Mesa  
Mr. Evans inquired if there would be any further action or discussion taking place regarding the skate park. He offered to participate in those efforts.

2. Mr. Mark Portnoy – Costa Mesa  
Mr. Portnoy indicated individuals using the skate park have been doing some self-policing.

Chair de Arakal indicated staff is working with the police department to provide a program that will be presented at the February 2014 meeting. Chair de Arakal also suggested the group would meet the first or second week of February, and Mr. Evans and Mr. Portnoy would be invited to attend.

6. **Consent Calendar**

a. Adult & Youth Contract Instructional Class Proposals

**MOTION made by Commissioner Harper, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried five to zero to approve fees for one (1) new adult instructional class, four (4) new youth instructional classes, and one (1) fee increase for a current youth instructional class.**

7. **Public Hearing**

No items.

8. **Old Business**

a. Tree Removal Request – Yukon Avenue  
Mr. Hartley presented the report.

Chair de Arakal called for questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Graham inquired about the cost of trimming the trees and was provided guidance on the various styles of tree trimming.

*3081 Klondike Avenue*

1. Applicant Gabriella Oseguera, Costa Mesa

Applicant Ms. Oseguera indicated there is existing danger to her property due to the trees. She identified trees F3, S4 and S3 as creating damage to her property. She suggested that trees be planted that are better suited to the neighborhood.

2. Jessica Harris, Costa Mesa

Ms. Harris indicated the trees are healthy and she enjoys them.

3. Mark Harris, Costa Mesa

Mr. Harris suggested the city's arborist, Mr. Hartley, and a third individual view the trees in question and evaluate what needs to be done.

4. Kim DeBroux, Costa Mesa

Ms. DeBroux referenced to a petition turned into the commission signed by 59 neighbors. She indicated that the trees in question are healthy and removing them will devalue her property.

5. Carolyn Reyes, Costa Mesa

Ms. Reyes expressed she was against removing the neighborhood trees.

6. George Berg, Costa Mesa

Mr. Berg agrees in defense of the trees and he favored a thorough trimming of the trees.

7. Don Andrews, Costa Mesa

Mr. Andrews suggested that trees damaging property should be addressed; however, the trees in the parkway should remain unless they are causing problems.

8. Kelly Waterman, Costa Mesa

Ms. Waterman indicated the trees in question require more than one solution. She expressed the focus should be on the slope trees.

Chair de Arakal invited the commission to ask questions of staff or the Applicant.

Commissioner Graham indicated a parkway tree identified as F3 should be addressed due to the water and curb issues, as well as trees against the wall identified as S4, S3, and S2.

Mr. Hartley indicated he shared concerns with the trees against the wall. They are not currently causing damage.

Commissioner Harper asked if this type of tree has potential to damage anything.

Mr. Hartley indicated they are planted on a slope and the roots will fan out. Quite likely they could in the future cause problems.

Vice Chair Pederson indicated trees are an asset.

Commissioner Abernathy discussed with Mr. Hartley if tree F3 has had any root pruning done.

Chair de Arakal asked if the trees are mature and Mr. Hartley responded that S3 is mature.

Commissioner Graham noted when visiting the location there was some damage to a wall.

Applicant Oseguera indicated S2 and S3 are damaging the Applicant's wall.

Commissioner Harper suggested that Mr. Hartley visit the inside of the properties to see what damage is being caused.

Chair de Arakal indicated the trees make a beautiful entry statement.

**MOTION by Chair de Arakal died due to the withdrawal of Vice Chair Pederson's second.**

**MOTION was made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Harper, carried five to zero, to approve the removal of three (3) trees identified as S2, S3 and S4 per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, with the Applicant paying all removal costs and paying for mitigation trees (\$425 for each tree removed) with trees to be planted elsewhere on public property and deny the request for removal of trees identified as F1, F2, F3 and F4, with the addition that the staff evaluate curb, gutter and sidewalk adjacent to tree F3 and take appropriate action and have City staff evaluate for landscape improvements.**

*883 Prospect Place*

1. Kelly Waterman, Costa Mesa

Ms. Waterman provided photos of eight trees behind her residence. She reported cracks in her wall due to the trees and no light is permitted into her backyard.

Chair de Arakal called for questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Abernathy discussed with the Applicant which trees she is actually wanting removed.

