

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

MARCH 26, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 26, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

1. **Call to Order: Chairman Pederson**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner de Arakal**
3. **Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Chair: Chairman Pederson
 Vice Chair: Eckles
 Commissioner de Arakal
 Commissioner Harper
 Commissioner Graham

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
 Travis Karlen, Recreation Manager
 Bartazar Mejia, Parks Project Manager
 Yvette Aguilar, Senior Center Program Administrator
 Kristina Roche, PRC Secretary

Introduction of new staff: Yvette Aguilar

Travis Karlen introduced Yvette Aguilar to the Commission. Commissioners welcomed Yvette.

Recognition of Dean Abernathy

Chair Pederson presented Dean Abernathy with a plaque in recognition of his years on the commission. All commissioners thanked Dean Abernathy for the time he spent and the hard work he put in.

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 26, 2015 Meeting of the PRC.**
MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve the February minutes, seconded by Commissioner Graham; MOTION carried 5-0.
5. **Approval of the Minutes of the March 5, 2015 Special Training Meeting**
MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve the March 5, 2015 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Graham; MOTION carried 4-0. Vice-Chairman Eckles abstained from voting
6. **Public Comments**
 1. Scott Mahaffey – Costa Mesa Resident

Scott Mahaffey states that he is the Commissioner for Newport Mesa Friday Night Lights and is coming to put on record the petition he placed with the Parks and Recreation Department in regards for his allocation because he did not get the

written notification in on time he wanted to come and make it public record. Mr. Mahaffey explains that on Feb. 25 his request for the four fields he requested was denied and he only received three fields and the new user group Matt Leinart Flag football group was given the additional 3 fields. Scott Mahaffey said he wrote a letter to Travis Karlen which stated, according to the Field User Allocation Policy if two like groups are petitioning for the same field then the groups are determined by the number of Costa Mesa residents in each organization and then the fields are split up accordingly to the percentages of the total group; Scott Mahaffey goes on to explain that Newport Mesa Friday Night Lights has over 800 kids in the organization and over 70% are Costa Mesa Residents, Matt Leinart's group last fall had 120 kids in their organization and about 25-30% Costa Mesa residents. This last July City Council gave their group, group three residency but he believes the FUAP was not followed. He received a letter back from Tamara Letourneau explaining that they were able to move AYSO to another field so all six fields were available so the department split the fields equally and believes this is fair for everyone. Scott Mahaffey says that he does not believe this to be fair to the 700 Costa Mesa residents in his group to the 60 Costa Mesa residents of Matt Leinart's group. Matt Leinart's is a group three and group threes are non-profit groups; Mr. Mahaffey explains that according to the Daily Pilot article, Matt Leinart's group is a for profit group so the group does not qualify as a group three and should be a group six.

Chair Pederson explains that staff is going over the FUAP and it is something that is going to be looked at soon. Also explains to Scott Mahaffey that he can always request that the letters he sends to the department can go to the Commissioners as well.

2. Rocky Evans – Costa Mesa Resident

Rocky Evans explains that he is very happy that he got an email from the Recreation Manager that there is going to be an item on the agenda next month about extending the hours at the skate park; says he is going to get support to be at the meeting so it will not just be him. He would like to see extended hours. Explains that he has three things to talk about:

1. Explains there was a tree removed a couple years ago at the north end of the skatepark and he remembers getting shade from the tree while the sun was out; he would like to see a tree be planted or some sort of canopy built to give people shade who are skate boarding.
2. Department enforces proper safety equipment but Rocky suggests staff monitors the parking lot as well.

Rocky says he will volunteer in anyway that he can for the Skate Park.

