

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

May 23, 2013

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

1. Call to Order: Chairman Byron de Arakal

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Abernathy

3. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Dean Abernathy
 Chairman Byron de Arakal
 Commissioner Robert Graham
 Commissioner Donald Harper
 Vice Chair Kim Pederson

Officials Present: Mr. Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
 Mr. Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
 Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
 Mr. Robert E. Knapp, Recreation Manager

4. Approval of the Minutes of the March 27, 2013 meeting

Deferred until the June meeting.

5. Oral Communications

No items.

6. Consent Calendar

No items.

7. Public Hearing

No items.

8. Old Business

8a. Maintenance Costs Associated with the Costa Mesa Bark Park

The report was presented by Mr. Knapp.

Mr. Hartley explained a proposed rest and renovation plan in quarter-acre increments for the CM Bark Park.

Vice Chair Pederson queried if DG was in the plan.

Mr. Hartley indicated the intent is to grow turf.

Commissioner Abernathy asked about the high-use areas (water fountain), perhaps putting in DG.

Mr. Hartley responded that possibly adding more water stations would assist in that high-use area. The intent is not to delandscape.

Commissioner Graham stated the bark park should be created for the dogs use.

Commissioner Harper would like to see users contribute to the cost of the park.

Commissioner Graham indicated that taking the park out-of-service for renovation is a problem.

Commissioner Abernathy suggested that both grass and hardscape would be best.

Public comment was requested by Chairman de Arakal.

1. Ms. Pat Allen, Huntington Beach

Ms. Allen has served the dog park for many years and is opposed to a fee-based park. Ms. Allen suggested a hedge that blocks the park from the freeway and she is opposed to DG.

Chairman de Arakal reiterated that fee-for-use is not on the agenda this evening.

2. Ms. Pat Bell, Irvine

Ms. Bell suggested fencing slats be installed as well as hedges and that would remove the park from view of the freeway. The park is an asset and residents come from all over the county to utilize it.

3. Suzanne Kendall

Ms. Kendall indicated the bark park is appreciated by the users. She strongly urged to reduce costs instead of extending fees to users.

4. Caroline Rubinchik, Newport Beach

Ms. Rubinchik is concerned about removing portable chairs and tables, and to have seating and shade would be appreciated at the location. She suggested the location be a "park-in-the-round" and make it look natural.

5. Samantha Rubinchik, Newport Beach

Ms. Rubinchik suggested pay-for-use would reduce the popularity of the location.

6. Myrna Martin, Costa Mesa

Ms. Martin visits the park every night. She doesn't feel the sight of the dog park from the freeway is an issue.

7. Susan Figueroa, Costa Mesa

Grass around the outside would be a good format and turnover the dirt in the middle.

8. Carol Marshall, Costa Mesa

Ms. Marshall indicated raising licensing fees by \$5 would assist with the cost of the bark park.

9. Chelsea Velardo, Costa Mesa

As a Vanguard student, she likes the view of the dog park from the freeway. Ms. Velardo commented that clear signage needs to be present at the park.

10. Al Melone, Costa Mesa

Mr. Melone indicated that his dogs like to run on the grass and he would like to see more of it at the park. Mr. Melone favors Mr. Hartley's rest and renovation plan.

11. Larry Fisher, Fountain Valley

Mr. Fisher would like to see some dirt remain in the park. He reminded the commission that expenses are involved in making the park a pay-for-use facility.

12. Carolyn Brockard (spelling), Costa Mesa

Ms. Brockard would like to see the bark park remain as is.

13. Susan Bruce (spelling), Costa Mesa

The view from the freeway is not an issue; however, there are resolutions to that. She is not in favor of removing seating.

Chairman de Arakal called for further comments.

14. Shirley McDaniels, Costa Mesa

Ms. McDaniels indicated there are gophers in the bark park and they cause holes that patrons can slip in.

