

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FAIRVIEW PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

**September 3, 2014**

**These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format. A copy of the meeting audio tape can be obtained at the Public Services Department’s front counter located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of 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, September 3, 2014.**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Neighborhood Community Center’s (NCC) Victoria Room at 1845 Park Avenue, Costa Mesa, California.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

**ROLL CALL**

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

Committee Members Absent: None

City Council Liaison: Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Mensinger

Parks and Recreation  
Commission Liaison: Dr. Dean Abernathy

Staff Present: Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director, Yolanda M. Summerhill, City Attorney, Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager, Michael Koziel, Management Analyst, Denneen Chambers, Administrative Secretary

**PRESENTATIONS**

## **Placentia Avenue Median Project**

Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director, presented a report on the Placentia Avenue Medians Project (Adams Avenue to Wilson Avenue). The purpose of the project is to add landscaped medians along Placentia from Adams to Wilson to enhance the aesthetics and traffic safety of this corridor. The project is a Fairview Park master planned element. The cost of the entire project has been estimated at \$1,500,000. Public Services Department staff captured \$844,000 in grant funding from the Highway Safety program to supplement the overall project cost. Mr. Munoz explained that the plant palette includes native plants and low shrubs. This concept is scheduled to be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their meeting of October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Chairman Mehren mentioned the disclaimer at the bottom of the agenda, regarding the tabled items, and that they will not be discussed at this meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Steve Pope, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Fairview Park changes. He opposed the proposed changes to the master plan.

Dr. Patricia Martz, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding ORA 506 in the Southeast quadrant. She is opposed to the Fairview Park changes because the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places under ORA 58.

Susan Shaw, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Fairview Park Project. She is in favor of keeping the trains and is opposed to the Fairview Park Project.

Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding not adding any structures to Fairview Park. He also asked Mr. Munoz if the trees used for the medians will be drought resistant.

Ernesto Munoz responded to resident, and informed him that drought-resistant plants have been and will continue to be used throughout Fairview Park.

Robin Lefler, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding Fairview Park project. She favored keeping Fairview Park as it is and restoring some of the habitat. Ms. Lefler mentioned she wanted to be on record of being opposed to inputting any sports fields in Fairview Park. Ms. Lefler also mentioned of the possible ground disturbance (scraping) of the Southeast quadrant.

In response to Robin Lefler's query, Mr. Munoz stated that the City does not scrape the Park, but does mow the unimproved areas. The current mowing process is required for the purpose of fire prevention and to keep the weeds from spreading. This process does not disturb the sensitive areas or vernal pool sites at Fairview Park.

Dr. Michael Hogan, Anthropologist, spoke regarding the Fairview Park sacred burial site. Dr. Hogan represented and read a letter on behalf of Dr. Gary Stickel a tribal archeologist. Dr. Stickel's letter stated that the indigenous peoples of the Kizh Nation are opposed to the proposed plans to Fairview Park for the reasons of the grounds being a sacred burial site.

Louise Rusher, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Fairview Park changes. Louis opposes sports fields at Fairview Park and is in favor of keeping the trains, the preservation of the vernal pools and the additions to the Nature Center.

Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the mowing process of Fairview Park. Cindy inquired to Mr. Munoz about the mowing regulations in relation to the Orange County Fire Authority. She also suggested that they do not use trees in the median, because the height will obstruct the view.

Leah Lowe, Costa Mesa Foundation, spoke regarding the Fairview Park changes. Leah spoke on behalf of the Costa Mesa Foundation and requests that the grassy area for Concerts in the Park and the Fish Fry remain as is.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **Committee Discussion**

Member Cummings mentioned that the surmised comments written in the meeting minutes of (August 6, 2014) from guest speaker Mel Hitchcock, may not accurately reflect the discussion that took place.

Attorney Summerhill stated that the minutes of the previous meeting were action minutes. She suggested the minutes be reviewed and brought it back to a subsequent meeting.

Chairman Mehren requested Mr. Hitchcock speak again regarding his initial statements.

Mr. Hitchcock restated that he does not advocate any guard crossing/railroad crossing or speed limits. Car crossings is not advisable and creates potential for accidents. Also, he stated that on run days there are as many as ten to twelve steam locomotives with five to twenty-five cars in operation. He also compared the layout and topography of the two sites and suggested that adding sports fields at Fairview Park may not be feasible.

