

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

June 27, 2013

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27, 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: Vice Chairman Pederson

3. Roll Call

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

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Donald Harper

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 and May 23, 2013 meetings

MOTION made by Vice Chair Kim Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Robert Graham and carried four to zero.

Presentation of Landscape/Streetscape Beautification Award
Recipient was not present.

5. Oral Communications

No items.

6. Consent Calendar

No items.

7. Public Hearing

No items.

8. Old Business

No items.

9. New Business

9a. Volcom Skate Park – Costa Mesa Police Department Presentation

The report was presented by Lieutenant Manley.

Chair de Arakal invited the commissioners to propose any questions to Lieutenant Manley.

Vice Chair Pederson asked if anyone has come forth with any solution to the problems at the skate park.

Mr. Knapp indicated there have been conversations with nearby residents, but not in regard to the problems brought forward tonight.

Vice Chair Pederson asked if an age/time breakdown has been discussed in relation to the park.

Mr. Knapp shared that it is not a staffed facility; however, it has been used for contract classes.

Vice Chair Pederson asked about enforcement of safety equipment.

Lieutenant Manley indicated that staff will advise the participants about their lack of equipment. There is no desire to make participants afraid of the police department's arrival, but rather serve as educators to the rules of the skate park.

Vice Chair Pederson asked if there was an increase of outside city participants at the skate park.

Lieutenant Manley reminded that there is no fee for use and there is no city staff present and that seems to be the draw to the location.

Commissioner Abernathy asked if other skate parks have seen a rise in these sorts of problems.

Lieutenant Manley doesn't suspect this to be the case. Other skate parks have supervising staff present.

Commissioner Graham suggested that the commission come to grips with this topic in a formal manner.

Chair de Arakal referred to a chart dated 2008 to 2013. Calls for service dropped off during that timeframe and questioned why the activity is going up and the calls for service are going down.

Lieutenant Manley suggested there could be a few reasons: staff doesn't have the discretion it once did to monitor the skate park; there is an increase in calls for service during the summer. 2013 is on pace to write more citations than ever; reiterating that an educational approach is taken with those at the skate park.

Chair de Arakal questioned how many times in a typical shift park rangers go by the skate park.

Park Ranger Pallo indicated on average two (2) to three (3) times per shift they are able to patrol the skate park.

Chair de Arakal asked if the participants scrambled each time they arrive.

Park Ranger Pallo confirmed that is the case.

Chair de Arakal asked how often citations or arrests are issued for drug use.

Park Ranger Pallo indicated there have been a few drug use concerns where enforcement action was taken. No enforcement actions for alcohol use.

Chair de Arakal inquired if there was a no smoking policy in the park code.

Park Ranger Pallo responded there was.

Chair de Arakal asked Lieutenant Manley if there are repeat offenders.

Lieutenant Manley indicated there are repeat offenders and some are from out of the city. Lieutenant Manley inquired if Officer Rieckhof could share an audio recording he had made from an encounter.

Chair de Arakal welcomed that request.

Officer Rieckhof indicated he provides a reminder if someone is not wearing the proper safety gear. If they are repeat offenders, a citation is issued. Officer Rieckhof provided the incident information that prompted the following audio recording.

The recording was played for the audience.

Commissioner Graham asked if the offender was a Costa Mesa resident.

Officer Rieckhof indicated the offender responded he did reside in Costa Mesa, but ultimately it was learned he was a Huntington Beach resident.

Chair de Arakal suggested the laws/ordinances are very clear on what's required to utilize the skate park. Chair de Arakal asked that the police department provide what they feel would be helpful in enforcing the skate park laws. A high-level meeting will occur to determine what can be done to get control of the park, and he requested a commission report in July or August. Chair de Arakal will meet with Volcom and the skateboarding league to provide education to participants.

Chair de Arakal thanked the police department and park rangers and stated their safety is paramount.

9b Portable Light Units on Harper School Fields

The report was presented by Mr. Knapp.

