

**CITY OF COSTA MESA  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**April 28, 2004**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., April 28, 2004, at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harris followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Fisler.

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioners Present:

Mark Harris, Chairman  
Byron de Arakal, Vice Chairman  
Mirna Burciaga, Commissioner  
James Fisler, Commissioner  
Wendy Leece, Commissioner

Also Present:

Steven E. Hayman, Administrative Services Director  
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager  
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vice Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Burciaga, and carried 5 to 0 to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2004 meeting as received.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No oral communications.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

No Consent Calendar items.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Old Business items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CIRCLE OF SERVICE  
NOMINATIONS – NORA  
GONZALEZ MAHER AND  
TIMOTHY RICHEY**

Mr. Hayman made the presentation.

Commissioner Burciaga indicated that she had had the honor and pleasure of working and meeting Nora Maher through Save Our Youth (SOY) and “Madres Costa Mesa”. Commissioner Burciaga said she was pleased to see that Mrs. Maher will be honored in this way.

Vice Chair de Arakal indicated that he did not have the opportunity of meeting either one of the nominees, but that he was familiar with the work of SOY. He indicated that a thriving SOY is the greatest testimony to Mrs. Maher’s commitment.

Chairman Harris noted how pleased he is to be part of a Commission

that is recommending these two nominees for induction into the Circle of Service, noting that they were heavily involved with their community.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Vice Chair de Arakal, seconded by Chairman Harris, and carried 5 to 0, to recommend to City Council to approve the induction into the Circle of Service for nominees Nora Gonzalez Maher and Timothy Richey. Circle of Service Ceremony to be held July 23, 2004.

**DONATION OF TWO PARK BENCHES AND MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN FAIRVIEW PARK**

Mr. Hartley made the presentation.

Lori Tolan, 20151 S. New Britain Lane, Huntington Beach, representing the Orange County Model Engineers, asked for the opportunity and privilege of donating two park benches in Fairview Park to honor Mr. Donnelly. She indicated that Mr. Donnelly was a valued member of their club and a great spokesperson who had a passion for Fairview Park. She also noted that Mr. Donnelly and his wife had been residents of this City for a long time. She indicated that the donation of the two benches would not only do justice to his memory, but it would also enhance the park. Ms. Tolan indicated that they would like the benches to be located near the grove of trees just before the train trestle bridge.

Chairman Harris shared that he remembered Mr. Donnelly to be a very passionate member and supporter of the trains and Fairview Park. He noted that Mr. Donnelly was a member of the Fairview Park Friends Advisory Committee and that he was always so upbeat and positive. Chairman Harris indicated he was saddened by Mr. Donnelly's passing away, saying he will miss him.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Chairman Harris, seconded by Vice Chair de Arakal, and carried 5 to 0, to accept the donation of two park benches and a memorial plaque in memory of Robert (Bob) Donnelly to be installed at Fairview Park near the grove of trees just before the train trestle bridge.

**DONATION OF A TREE AND MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN PAULARINO PARK**

Mr. Hartley made the presentation.

Debra Waggoner, no address given, indicated she was one of Mrs. Waggoner's daughters. She said that her mom had lived in Costa Mesa for over 35 years and that she had really enjoyed living and working in this City. She indicated that her family felt that the opportunity to plant a tree in a park that was in their neighborhood would be a good way of honoring Mrs. Beryl "Peggy" Waggoner's memory and very special to their family.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Commissioner Fisler, seconded by Commissioner Leece, and carried 5 to 0, to accept the donation of a tree and memorial plaque to be placed in Paularino Park in memory of Beryl "Peggy" Waggoner.

**REQUEST TO REMOVE CITY TREE – POLICE FACILITY, 99**

Mr. Hartley made the presentation.

## **FAIR DRIVE**

Responding to a question and comments from Chairman Harris, Mr. Hartley indicated that staff has used video camera equipment to determine the extent of the root damage and to determine the conditions of the sewer line. He said that the root intrusion has caused the pipe to move and become out of alignment. He indicated that the line would be good for many more years if the root intrusion is stopped.

Responding to a question from Vice Chair de Arakal, Mr. Hartley indicated that staff is proactively going in and cutting the roots a couple of times a year to prevent blockages, which used to happen four to five times a year.

Responding to comments and questions from Vice Chair de Arakal, Mr. Hartley indicated that staff was hoping that the Police Department construction project would move forward soon, but since it is not, in order to preserve this line, the best course of action is to remove the tree. He noted that this is a significant tree and that staff had hoped to work around it.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Fisler, Mr. Hartley indicated that he couldn't put a monetary value on the tree. He indicated that it is a nuisance tree species in the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, but that to someone else doing a large landscape operation it might be gold. Mr. Hartley said that staff is hesitant to recommend moving it due to not having a place to move it and care for it, as well as the unpredictable chance of success.

