

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

May 22, 2014

These meeting minutes represent an “action minute” format with a concise summary of the meeting. A video of the meeting may be viewed on the City’s website at www.costamesaca.gov or purchased on DVD upon request.

1. Call to Order: Chair de Arakal

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chair Pederson

3. Roll Call

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

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Donald Harper

Officials Present: Ms. Tamara Letourneau, Asst. Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Brenda Green, City Clerk
Ms. Penny Loomer, Interim Recreation Manager
Mr. Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Ms. Lisa McPherson, Recreation Supervisor
Mr. Raja Sethuraman, Manager, Transportation Services

4. Parks and Recreation Commission Reorganization

a) Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

**NOMINATION made by Commissioner Pederson for Commissioner de Arakal as Chairman;
seconded by Commissioner Graham,**

**MOTION made by Commission Graham to appoint Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by
Commissioner Pederson, carried four to zero.**

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham
Notes: none
Absent: Harper
Abstained: none

**NOMINATION made by Commissioner Abernathy for Commissioner Pederson as Vice Chairman;
seconded by Commissioner Graham.**

**With no other nominations, Chair de Arakal CALLED FOR QUESTION,
MOTION carried four to zero.**

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham

Notes: none

Absent: Harper

Abstained: none

Chair de Arakal and Vice Chair Pederson assumed their newly-appointed positions.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the March 27, 2014, Meeting and April 24, 2014 Meeting

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy, carried four to zero, to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2014 and April 24, 2014 Meetings.

The question carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham

Notes: none

Absent: Harper

Abstained: none

6. Oral Communications:

1. Rocky Evans, Costa Mesa Resident
Would like longer hours at the Volcom Skate Park and minimal safety equipment enforcement.
2. Al Melone, Costa Mesa Resident
Bark Park – Land allocation for large vs. small dogs. Would like to see small dog area increased

Chair de Arakal agreed with Mr. Melone that small dog area needs to be bigger, asked Mr. Hartley to comment about any proposed plans.

Mr. Hartley said there is about \$60K in upcoming budget for park improvement and 'muttnance'.

Chair de Arakal promised to keep pushing for space reallocation.

7. Consent Calendar: None

8. Public Hearing: None

9. Old Business

a. Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy recommendations

Ms. McPherson presented the staff report.

Public Comments: None

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Pederson, carried four to zero, to recommend to City Council that all staff changes are approved regarding the Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy Recommendations, with the following additions:

- 1) Add approved portable lights locations to the Portable Lights Policy.**
- 2) Recommend the following locations; Back Bay, Kaiser School, Lindberg, and Woodland School be added to the Portable Lights Policy.**

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham

Notes: none

Absent: Harper

Abstained:none

10. New Business

a. Tree Removal Request - 2550 Fordham Drive

Mr. Hartley presented the staff report.

Public Comments:

1. Barry Freund, Applicant

Described the most serious damage to areas where children play and expressed his desire to re-landscape. Stated he is a landscape contractor.

2. Toward Lee, Resident

Expressed concern over danger, especially to senior citizens, having the sidewalk raised due to tree roots.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried four to zero for the removal of two (2) City-owned trees from 2550 Fordham Drive, per the Streetscape and Meridian Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of each tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree to be planted at the same address and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs. The trees must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

The motion carried/denied by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham

Notes: none

Absent: Harper

Abstained: none

b. Tree Removal Request - 2721 Cardinal Drive

Mr. Hartley presented the staff report.

Public Comments:

1. Jeanne Miller, Applicant

Told commission how financially unmaintainable the tree has gotten. It is an unusually large specimen, much larger in circumference than others on the street. They have to clean out the lateral lines 4 times a year. Financial hardship.

Vice Chair Pederson said he would like to see a program implemented that would help homeowners pay plumbing maintenance in order to help keep trees.

Commissioner Graham suggested it would be nice to have the water district help homeowners with the cost of having pipes replaced.

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Chair de Arakal, carried four to zero for the removal of one (1) City-owned tree from 2550 Fordham Drive, per the Streetscape and Meridian Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of each tree with one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree to be planted at the same

address and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted elsewhere on City property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs. The tree must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

The motion carried/denied by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham

Notes: none

Absent: Harper

Abstained: none

c. Tree Removal Request - 1164 Bismark Way

Pulled from agenda at staff request, held over until June.

d. Request To Place A Granite Dedication Stone At The Estancia Park Diego Sepulveda Adobe

Ms. McPherson presented the staff report.