Chair de Arakal invited speakers to fill out a blue card.

1. Judith Gielow – Costa Mesa

Ms. Gielow asked the commissioners to reconsider the use of lights at Harper School Fields.

2. Allen Olsen – Costa Mesa

Mr. Olsen indicated that the lights have been on until 10 PM at times. The lights shining into his home and the noise are a problem. Perhaps there is a better alternative.

3. Melinda Olson – Costa Mesa

Lights blare into her living room window. Please reconsider lights at the field.

4. Katie Arthur – Costa Mesa

The lights are a problem to the residents. Noise and children are not the problem. Look at larger locations where there are already lights. Last year commissioners promised to come out and observe the lights coming into homes.

5. Virginia Hanley – Costa Mesa

The agreement with AYSO has upset the neighbors surrounding the location.

6. John Hanley – Costa Mesa

Mr. Hanley's home backs to the school grounds. He appreciates the effort in moving them around; however, his home has been impacted by the lights. Mr. Hanley encouraged the commission to look at sites that would better meet the needs.

7. Sue Callabreta – Costa Mesa

During the light process, she went to Harper Park and viewed staff trying to position lights. Because the lights are high they shine onto properties. At sometime the noise level was measured and the results were in violation of Section #13-280 exterior noise standards.

8. Mark Todd – Costa Mesa

Mr. Todd indicated he understands both sides of this issue. He suggested looking into utilizing Lindbergh Field.

9. Julie Woods – Costa Mesa

Ms. Woods came to listen to the topic without specific comments.

10. Brett Woods – Costa Mesa

Mr. Woods suggested to find fields to practice on is a struggle. If practice was at 4:00 PM, coaches would not be available to volunteer.

11. Brett Eckles – Costa Mesa

Mr. Eckles coaches soccer. The region serves approximately 2,350 children, between 4 and 15 years of age. He encouraged support of the proposed use of portable lights at Harper School Fields.

12. Nathan Ebejer – Costa Mesa

Mr. Ebejer urged the commission to renew lights at Harper School Fields. He stated it is the only field on the east side of the community.

13. Harold Weitzberg – Costa Mesa

Mr. Weitzberg suggested the commission find a different solution by meeting with City of Newport Beach staff to solve the issue.

Chair Byron de Arakal invited audience members to fill out blue cards for public comments.

14. Mark Arblaster

Mr. Arblaster represents Newport Mesa Soccer Club and stated his support for the renewal of the lights at Harper School Fields. He suggested a rotation schedule may work.

15. Lucy and Gordon McKnight – Costa Mesa

Ms. McKnight spoke of the lights, the noise and generator odors are making life unbearable for residents. Mr. McKnight commented that a light behind their home is providing "light of day" in their backyard. They urged the commission to not renew the lights at Harper School Fields.

16. Morgan Morgan – Newport Beach

Mr. Morgan is a coach and administrator for the Back Bay Rugby Club. He respects the resident's comments. He is in favor of the field access and lights at night.

17. Sean Patterson – Costa Mesa

Mr. Patterson brought up the fact that Harper Park has been there for a while and progress is part of having the park. He favors lighting the park.

18. Mike Halphide – Newport Beach

Mr. Halphide supports lights at Harper. He indicated it is important for the children to have the opportunity to play sports.

19. Alex Kassouf – Newport Beach

Mr. Kassouf volunteers for AYSO 97 board. Last year they donated the lights and urge support for continued use of the lights.

Chair Byron de Arakal called for further questions from the commissioners to either staff or any speakers.

Commissioner Graham thanked Ms. Gielow for the solution of the property near Ganahl Lumber. He inquired what the timeframe is for the lights.

Mr. Knapp indicated the lights were scheduled from dusk to 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Graham suggested there could be a technical issue with the lights.

Commissioner Abernathy asked if the lights could be redirected.

Mr. Knapp spoke of limitations of what one can do with temporary lights.