Member Eckles requested that the recording be reviewed under Item No. 10-Committee Member Report of his comments of the second sentence; of comments by Member Eckles, of the previous meeting minutes (August 6, 2014).

The Committee agreed to wait until the next meeting to approve the minutes of August 6, 2014.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. Evaluation of Proposed Changes- Southeast Quadrant**

#### **a) Basketball/Handball Courts**

Vice Chairman Smith commented on his approval of keeping the trains and railroads. He also moved to table the item of Basketball/Handball Courts.

#### **Public Comments**

Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the proposed building of handball and basketball courts. He observed that other nearby courts are often underused and therefore does not see the need to proceed with the project. He also suggested that current residents whom are requesting the building of these courts be redirected to other underutilized courts in the area.

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding her opposition to the proposed building of the handball and basketball courts in Fairview Park.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Vice Chairman Smith motioned to table item number 1, Basketball/Handball Courts; Member Amburgey seconded. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: Davern, Ramos, Popp, Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles, Vrska, Cummings**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: None**

**Motion passed: 9:0:0**

## **2. Trail Exercise Stations**

### **Committee Discussion**

No Discussion

### **Public Comments**

Patricia Martz, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding her opposition to having trail exercise stations, but wants to keep the trails in Fairview Park. Ms. Martz requested Mr. Munoz to send someone out to survey the area of Fairview Park that citizens believe to be scraped.

Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa, responded and stated that the park does not currently have a trail and that one would need to be built so that the exercise stations could be placed there. He also suggested visiting the exercise stations of the trail in the park of Huntington Beach. Mr. Weitzberg also commented on the low usage of the exercise stations after a while, so it may not be a good idea for Fairview Park.

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding page 2 and 10 of Fairview Park Master Plan. She believes that the current project plans do not align with the original intent and purpose of the park. She is opposed to exercise stations at the park.

Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Fairview Park Project. He agreed with Mr. Weitzberg's comments, but ultimately does not agree with the installation of concrete trails.

**Item No. 2, Trail Exercise Stations eliminated by lack of a motion.**

## **3. Dog Park**

### **Committee Discussion**

Chairman Mehren mentioned that a Dog Park was considered for the south east quadrant and it was very unsuccessful.

Member Davern commented he already uses it at as a dog park, with dogs on a leash.

### **Public Comments**

Patricia Martz, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the concept of building a dog park. She stated that creating a dog park would disturb the park, and that the park is already being used as an informal dog park.

Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the current use of the park as an unofficial dog park. Funds can be used to keep the park clean, purchase dog waste bag stations with the dog waste bags and ensure that dogs are kept on a leash at all times.

Chairman Mehren, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the waste bag stations, and agreed that the park needs more of them.

Pat Cobbs, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the proposed dog park. Pat stated that the park is already being used as a dog park, but people are not keeping their dogs on leashes. As a result, he has been attacked by loose dogs in the park. He opposed a dog park.

**Member Amburgey made a motion to add item No. 3, dog park for a subsequent meeting; motion failed by lack of a second.**

**Item No. 3, Dog Park eliminated by lack of a second motion.**

#### **4. Dry Land Viewing Area**

Member Davern mentioned he favored the Castaway's idea from Newport for Fairview Park. it offers a viewing area, seating, and an inviting setting.

Public Comments

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Dry Land Viewing Area. It is her opinion that the area should be restored first to enhance the potential view from the proposed Dry Land Viewing Area. She also referenced pg. 102 in the Fairview Park Master Plan, and the original goal to restore the area.

Resident inquired as to where the area that Member Davern mentioned actually is. Resident is not in favor of the Dry land Viewing Area concept.

Chairman mentioned of the already available seating area on the northern part of the westerly bluffs.

