

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

**JUNE 25, 2015**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

- 1. Call to Order: Chairman Pederson**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance: Vice Chair Eckles**
- 3. Roll Call**

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

Commissioners Absent:      None

Staff Present:                      Tom Hatch, Chief Executive Officer  
   Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager  
   Travis Karlen, Recreation Manager  
   Bartazar Mejia, Parks Project Manager  
   Kristina Roche, PRC Secretary  
   Alma Reyes, Recreation Supervisor  
   Christian Hernandez, Recreation Specialist

- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the April 23, 2015 Meeting of the PRC.**  
**MOTION made by Vice Chair Eckles to approve the April 23 minutes, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal; MOTION carried 5-0.**

**5. Public Comments**

1. Beth Refakes – Costa Mesa Resident

Beth spoke on behalf of Military Affairs teams to make residents aware that they are collecting for the Ball Gown Give Away; they are collecting evening gowns, ball gowns, cocktail dresses and jewelry for the Marine Corps Ball which will be held October 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be collecting items until August 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a locker in the lobby where residents can place their donations. The wives of the 15, adopted unit by Costa Mesa, they pick out what they want to wear to the Marine Corps Ball. The Military Affairs team appreciates any donations.

2. Rocky Evans – Costa Mesa Resident

Rocky asked the Commission to extend the hours at the Volcom Skate Park. He would like to see an hour or two in the beginning of the day and an hour or two at the end of the evening.

3. Jack Ross – Costa Mesa Resident

Jack spoke about the proposed bench at Fairview Park. He would like to see it be up there for more than a month and would like for it to be moved 500 yards south. Chair Pederson asked for Jack Ross to speak about the bench during the public comment for the item.

**6. Consent Calendar**

**a. Instructional Class Proposal**

**MOTION made approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Vice Chair Eckles.  
MOTION carried 5-0.**

**CEO Tom Hatch read City Statement on Flag Football and explain City Council approved a new budget that included money for artificial turf for two fields at Jack Hammett Sports Complex and 1.9 million to be set aside in a fund to light and possibly artificial turf other fields.**

**Commissioner de Arakal said he personally requests that Matt Leinart group voluntarily pays the fees at a for profit fee and explains that the Field User Allocation Policy item on the agenda today to about moving further with a policy that better serves the community and the issues for him is going forward and how we are going to provide adequate fields for the people who want to play sports in the city.**

**7. Public Hearing**

No items.

**8. Old Business**

**a. Proposed Plant Palette for Existing Medians on Mesa Verde Drive and California Street**

Bartazar Mejia and architect presents report.

Chair Pederson asked how many people suggested artificial turf. The architect said there were about three.

Vice Chair Eckles said it looks like attachment 2a was the most popular but the architect had mentioned there was a possible combination of 2a and 2b and asked how that went over with the public during the community outreach. She said a lot of people wanted to keep the grass so they thought they could keep the grass but put in drought tolerant plants which would be a combination of both proposals.

Commissioner de Arakal asked how the meeting for the outreach was noticed and how the meeting tonight was noticed. Bartazar explained that the meeting for the outreach which was scheduled for May 6, notices were sent out April 21 Bartazar said the meeting for tonight was noticed properly and notices were sent out to the people after the agenda was noticed and the packets were sent out. Commissioner de Arakal said the California Street is a wide street and kids run through the street so

he wants to be very sure the visibility for drivers is clear to protect the kids.

Commissioner Graham said he would not be in favor for the artificial turf because water does not get soaked in and it tends to get a lot hotter.

Public Comment:

1. Jay Humphrey – Costa Mesa Resident

Jay Humphrey said he was not noticed of the meetings and that bothers him. He said we need to have a better process so concerned residents are informed of these projects because they mean a great deal and it is not just important to people who live right there it is also important for people who drive through that area often. He said he is concerned about medians that make it harder for people to cross the street. He said if we are making a deterrence to make it so people cannot cross it really needs to make it so people cannot cross because kids will still cross if they can which would be more dangerous for them.

2. Beth Refakes – Costa Mesa Resident

Beth said she attended the outreach meeting and she is concerned with the agave because they grow tall and if children are running through that area it could make it so drivers cannot see them. She would like the plants to be very short so it does not impact the visibility. She said she is also concerned with roses because they tend to be water hogs. She is also concerned with the irrigation of the trees because if we cut off the water for the medians the trees are not going to get water. She also said with the turf, people with dogs use that area and it does need to be rinsed off with water or it becomes a health hazard.

Chair Pederson closes public comment.

Commissioner de Arakal said he appreciates staff reaching out to the community and said he is satisfied with the meeting and noticing is always an issue. He is in favor of 2a and does agree with Beth and Jay with their concerns of safety. He would like flashing crosswalks.

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve Plant Palette 2a, seconded by Vice Chair Eckles.**

Chair Pederson said he agrees with the safety issue to some extent. He said the agaves are small and grow slowly and is in support of the motion.