Vice Chair Pederson asked if staff had dialog with the school district regarding fields.

Mr. Knapp stated the nature of the ongoing conversations is held between the city liaisons.

Mr. Hanley asked from the audience to speak.

Chair de Arakal apprised Mr. Hanley he could speak after the commission concluded with their inquiries.

Vice Chair Pederson encouraged residents to focus on solution; perhaps call the school district. The district is putting lights in at Costa Mesa High School. If residents observe lights on after 7:30 PM, they are encouraged to call and they will be turned off.

Chair de Arakal invited Mr. Hanley to continue his comments.

Mr. Hanley asked Mr. Knapp if the lights were off at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Knapp indicated they were.

Mr. Hanley informed Mr. Knapp they were not off at 7:30 on many nights.

Chair de Arakal asked Mr. Eckles where AYSO 97 practices.

Mr. Eckles indicated on the east side and a portion of west Newport Beach. Mariners and Bob Henry without lights.

Chair de Arakal asked why they're not lit.

Mr. Eckles indicated probably for the same reason as Costa Mesa. Harper can fit four (4) to six (6) teams at one time. At Bob Henry it is dominated by baseball.

Chair de Arakal inquired if lights were permitted at Mariners.

Mr. Eckles responded lights at Mariners are not currently permitted.

Chair de Arakal asked if there were lights at Monte Vista, Woodland, Lindbergh, Ensign.

Mr. Eckles indicated there were not and Ensign is not a full-size field.

Chair de Arakal inquired what was done at locations that do not have lights.

Mr. Eckles suggested it was all done by scheduling and practices that don't happen.

Chair de Arakal asked what is the Costa Mesa/Newport Beach breakdown.

Mr. Eckles indicated slightly more than 51 percent are from Costa Mesa.

Chair de Byron asked if they ever used Whittier.

Mr. Eckles responded they have not.

Vice Chair Pederson asked Mr. Eckles if the younger children are at Harper.

Mr. Eckles indicated that was the case and 8 to 9 year olds is the largest division.

Commissioner Graham inquired what if practices or games occur at Harper; weekend use at Harper and what time practice ends.

Mr. Eckles stated it was practice, Monday through Thursday. With games on Saturdays. The lights are off at 7:30, and practice ends shortly after 7:00 PM. Mr. Eckles indicated neighbors should not be impacted after 7:30 PM.

Chair de Arakal asked Mr. Knapp what the alternatives would be if the agreement was not renewed.

Mr. Knapp clarified that Whittier is allocated to another Costa Mesa-based soccer organization with 100 percent Costa Mesa participants. At this time there is no selected site as an alternative. Harper School Fields is the only lit facility on the east side of Costa Mesa. .

Chair de Arakal questioned what unlit fields on the east side could be lit.

Mr. Knapp responded he would need to review the other sites.

Commissioner Abernathy indicated that the technical end of the lights seems to be the issue.

Chair de Arakal indicated that Kaiser had previously been lit. Chair de Arakal invited commissioners to ask questions.

Chair de Arakal provided his business cards to the audience and offered to come to their homes to view how they're impacted by the lights. A request was made for staff to reach out to the Newport Beach recreation department and the Newport Beach Parks Chair to arrange a meeting regarding this issue. A rotational system needs to be reviewed, as well as blankets for the lights to assist with the noise level. The Field Use and Allocation Policy needs to be revisited and look at the possibility of utilizing Kaiser.

Vice Chair Pederson offered to come to resident's homes as well.

MOTION made by Chair Byron de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Kim Pederson and carried four to zero to approve the use of six (6) portable lights at Harper School Fields

for one (1) year, with exploration of cost of insulation blankets for the units, possibly reconfiguring the lights and ensure the lights are off at 7:30 PM.

9c Renewal of License Agreement with the Orange County Model Engineers for the Use of a Portion of Fairview Park

The report was presented by Mr. Mejia.

Public comment was requested by Chair de Arakal.

