

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

May 7, 2014

These meetings minutes represent an “action minute” format. A copy of the meeting audio tape 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 of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7, 2014, in the Neighborhood Community Center Victoria Room at 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, California.

1. **Call to Order: Chairman Mehren**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance: Member Amburgey**
3. **Mission Statement**

The pledge of allegiance was recited. Member Smith read the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee (FPCAC) Mission Statement.

4. **Roll Call**

Voting Members Present: Chairman Richard Mehren
Vice Chairman Steve Smith
Member Ron Amburgey
Member Frank Davern
Member Brett Eckles
Member Lee Ramos
Member Anna Vrska
Member Terry Cummings
Member Dennis Popp

Officials Present: City Council Member Sandra Genis, City Council Liaison
Commissioner Robert Graham, Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison

Staff Present: Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
Fariba Fazeli, City Engineer
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Yolanda Summerhill, Attorney
Alfa Lopez, Management Analyst
Denise Cedillos, Administrative Secretary

5. **Presentations/Update: None**

6a. Public Comment

Public Comment was requested by Chairman Mehren.

1. Harold Weitzberg, Resident; spoke in favor of finding alternative sites within the City to adapt for lighted sports fields.
2. Lou DeSandro, Costa Mesa United Board; Costa Mesa Youth Athletic Council and Board of Pony Baseball; Resident; spoke on using Fairview Park as a template for coming up with recommendations to meet everyone's needs. DeSandro stated he would like to see an inclusive approach moving forward.

7a. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of April 2, 2014

Member Cummings requested to be on the record for the correction of the term he used of Motor Cross, instead the correct term to use is "BMX bicycles".

Chairman Mehren agreed to have those changes made.

Attorney Summerhill recommended to bring back the revised minutes and vote to approve the April 2, 2014 minutes on the next meeting's Agenda.

8. Old Business

a. Southwest Quadrant Report

i. Staff Presentation

Mejia presented a PowerPoint overview of the proposed changes to the Master Plan. Committee members were provided a memorandum explaining the process of developing a priority list, a map of the southwest quadrant, and a numbered list of the proposed changes to the Master Plan. Copies were also made available for the public.

1. Additional picnic shelters

Mejia spoke about the architectural features of the existing structures and the biological resources listed in the Master Plan.

Mejia spoke on the possibility of adding another picnic structure south of the existing shelter that will provide similar capabilities as the one that is available now. The proposed location being north of the existing AC trail closest to Estancia High School.

Mejia stated the proposed location has the least impact and is away from biological sensitive sites.

- **Discussion**

Vice Chairman Smith spoke on an ADA approved path location.

Mejia mentioned that the final design will incorporate any ADA deficiencies.

Member Eckles asked about birthday party reservations and procedures.

Mejia spoke on requirements for groups of 10 or more requiring permits.

Member Eckles inquired if there have been any issues requesting for space among groups.

Mejia replied none that he is aware of.

Chairman Mehren spoke on the possibility of a different location, something accessible for the disabled.

Mejia spoke on the interferences of choosing a different location for the biologically-sensitive areas. He mentioned the site may require additional improvements if changed.

Chairman Mehren requested clarification on an additional shelter on the north end as shown in the Master Plan.

Mejia affirmed that the Master Plan still includes the picnic shelter to the north of the main entrance and that the committee voted to keep the Master Plan as is, including the picnic shelter north of the parking lot entrance.

Member Popp spoke on spending funds, asked if it was under our preview after it's sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC).

Mejia spoke on sending it to the PRC and City Council as well as requesting funding allocations.

Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Resident; inquired about placement of the picnic shelters shown on the diagram. One of the shelters clearly shows the concrete pathway, the second proposed location does not. Inquired if there will be a need for another concrete pathway in order to access restrooms from that proposed location. Ms. Black suggested that if additional walkways are necessary they should be shown on the diagram that was presented.

Mejia spoke on ADA compliance, construction of new pathways and improvements to address ADA deficiencies.

Member Vrska inquires about an additional path and the two shown.

Mejia explained that in the initial review it appeared that the proposed paths would meet ADA requirements; however, following the consultant review, additional ADA improvements may be required.

Vote

Member Amburgey made a motion that approves the new picnic shelter as proposed; Member Cummings second; Members Cummings, Amburgey, Mehren, Popp, Ramos, and Davern voted in favor; Members Vrska, Eckles, and Smith opposed; motion carries 6 to 3

2. Improve Information Kiosk

Mejia provided an overview on the existing kiosk.

Mejia provided alternatives for the improvement of the existing kiosk and display areas, and its fiscal impacts. He spoke on adding QR codes to semi-permanent signage and suggested that one of the display areas be used to provide updates on current projects and special events.