Commissioner Harper said he does not know how to notice everyone in the community. He said in regard to the safety issue, how we test the safety aspect when it is first planted and five years later; asked if there is anyone in traffic that looks over this. Bartazar said when medians are designed, transportation and design divisions look at the medians, visibility and where crosses can take place. Transportation looks at specific requirements for the cross walks. Bartazar said the plants that are planted on the median are low to the ground to not impact driver visibility. Commissioner Harper asked if traffic looked at the medians. Bartazar said yes.

**MOTION carries 5-0.**

**9. New Business**

**a. Proposal for New Field Use and Allocation Policy (FUAP) and Request for Special Status for Specific Youth Sports Organizations.**

Chair Pederson explains a person who is representing the groups has three minutes to speak on behalf of their group after all of the groups speak the public will have their three minutes to speak on the item. He said if you agree with the person who already spoke you can simply say you agree to expedite the process but each person is more than welcome to use up their three minutes of public comment and he is not trying to dissuade anyone from speaking.

Commissioner de Arakal said we received a lot of emails about this item and in particular for the Matt Leinart Flag Football League requests for one year extension as a group three. He said that the actual request to extend for a year is not being considered tonight.

Travis Karlen presents report.

Commissioner de Arakal thanked Travis and said he mis-spoke earlier when he said the extension of the Matt Leinart for one year as a Group 3 user is in the agenda.

Travis Karlen continued with his report.

Chair Pederson thanked staff for the hours they put into the document.

Vice Chair Eckles asked if staff could explain the different groups and what would happen if different groups requested field permits on A, B and C field; asked how the allocation process works.

Travis said, right now we have two meetings a year with the different group users. We have a meeting with groups one through two and then with three through six and at those meetings we get all the requests from the groups for that half of the year. Group 1 users has priority with their requests. If group 1 user comes in and asks for all six fields, they would get all six fields over a group 3 or group 2. If they requested two fields, they would get those two fields and then we would go to group 2 users and so on down the line until all the groups were allocated fields.

Vice Chair Eckles asked where the Daily Pilot Cup falls in the new policy. Travis said the Daily Pilot Cup is a special circumstance and he has found most of the other groups are finished with their season by then. The Daily Pilot Cup is something we have done for many years and we treat those tournaments differently. We work with the other user groups to make sure there are fields elsewhere they can use. There has not been a time where a Group 1 or Group 2 want those fields during the Daily Pilot Cup because it is a standing tradition. We have not run into that issue at this point. Christian Hernandez said we treat the Daily Pilot Cup as a school district function and we have not run into conflict.

Vice Chair Eckles asked about the language in the new FUAP that states a request

of the field does not constitute an approval. Travis said there are cases where we need to do maintenance on a field so we cannot approve the request. We also have special event cases, like last night where we had an event at the Balearic Center and we could not allocate fields to the users who normally would be using those fields on that day. We also have rest and renovation time and we had a lot of requests that people want to use fields during the summer time for tournaments and that is during the time where we let the fields rest and projects are completed on those fields.

Vice Chair Eckles said in general in the past year what are the residency rates for the field uses; how many out of town people use the fields? Travis said that is a difficult questions because of how many groups there are. We have groups that meet 99% Costa Mesa residents and some that only meet 14%. Vice Chair Eckles asked on Friday nights, are there other fields that could be available to the groups because groups are growing and we cannot jam all of them onto one field. Christian said Costa Mesa High School was used on Friday nights by one of the Flag Football Groups, he said he cannot name the fields that would be available but he can go into the scheduler and identify the fields but there will not be lights. Vice Chair Eckles said in the spring, light would not be an issue but in the fall, it would be more of an issue to not have lights. He said groups could look at temporary lights.

Commission Harper asked about safety and parking at the Jack Hammett Sports Complex. He asked what the issue is and where the complaint comes from and whether or not is a recommendation or a violation and something the fire department wants us to do. Travis said the facility was built for 22 participants per field at one time, so 132 participants for the complex; that is what parking can support and what the facility can support. Right now we are running 800 to a little over 1,000 kids over a four hour time period. Travis said some user groups will say there are other parking options and there are, however everyone wants the first spot which causes a lot of congestion in those areas and sometimes people park in the fire lanes. He said we have gotten direction from PD and Fire to cite those cars in the fire lane. Travis said the other concern with over populating the complex, emergency services might not be able to get there in time due to the crowds.

Commissioner Graham asked what the relation is like with parking at Costa Mesa High School. Travis said we do have relations with Costa Mesa High School and they do allow us to use portions of their parking lots when there are events at Jack Hammett; this past season was unique because they were installing solar panels in the parking lot which made the parking lot off limits so we faced even more parking problems than we have in the past. The parking lot is now open but there are nights when other things go on at the school and the parking lot is full with cars already.