15. Unidentified Costa Mesa resident
The resident is not in favor of a hedge along the fence line.

Chairman de Arakal inquired from Mr. Knapp if any other dog parks do rest and renovation.

Mr. Knapp indicated they are on a city-by-city situation and some cities do the same thing.

Chairman de Arakal indicated that the view of the park is not a top priority. There is consensus by all the speakers that the park should be better maintained and that's the recommendation in the staff report. The LOU stipulates certain responsibilities for the foundation and responsibilities for the city.

Vice Chair Pederson indicated the park is an asset and making it better is a common goal for everyone.

MOTION made by Chairman Byron de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Kim Pederson and carried five to zero, to accept staff's direction with the addition of stated amendments to the Letter of Understanding.

1. **Terms and Conditions; Paragraph B, (3): remove "maintenance and"**
2. **Paragraph F: eliminate.**
3. **Paragraph I: remove "and for other circumstances, when appropriate"**
4. **Paragraph J: eliminate**
5. **Paragraph K: eliminate**
6. **Paragraph M: substitute "as necessary" for "when necessary"**
7. **Paragraph N: eliminate**
8. **Paragraph O: eliminate**
9. **Paragraph P: eliminate**
10. **Paragraph Q: eliminate**
11. **City's Duties and Responsibilities: Paragraph A: accept staff recommendations**
12. **Paragraph D: accept staff recommendations**
13. **Paragraph E: remove "The City shall immediately notify CMBPVF of any changes to the system, when the system is "down" and/or when it is being repaired". *Substitute recommendation was the elimination of Paragraph E.**
14. **Paragraph F: eliminate**
15. **Paragraph G: eliminate**
16. **Paragraph 3: eliminate**
17. **Paragraph 6: accept staff recommendations along with the removal of "if the tables and chairs are negatively affecting turf growth and irrigation"**
18. **Paragraphs 7 – 10: accept staff recommendations**
19. **Paragraph 11: eliminate "without having first been issued a permit from the City. City will confer with Committee prior to the performance of any work by the City crews or by City agents within the park considered to be extraordinary maintenance or alteration. If any renovation operation of the Bark Park, including grading, rototilling, amending soil, and/or modification of irrigation system is planned, CMBPVF shall submit their renovation plan to the Maintenance Services Manager for prior approval"**
20. **Paragraph 12: accept staff recommendations**
21. **Paragraph 13: accept staff recommendations**

Vice Chair Pederson requested the second sentence of Paragraph E (suggested for elimination) be reconsidered.

Chairman de Arakal suggested that the hotline be updated with the status of the park.

Mr. Knapp informed the hotline only takes messages for the foundation as a communication device.

Chairman de Arakal requested elimination of Paragraph E. Chairman de Arakal informed the commissioners and the audience that after this motion was accepted then the commission, staff, the public and the foundation can once again meet to work on a vision of the park.

Substitute MOTION was made by Commissioner Robert Graham to direct staff to provide a revised draft of the Letter of Understanding and bring back a revised draft at the June meeting. The motion died for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Donald Harper would like clarification of what the foundation is to the City with the revise of the LOU.

Chairman de Arakal indicated in order for the city to resume maintenance of the park, the LOU had to be revised. Historically the foundation has raised funds to provide signage, bulletin boards, events, manage the irrigation, etc.

Commissioner Harper suggested that once those things are eliminated from the LOU, what will the foundations role be.

Chairman de Arakal invited Commissioner Graham to introduce a substitute motion due to Commissioner Harper's inquiry.

Chairman Graham declined.

Chairman de Arakal invited comments.

Vice Chair Pederson expressed that the foundation and the public will be partners in deciding what the parks vision will be.

MOTION by Chairman de Arakal; seconded by Vice Chairman Pederson carried 5 to zero, with the above-stated revise to the Letter of Understanding.

9 New Business

9a Contract Instructional Youth and Adult Class Fees

The report was presented by Mr. Knapp.