Discussion

Member Eckles supports improvements that reduce the use of staff time and that existing structures be upgraded and modernized. He also requested to see more information about the park.

Member Davern spoke on QR code effects and capabilities.

Chairman Mehren spoke on incorporating some signage ideas previously mentioned in meetings for the riparian area.

Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Resident; Spoke on solutions for maintenance issues and adding informative QR codes at the information kiosks in the park.
2. Kim Hendricks, Resident; agrees with the option that was presented to reconstruct what is there, with three sides for permanent signs and one side for updates.

Vote

Member Eckles made a motion to approve the proposed improvements to the existing information kiosk; Member Cummings second; Members Amburgey, Cummings, Mehren, Popp, Ramos, and Davern voted in favor; Members Vrksa and Smith opposed; motion carries 7 to 2.

3. Vernal Pool preservation with cables, signage, and delineation

Mejia mentions currently the City is prepared to move forward with cable railing around the vernal pool basins. Vernal pools 1, 2, and 3 have been partially delineated. Pools 4,5,6,7 are on hold pending a report from USFWS.

- **Discussion**

Member Cummings inquires as to when USFWS report is expected to be available.

Mejia replies he has been in contact with the representatives and indicate that they are working on the report but do not have certain date for the submittal of the report.

Member Popp inquires about the certainty of erecting the cable structure, given the stance of the USFWS.

Mejia states the City is waiting for direction from USFWS and will not proceed until said report is submitted to the City.

Member Popp states this would be premature to vote on this item.

Vice Chairman Smith spoke on not being so sure because the value of the vote might rest on approval.

Attorney Summerhill suggests if it is something we want to explore, this wouldn't commit us with something inconsistent with what USFWS requires.

Chairman Mehren mentions the delineation of the vernal pool is in the mitigation of the Master Plan and will be completed. He also stated that per the meeting with USFWS, they have concerns with watersheds and might need additional measures for drainage areas.

City Council Member Genis spoke on the history of determining the delineation limits. The actual limits would have been in excess of 40 acres but the Master Plan mitigation measures made it redundant.

Chairman Mehren mentioned having minimal signage at best, inquired if adding signage can be something done prior to delineation.

Munoz states staff can look into including interpretive signage.

Chairman Mehren inquires about if it is voting on this a moot point.

Munoz stated that the delineation of the vernal pools is in the environmental mitigation for the park and it needs to be done.

Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Resident; Spoke on signage issues and the importance of vernal pools as an exclamation for the eco system.
2. Kim Hendricks, Resident; Referenced pg. 99 of Fairview Park Master Plan reminding us that vernal pools are quite rare in Southern California and the reasons why. Hendricks also referenced pg. 26, then stating simple cable and signs are sufficient.
3. Robin Lumbar, a Costa Mesa resident of 40 years; spoke in favor of simple cables which are the least intrusive of delineation answers. Lumbar favored signs for vernal pool area.

Vote

Member Popp moved to table this item based on third paragraph on item 3 that we don't have sufficient information to recommend this two-strand cable or to not recommend; Member Eckles second.

Member Amburgey asked how long will it be tabled.

Member Popp replies to ask to amend to table motion pending further information

Member Eckles seconds the amended motion

Vote

Members Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Amburgey, Popp, Ramos, and Davern voted in favor; Members Smith and Mehren opposed; motion carries 7 to 2

4. Retain elements of Master Plan as it reads now

No presentation

Mejia stated Mr. Smith had provided a good explanation for what this item encompassed and re-stated it.

- **Discussion**

Member Amburgey inquires if it affects the previous vote and putting in a trail for picnic shelter.

Chairman Mehren replied no, it was amended to say allowed to make some additions.

Munoz reminded the committee that the item was intended to retain elements and does not preempt members from adding additional elements.

Member Amburgey states that is what they are here for.

Public Comment

1. Kim Hendricks, Resident; Spoke on her opposition for the Master Plan to retain p. 35 as it reads now. She suggested the children's play area to be omitted.

2. Margaret Gillingham, Resident; Stated her preference and logic behind moving current playground location. She suggested it to be a waste of money.

3. Harold Weitzberg, Resident; Suggested to remove the playground and if the recommended changes is adverse or positive to the Master Plan elements.

4. Attorney Summerhill asked for clarification of statements provided by Mr. Weitzberg regarding modification of the master plan or the question he asked.

5. Harold Weitzberg, Resident; clarifies his usage of the word adversely but stated to recommend things might be changed.

6. Rita Simpson, Resident; States she agrees with keeping the Master Plan to make any adjustments. Simpson mentions that only residents should make comments that would affect the residents. She states she would like to see a motion regarding that.