Commissioner Graham asks if all the fields at Jack Hammett are the same size; Travis Karlen answers no. Commissioner Graham asks how the fields were allocated. Travis Karlen says they are allocated 50/50, three fields to Friday Night Lights and three fields to Matt Leinart's Flag Football Group. Commissioner Graham asks which got the bigger fields, two out of three of the larger fields went to Matt Leinart's group. Commissioner Harper asks Travis Karlen if the policy was followed. Travis Karlen explains that the FUAP has many issues and when talking to his supervisor and staff they discussed the best options to get through this season until the new FUAP was written and adopted and felt the best way was to split the fields equally. Commissioner Harper asks if the policy was followed. Travis Karlen explains that the FUAP was

not followed. Commissioner Graham asks how many participants were in each group presently; Travis Karlen says he does not have the exact numbers in front of him but he believes Friday Night Lights has about 800 participants and Matt Leinart's group has just under 200 participants. Commissioner Graham says 200 versus 800? Travis Karlen says that is correct. Commissioner Graham says, and they split the fields evenly? Commissioner de Arakal suggests that before we have a full conversation about a non-agenized item the Commissioners should write a request to staff to have the topic on the next agenda. Chair Pederson agrees.

7. Consent Calendar

7a. instructional Class Proposals:

Senior Class Classes
Water Polo Classes

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve class proposals, seconded by Vice Chair Eckles. MOTION carries 5-0.

8. Public Hearing

No items.

9. New Business

a. Tree Removal Request – 248 24th Place Staff Recommendation: Deny

Bruce Hartley presents report.

Commissioner Graham says that he has two of these trees in the front of his house and they are not as vicious as they look and when stepping on one it does not hurt.

Chair Pederson asks if the department has a policy if the homeowner can pay for supplementary trimming. Bruce Hartley says the commission has authorized that in the past.

Applicant's son, Larry Focht addresses commission.

Larry Focht says that his mother has had the house for 62 years and his mother is 88 young and he is very fortunate that his mother is in the shape that she is in. Larry Focht says that she has gone to the mail box and the seed pods from the tree are on the sidewalk and has caused her to trip and fall and her safety is his main concern. He says Costa Mesa does a fine job and he would like to see the tree replaced and he loves vegetation and he is doing the best he can to take care of her and the house.

Chair Pederson asks for public comment. No public comment.

Chair Pederson closes public comment.

Commissioner Graham says that people appreciate the trees because they appreciate the shade. Commissioner Graham says that this tree is an important part of the street and there has to be a solution and perhaps trimming on the side of the

mailbox would keep the pods from falling on the sidewalk.

Vice Chair Eckles asks Bruce Hartley if we know what the other types of trees are that reside on the same street.

Bruce Hartley says there are quite a few Ambers but he does not know every tree on the street without having the information in front of him.

Commissioner Harper asks how old the tree is and how much longer it has to live.

Bruce Hartley says it will double in size and they have other trees that are 50-60 feet tall and that it has a long ways to go.

Commissioner Harper asks if this is a tree we no longer plant.

Bruce Hartley says this is not a tree Costa Mesa typically plants anymore in front of homes.

Commissioner Harper asks when Bruce Hartley estimates the tree is going to cause more problems to the street or to the sidewalk.

Bruce Hartley says he could not say when exactly.

Commissioner Harper asks Commission if an applicant comes in and wants to replace the tree at their own cost and it is a tree that the City does not prefer, why do we not as a Commission say that is ok.

Chair Pederson says we have several options we have discretionary removal, we remove the tree and the resident pays for the removal and the City replaces it.

Bruce Hartley says we lose the investment in the tree. We take a tree out that is 10-15 years old and we replace it with a 10 foot tall, one inch diameter.

Commissioner Graham does not see it as a question of what kind of tree we replace it with, because we will replace it with a new tree and then wait 10-20 years for the tree to get as big as the tree is now and says if we find a way to trim the tree, it will alleviate the problem.

Chair de Arakal asks for the applicant to come back to the podium.

Chair de Arakal asks Larry Focht if he has ever contemplated moving the mailbox closer to the door.

Larry Focht says it has been there for years and he has spent a lot of time on the house but he has never moved the mailbox and that he is not against trees but he wants to put something in there that it less invasive and believes it would grow well but he has never considered moving the mailbox. He says the mailman sometimes brings the mail to the door but safety is his number one concern.

Chair de Arakal asks Larry Focht if there is a gardener and if he sweeps the pods off the sidewalk. Larry Focht says she does have a gardener and the gardeners do

move the pods but they fall frequently and there are a lot of them.

Chair Pederson agrees that moving the mailbox or talking to the mailman seems like good ideas and if the tree gets trimmed, these are all things that could fix the problem.