MOTION made by Commissioner Donald Harper, seconded by Commissioner Robert Graham to accept staff recommendations failed three to two, with Commissioner Dean Abernathy, Vice Chairman Kim Pederson and Chairman Byron de Arakal voting no.

Substitute MOTION was made by Commissioner Robert Graham, seconded by Chairman Byron de Arakal and carried four to one, to reconsider this topic in June with Vice Chairman Kim Pederson voting no.

9b Tree Removal Request – 115 Broadway

The report was presented by Mr. Hartley.

Chairman de Arakal invited the applicant to the podium.

The applicant, Ms. Dark, informed the commission that her business has been affected by the tree blocking the signage. She would like it removed, or replaced by a larger tree or a bush.

Vice Chair Pederson asked Mr. Hartley what percentage of the tree is removed each time it is trimmed.

Mr. Hartley responded between 10 and 15 percent.

Commissioner Graham asked the applicant how long she has been at the location.

Ms. Dark responded she has been there five (5) years and the tree was much smaller upon assuming that location.

Public comment was requested by Chairman de Arakal. There were no public comments received.

MOTION made by Commissioner Dean Abernathy, seconded by Commissioner Robert Graham.

Substitute MOTION by Chairman Byron de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Kim Pederson and carried four to one with Commissioner Harper voting no, to implement staff-provided Alternative #2 to have the tree trimmed annually by the City's tree maintenance contractor at a cost to the Applicant of \$58.00 per year.

9c Tree Removal Request – 3126 Cork Lane

Chairman de Arakal excused the report.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Kim Pederson, seconded by Chairman Byron de Arakal and carried five to zero, to deny removal of one (1) city-owned parkway tree in the public right-of-way at 3126 Cork Lane.

9d Tree Removal Request – 400 Princeton Drive

Chairman de Arakal excused the report.

MOTION made by Commissioner Robert Graham, seconded by Commissioner Dean Abernathy and carried five to zero, to deny removal of one (1) city-owned parkway tree in the public right-of-way at 400 Princeton.

9e Tree Removal Request – 216 Flower Street

Chairman de Arakal excused the report.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Kim Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Robert Graham and carried five to zero, to deny removal of one (1) city-owned parkway tree in the public right-of-way at 216 Flower Street.

9f Athletic Field Use Allocation Policy Recommendations

The report was presented by Mr. Knapp.

Chairman de Arakal invited the commissioners to question staff.

Vice Chair Pederson asked if notification had gone out to the user groups.

Mr. Knapp indicated notifications and emails were sent.

Vice Chair Pederson inquired if they were tasked to review and update the Field Use and Allocation Policy at this meeting.

Mr. Knapp responded the complete review will be a separate, more extensive study. This request was brought to staff to be reviewed specifically prior to the fall allocation period.

Commissioner Harper requested further clarification of the request.

Mr. Knapp responded that the commission has been asked to evaluate whether or not it's appropriate for the city to be providing a location to a group that pays some staff members.

Chairman de Arakal opened it up for public comment.

1. Scott Mahaffy, Commissioner of Newport Mesa Friday Night Lights

Mr. Mahaffy provided historical information on the origination of Friday Night Lights. He stated reasons why Friday Night Lights should not be considered Group 3 user status.

Chairman de Arakal invited the commissioners to question Mr. Mahaffy.

Vice Chair Pederson indicated Mr. Mahaffy suggested District 62 staff is paid, and Vice Chair Pederson questioned Mr. Knapp if this is correct.

Mr. Knapp responded the policy focuses specifically on the local organizations and they are not paid.

Commissioner Graham further asked to question Mr. Mahaffy regarding the size of the Friday Night Lights organization.

Mr. Mahaffy stated they were active in eight (8) Southern California cities with over 14,000 children playing flag football. Mr. Mahaffy is tasked with growing the organization.

Commissioner Graham asked how many people are paid in Friday Night Lights.

Mr. Mahaffy responded they pay for snack bar staff and referees, and then pay is based on the growth of the league.