Commissioner Graham asked Ms. Waterman which trees are causing damage to her property.

Ms. Waterman cited S11 and S13.

Mr. Hartley cited different alternative maintenance practices are possible to Commissioner Graham.

Commissioner Harper inquired which tree had caused damage to the wall and Ms. Waterman responded S14.

Commissioner Harper asked the Applicant if thinning helps.

Ms. Waterman indicated it helps, but then it grows back.

Mr. Waterman suggested removing S14, S13, and S9.

Chair de Arakal clarified that S14 was causing wall damage and Mr. Waterman responded yes.

Chair de Arakal opened up comments to the audience.

1. Ms. Oseguera, Costa Mesa

Ms. Oseguera spoke in favor of the Waterman's request.

2. Kim DeBroux, Costa Mesa

Ms. DeBroux shared that her vision will now be solar panels.

3. Mr. Garabedian, Costa Mesa

Mr. Garabedian indicated the tree identified as S14 is against the wall needs to be removed. He suggested putting trees on a slope was a bad idea.

4. Mick Meldrum, Costa Mesa

Mr. Meldrum has one of the same trees in front of his home and is happy with it.

5. Jessica Harris, Costa Mesa

Ms. Harris relayed that there seems to be uncertainty of which trees are being spoken about and she feels clarification is necessary.

6. George Berg, Costa Mesa

Mr. Berg shared that people read the petition before signing it and only one (1) individual declined to sign it. He feels that S14 needs to be removed and requested someone from the city be sent out to view the trees again.

7. Don Andrews, Costa Mesa

Mr. Andrews spoke of the rat problem and how it was resolved in the neighborhood. He would like to see the parkway trees remain.

8. Carolyn Reyes, Costa Mesa

Ms. Reyes shared that the front trees are beautiful, and concurred that the S14 tree should be removed.

9. Mark Harris, Costa Mesa

Mr. Harris indicated that trees buffer the noise and also purify the air. He reiterated that three (3) people should view the trees again and evaluate them separately.

10. Sherrie Underwood, Costa Mesa

Ms. Underwood brought up that the trees have been at the location for 30 years. Ms. Underwood indicated that any trees damaging fences/walls should be removed. She suggested a specialist look at each tree both in backyards and outside of defined yards, and evaluate them separately.

11. Mr. Waterman, Costa Mesa

Mr. Waterman indicated a consensus needs to be worked out.

Chair de Arakal asked the commissioners for comments or questions.

Commissioner Graham would like clarification on what trees are moving walls and suggested city staff do such an evaluation.

Chair de Arakal asked Mr. Hartley if any other wall damage could be assessed, other than what is caused by S14. The arborist's field inspection reports did not reflect any other damage. S13 and S14 are reflected as having caused damage.

**MOTION made by Chair de Arakal died for the lack of a second.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried five to zero, to approve, 1) removal of the tree identified as S14 as a Category 1 and root prune and grind the sidewalk adjacent to the tree identified as S13; 2) Staff to evaluate alleged wall damage caused by the trees identified as S9, S10, S11 and S12, with the Maintenance Manager providing the results of the evaluation to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the February 27, 2014, meeting.**

(Five (5) minute break)

*879 Prospect Place*

1. Claire Le, Costa Mesa

Applicant Claire Le did not want to have her tree(s) removed, but was supporting the other Applicants.

**MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Graham, carried five to zero, to deny the request to remove an unspecified number of pine trees behind the Applicant's property.**

*883 Prospect Place*

1. John Garabedian, Costa Mesa

Applicant John Garabedian stated concern for the trees on the slope. There is currently no wall damage.

Chair de Arakal asked for public comments.

1. Kelly Waterman, Costa Mesa

Ms. Waterman supports Mr. Garabedian's request. She suggested thinning out the trees would assist.

2. Mr. Waterman, Costa Mesa

Mr. Waterman supports Mr. Garabedian's request and believes that eventually the Applicant's walls will be affected by the roots of the trees.

3. Gabriella Oseguera, Costa Mesa

Ms. Oseguera feels the entrance to the neighborhood needs to be clean and balanced.

4. George Berg, Costa Mesa

Mr. Berg suggested that the irrigation get repaired.