MOTION: Motion made by Chair Pederson to deny the tree removal request 248 24th Place Seconded by Vice Chair Eckles.

MOTION Carries 5-0

b. Proposed Landscape Palette for Various Locations and Entry Monument Sign Concept Plans

Bartazar Mejia presents report and introduces Landscape architects who gave a presentation regarding the Landscape Palette and Entry Monument Sign.

Proposed Landscape Palette for Various Locations:

Chair Pederson asks Bartazar Mejia if staff has done an outreach to the community so the community can make comments and give feedback.

Bartazar Mejia says staff has not had a public meeting.

Chair Pederson asks if staff is planning on holding an outreach.

Landscape architects says they were not planning on having an outreach.

Chair Pederson says we need to have a community outreach so the public can have a chance to see the plans and be able to put their input.

Vice Chair Eckles asks for clarification when they met with the school district that there were no concerns about the foot traffic because he goes around there during the weekend and during weekdays and says it is very busy.

The architect replied saying on the weekends they have more traffic but during the week the people go into the parking lot.

Commissioner de Arakal says that he agrees with Chair Pederson and it is curious to him as to why staff would consult with the school district but not with the community. Commissioner de Arakal explains that the Mesa Verde median is not a project that does not have controversy with it. Believes staff needs to have a meeting with the community and let them choose the palette. Suggests to defer on any selection the Mesa Verde median and California median until there is a community outreach but feels comfortable making a decision with the Gisler Median.

Commissioner Graham asked if there were any median trees were going to be taken out on Mesa Verde Drive.

Architect says the plan is to make the trees the same to make it look congruent and there is one that is leaning that they are planning on replacing.

Commissioner Graham says he would hate to see any of the trees removed because we have waited too long for the trees to grow.

Chair Pederson brings up maintenance and asks Bruce to comment on this item.

Bruce speaks about the maintenance with the medians.

Chair Pederson opens public comment.

Chair Pederson closes public comment.

Commissioner Harper asks to clarify what the commission is exactly voting for.

Commissioner de Arakal clarifies that staff has brought forth multiple options for the medians and as a commission they choose one. He thinks there needs to be community input and then commission chooses.

Commissioner thanks Commissioner de Arakal.

Vice Chair Eckles says to show the options and then the community chooses; it cannot turn into the community saying what they want and what they do not want.

MOTION Motion made by Chair Pederson to table it for now and have a community outreach and then come back to the Commission.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to direct staff to hold community outreach for Mesa Verde Median and California Median projects and recommend Option 2 for Gisler Avenue project. Commissioner Harper seconds.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION made by Chair Pederson to direct staff to hold community outreach for all projects. No second. Motion dies from lack of second.

MOTION carries 4-1 with Chair Pederson voting no.

Entry Monument Sign Concept Plans:

Architects presents their presentation.

Commissioner de Arakal asks if there are any lighting strategies for the different plans; architects says there are lighting strategies for each of the plans; some are up lights and some are down lights.

Vice Chair Eckles asks if the plants are going to create an issue with the lower signage.

Architects says they will be making adjustments to the plants.

Commissioner Harper asks if we are choosing one project and asks how the Commission chooses one; if there was a community poll he would feel more comfortable.

Vice Chair Eckles asks which the Arts Committee liked. The Committee liked the first

option. Vice Chair Eckles says he feels comfortable making the decision.

Commissioner Graham says he feels comfortable making the decision as well for this project.

Commissioner de Arakal says he is also comfortable with making the decision, especially since it went to the Arts Committee.

Chair Pederson agrees and likes option one.

Vice Chair Eckles agrees with Chair Pederson.

MOTION Motion made by Vice Chair Eckles for option number 1. Seconded by Chair Pederson.

Motion carries 5-0.

10. Parks Project Manager's Report

Bartazar Mejia presents report.

11. Recreation Manager's Report.

Travis Karlen presents report.

12. Maintenance Managers Report

Bruce Hartley presents report.

13. Commissioners Comments

Commissioners thank staff for their hard work.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pederson. The next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, April 23, 2015 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.



Prepared by Kristina Roche
PRC Secretary



Submitted by Tamara Leatourneau
Assistant Chief Executive Officer