Responding to comments and questions from Commissioner Fisler, Mr. Hartley noted that there are other trees rivaling this one in size and mass, but that this is the only one that happens to be right on top of the sewer line causing damage to infrastructure.

Responding to questions and comments from Commissioner Fisler, Mr. Hartley indicated that the replacing trees would be spotted away from that sewer line, and would not be ficus trees or any kind with buttressing spreading root systems.

Commissioner Fisler recommended the replacement tree be bigger than a twenty-four inch box-size.

Responding to a question from Vice Chair de Arakal, Mr. Hartley indicated that the Police Department expansion project goes eastward from the building and on the south side, and that the area out front is not affected.

Vice Chair de Arakal emphasized that whatever tree was picked, to make sure that as it matures it becomes a good shade tree in that area. He noted how unfortunate it is for this tree to have to go, noting that the Police Department is a public safety facility and it needs to function.

## **MOTION**

A motion was made by Vice Chair de Arakal, seconded by Chairman Harris, and carried 5 to 0, to remove one Indian Laurel Fig tree located in front of the City of Costa Mesa Police Facility, 99 Fair Drive, and replace it with three trees (one thirty-six inch box size and two fifteen gallon-size) to be replanted on the site. Staff to make sure that the tree selected to be replanted becomes a good shade tree in that area.

## **EAST 17<sup>TH</sup> STREET LANDSCAPE**

Mr. Hartley made the presentation.

**IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN  
ORANGE AVENUE AND 500'  
EAST OF SANTA ANA  
AVENUE**

Responding to questions and comments from Commissioner Leece, Mr. Hartley indicated that the modifications to the Streetscape and Median Development Standards for East 17<sup>th</sup> Street are to add color and enhance the project.

Mr. Hartley responded to a question from Vice Chair de Arakal regarding Project A on the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement Project, noting that Crape Myrtle trees were chosen due to the narrow width of the medians. He also indicated that all those medians would receive the full plant palette.

Vice Chair de Arakal indicated his interest in knowing if the landscaping project would extend all the way to Raymond Street.

Mr. Hartley responded to questions from Vice Chair de Arakal regarding the accent shrub planting variety.

Vice Chair de Arakal commented that the plant palette looks good and that he is real happy with it.

Mr. Hartley, responding to questions and comments from Chair Harris, indicated that this is a Transportation Department project that is being enhanced with color and some architectural improvements.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Vice Chair de Arakal, seconded by Chairman Harris, and carried 5 to 0, to recommend to the City Council approval of the proposed plant palette for parkways and medians on East 17<sup>th</sup> Street between Orange Avenue and 500' east of Santa Ana Avenue (Attachment 3), and to recommend approval of modifications to the Streetscape and Median Development Standards for East 17<sup>th</sup> Street extending from Newport Boulevard to Irvine Avenue to reflect the new plant palette.

**REVIEW OF PROPOSED  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM**

Mr. Hayman made the presentation.

Chairman Harris noted his appreciation for staff's work on this report saying it is very easy to understand. He indicated that he liked staff being proactive on the priority system of the 7-year CIP.

Responding to comments from Chairman Harris, Mr. Hayman indicated that staff anticipates at least one major development coming into the community over the next several years. He noted that it might be possible that as much as half of the CIP's 12 million dollars would come in terms of park development fees, which will carry us down the road at least in attempting to move these projects forward.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Leece, Mr. Hayman indicated that the City Council's expectations from this Commission are comments as to the priorities of the projects being presented tonight.

Responding to questions and comments from Commissioner Leece, Mr. Hayman indicated that City Council, over recent months, has been having a great deal of discussion relative to prioritization of services and the consideration of new or additional revenue sources. He indicated that there is going to be a great deal of dialogue among the City Council, members of the community, and City Commissions as the Council grapples with the very difficult task of putting together and adopting a budget that is being recommended by the City Manager. Mr. Hayman emphasized that this Commission is welcome to be a participant in this dialogue.

Mr. Hartley, Mr. Hayman, and Mr. Mejia responded to questions from Vice Chair de Arakal regarding park monument signs.

Vice Chair de Arakal indicated that he would like to see the park monument signage project move forward and get wrapped up completely, noting that the Pinkley Park Mobile Recreation Pad Project could be deferred to a later year. He also indicated that the renovation or rebuilding of the Smallwood Park restroom should be a high maintenance priority.

Chairman Harris indicated that he would like to have the Commissioners' individual thoughts forwarded to the City Council. He reiterated that he had no problem accepting the report as presented by staff.

Mr. Hartley and Mr. Hayman responded to a question from Commissioner Burciaga regarding the \$100,000 allocated to the TeWinkle School Parking Lot.