Public Comments:

Bob Palavvola

Asked what day installation would be. (11-15-14)

Chair de Arakal thanked the Native Sons of the Golden West for the nice donation.

MOTION made by Commissioner Abernathy, seconded by Commissioner Graham, carried four to zero, to approve the Historical Society Board's request to place a granite dedication stone at the Estancia Park Sepulveda Adobe.

The motion carried/denied by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham

Notes: none

Absent: Harper

Abstained: none

e. Review of Proposed CIP for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 through 2020-2021

Mr. Mejia presented the staff report.

Commissioner Graham would like to discuss items 44,45,46,50

Commissioner Abernathy would like to discuss items 9, 19

Commissioner Graham showed PowerPoint Presentation in support of items 44,45,46,50

#44 – Fairview Park - Bluff Stairs South - Graham supports approval of 300K, due to the success of the bluff stairs on the north end of park. If not entire amount, at least 35K for engineering, then they can look at applying for a grant.

#45 – Fairview Park – West Bluff Repair – Commissioner Graham presented PowerPoint showing erosion. Supports approval and would like \$50K to do Emergency Repair work to fix immediate dangers.

#46 – Fairview Park CA – ORA – 58 Fill Removal, Cap and Restore Native Habitat – Commissioner Graham supports 50K to get design started in order to get water situation under control.

#50 – Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat, Phase III – Graham says there is only one bench and people need a place to sit down! He supports approval of \$30K for purchase of inexpensive benches.

#9 – Victoria Street Landscape Renovation – Commissioner Abernathy and Chair de Arakal would like to see water efficient, draught tolerant plants used for any new median projects. Commissioner Abernathy requested a status update.

Commissioner Graham supports taking 175K from item #48, which had been dropped from this year's CIP, to fund items #44, 45, 46, and 50K

#39 – Balearic Center Land Acquisition Services and #40 – Balearic Center Lighting Feasibility Funding – Chair de Arakal doesn't think we should spend a lot of money on lighting property that the city does not own, like Estancia HS and Balearic Center. He would like the city to acquire the property first or at least fund in partnership with owner. Would support 20K for study and to start discussions with NHSD.

#54 and #59 Kaiser and Parsons Schools Lighting projects – Chair de Arakal opposes these since we do not own those properties.

#32 and #33 – Gisler Park and Paularino Park – Replacement of Picnic Shelters – Chair de Arakal supports these because the existing wooden shelters are in bad shape.

#52 – Jack Hammett Field 1 Upgrade – Chair de Arakal supports approval of this item, but in his opinion, \$1,175,000 is insufficient.

Commissioner Graham strongly supports items 44, 45, 46, 50, "to show people we're doing something".

Chair de Arakal said he thinks priority should be as follows:

- 1) Property we own
- 2) Property we could potentially own
- 3) Property we probably won't own, like schools

Public Comments:

1. Mike Powell, Resident

Fairview Park needs more benches and handicap parking and/or drop-off.

2. Al Melone, Resident

Said there is not enough parking near the skate board park. People are parking in the grass, dirt, and on the median, ruining the landscaping. Would like to see \$50K put into parking and structural issues, not beautification.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal that the CIP for Fiscal Year 14-15 and the 7-year CIP, as reviewed by the Parks and recreation Commission, be presented to the City Council as presented in the staff report with the following changes:

ADD the following items [to the list of items recommended by the CEO] to the proposed CIP budget for 14-15:

#44 – Fairview Park - Bluff Stairs South – recommend to approve the engineering fee in the amount of \$35,000

#45 – Fairview Park – West Bluff Repair – recommend approving \$50,000 for immediate bluff repairs.

#46 – Fairview Park CA – ORA – 58 Fill Removal, Cap and Restore Native Habitat – recommend approving \$50,000 for drainage studies.

#50 – Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat, Phase III – Recommend approving \$30,000 for the installation of benches.

#39 – Balearic Center Land Acquisition Services – Recommend funding \$60,000 for the Balearic Center Land Acquisition Services.

#40 – Balearic Center – Lighting Feasibility Study – Recommend funding \$20,000 for the Balearic Center Lighting Feasibility Study.

#52 – Jack Hammett Field 1 Upgrade – Recommend including the \$1,175,000 for the Jack Hammett Field 1 Upgrade

#59 – Parsons Schools Field Lighting – Recommend including the field lighting for Parsons School - \$420,000

REMOVE:

#54 - Kaiser School - Lighting Feasibility Study - \$20,000

Seconded by Commissioner Abernathy

Commissioner Pederson requested to amend the motion to include the following item:

#54 - Kaiser School - Lighting Feasibility Study - \$20,000.