Commissioner Graham asked if they play during the normal football season.

Mr. Mahaffy reported that they have two (2) seasons; fall and spring. They do not compete with high school football as their league is for youth, K through 8th grade. The children can participate in two (2) sports at once as they have one (1) practice and one (1) game a week.

Commissioner Harper asked for clarification on why Friday Night Lights will become a Group 3 status and AYSO will remain a Group 1 status.

Chairman de Arakal suggested that the language in the allocation policy be changed to read "local organizations that utilize profits" as opposed to "organizations that utilize profits". He further asked Mr. Mahaffy if their local organization within Costa Mesa utilizes profits to pay local executive or board members. As well, if they pay coaches.

Mr. Mahaffy responded there is compensation based upon growth and stability and that fee is \$5 per player for additional growth. He further indicated that they paid five (5) Vanguard students to coach, as volunteers did not step forward.

Mr. Knapp requested stepping back to Commissioner Harper's inquiry. He made the comparison with contract class instructors that are private businesses who work with the city to provide services. They have licenses, pay fees and go through the process via contract.

Commissioner Graham suggested maybe having paid staff is a solution to keep children playing sports.

Commissioner Abernathy referred to the situation as the city providing a shop front for someone who is being paid versus a structure for a volunteer organization. It is a competitive disadvantage for all-volunteer organizations.

Mr. Mahaffy requested to comment that Friday Night Lights does not compete with all-volunteer organizations. He further relayed at some point they may be an all-volunteer system in the future.

He relayed to Mr. Mahaffy that they utilize public property financed and maintained by Costa Mesa, and make money from the use.

Chairman de Arakal reiterated to Mr. Knapp the language of the document needs some clarifying. He suggested working with the City Attorney in this effort.

Commissioner Harper suggested better definition of what we're going to and not going to allow.

Chairman de Arakal inquired with Mr. Knapp when the field allocations begin.

Mr. Knapp responded it has been delayed based not only on this issue, but additional issues brought to staff.

Chairman de Arakal asked if the motion was going to council.

Mr. Knapp indicated it is.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Kim Pederson, seconded by Chairman Byron de Arakal and carried three to two, with Commissioner Graham and Commissioner Harper voting no, to approve the policy with the proposed amendments and direct staff to work with the City Attorney to clarify the language of the document.

9g Review of Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 through 2019-2020

The 2013-2014 CIP report was presented by Mr. Mejia.

Chairman de Arakal invited public comments.

1. Katrina Foley, Costa Mesa

Ms. Foley expressed appreciation for the school district/city's partnership and helping to improve facilities. She encouraged support of Item 54 in the 2013-214 CIP.

2. Frank Alpers, Costa Mesa

Mr. Alpers reiterated Ms. Foley's comments and urged support of Item 54 in the 2013-2014 CIP.

3. Sharon Comber (spelling), Costa Mesa

Ms. Comber is the incoming PTA president and stated her goal in that position is to bring families back to Costa Mesa High School. She also extended her support of Item 54.

4. Jennifer Solano, Costa Mesa

Ms. Solano revealed there is a discrepancy between Estancia High School's field and Costa Mesa High School's field and she shared her support of Item 54.

5. Wally Grant

Mr. Grant is the head football coach at Costa Mesa High School. Mr. Grant suggested a new field will be a showcase in the community.

6. Scott Stevens, Costa Mesa

Mr. Stevens indicated a new track and field would be in alignment with the facilities.

7. Greg Barnett, Costa Mesa

Mr. Barnett suggested endorsing Item 54 of the 2013-2014 CIP.

Vice Chair Pederson thanked the speakers for coming to the meeting and stated the school is a source of pride in the community.

Commissioner Graham questioned the expense of \$3.5 million and how that expense relates to the entire budget.

Mr. Munoz indicated these are prioritized expenses.

Commissioner Graham started discussion about the median project on Adams Avenue, between Santa Ana River and Harbor in regard to the 2013-2014 CIP.