Resident, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Dry Land Viewing area. The resident stated that the wild areas need to be restored to bring the wildlife back to the area. The resident would also like to stay with the original Fairview Park Master Plan.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Member Davern made a motion for item No. 4, Dry Land Viewing Area; seconded by Member Cummings. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: Davern, Cummings**

**Nays: Ramos, Popp, Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles, Vrska**

**Absent: None**

**Motion failed 2:0:7**

#### **5. Vernal Pools Preservation with Cables, Signage, and Delineation**

**Committee Discussion**

No Discussion

Public Comments

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the restoration vernal pools. She stated that the vernal pools were long past due for restoration. She referenced pages 34, 105, 132, 177, 117, 39 of the Fairview Park Master Plan. Ms. Hendricks is in favor of the restoration of the vernal pools.

Sandra Genis, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the southeast quadrant vernal pools A, B, C and the possibility of there being more information that has yet to be discovered. Ms. Genis also mentioned that further investigation may need to be conducted on the entire quadrant by LSA.

Steve Pope, Costa Mesa, spoke in favor this item and to follow the recommendations from the letter of the USFW letter.

In response to Member Amburgey's query regarding the combining or relocation of the vernal pools, Mr. Munoz mentioned the process of inoculation with fairy shrimp. In this process, the vernal pools can be created and can be moved with assistance.

In response to Mr. Munoz's statements, Ms. Sandra Genis mentioned the details of the systematic procedure to inoculate a vernal pool and that it needs approval from USFWS and be done under their supervision.

In response to Member Ramos' query if Ms. Sandra Genis had any knowledge of the project at the University of California San Mateo in which the vernal pools were moved, Ms. Genis responded that she was not aware of a UC Campus in San Mateo and reinstated the requirements for a successful vernal pool relocation.

Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke in response to moving vernal pools. She mentioned that in some instances you cannot relocate a vernal pool. There are many regulations that go into moving such vernal pools, because many are not successful due to the soil sub-structure.

**Item No. 5, Vernal Pools Preservation with Cables, Signage and Delineation failed for lack of a motion.**

## **6. Retain the Elements of the Master Plan as it Reads Now**

Committee Had No Discussion

Public Comments

Resident, Costa Mesa, spoke in favor of the Master Plan as it reads now.

Kim Hendricks is in favor of item no. 6 in relation to the southeast quadrant but the Fairview Park Master Plan may need changes.

In response to Member Eckles query regarding any verbiage of the existing Fairview Park Master Plan that will preclude any additions to the Southeast quadrant, if this motion is approved will it preclude the changes to the Fairview Park Master Plan, Attorney Summerhill stated if any conflict arises between the potential items and the existing Master Plan then the committee can consider excluding it.

Member Eckles mentioned he will not support the motion at this time before due diligence is ensued.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Member Cummings made a motion for Item No. 6, Retain Elements of The Master Plan as it Reads Now with regard to tentative changes; Member Vrska seconded. The motion failed by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: Popp, Mehren, Vrska, Cummings**

**Nays: Davern, Ramos, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles**

**Absent: None**

**Motion Failed: 4-0-5**

**1. Include a two-tier building that includes and Interpretative Center and Terrace/Viewing Deck.**

Committee Had No Discussion

Public Comments

Resident, Costa Mesa, was opposed to this item.

Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Viewing Deck. He is opposed to this concept.

Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa, is opposed to this concept.

Resident, Costa Mesa, is opposed to this concept.

Resident, Costa Mesa, is opposed to this concept.

**Item No. 7, two-tier building eliminated due to lack of a motion.**

**2. Improve Placentia Avenue with Cable and Post Delineation**

Committee Discussion

In response to Chairman Mehren's query regarding the permanency of the fences, Mr. Munoz mentioned it is not intended to be permanent. Chairman Mehren mentioned the fence controls the crowd quite sufficiently.

Chairman Mehren commented the committee and residents should consider the fencing and cables within Fairview Park.

Public Comments

Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa, stated that it is not the City's responsibility to build a fence to prevent jaywalking.

In response to Member Eckles query regarding if the ideal solution would be to keep people out of the park or for the park patrons to be kept away from Placentia Avenue, Chairman Mehren mentioned it will be for both reasons.

Jay Humphrey favored the concept in regards to crowd direction and enhancing safety.

Lea Lowe, Costa Mesa, favored the temporary fence and favored the concept.

Resident favors the concept of the temporary fence for safety purposes but favors it being less visually distracting. Ms. Lowe favored the post and cables, suggested to raise the height and have only four cables. Safety is important but appreciate aesthetics.