Chairman Mehren states it would not be agenzized but will discuss it.

City Council Member Genis requested advice or clarification from attorney.

Attorney Summerhill said there is a constitutional right to anonymity. Attorney Summerhill stated she can look into residence requirements.

Member Vrska inquires about the status of lights, turnaround for the playground?

Member Smith reminded about timing and the MP vote.

Member Vrska mentions she was talking to Mr. Hatch and he said to bring it up in the meeting.

Munoz mentions that can be addressed during the committee member report.

Vote

Member Smith moved to vote on retaining the elements of the Master Plan as it reads now; Member Ramos second the motion; Members Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Amburgey, Smith, Mehren, Ramos, Davern voted in favor– motion passes unanimously.

5. Improve/Designate Bike Trails

Mejia presented a brief presentation on this item including existing and master planned bike/multi-purpose trails in this quadrant. The length of bike trails is about 1 ¼ miles and explained that trail between canyon drive and pacific avenue has not been built yet. Mejia mentioned the purpose is to help direct users away from sensitive areas.

Mejia spoke about the condition of the existing trails including the north segment that has stretch marks that when not fixed are wide enough for bicycle tires to go in. The engineer is looking at different options so that this does not occur in the future.

Mejia mentioned that the project is currently in the design phase and that it will comply with both CEQA and NEPA requirements. He further spoke on the preliminary environmental report approved by Caltrans.

He mentioned biologists have started surveys that have been coordinated with USFWS and will take a total of 6 weeks to complete. Once complete, it will be submitted for review. Mejia further spoke on adding additional trails and trail enhancements.

Munoz spoke on the features of the current design of the multipurpose trail.

Member Eckles inquired about in the last paragraph of the analysis requiring community meetings as it pertains to the subject being discussed - a DG path next to the bike trail.

Mejia stated that this change would require additional studies and should take into account the impact to biologically sensitive areas, thus requiring additional steps to implement the change.

Chairman Mehren mentions that has occurred in some areas and speaks on design changes.

Member Popp inquired as to the location of the model aircraft area.

Mejia pointed to the area.

Member Popp spoke about the cables helping people off the trail.

Chairman Mehren mentioned the presence of park rangers in the park also helped.

Member Popp agreed.

Vice Chairman Smith mentions supporting pedestrian trails next to bike trails.

Member Cummings spoke on the drawings and planning for the DG trails.

Mejia spoke on the multipurpose trails, DG paths and adding the suggested motion to add pedestrian paths.

Member Cummings spoke on past and maintenance for the trail.

Mejia spoke on path design and natural material suggestions.

Chairman Mehren spoke on not considering BMX bikes.

Vice Chairman Smith mentioned the needs of BMX paths.

Member Cummings mentioned seeing a lot of that on weekends.

Vice Chairman Smith spoke on trails needing to be flat for BMX riders.

Member Cummings mentioned BMX should have been added to the agenda.

Vice Chairman Smith agreed but wants to vote today on bike paths.

Member Amburgey spoke on adding BMX.

Chairman Mehren spoke on future relevance of the issues.

Member Popp requests to get back to agenda.

Member Amburgey requests to add an item.

Chairman Mehren states that this is not possible tonight but maybe for a future meeting.

Public Comment

1. Cindy Black, Resident; Spoke on path placement suggested and outlines in the Master Plan. Black requested clarification on if the Gnat Catcher bird survey that was completed.
2. Chairman Mehren stated that the status is unknown.
3. Harold Weitzberg, Resident; spoke on his concerns about using concrete for the bike path and stated the pedestrian trail next to the bike path is a positive change.
4. Kim Hendricks, Resident, referenced p. 52-53 and spoke on delineation changes that have not been addressed.
5. Jerry Houghman, Resident; Inquired about the thickness of the concrete installation and excavation problems and the path will hold up.
6. Munoz spoke on having biologists and archeologist's present on site and mentions the width of the trails.
7. Jerry Houghman, Resident; favors the width. Inquires about wheelchair access.

8. Resident, Comments on her concerns with pavement in the park.
9. Margaret Gillingham, Resident; Suggests considering adding a switchback.
10. Kim Hendricks, Resident; spoke on not having a problem going down the hill.

Motion

Member Eckles made a motion to add language to the MP, Amburgey seconds.

Member Popp to Member Eckles; inquires about accepting an amendment to study.

Member Eckles states he would accept.

Member Amburgey agreed.

Vote

Member Eckles made a motion to conduct feasibility study to improve upon bike trails with decomposed granite paths adjacent to the bike trails; Member Amburgey second; Members Eckles, Amburgey, Mehren, Popp, and Davern voted in favor; Members Vrska Cummings Smith and Ramos opposed; vote carries 5 to 4

6. Plant Native Drought Resistant Plants (extend)

Mejia gave an update. Mejia spoke about the planned restoration and the new grant that the City was recently awarded.

