

CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER Chair Anna Vrska called meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

- a. Members Present:** Chair Anna Vrska, Vice Chair Andy Campbell, Larry Courter, Steve Smith, Amy Litton, Evan Rothman, Alternate Terri Fuqua, Alternate Bill McCarty
- b. Members Absent:** Dave Erickson
- c. Liaisons Present:** Council Liaison Arlis Reynolds, OCME Liaison Hank Castignetti
- d. Liaisons Absent:** Parks, Arts and Community Services Commission Chair, Liz McNabb

3. APPROVAL February 13, 2019 Regular Minutes – Vice Chair Andy Campbell motions to approve the minutes as amended, 2nd by Steve Smith; passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Hendricks talks about the importance of the Fairview Park Master Plan and documents associated with Fairview Park.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. WELCOME NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Round-table introductions of new and returning Committee members and staff.

b. SELECT CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR POSITIONS

Cynthia D’Agosta discusses election for chair and vice chair. Chair Anna Vrska nominates Andy Campbell as the new Chair of the committee; Andy Campbell accepts the nomination; 2nd by Steve Smith; passed unanimously. Evan Rothman volunteers for the position of Vice Chair. Larry Courter nominates Evan Rothman for Vice Chair, 2nd by Anna Vrska; unanimously approved.

c. PRESENTATION ON HISTORY AND STATUS OF COMMITTEE AND FAIRVIEW PARK

Cynthia D’Agosta presents on the history of Fairview Park through the decades; states that the Master Plan is currently under review by staff and the committee; says the revisions will remove previously considered passive uses and shift towards preservation and restoration emphasis with a management plan component. Cynthia continues with discussion on previously proposed and implemented recreational uses at the Park; cultural resources; previous and current maintenance and restoration; reviews future master plan revisions. Discussion of the presentation was ensued by the committee.

Larry Courter makes a motion to extend the meeting past 8:00 p.m., 2nd by Chair Andy Campbell; unanimously approved.

Councilmember Reynolds asks what the current subcommittees are, and states the committee should look over the list at the next meeting.

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d. PROVIDE RECOMMENDATION ON THE CONTINUATION OF USE OF THE FLY FIELD BY THE HARBOR SOARING SOCIETY (HSS) AS A COMPATIBLE USE WITH MEASURE AA and IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FVP MASTER PLAN

Item 5d. was moved and discussed after 5a. Cynthia D'Agosta states the committee will provide a recommendation to the City Council in regards to the implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan, impacts of Measure AA on activities, and partnerships within Fairview Park. The committee's recommendation of use and partnership of Harbor Soaring Society will be taken to the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission to later be presented to City Council in June. Cynthia D'Agosta presents on the use of the flying fields in the Master Plan and Measure AA. Discussion of use and partnership with HSS was ensued by the committee. Vice Chair Andy Campbell states that all flyers (HSS and non-HSS users) need to be evaluated on their use at the same time. The topic is opened up for public comment:

Jay Humphrey states that HSS has been good stewards of Fairview Park and that the park rules need to be efficiently enforced for all flyers.

Steve Smith clarifies that many people in the Park do things they are not supposed to be doing and nothing is at the direct fault of HSS.

Kim Hendricks states that Measure AA was written in comparison with the Master Plan and not current uses. She expresses her support for gliders and non-battery operated planes. She says it is important to note that Fairview Park is a nature park with endangered species and species of special concern.

Chris Evans expresses his enjoyment and use he has had from the flying field at Fairview Park.

John Anderson expresses the educational value that the fly field provides for all ages.

Joni Whitsitt promotes the youth participation that is reached through HSS and their participation in the event, Imaginology.

William Vincent expresses his enjoyment for the flying field at Fairview Park.

Don Wittenberg states that the fly field does not have a major impact to the natural habitat.

Henry Smith states that the fly field has a minimal effect on the natural wildlife.

Steven and Jack Ross express the importance of having the fly field open for the younger generations. Steven Ross talks about coexistence between nature and flying.

John Rittenhouse, HSS president, expresses his agreement with taking a year to discuss the HSS agreement rather than make a decision now. He states that HSS wants to be cooperative and collaborative in regards to the renewal of their agreement.

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Jeff Jacobson states he approves working with the committee and City to continue public use of the fly field.

Discussion ensued over the suggested language for the proposed motion in regards to the approval of the HSS agreement, and flying in the Park in general. Chair Anna Vrska motions the following statement: “the Committee recommends a comprehensive evaluation of the value of partnership between HSS and the City, and the compatibility of all flying activity with the Master Plan for Fairview Park and Measure AA, be done by the City Staff, City Attorney, HSS, and the Steering Committee within the next year (June 2019-June 2020)”, 2nd by Larry Courter; passes unanimously.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER and LIAISONS COMMENTS

Larry Courter welcomes the new members and provides background on himself.

Steve Smith welcomes the new members. He states he wants the City to acquire more substantial seasonal fencing and signage. Cynthia D’Agosta states that the City is currently measuring for a more secure temporary fencing.

Bill McCarty welcomes the new members.

Vice Chair Evan Rothman states he is interested in the removal of non-native plants in the Park.

Terry Fuqua states she agrees with Jay Humphrey’s earlier comments and the removal of non-native plants in the Park.

Hank Castignetti provides background on his involvement in Fairview Park beyond his work with Orange County Model Engineering’s (OCME).

Councilmember Reynolds states that the Council has approved priorities that will help shape the upcoming budget, and that these priorities call out supporting the restoration of open space in Costa Mesa’s nature parks. She states that staff needs to work on better public communication around activities going on at the Park; and asks committee members to make a list of illegitimate events and activities in the Park that should be addressed.

Amy Litton talks about her background and asks for more public notices for activities at the Park.

Chair Andy Campbell welcomes the new committee members; states he is not opposed to holding more frequent meeting dates on off months; says that a lot of the black mustard is in the fill sites, so the fill must be evaluated when determining restoration; and states he made a map of the water movement on the east side vernal pools this season.

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7. STAFF COMMENTS

Cynthia D'Agosta states that she and Barry Nerhus recently reviewed the concept a mustard removal plan; comments on using more platforms for communications of Park events; talks about upcoming events at the Park; and talks about a new Trails Watch Program being introduced this summer.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Next Regular Meeting: June 12, 2019 at Costa Mesa City Hall Rm 1A.