5. Mike Harris, Costa Mesa

Mr. Harris indicated any trees touching the wall should be removed to prevent any damage. He recommended putting trees back into the location where trees are removed.

Chair de Arakal called for questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Harper asked Mr. Hartley about the irrigation. Mr. Hartley indicated that the upcoming budget may accommodate that suggestion.

Chair de Arakal called for additional questions from the commissioners.

**MOTION by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Chair de Arakal, carried five to zero, to approve the removal of the tree identified as S5 per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree to be planted at the same address and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property with the Applicant paying all removal and replacement costs and denying the removal of the remaining trees, and deny the request to remove S6, F2 and F3.**

**9 New Business**

**9a Tree Removal Request – 433 Broadway**

Mr. Hartley presented the report.

1. Chris McLaughlin, Costa Mesa  
Applicant Mr. McLaughlin indicated his fiancé is the owner of the property and he provided historical information on the tree that was planted in the front of the home. Mr. McLaughlin would like to select a tree that goes with the landscaping they are planning.

Chair de Arakal opened up questions of the Applicant.

Mr. McLaughlin indicated his fiancé, the owner of the property, had spoken to the arborist over the telephone requesting the tree not be provided.

Commissioner Harper and Mr. McLaughlin discussed if the Applicant is requesting the tree be removed or if he is requesting it be replaced.

Chair de Arakal asked Mr. McLaughlin when landscaping will occur and the Applicant indicated this year. Chair de Arakal asked the Applicant to inform the city when the landscaping is ready to begin.

Chair de Arakal discussed with Mr. Hartley the terms for a motion.

Commissioner Harper discussed with the Applicant the status of the design for landscaping.

**MOTION by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried five to zero, to approve the removal and relocation of one (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 433 Broadway, with the following conditions: 1) The City shall remove and relocate the tree to other public property upon the Applicant submitting an acceptable landscape plan to the Maintenance Services Division. The Applicant shall work with City staff to select a replacement tree to be planted following the submission of the landscape plan. 2) All relocation and tree replacement costs shall be at the Applicant's expense. No 3:1 replanting requirement will apply. 3) Commission approval expires one (1) year from date of meeting.**

**10. Parks Project Manager's Report**

Mr. Mejia presented the report in regard to the following projects:

*Fairview Park – Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project*  
*Smallwood Park*  
*Harbor Boulevard Beautification*  
*Harbor Boulevard Bike Trail Improvements*

***Other Beautification Projects:***

*West Side Master Plan*  
*Del Mar Avenue at Newport Blvd. Improvements*  
*East 19<sup>th</sup> Street East of Newport Blvd.*  
*Bristol Street Medians*  
*Red Hill Avenue Medians*  
*Harbor Blvd. Medians*

Mr. Mejia invited the Commissioners to the Fairview Park Community Advisory Committee meeting on February 5 @ 6:00 PM at the Neighborhood Community Center.

Commissioner Abernathy spoke of alternative designs to the Smallwood Park play area with Mr. Mejia. Commissioner Abernathy commended Mr. Mejia on the look of the medians.

**11. Commissioner's Comments**

Commissioner Graham spoke of the fires at Fairview Park.

Commissioner Abernathy conversed with Mr. Hartley about a maintenance strategy for the bark park. Commissioner Abernathy would like citizens to get behind bike paths.

Commissioner Harper indicated that Harbor Blvd. is looking nice and he wondered about the entryway at the golf course. Mr. Munoz indicated that the golf course entryway project is underway. Canary stairs should be done before July.

Vice Chair Pederson spoke of the boardwalk and Mr. Munoz shared the project has been tabled. Vice Chair Pederson expressed disappointment in that decision. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Chair de Arakal indicated he would like the commission to see the report in regard to the fires at Fairview Park. Mr. Munoz indicated that would be communicated. Chair de Arakal shared disappointment in the decision of the boardwalk and hoped the lines of communication being kept open may allow it to happen at some point. Chair de Arakal requested Mr. Munoz provide an update on the interaction with the US Fish and Wildlife. Chair de Arakal suggested the US Fish and Wildlife may provide their report to the City Council, as well as the Parks and Recreation Commission. Chair de Arakal shared information given at the last school district liaison meeting.

**12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:33 p.m.** to the next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, February 27, 2014, 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:

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**ERNESTO MUNOZ**  
Public Services Director