

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
FAIRVIEW PARK CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

July 17, 2013

These meetings minutes represent an "action minute" format. A copy of the meeting audio tape can be obtained at the Public Services Department front counter located on the 4th floor of the Costa Mesa City Hall.

The Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2013, in the Conference Room 1a at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

- 1. Call to Order: Chairman Mehren**
- 2. Roll Call**

Voting Members Present:

- Chairman Richard Mehren
- Vice Chairman Steve Smith
- Member Ron Amburgey
- Member Terry Cummings
- Member Brett Eckles
- Member Dennis Popp
- Member Lee Ramos
- Member David Stiller
- Member Anna Vrska

Officials Present:

- Mayor Pro Tem Stephen Mensinger, City Council Liaison
- Council Member Sandra Genis, Alternate City Council Liaison
- Commissioner Dean Abernathy, Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison
- Ms. Brenda Green, City Clerk
- Ms. Fariba Fazeli, Interim City Engineer
- Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
- Ms. Alfa Lopez, Management Analyst
- Ms. Denise Cedillos, Administrative Secretary

3. Presentations

Public Meetings – Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Applicable Laws

Ms. Green presented this report. She advised that members do not utilize the 'reply all' feature when responding to e-mails. She also indicated that it is okay to attend other public meetings and events provided that they do not discuss any items that may come before them and, if possible, do not sit together.

Member Vrska asked if every communication related to the issue at hand is public. Ms. Green responded if members receive communications from the public, they should inform them that it will be forwarded to the Committee secretary to be included in the agenda packet.

Chairman Mehren thanked Ms. Green.

4a. Public Comment

Public Comment was requested by Chairman Mehren.

1. Gordon Bowley
Costa Mesa

Mr. Bowley is associated with Costa Mesa United. He suggested inviting three (3) interested parties to discuss the current needs of the community: the Upper/Lower Bird Streets; Orange County Model Engineers (OCME); and Youth Sports.

2. Bryan Burnett
Costa Mesa

Mr. Burnett indicated options he would like to see going forward: have the park remain the same or make it a better nature park.

3. Colin McCarthy
Costa Mesa

Mr. McCarthy was on the Friends of Fairview Park Committee. He suggests reaching out to different interest groups. He would be happy to arrange a meeting with members of the Tanager neighborhood.

4. Steve Pope
Costa Mesa

Mr. Pope stated he was expressing the views of a lot of residents that were not able to attend. Fairview Park should be left as is. The real focus

is not necessarily to do something but to act as custodians and preserve what we have.

5. John Rittenhouse

Mr. Rittenhouse urged the stop of development in Fairview Park and to keep it as a place for renewal, with a unique character, and a legacy for the future.

6. Harold Weitzberg
Costa Mesa

Mr. Weitzberg expressed Fairview Park may need infrastructure support but activity needs to be impacted as minimally as possible.

7. Holly Richards
Costa Mesa

Ms. Richards is a teacher and shared that current research in terms of health and education shows that students who have access to nature learn better.

8. Danielle
Costa Mesa

She would like Fairview Park to remain a nature preserve and not include concrete pathways or lighting for a dawn-to-dusk park.

9. Erica Norgard
Costa Mesa

Ms. Norgard expressed her daughter attends Waldorf School and uses Fairview Park daily. She hopes there is an option for non-development.

10. Maggie Ureno
Huntington Beach

Ms. Ureno stated the train rides offered by the Orange County Model Engineers has a lot to offer kids including history, physics, geology, engineering, and obeying directions. The activity is unique to the area, attracts people Countywide, and is a gift to the growing autistic community.

11. Lisa Manfredi
Costa Mesa

Ms. Manfredi shared she would like to see Fairview Park left the way it is or possibly with some restored habitats that can be rejuvenated in the area.

4b. Correspondence received from the public

Committee members and officials were provided copies of correspondence received to read at their pleasure. Copies were also made available to members of the public.

5. Approval of Minutes

Member Stiller requested Chairman Mehren's comments regarding concerns about the future of the Harbor Soaring Society and Orange County Model Engineers in the park be added for context.

MOTION made by Chairman Mehren, seconded by Member Stiller, and carried nine to zero to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2013 Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee with the following directives:

1. Direct staff to amend the minutes to include Chairman Mehren's comments on the two (2) user groups.

6. Old Business

No items

7a. Committee Work Plan

Mr. Mejia provided a PowerPoint presentation on this item.

Staff compiled a work plan for the Committee's consideration which divides Fairview Park into four (4) quadrants separated by geographical features to be able to review the Master Plan in more detail. The work plan is divided into specific objectives with tentative schedules and dates. The first activity was to develop a list of proposed changes to the Master Plan. Second, that statistical figures be provided as a tool when making recommendations. Once the committee has reviewed the Master Plan it will be equipped to analyze in detail the list of proposed changes and their feasibility.

Member Vrska expressed concern about the precedent of the Work Plan and staff setting the agenda. She stated she would prefer the mission language to state "evaluate the Master Plan according to community needs and make modifications where necessary". She requested corresponding page numbers for each of the quadrants of the park so they know what they are reviewing and to get the reports on those park quadrants ahead of time.

Member Eckles stated the Work Plan is an organizational structure giving a timeline with which the committee can go forward and direct any further discussion. Member Cummings expressed the spreadsheet shows the framework and discipline which will help the committee stay focused and lead to further progress. Member Ramos agreed it is a beginning.