1. Mr. Bob Brooks – Long Beach

Mr. Brooks PowerPoint presentation provided information in regard to the events, volunteerism and community outreach the Orange County Model Engineer organization provides at Fairview Park and throughout the community.

2. Richard Mehren – Costa Mesa

Mr. Mehren urged an extension of the lease.

3. Dixon Sheldon

Mr. Sheldon is VP of Operations for Orange County Model Engineers. The organization provides education to the community and they are grateful for the years they've been permitted at Fairview Park.

4. Terry Cummings – Costa Mesa

Mr. Cummings stated some of the unique events held at the facility and discussed the service they provide to the community.

5. Joe Hayes – Torrance

Mr. Hayes voiced support for OCME's agreement with the City of Costa Mesa.

6. Carol Sheldon – Diamond Bar

Ms. Sheldon spoke of various events hosted by OCME.

7. Nathan Ebejer – Costa Mesa

Mr. Ebejer spoke from a resident's viewpoint and expressed support for the agreement with OCME.

8. Anthony (inaudible) - Anaheim

He is a member of OCME and his friends enjoy birthday parties at the location.

Chair de Arakal invited commissioners to ask questions of speakers and/or staff.

Vice Chair Pederson inquired if OCME has a seat on the Fairview Park Citizens Review Committee.

Mr. Mejia indicated there is a member.

Chair de Arakal asked Mr. Brooks to appear at the podium and questioned birthday party arrangements.

Mr. Brooks indicated individuals can arrange a private birthday party and OCME will provide the train and the donations are accepted. Several times a year people will come to the facility on run weekends for birthday parties, and they accept donations.

Chair de Arakal questioned how the schedule of a once a month run weekend.

Mr. Brooks indicated getting a group to conduct a run weekend more often would need additional people to do maintenance at the site.

Chair de Arakal queried Mr. Mejia how many acres are occupied by the train.

Mr. Mejia indicated approximately 22 acres.

Chair de Arakal asked how many total acres are on the entire eastern portion of Fairview Park.

Mr. Mejia can get that information from Mr. Staples. The area that is south of Fairview Channel and between Placentia Avenue and the golf course, which is occupied by OCME, is approximately 41 acres.

Mr. Staples indicated from the audience there are approximately 45 acres total.

Vice Chair Pederson asked Mr. Mejia if there have been any discussion to perform any changes with the existing track area.

Mr. Mejia indicated when the OCME proposes to make changes, they request from the city to do so. It is required if they request an expansion or modification that they acquire permission beforehand.

Commissioner Graham indicated the facility is unique and he is happy it is in Costa Mesa.

Chair de Arakal stated he is happy that the train facility is a brand in Costa Mesa. The Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee is currently looking at community needs in Fairview Park. He suggested a new agreement is necessary as the current one is outdated.

Vice Chair Pederson spoke about the advisory committee and the work they are tasked with. He suggested extending the agreement for a year and let the advisory committee come with recommendations.

Commissioner Abernathy shared appreciation to those who spoke and agreed with the previous comments.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy, and carried four to zero to extend Orange County Model Engineers License Agreement for Use of a Portion of Fairview Park through December 31, 2014, with possible renegotiation commencing upon Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee completion of their plan.

9d Tree Removal Request – 1953 Pelican Place

Commissioner Graham requested to be recused from this agenda item.

Chair de Arakal honored his request.

Mr. Hartley provided the report.

Chair de Arakal called for comments.

1. Trena Tuppan – Costa Mesa

Ms. Tuppan is the Applicant and spoke about sewage problems due to the tree. The tree had been scheduled to be removed, and it was abruptly halted. She urged the commission to approve removal of the tree.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried three to zero to approve the request for the removal of one (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 1953 Pelican Place. Commissioner Graham recused himself.

9e Tree Removal Request – 789-795 Paularino

The report was presented by Mr. Hartley.

Chair de Arakal called for comments.