Mr. Munoz explained that it can be added and reminded the commission the CIP is a priority list.

2013-2014 CIP: MOTION made by Commissioner Robert Graham died due to lack of second.

2013-2014 CIP: MOTION made by Chairman Byron de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Dean Abernathy and carried five to zero to approve.

Mr. Mejia presented the 7-Yr CIP report.

Commissioner Abernathy queried how the Streetscape Standards folds into the 7-Yr CIP.

Mr. Munoz responded one (1) of the commission's goals will be to update the Open Space Masterplan and Streetscape Standards. When that occurs, the commission will provide recommendations to those documents. Mr. Munoz further relayed that the Adams Avenue median request can be added to the 7-Yr CIP.

7-YR CIP: MOTION made by Vice Chair Kim Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Dean Abernathy and carried five to zero, to approve with the addition of the previously discussed Adams Avenue median project.

9h Weekend Park Tours

Discussion ensued to resume park tours requesting staff's assistance in ascertaining five (5) zones, publicizing the meetings, and having survey forms.

Mr. Knapp responded staff would provide a divided map of the city for their perusal.

9i Committee Appointments

MOTION made by Chairman Byron de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Kim Pederson and carried five to zero, to appoint Commissioner Dean Abernathy as the commission representative to the Fairview Park Advisory Committee with Commissioner Robert Graham serving as alternate.

MOTION made by Commissioner Dean Abernathy, seconded by Commissioner Harper and carried five to zero, to appoint Chairman Byron de Arakal as committee representative to the City/School District Liaison Committee with Vice Chair Kim Pederson serving as alternate.

10. Recreation Manager's Report

Mr. Knapp provided a PowerPoint presentation on the following:

- City Hall – Turf Renovation
- Costa Mesa Senior Center – New Signage, Floor Project

- Neighborhood and Downtown Recreation Centers – New Landscaping
- Downtown Recreation Center – Plaster Repair in Pool and Maintenance, New Bicycle Racks
- Wakeham Park – Gate Installation, Posting of Municipal Code Signs, Parking Lot Repaving, Renovated Basketball Hoops, Replaced Trashcans
- Smallwood Park – New Park Rules and No Smoking Signs, Replaced Backstop and Fencing at the Softball Park, Restroom (Painting and Fixtures) and Arbor Renovation
- TeWinkle Park Angels Playground - Arbor Repainted
- Estancia Adobe – Removal of Hazardous Pepper Trees; Hydro-Seeded Turf
- Gisler Park – Replaced Concrete
- Victoria Parkway – Turf Installation Project

11. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Abernathy presented a PowerPoint display on smart streetscapes in Orange County. They included drought-tolerant plantings and mindful usage of water.

Commissioner Graham asked that the commission support the firepits remaining at Huntington Beach. Furthermore, he suggested utilizing the Recreation Guide to display tree care information.

Commissioner Harper thanked staff for their hard work and also thanked fellow commissioners for their opinions.

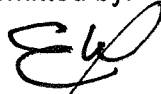
Vice Chair Pederson thanked City Council for the study session they attended. He appreciated resident's attendance at the study session. He also expressed gratitude to Commissioner Abernathy for the PowerPoint presentation.

Chairman de Arakal expressed interest in having Lt Manly provide an information report on Volcom Skatepark and the issues transpiring at that location. Furthermore he asked if Dean Abernathy would take the lead on updating Streetscape Standards and Commissioner Abernathy consented. Chairman de Arakal offered that the Joint Use Agreement needs evaluation, pertinent to maintenance, and invited Vice Chair Pederson to take the lead in that regard. Vice Chair Pederson consented. Chairman de Arakal further went on to speak of various community events and encouraged residents to support those. He closed by thanking staff for their efforts.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **10:57 p.m.** to the next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, July 25, 2013, at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 1A of City Hall, followed by the Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Submitted by:



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director