Council Member Genis requested clarification that each of the meetings on the quadrants is intended to be information gathering and looking at opportunities and constraints as opposed to making any decisions. Chairman Mehren agreed that is the intent. Mayor Pro Tem Mensinger requested clarification. Mr. Mejia confirmed the first series of meetings is informational only.

MOTION made by Member Eckles, seconded by Member Amburgey, and carried nine to zero, to approve the work plan as presented by staff.

7b. List of Proposed Changes to the Master Plan

Committee members held a roundtable discussion in which they presented their ideas for Fairview Park and the Master Plan. The list is attached at the end of these minutes (Attachment 1) and will be posted as a separate document on the City's website for easy reference.

7c. Review Statistical Figures for Park Land and Open Space

Mr. Mejia provided a PowerPoint presentation on this report utilizing U.S. Census Bureau information and the Open Space Master Plan. Council Member Genis queried the year of the master plan. Mr. Mejia replied it was approved by City Council in 2003.

Vice Chairman Smith queried if the perspective needs [Open Space Master Plan] were based on population growth. Mr. Mejia confirmed that it is based on population growth.

Member Vrska inquired as to who did the study and when. Mr. Mejia responded that it was done by a consultant in 2003. The consultant conducted extensive public outreach and included a number of public workshops.

Member Amburgey asked if the projected need was based on the usage of the school facilities as we have right now. Mr. Mejia answered the Open Space Master Plan took into account all the open space in the City including the use of school sites.

Council Member Genis suggested providing the members of the Committee the Open Space Master Plan. Mr. Mejia stated it will be provided both in electronic format and hard copies. Member Vrska asked what the number and types of fields are at the schools; Mr. Mejia responded that the Open Space Master Plan document includes this information.

7d. Review Master Plan – Northwest Quadrant

Mr. Mejia and Barry Nerhus, biologist, provided a PowerPoint presentation on this report.

Mr. Nerhus has been involved with the project since 2009 as a consultant for the planting of the habitat communities for the Wetlands and Riparian Habitat project. He reported that about 90% of riparian habitats in California have been lost. Currently, various avian species started nesting at Fairview Park, including the male Northern Harrier and the Red-winged Blackbird.

Mr. Nerhus explained how the new wetlands work and indicated that the wetlands vegetation will break down organic matter, even pollutants such as oil. It has the ability to sequester heavy metals and is very effective in purifying water naturally. The grasslands have significantly grown in the past year alone and hopefully can expand to keep non-native vegetation out and continue naturally for years to come.

Vice Chairman Smith commended staff on a job well done. Member Amburgey inquired regarding the process of capturing the water. Mr. Mejia responded the County of Orange constructed a dam system in the Greenville-Banning Channel that separates fresh water from sea water. The freshwater that is collected is then pumped, originally to the Sanitation District for treatment, but now is being diverted to the ponds in Fairview Park. The new wetlands have been taking 100% of the water being pumped and will continue to do so until all the ponds are filled. Native plants are thriving and we anticipate them to be self sufficient in about five (5) years.

Member Cummings queried if the water is usable for irrigation. Mr. Mejia responded that it could be used for irrigation; however, once the plants are fully established, irrigation will not be needed.

The City Council approved funding for the design of a boardwalk over and across the Wetlands and Riparian Habitat project that will allow park users to get close to the newly restored habitat.

8. Committee Member Reports

Committee member reports were requested by Chairman Mehren.

Member Vrska stated she will be out of town for the next meeting and proposed a date change; Member Cummings shared he also has a conflict with the next meeting date; discussion ensued. Chairman Mehren stated the meeting date will remain the same as long as a quorum is available.

Mayor Pro Tem Mensinger suggested the committee consider the request made by Mr. Bowley on inviting interested parties to present. Member Eckles suggested that the groups be notified once the committee reaches the relevant quadrant. Mr. Mejia shared the Work Plan includes some of the user groups which can be expanded to a few more.

No further reports were heard.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. to the next regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room 1A of City Hall.

Submitted by:



ERNESTO MUNOZ
Public Services Director

ATTACHMENT 1

Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee List of Proposed Changes to the Master Plan July 17, 2013

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional picnic structures SW and NW Quadrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eroding bluffs: install staircase SW Quadrant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dry land wildlife viewing area NE and SE Quadrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install information kiosks with pamphlets NW and SW Quadrants
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Baseball/Softball Facilities SE or SW Quadrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trail exercise stations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recreate Heritage/Native American Village SE Quadrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve Placentia Ave. with cable and post delineation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand train routes NW or SW Quadrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roller hockey surface
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve information kiosk SW Quadrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expand OCME tracks across bridge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vernal Pools preservation with cables, signage, and delineation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve/designate bike paths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve handicap access NW Quadrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant native/drought resistant plants Center of SW Quadrant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Soccer/Football fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lawn bowling/Bocce ball NE Quadrant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest of Redwood trees NW Quadrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concrete path from NW traffic signal to SE traffic signal at Estancia HS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multi-use athletic fields SE/NE Quadrants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dog park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keep Master Plan as-is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expanded concert area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Install a two-tier building that includes an interpretive center and terrace/viewing deck 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skate park
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reconfigure train tracks to outside SE Quadrant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Build train track around SW quadrant SW Quadrant
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community garden NW Quadrant (in unused portion) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nature Center – Bird watching platforms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Westside grass area/sprinkler system improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archery area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basketball/Handball courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marked running courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCME track expansions/improvements SW Quadrant 	