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, favored the temporary fence and would like to see it there with native and natural enhancements and lower it but will make it susceptible for people trying to jump over it.

**Item No. 8, Improve Placentia Avenue with Cable and Post Delineation eliminated due to lack of a motion.**

### **3. Roller Hockey Surface**

No Public Comment

**MOVED/SECOND:** Member Amburgey made a motion to add this item to the list of tabled items; Member Eckles seconded. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: Eckles, Amburgey, Smith, Mehren, Ramos, Popp, and Davern**

**Nays: Cummings and Vrska**

**Absent: Popp**

**Motion passed 6:1:2.**

### **4. Improve/Designate Bike Paths**

Committee Discussion

Chairman Mehren favors adding a bike path or extend the current sidewalk to allow room for a bike path. Chairman Mehren recommended combining items 10 and 11.

No other committee discussion.

Public Comments:

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke in favor of the bike path concept.

Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa, spoke in opposition to the bike path concept and stated there is no place for bikers to go.

Chairman Mehren, disagreed with Mr. Weitzberg and favored increasing the width of the existing sidewalk for bicyclists.

Resident, Costa Mesa, agreed with Chairman Mehren.

Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the exact location of the proposed bike path. Ms. Black mentioned that the location of the bike path may disturb the vernal pools, and will need to comply with USFWS regulations.

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the proposed bike path and suggested that a bicycle trail be placed on both sides instead of installing a median.

Greg Kaufman, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the proposed bike trail and recommended the installation of a decomposed granite (d.g.) trail. He also inquired as to the type of construction that is necessary to install a bike trail.

Chairman responded to the inquiry, and stated that concrete was first to be considered, but other components will also be an option.

Attorney Summerhill, Costa Mesa, clarified that since the project is just in the proposed stages, all details have yet to be determined.

Resident, Costa Mesa, favors the bike path concept.

**MOVED/SENCOND:** Member Eckles made a motion to combine and bring back item No. 10-Improve/Designate Bike Path and item No. 11-Concrete Path from NW Traffic Signal to SE Traffic Signal at Estancia High School, with staff analysis at a subsequent meeting; Member Davern seconded. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: Vrska, Cummings, Eckles, Ramos, Mehren, Amburgey Davern, and Popp**

**Nays: None**

**Absent: Vice Chairman Smith**

**Motion carried: 8:1:0**

## **12. Nature Center/Bird Watching Platforms**

Committee Discussion

Member Eckles mentioned that he brought this item for a different quadrant, that it probably would not fit here and would not get a lot of support.

Public Comments:

Resident, Costa Mesa, was opposed to the Nature Center/Bird Watching Platforms.

**Item No. 12 eliminated due to lack of a motion.**

## **9. New Business:**

### **a. Native Plant Nursery**

Committee Discussion

Member Amburgey mentioned that he is in favor of the Native Plant Nursery.

Chairman Mehren is in favor of the Native Plant Nursery.

Public Comments

Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the Native Plant Nursery and is in favor of it. She stated that the Native Plant Nursery will help restore Fairview Park. Ms. Black mentioned she has ideas for the placement of the nursery and would like community participation.

Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the concept and is in favor of restoring of Fairview Park. He also mentioned options for soil usages.

Resident, Costa Mesa, favors the idea but suggests to proceed with caution and analysis.

In response to Chairman Mehren's question regarding study feasibility, Mr. Munoz mentioned that the list is being reviewed for staff to provide analysis and bring it back to a subsequent meeting.

Member Ramos supports the concept, and also stated that only great things can come from the implementation of this idea.

Member Cummings inquired as to the amount of land that will be used for the nursery and plant stock. He also suggested that the City plant smarter.

Mr. Munoz mentioned that the City will be able to provide some analysis, and suggested obtaining nursery locations along with cost estimates.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Vice Chairman Smith made a motion for staff analysis of the Native Plant Nursery; Member Ramos seconded. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: Davern, Ramos, Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles, Vrska, Cummings**

**Nays: Member Popp**

**Absent: None**

**Motion carried: 8:0:1**

#### **b. Field Trip to Riverside, CA – Riverside Live Steamers**

##### Committee Discussion

Member Eckles is in favor of this idea, and finds it to be educational and feasible.