1. Greg Ocasek, RSI Development

Applicant Mr. Ocasek indicated they (RSI Development) were in agreement with the report recommendation.

Chair de Arakal called for additional public comments.

No additional comments were offered.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy, carried four to zero to approve the request for the removal of one (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 795 Paularino Avenue with the provided conditions.

9f Tree Removal Request – 216 Flower Street

The report was presented by Mr. Hartley.

Chair de Arakal opened up questions to the commissioners. None said, Chair de Arakal asked Mr. Hartley about the root trimming process.

Mr. Hartley indicated that after it is assessed and determined it will be safe, the roots are cut. It is then trimmed on a regular rotation basis unless there is a concern.

Chair de Arakal asked when the tree was last pruned.

Mr. Hartley stated November 8, 2011, is the last time it was trimmed. The canopy is not overly dense and it was determined to be a safe situation.

Chair de Arakal called for public comments.

No comments were provided.

Chair de Arakal called for questions from the commissioners.

Commissioner Graham spoke of the beauty of the street/trees.

Chair de Arakal called for comments or a motion from the commissioners.

MOTION made by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy, carried four to zero to deny the request for the removal of one (1) City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 216 Flower Street.

9g Tree Removal Request – 400 Princeton

The report was presented by Mr. Hartley.

Chair de Arakal called for comments by the commission.

Commissioner Abernathy inquired how many liquid ambers are in the city.

Mr. Hartley stated more than 1,000. The decision to put large trees back into small parkways does not occur in the city.

Commissioner Graham suggested the tree has an effect on the street.

Chair de Arakal requested applicant comments.

1. Shawn Scott – Costa Mesa

Mr. Scott is the Applicant and he obtained a video of where the sewer line comes in; however, did not have it available. He has still photos of the roots going into the sewer line, which is 4' from the tree. The yard and parkway would look best without those roots. He doesn't want a new sewer line put in with those roots remaining.

Chair de Arakal asked for the evidence of the roots invading the sewer.

Mr. Scott provided a photo of where the plumber marked the sidewalk. The first photo depicted where the lateral is coming out and where they had to grind. A photo was provided of a sizeable crack in the blacktop (street) and the Applicant wondered if it wasn't generated from the tree.

Chair de Arakal called for questions from the commissioners.

Vice Chair Pederson asked if Mr. Scott wanted to have the tree replaced.

Mr. Scott indicated he was interested in that.

Chair de Arakal asked for public comments.

2. Mr. Nathan Ebejer – Costa Mesa

Mr. Ebejer endorsed the applicants appeal. He spoke highly of the tree species (liquid amber).

Chair de Arakal invited commissioners to ask questions of Mr. Hartley. Chair de Arakal asked if this was the street tree.

Mr. Hartley indicated that is correct.

Chair de Arakal is inclined to grant a Category 3 discretionary removal. The roots do make it hard to maintain the parkway.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried four to zero to approve as a Category 3 discretionary removal with the condition if the Applicant meets the criteria to deem it a Category 1 removal, then Staff is authorized to remove the tree at City expense. If not determined a Category 1, the removal will remain a Category 3 with the standard 3:1 tree replacement required and all removal/replanting costs to be paid by the Applicant.

9h Tree Removal Request – 3126 Cork Lane

Mr. Hartley presented the report.

Chair de Arakal called for questions from the commissioners.

Chair de Arakal went by the home and noted that at the stub of the corner there is a significant rise from the curb to the sidewalk.

Mr. Hartley indicated there is a lift in the street due to the tree.

Chair de Arakal called for Applicant comments.

1. Shaun Stellman – Costa Mesa

Mr. Stellman indicated for safety and stability of the structures in and around the tree is the reason he is appealing the recommendation. The roots make it difficult to irrigate. Other than one (1) sewer problem, he has had no others. Power lines are going through the tree. Photos were provided of his driveway, sidewalk and roots surfacing.

Chair de Arakal asked commissioners if they had any questions from the Applicant.