Commissioner Fisler indicated that he appreciated all the detail in the report, noting that capital improvements are his favorite spending since they benefit all the citizens in the City.

Commissioner Leece commented that Red Hill Avenue should be maintained if it is going to take a long time to have it fully improved/repaired.

## **MOTION**

A motion was made by Chairman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Burciaga, and carried 5 to 0, to provide the City Council with input from this Commission concerning: 1) The proposed FY 2004-05 Capital Improvement Program as it relates to Parkway and Median Improvements, Park Maintenance, and Park Improvements, and 2) The proposed 7-year Capital Improvement Program as it pertains to the categories of Community Health and Environment, and Leisure and Community Services.

## **RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hayman indicated that Ms. Ransom and her staff were attending a California Parks and Recreation Society District X function, and briefed the Commission on the following programs: The Ranch After School Program, Spring Camp, Youth Sports Basketball, Adult Sports, CostaMazing, and Neighbors for Neighbors. Mr. Hayman reminded the Commission of the Circle of Service ceremony to be held July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Hayman reported that the registration for Summer Camp Costa Mesa will be held May 1<sup>st</sup>, and the grand opening or planting of the Community Garden at Charle and Hamilton would take place May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Hayman asked the Commission to start thinking about agenda items for their meeting with the City of Newport Beach's Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission to take place the same night of this Commission's regular meeting in the month of June.

## **MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hartley indicated that next month he would be presenting this Commission with some photos of exciting things his crew has done in the past few weeks as well as photos taken in preparation/support

of the Neighbors for Neighbors event. He will also report on improvements made to the Bark Park parking lot.

## **PARKS PROJECTS MANAGERS REPORT**

Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager, reported on the three major parks staff is working on: Fairview Park, TeWinkle Park, and Gisler Park.

Mr. Mejia indicated that staff's priority is to complete the Fairview Plan Master Plan in order to secure grants. He indicated that the master plan for areas A, C and D are complete and that staff is finalizing the working drawings for those areas. He reported that the City is currently negotiating an agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers to develop the Placentia drain into a riparian area. In regards to the multi-purpose trail, Mr. Mejia indicated that it is being reviewed by CALTRANS and would subsequently be submitted to bids. He indicated that the large vernal pool has been completed and staff is currently working with LAX to restore the vernal pools in area F. He indicated that staff has requested proposals from archeologists and geotechnical engineers to analyze the area affected by the Placentia bridge project. He indicated that preliminary plans are scheduled to be presented to this Commission at the June meeting.

Mr. Mejia indicated that the TeWinkle Park Softball projects are scheduled for construction in mid-August.

Mr. Mejia and Mr. Hayman responded to a question from Vice Chair de Arakal in regards to the Gisler slope renovation project. Mr. Hayman confirmed that staff is working on a report to the City Council relative to the alternative uses throughout the community having to do with chain link fences.

## **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Leece reported on her attendance at the Newport-Mesa Unified School District/City of Costa Mesa Joint Liaison Committee meeting held April 22, 2004. She indicated it was a productive meeting where the following issues were discussed: JUA as it pertains to high school properties, the Orange County Performing Arts Center collaboration with local schools, Lindberg School status and neighbors complaints, red light camera proceeds and driver's education support, budget issues, and future meetings.

Commissioner Fisler indicated he had attended a Wild Flower tour in Fairview Park run by the Fairview Park Friends Committee. He encouraged the community to visit Talbert Park, which is now ablaze with California poppies.

Commissioner Burciaga reported on her attendance at the Newport-Mesa Unified School District/City of Costa Mesa Joint Liaison Committee meeting. Commissioner Burciaga said she had also attended a meeting at Estancia High School. She asked staff to clarify if the City's After School Program provides tutoring to participants, since some parents at that meeting were confused about what the School's After School program offers vs. what the City's After School program does. Commissioner Burciaga expressed concerns about the possible sub-leasing of fields by Group 1 field users, and reported that she had attended and worked the Neighbors for Neighbors event.

Chairman Harris indicated he appreciated the Commissioners hard work and thanked staff for making their jobs easier by presenting them with good quality reports.

Vice Chair de Arakal thanked Commissioners Leece and Burciaga for their report on the School District/City Joint Liaison Committee meeting, noting he will have a big problem with what Commissioner Leece reported about the possible taking of the high school fields out of the permitting process for use by the City.

Vice Chair de Arakal reported that the TeWinkle Skate Park Committee would meet next month, noting he is happy about the skate park plan moving forward.

Chairman Harris indicated that he is very thankful for the monthly report from the Park Rangers, noting how valuable this program is not only for the City but for the School District property also.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m. to the Study Session on Wednesday, May 26, 2004 at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 1A, followed by the regular Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Submitted by:

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Steven E. Hayman  
Administrative Services Director