Vice Chairman Smith suggested that the field trip be used to substitute the October 2014 FPCAC regular meeting. He also preferred to schedule the field trip during the peak time of operation for Riverside's Live Steamers.

Member Cummings mentioned Riverside is quite busy and it will be best to visit during their annual "Fall Meet". This is scheduled on the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Vice Chairman Smith suggested the best time to go during the peak time is either the 12<sup>th</sup> or the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Member Cummings stated that they are unaware if the sports fields will be in use on the proposed day.

Member Eckles stated that he prefers the visit not take place on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Hitchcock spoke on the reasoning for the trip, and choosing Saturday because it is the heaviest railroad usage day of the "Fall Meet". Mr. Hitchcock suggested one of the purposes of the trip should be to look at the difference between the Riverside Park and Railroad and how and if that will work for Fairview Park. Mr. Hitchcock spoke on the athletic activity of the Fall Meet Weekend.

Chairman Mehren mentioned that the main purpose of the trip will be to see the coordination between the trains and the athletic fields of Riverside Park.

Member Vrska mentions she is opposed to this motion due to statements regarding the needed vernal pool studies from the Fish and Wildlife letter.

Public Comments:

Kim Hendricks, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the proposed field trip and referenced pg. 37, 25 and 26 of the Fairview Park Master Plan. Ms. Hendricks is opposed to sports fields in Fairview Park, and thinks all future plans should be on hold until more research is done on the vernal pools.

Harold Weitzberg, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the proposed field trip. He favored the committee going to Riverside Park.

Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the proposed field trip. He is opposed to going to Riverside Park, and thinks all future plans should be on hold until more research on the vernal pools.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Vice Chairman Smith made a motion to hold the regularly scheduled October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 FPCAC Meeting on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at Riverside Live Steamers, Riverside, CA; Member Popp seconded. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes: Davern, Ramos, Popp, Mehren, Smith, Amburgey, Eckles, Cummings**

**Nays: Vrska**

**Absent: None**

**Motion carried: 8:0:1**

**c. Future Meeting Dates**

Committee Discussion

In response to Chairman Mehren's query regarding if the future meeting dates scheduling had been settled by this discussion, Vice Chairman Smith stated that the meeting dates of November and December still need to be scheduled; and suggested the committee discuss it now.

Member Eckles stated the next regular meeting dates should be November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014 and December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

Vice Chairman Smith discussed his opposition regarding scheduling the November regular meeting the day after Election Day due the business for the City around that day.

Attorney Summerhill stated a motion is not required to cancel future meeting dates.

Member Eckles suggested plan on holding the meeting for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

Vice Chairman Smith mentioned it (not holding a meeting in November) will also give the City Staff more time to produce an analysis regarding the Native Plant Nursery.

Member Vrska was opposed to delaying any meetings.

Public Comments:

Cindy Black, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the field trip and wanted to know if the public is able to attend.

Mr. Munoz, Costa Mesa, spoke regarding the field trip. He stated that members of the public can attend this meeting. The meeting will be noticed like the previous meetings, the public will be able to go, and it will be advertised.

Harold Weitzberg was not in favor of postponing the future meeting dates. Mr. Weitzberg suggested delaying the November meeting only by one week to at least November 12, 2014.

#### **10. Committee Member Reports**

Member Davern stated no comment.

Member Ramos stated no comment.

Member Popp stated no comment.

Vice Chairman Smith stated he had nothing to report.

Member Amburgey stated he had nothing to report.

Member Eckles stated he had nothing to report.

Member Cummings stated no comment.

Member Vrska stated no comment.

#### **11. Public Services Director Report**

Public Services Director Ernesto Munoz stated that the letter that was prepared for the City by the City's Consultant, Scientific Resource Survey, Inc., regarding the letter received from the Office of the Historical Preservation will be put on the City's website and encouraged everyone to review it.

#### **12. City Attorney Report**

**Nothing to report.**

#### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

14. **Next Regular Meeting: Next meeting** at the Riverside Live Steamers, Riverside Park in Riverside, CA, Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

**Submitted by:**

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**Ernesto Munoz**

**Public Services Director**