Chair de Arakal noted the tree was last trimmed in January of last year.

Mr. Hartley indicated that they do a 10 to 15 percent trimming of foliage.

Chair de Arakal inquired of a timeframe for street rehabilitation on Cork Street.

Mr. Munoz indicated Cork Street will need some light rehabilitation within two (2) to three (3) years.

Chair de Arakal called for comments from the commissioners.

Vice Chair Pederson suggested the damage from the trees doesn't appear to be a Category 1 or Category 2, according to guidelines.

Commissioner Graham observed there is a vacancy of trees in that neighborhood. The trees provide shade and attractiveness to the neighborhood.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Graham, carried four to zero to deny the request for the removal of three (3) City-owned parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at 3126 Cork Lane with a one (1) year option to revisit the request.

9i **Park Tours**

Presentation by Mr. Knapp. The parks have been zoned and each commissioner has seven (7) to eight (8) parks. Chair de Arakal would be the roving commissioner. Commissioner Harper will have Zone 1 (Mesa Verde area); Commissioner Pederson will have Zone 2; Zone 3 was assigned to Commissioner Graham (predominantly the east side); and Zone 4 was assigned to Commissioner Abernathy (predominantly the west side including Fairview Park).

Mr. Knapp indicated that Harper Park is a small segment of Harper School.

Chair de Arakal inquired if all commissioners were comfortable with their zones. All concurred. Chair de Arakal indicated he would be the at-large individual, who will attend various tours. He asked if staff would work with each commissioner to create a schedule for tours, and notification to residents. Upon doing so, Chair de Arakal will be provided this information so he can establish his attendance.

Commissioner Abernathy has experience with park tours and indicated that notification to residents is important.

Mr. Knapp indicated communication will be through various methods.

Chair de Arakal wants to get a sense of what residents like about their parks and engage with the commissioners during the meetings to provide input from neighbors. He would like to explore homeowner's associations, neighborhood watch groups, realtors, etc. so they can formally be notified.

Commissioner Abernathy indicated that a realtor explained there is a social networking tool that might be of assistance. Commissioner Abernathy will provide information on that.

Vice Chair Pederson suggested signs at the parks indicating when the commissioners would be present.

Commissioner Graham queried what contact telephone number would be used.

Mr. Knapp indicated staff would work out a communication system.

10. Parks Project Manager's Report

Mr. Mejia provided updates on the following projects:

- Multipurpose Trail – Fairview Park
- Storm Drain System – Fairview Park
- Design of Boardwalk Across Wetlands Project
- Brentwood Park
- Smallwood Park
- Harbor Blvd. Beautification Project
- Harbor Blvd. Bike Trail Improvements
- Fairview Park Bike Trail
- Design of Improvements at Lion Park

11. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Abernathy encouraged attendance of 60th Anniversary event and Concerts in the Park.

Commissioner Graham thanked the staff and commissioners. Attention was given to a program through the Costa Mesa Sanitary District providing financial assistance to homeowners with sewer lateral expenses. Encouragement was given to utilizing the Recreation Guide to provide information to residents regarding trees.

Chair de Arakal thanked Commissioner Graham for his passion of trees in the city. Also suggested was that Chair de Arakal and Commissioner Graham meet with Bill Lobdell about adding information to the city website.

Vice Chair Pederson thanked Mr. Munoz and Mr. Mejia for the Fairview Park Saturday tour.

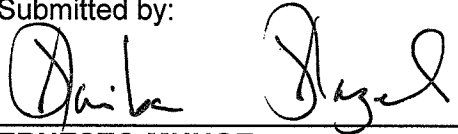
Chair de Arakal encouraged attendance to the 60th Anniversary celebration.

Mr. Munoz shared that \$100,000 was approved for tree planting. Also, the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee is gathering and their next meeting will be July 17, 2013.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **10:35 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:



FOR: **ERNESTO MUNOZ**
Public Services Director