

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FAIRVIEW PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

April 2, 2014

These meeting minutes represent an "action minute" format. A copy of the meeting audio can be obtained at the Public Services Department front counter located on the 4th floor of the Costa Mesa City Hall.

The Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee (FPCAC) of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in the Neighborhood Community Center Victoria Room at 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, California.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Moment of Silence – In memory of David Stiller**
4. **Mission Statement**
5. **Roll Call**

Voting Members Present:	Chairman Richard Mehren Vice Chairman Steve Smith Member Ron Amburgey Member Terry Cummings Member Dennis Popp Member Lee Ramos Member Anna Vrska
Voting Member Absent:	Member Brett Eckles
Officials Present:	Council Member Sandra Genis, City Council Liaison Commissioner Dean Abernathy, Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Liaison
Staff Present:	Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager Yolanda Summerhill, Attorney Alfa Lopez, Management Analyst Denise Cedillos, Administrative Secretary

6. **Presentations:**

Field Allocation & Current Facility Outline

Parks and Community Services Department staff presented this report. Ms. Lisa McPherson, Supervisor, introduced Cecily Renteria, Assistant Recreation Supervisor, who spoke on the

1. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa
Ms. Hendricks queried why the meeting started with a presentation on sports fields.
2. Heather Seingreen (spelling), Costa Mesa
Ms. Seingreen and her daughter spoke in favor of protecting Fairview Park as a natural space.
3. Brandon Cochello (spelling), Fountain Valley
Mr. Cochello spoke of his experience using Fairview Park and stated that its open space is an asset to the community.

Chairman Mehren clarified that the presentation on sports fields was made because those issues are part of what the Committee is addressing and they need to know the availability in order to make a good judgment.

4. Jose De la Jara, Costa Mesa
Mr. De la Jara stated he runs an aquatics program, sports fields are necessary, and it is important for everyone to share the space.
5. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa
Mr. Pope expressed there are plenty of sports fields and that the Fairview Park Master Plan states it should be planned for future protection.
6. Jules Zuna (spelling), Westminster
Mr. Zuna spoke in favor of protecting the historical value of and preserving Fairview Park as a native sanctuary.

8a. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of March 5, 2014

Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the March 5, 2014 meeting as presented; Member Popp second; motion carries unanimously.

9a. Old Business – None

10a. New Business – Southwest Quadrant Report

i. Staff Presentation

Mr. Mejia presented a PowerPoint overview on this report and reviewed the eleven (11) items the Committee removed from further consideration, the twelve (12) items that were evaluated at the meeting of March 5, 2014 including four (4) items that were recommended for further review, and the remaining twelve (12) proposed changes to the Master Plan that the committee will be reviewing today.

ii. Develop Priority List

1. Trail Exercise Stations

• **Committee Discussion**

Member Amburgey inquired as to the type of exercise station and which trail it would include. Chairman Mehren replied that is something staff would need to determine and present to the Committee.

Member Cummings stated BMX bicycle users have been underrepresented in public meetings so he proposes the item be selected for further consideration to advance this key use of the park.

In response to Member Ramos's query on the distance of the trails, Mr. Munoz stated the project will be brought to the Committee at the next meeting showing specifics and answering any Committee questions.

Member Cummings suggested considering "BMX bicycles".

Chairman Mehren stated the area that is being utilized for motorcross is over the Native American burial grounds and that has to be protected.

Member Cummings suggested deferring the determination of that area to the archeological community and the possibility of establishing an alternate site within the park for BMX bicycles.

- Public Comment

1. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa

Mr. Humphrey spoke against motobikes and suggested fixing the problems that currently exist before making decisions on what will be built.

2. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke in favor of improving cycle access to the park for residents of Costa Mesa stating cyclists use it as a destination.

3. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black inquired if the new trails will be made with concrete where there are not currently existing trails. She expressed opposition until further information is presented.

4. Brandon Cochello (spelling), Fountain Valley

Mr. Cochello spoke in favor of access to the park stating it is a cyclist destination. He clarified that motocross is motorized bicycles and spoke against it in Fairview Park.

5. Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa

Ms. Hendricks stated the area contains vernal pools, archeological resources, and high biological sensitivity.

6. Teresa Drain, Costa Mesa

Ms. Drain spoke in favor of the addition of a bicycle rack. She spoke against considering user defined paths as paths and paving them.

Ms. Summerhill clarified that the motion and discussion should be on improving designated paths so any motocross should not be part of the discussion.

- Vote

Member Amburgey made a motion to include bicycle use in the future design tradeoffs for the park; Member Cummings second; Members Cummings, Amburgey, Ramos, and Popp voted in favor; Members Vrska, Smith, and Mehren opposed; motion carries 4 to 3.

5. Plant Native Drought Resistant Plants Center of SW Quadrant

- Committee Discussion

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa
Ms. Black spoke against this item.

2. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope expressed the concert area should be restricted and not be allowed to spill out to the natural area.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

8. Skate Park

- Committee Discussion

Member Amburgey spoke for this item on the eastside of Fairview Park.

- Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black spoke in favor for skateboarders but stated this is not the place for it.

2. Marty Jimenez, Huntington Beach

Mr. Jimenez stated he works in Costa Mesa for Volcom clothing. He spoke in favor for another skate park in Costa Mesa, possibly on the eastside of Fairview Park.

3. Steve Pope, Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope spoke against this item in Fairview Park.

- Vote

Eliminated by lack of motion

9. Build Train Track Around SW Quadrant

This item was determined to have been previously discussed and voted on.

10. Nature Center – Bird Watching Platforms

- Committee Discussion

Member Cummings expressed curiosity as to why a platform is needed stating the area is full of vegetation for people to walk around and enjoy.

- Public Comment

1. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa

Mr. Humphrey suggested the Committee make motions when they do not wish to see an item in the park, instead of 'eliminated by lack of motion'.

2. Cindy Black, Costa Mesa

Ms. Black spoke against this item.

3. Brandon Cochello (spelling), Fountain Valley

Mr. Cochello spoke against this item and in favor of informational kiosks instead.

4. Rick Hoffman, Costa Mesa

- Vote
Eliminated by lack of motion

11. Committee Member Reports

Member Cummings reported an increase in property damage experienced by the Orange County Model Engineers (OCME) and its railroad tracks and station at Fairview Park. He thanked the public for the donations the club has received.

Member Amburgey referred to the presentation on sports fields stating it is important to recognize that 21 of the 27 different facilities are on school district property. He stated that is important to keep in mind when the Committee looks at the eastside of the park where there is 53 of the total 208 acres and hopes it can see it as non-passive, which can be used for the strong community need.

Member Popp stated he has had several parents contact him with views on what they want in the park but express they do not want to attend the meetings because of the hostile atmosphere. He appealed to the public to treat individuals with respect even if they share a different perspective. He stated the Committee has received 50 letters favoring sports fields and not one is from families that contacted him.

Member Ramos emphasized being precise when talking about the usage and nature of the park. He thanked the public for their comments and expressed the Committee should not be shortchanged.

Chairman Mehren stated he enjoyed the information provided by the Recreation Department on field allocation and will follow up with staff members on additional questions.

12. Public Services Director Report

Mr. Munoz had nothing to report.

13. City Attorney Report

Ms. Summerhill had nothing to report.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m. to the next regular scheduled meeting on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., at the Neighborhood Community Center, Victoria Room.

Submitted by:



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director