

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA  
MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2016; 6:00 P.M.**

**1. Call to Order:** The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Eckles at 6:00 p.m. on September 22, 2016 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance:** Vice Chair Graham

**3. Roll Call**

**Present:** Chairman Eckles, Vice Chairman Graham, Commissioner de Arakal, Commissioner Mercurio, Commissioner Pederson

**Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Justin Martin, Recreation Manager, Raja Sethuraman, Transportation Services Manager, Jim Ortiz, Maintenance Superintendent, Yvette Aguilar, Senior Center Program Administrator, Kevin Stoddart, Recreation Coordinator, & Samantha Hall, Administrative Secretary

**4. Approval of the Minutes of the August 25, 2016 Meeting of the PRC.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner Pederson to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION carries 5-0.**

**5. Public Comments**

None.

**6. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Mercurio declined comment.

Commissioner Pederson declined comment.

Commissioner de Arakal spoke on the career and retirement of Maintenance Services Manager Bruce Hartley.

Vice Chair Graham thanked Maintenance Services Manager Bruce Hartley for his service.

Chair Eckles echoed sentiments on Maintenance Services Manager Bruce Hartley, thanked Recreation Manager Justin Martin for his responsiveness to community issues, spoke on upcoming Commissioner Park Reports, and encouraged public to contact Commissioners with concerns via email, phone call, or in person.

**7. Presentation – Summer Programming Review**

Presentation by Senior Center Program Administrator Yvette Aguilar and Recreation

Coordinator Kevin Stoddart.  
Vice Chair Graham thanked staff for presentation.

Commissioner Pederson thanked staff for presentation and asked for Adult Swim times.

Commissioner de Arakal complimented staff on presentation and asked which programs have experienced waitlists.

Discussion ensued on programs experiencing waitlists, increase in capacity levels for some programming, increase in youth population, maintaining staffing levels, skate park expansion, potential for a second aquatic facility in the future, and class activity at Huntington Beach State Park.

Chair Eckles spoke on the increased registration window for Costa Mesa residents and Junior Guard Training.

## **8. Consent Calendar**

a) Instructional Class Proposal

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Pederson. MOTION carries 5-0.**

## **9. Old Business – No Items**

## **10. New Business**

a) Tree Removal Request - 1850 New Jersey Street

Mr. Raja Sethuraman and Mr. Jim Ortiz present report.

Discussion ensued on the number of times the tree drops fruit throughout the year, timeline for sidewalk repair, ADA compliance of current sidewalk, and previous root barrier installation.

## **Public Comments**

1. Denise Lindsay (Tree Removal Applicant), Costa Mesa, spoke on her tree removal request.

Commissioner Mercurio requested to view the fruit droppings brought in by the applicant.

Discussion ensued on the applicant's method of entry into her home, hand held electric blowers, frequency of seed droppings, aesthetics of the tree within the neighborhood, shade that trees provide, replacement of tree with a different

species of tree, whether applicant has a gardener, seed droppings occurring every day, seed location on sidewalk vs. applicant's primary entrance to residence, size of potential replacement tree vs. current tree size, parkway tree at remodel location in same neighborhood, sidewalk issue that is scheduled for repair, and drastic nature of tree removal.

**MOTION made by Chair Eckles to deny tree removal, seconded by Vice Chair Graham. MOTION carries 5-0.**

**b) Tree Removal Request - 2095 Valley Road**

Mr. Raja Sethuraman and Mr. Jim Ortiz present report.

Commissioner de Arakal questions if irrigation and sprinklers were installed by the City.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Ortiz advises they were not installed by the City.

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to deny tree removal, seconded by Commissioner Pederson. MOTION carries 5-0.**

Additional comments made by Commissioner de Arakal to Tree Removal Request - 1850 New Jersey Street applicant Denise Lindsay and advises she can return in one year and to bring neighbors next time.

Commissioner Mercurio advised tree applicant that she agreed with Commissioner de Arakal.

Denise Lindsay responds from the audience. (Indecipherable)

**c) Tree Removal Request - 329 Anderson Lane**

Mr. Raja Sethuraman and Mr. Jim Ortiz present report.

Commissioner Pederson asked if the tree is currently deemed healthy.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Ortiz advises yes.

Discussion ensued on the frequency of pruning for this tree, the 2015 crown reduction on this tree, whether pruning can occur more frequently, the request by neighbors to increase trees along the wall line, and the communication to neighbors before additional trees would be added.

## **Public Comments**

1. Michelle Knox (Tree Removal Applicant), Costa Mesa, spoke on her tree removal request.

Commissioner Pederson advised he did not notice the tree overhanging the applicant's property line.

Discussion ensued on whether the block wall was private property or public property, lack of damage to the wall, distance from the wall to the tree, loss of trees in Costa Mesa within the last year, significance in keeping trees, electric blowers, feasibility of removing particular branches, age of tree, suggestion for applicant to return with neighbors and propose removal and replacement plan, and private property damage issues.

**MOTION made by Chair Eckles to deny tree removal, seconded by Commissioner Pederson. MOTION carries 5-0.**

Additional comments made by Commissioner de Arakal to Tree Removal Request - 329 Anderson Lane applicant Michelle Knox and advises to watch her private property wall for future damage and request could be heard before one-year time guideline if damage occurs.

Michelle Knox (Tree Removal Applicant), returns to speaker podium to ask what else can be done.

Chair Eckles asks tree removal applicant to contact staff for additional options.

Vice Chair Graham asks Maintenance Superintendent Jim Ortiz to review the tree.

Maintenance Superintendent Jim Ortiz advised it would be reviewed.

## **11. Parks Project Manager's Report**

Recreation Manager Justin Martin presents report.

Discussion ensued on the delineation of the vernal pools, a request for a presentation on the delineation of the vernal pools, the trail project on Merrimac, feasibility study and funding, Lions Park/Luke Davis over seeding, mower height, browning grass, requested future review of master plan of Bikeways, requested future review of master plan for Fairview Park, and fencing or securing the back stop at Lions Park.

## **12. Recreation Manager's Report**

Recreation Manager Justin Martin presents report.

Commissioner Pederson inquired about the dates for the nature programs at Fairview Park.

Mr. Martin advises they are: 9/27, 10/8 and four consecutive Saturdays, and 11/5.

Chair Eckles thanked Sergeant at Arms, Chief Sharpnack, all in attendance, and those watching at home.

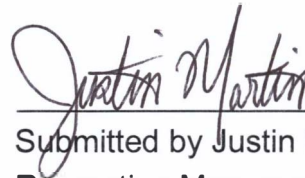
**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Eckles at 7:23 p.m.

**The Next Regular Meeting Of The Parks And Recreation Commission  
is Thursday, October 27, 2016**



Prepared by Samantha Hall  
PRC Secretary



Submitted by Justin Martin  
Recreation Manager