Chairman Mehren inquired about the restoration of the area called Little Canyon.

Mejia mentioned that this is included in the planned restoration.

Public Comment

1. Resident; Inquired about restoration and requested the committee to restore with native plants.
2. Cindy Black, Resident; Agreed with the previous resident's comment.
3. Chairman Mehren explained the location of the proposed restoration site.
4. Hendricks, Resident; mentioned that the area that was filled needs to be restored

Motion

Member Cummings made a motion to use grant to restore the area with native plants; member Popp seconds.

Chairman Mehren clarifies motion description.

Member Popp withdraws second because the motion is dependent on the grant.

Member Popp proposes an alternate motion to plant native drought resistant plants for the proposed area. Member Cummings seconds.

Vote

Member Popp made a motion to plant native drought resistant plants. Member Cummings seconds; Members Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Smith, Mehren, Popp, Ramos, and Davern voted in favor; Member Amburguey opposed; motion carries 8 to 1.

9. New Business

Evaluation of proposed changes – NE quadrant

i. Staff Presentation

Mejia presented a PowerPoint overview on existing projects, constraints and opportunities; and current Master Plan elements. Mejia reviewed the proposed changes to the Master Plan. The item on the agenda for tonight's meeting proposes to eliminate 16 items that apply to other quadrants.

• Discussion

Chairman Mehren commences discussion regarding the list of 16 items to be eliminated from the list for this quadrant.

Vice Chairman Smith suggests voting on list that has been prepared.

Member Amburguey mentions the intent is to eliminate items in red.

Chairman Mehren agreed.

Member Amburguey spoke on item no. five – Expand Train Routes NW or SW Quadrants and if consideration was given for this quadrant.

Mejia explained that the items as written is specific to the northwest and southwest quadrant and not the northeast.

Public Comment

1. Harold Weitzberg, Resident; Stated his recommendation on adding redwood trees.
2. Cindy Black, Resident; mentions different items to be taken off list.
3. Cindy Brennamen, Resident; requests leave Master Plans as it reads now.
4. Resident; Spoke on her concerns and suggestions for restoration.
5. Margaret Mooney, Resident; commented on the committee hearing the community and what it does not want.

Vote

Member Smith made a motion to approve the removal of the 16 items from this quadrant; Member Eckles seconds; Members Cummings, Vrska, Eckles, Amburgey, Smith, Mehren, Popp, Ramos, and Davern voted in favor; motion carries unanimously

10: Committee Member Reports

Member Davern spoke on enjoying first meeting and positive changes to the park everyone can agree on.

Member Ramos spoke on not agreeing on the bike trails and favored natural materials. Member Ramos also welcomed Member Davern.

Member Popp welcomed Member Davern. Member Popp addressed comments from the public that included what is within the purview of the committee, how items should be agendized, and what the Committee is currently considering.

Vice Chairman Smith welcomed Member Davern.

Member Amburgey suggested adding items to the agenda such as a Pickle Ball Court and approving concepts only and not get into details.

Member Eckles welcomed Member Davern. Member Eckles talked about comments made by a resident who said that Fairview Park is a large park with opportunities to meet everyone's needs and calls for compromise and this is what this Committee is here to do.

Member Vrska welcomed Member Davern.

Member Cummings welcomed Member Davern.

Chairman Mehren welcomed Member Davern. Chairman Mehren briefly explained procedural actions and that everyone's views are heard.

11. Public Services Director Report

Mr. Munoz provided a brief overview on the status of the project and summarized the funding for the project; addressed Committee member comments regarding adding items to the agenda; and announced the upcoming Fish Fry at Fairview Park to take place May 30th through June 1st, and that it is being coordinated with USFWS and CADFW.

Munoz spoke on Member Amburgey's request to add BMX bikes to the agenda.

Attorney Summerhill mentions it will be on the agenda for next meeting for the Committee to vote as to whether this and other items should be considered further.

Member Eckles requests emails be sent regarding additional items for next month's agenda.

Attorney Summerhill agrees to be emailed.

Chairman Mehren requests to send them to Alfa.

Member Amburgey mentions the memorial service for David Stiller.

Chairman Mehren announced that it will be on May 30 at the Presbyterian Church on Fairview Road at 11:00 a.m.

12. City Attorney Report

Attorney Summerhill states nothing to report.

13. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn; Member Eckles; Vice Chairman Smith seconds; all in favor. Adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

14. Next Regular Meeting: July 2, 2014 at the NCC, 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Submitted by:



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director