Chairman de Arakal agreed to the amendment and Commissioner Abernathy seconded.

The amended motion carried four to zero.

The motion carried/denied by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy, Graham

Notes: none

Absent: Harper

Abstained: none

8:25 p.m. – Chair de Arakal called for 10 minute recess

8: 38 p.m. – Chair de Arakal announced the meeting was back in session

f. 19 West Streetscape Master Plan Concepts

Mr. Mejia presented the staff report.

8:47 p. m. Chair de Arakal announced that Commissioner Graham had to leave the dais

Public Comments:

1. Bonnie Copeland, Resident

Smaller medians are good, allowing driveway access for residents. Area between Monrovia and Whittier has serious parking issues. Wants to know if city plans on taking property through eminent domain? Would rather have property than landscaping.

2. Sandy Erickson-Frankiewicz, Resident

Thank you for community outreach and favors design. What kind of lighting will there be? What kind of trees in front of homes?

3. Alex Hernandez, Resident

Likes continuity of design. What kind of lighting in medians? 19th Street one of few with ocean view (however small) and prefers date palms to preserve the view. Thanked commission for outreach program. Cautions against benches on streets – transients.

4. Toward Lee, Resident

Does not feel like he has been heard at community outreach events. 2 lanes West, into 1 lane is not a good idea in regards to traffic. Where have roundabouts worked and successfully helped traffic? Frustrated and feels abused by city having changed landscaping several times.

5. Ron Frankiewicz, Resident

Supports plan, hopes to see implementation happen soon. Regarding medians – smaller is better. Hopes medians help slow down traffic.

6. Mike Powell, Resident

Supports project, will enhance beauty of the west side. Urges city to try and acquire county-owned land next to Marina Park to expand ocean views.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried three to zero, to approve 19 West Streetscape Master Plan Concepts, with the following recommendations:

1) Continue to work with residents.

2) Have plant palette, street lighting, furniture, and monument designs, brought back to the commission.

The motion carried/denied by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy

Notes: none

Absent: Harper, Graham

Abstained: none

g. Del Mar Beautification Concept Plans

Mr. Mejia presented the staff report.

Public Comments: None

MOTION made by Vice Chair Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Abernathy, passed three to zero, to approve Del Mar Beautification Concept Plans, with the following recommendations:

1) Continue to work with residents.

2) Have more detailed plant palette, new crosswalk design, and monument designs, brought back to the commission.

The motion carried/denied by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy

Notes: none

Absent: Harper, Graham

Abstained: none

h. East 19th Street Landscape Plans and Monument Sign

Mr. Sethuraman presented the staff report.

1. Jim Palmer, Resident

Doesn't think these are well thought out plans. Would like to see two things addressed:

1) Strategic planning to address cut-through traffic

2) Data addressing impact of other streets getting more traffic.

Is against approval.

2. Stephen Andranian, Resident

Echoed the same concerns regarding lack of master plan, cut through traffic, and impact on neighboring streets. Also, lack of bike lanes. Thinks monument would be a waste of money, would prefer trees.

MOTION made by Chair de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Pederson, carried three to zero, to approve East 19th Street Conceptual Design/Landscape Plans, with the following recommendations:

1) Continue to work with residents and designers to find acceptable monument design.

The motion carried/denied by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: de Arakal, Pederson, Abernathy

Notes: none

Absent: Harper, Graham

Abstained: none

11. Parks Project Manager's Report

Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager

Spoke on Harbor Blvd. median and sidewalk projects

12. Parks and Community Services Manager's Report

Ms. Penny Loomer, Interim Recreation Manager

Thanked Ms. Brenda Green, City Clerk, for her assistance at tonight's meeting and introduced Terri West as the new clerical support person.

13. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Abernathy said it was a pleasure to see great work and projects. Thanked the staff.

Vice Chair Pederson thanked the staff.

Chair de Arakal thanked staff and is encouraged by the CIP. Showed a video regarding 'Bikeability'

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m., to the next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, June 26, 2014, at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 3A of City Hall, followed by the Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

NOTE: Agenda related writings or documents provided to a majority of the Parks & Recreation Commission members after distribution of the Commission Agenda Packet (GC 54957.5):

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Parks & Recreation Commission members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Public Services Department – Recreation Division Counter on the 3rd floor of City Hall located at 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, during normal business hours. In addition, such writings and documents may be posted, whenever possible, on the City's website at www.costamesaca.gov as part of the subject agenda.

Submitted by:

Tamara Letourneau
Assistant Chief Executive Officer