Commissioner Graham asked what is going on at the complex on Saturday nights. Travis said AYSO is on the fields during the day time but we generally do not have field allocations at the complex in the evenings. Commissioner Graham said we could have a Saturday Night Lights on Saturdays, and that is an option.

Commissioner Graham said it is interesting to him because for a long time now we have said we do not have enough fields but then football groups come in and quadruple the amount of fields because they can use smaller fields and that is not all bad. He said maybe we need to look at it differently and there are a lot of solutions. He said generally the smaller kids use them which cause less damage.

Commissioner de Arakal asked about Group 6: typically how many organizations do we permit, where do we permit them and about how many hours and days per week? Christian said Group 6 users are adult, nonresident organizations. They are only permitted on Sundays and their facilities are limited: Balearic, Wilson Elementary, Back Bay High School, TeWinkle Sports Complex, Killybrook Elementary and Lions Park.

Commissioner de Arakal asked if Christian could walk him through Group 4 users. Christian said Group 4 users are adult resident groups and currently we have Newport Mesa Church which uses Killybrook Elementary for soccer during the day on Saturdays, and during the week after all other use and at TeWinkle Sports Complex on Sundays for softball. Commissioner de Arakal said we have more Group 6 users than Group 4 users and Christian said that is correct.

Chair Pederson asked what the splitting of fields meant and the splitting of actual groups, for example: AYSO split into two AYSO groups and then split again into Pacific Soccer Club. He asked what is to stop Pop Warner from saying Newport Mesa Soccer Club is going to come in and run a kids program to get more fields. He said he is worried about groups splitting to get more Group 1's and get more fields. Travis said he is going to answer the question in two parts because splitting means two different things in this policy. The first part is field splitting: he said for example if one group is allocated one field at Jack Hammett, he said what groups are doing are taking the one field and splitting it two times, three times or four times. What happens then is it increases the amount of kids are out there, increases the lack of safety, increases the wear and tear on the fields and creates a bigger parking issue. The other splitting is the splitting of leagues. He said for example, let's say AYSO has a program and parents do not want to continue with AYSO and they decided to take their teams and split onto another team's team. In this new policy there is a process they would have to go through to create a new league.

Chair Pederson said this is ninth year on the commission and the first thing he tried doing when he got here was to get more lights on fields and it is great that lights are coming. He said we need to slow things down when it comes down to this because he is scared that someone is going to get hurt. He asked if anyone is turned down when they are requesting fields and how that process works. Christian said he gets multiple requests in the week from people looking for fields for an event/tournament and during the phone call he tells them what they need to have in order to get the fields and due to the lengthy process of getting everything turned in, the request never actually comes through. In a formal request, if we do not have the facilities they are requesting, we do have the right to tell the requester no. Travis added during the two allocation meetings we have during the year, for the most part the user group's work out the disputes or the issues that come up. We ask user groups if they would be willing to give up fields for a different user group and for the most part we are pretty successful.

Chair Pederson asked on Section 8, it is his understanding that we are going to look at fees further. Travis said in the old FUAP, we had a section that was private and a section that is commercial but there was no explanation on what constitutes private and what constitutes commercial. He said what we did is eliminated commercial and have made it so you are either nonprofit resident, nonprofit nonresident or a private resident or a private nonresident. He said we also included a chart to make it clearer.

Chair Pederson said later on we are going to look at the fee structure and see if we think it is fair, how we calculate everything out and we will bring in the user groups. Travis said there are plans to do that again and we will bench marking other communities to see what they are charging and their fees. Chair Pederson said he wants a per player fee, he said Newport does this, Los Alamitos and a lot of school districts have started to pick up on this idea. He said it is a great tool and he is going to try to talk to all the user groups about trying to implement something like that. He said this is something we are going to look at in the future.

Commissioner de Arakal asked on Page 4 in the Proposed Field User Allocation Policy field allocation at the Jack Hammett Sports Complex, you are proposing 100% residency for Friday Nights. He is asking how many kids and residency rates for the group users. Christian said we can give you the residency rates for each group but it would be difficult to say residency rates for each night because we are not sure what teams are playing on that certain night. He said for example, AYSO practices Monday through Thursday but we are not sure which teams are practicing and the residency rate per team unless we have a schedule. Commissioner de Arakal asked number wise; Christian said for example, AYSO 120 primarily uses those fields and has a total 861 residents so they are about 78% resident. Newport Mesa Soccer Club practices there from Monday-Thursday on one or two fields and they have a residency rate of 76% and those two groups are the primary users Monday through Thursday. Commissioner de Arakal asked how many kids are out there Monday through Thursday. Christian said the facility is open from 4-9pm; peak hours are 4-7p and they have two teams practicing on each field. From 7:30-9pm are primarily used by Newport Mesa Soccer Club and the older kids that play AYSO.

Commissioner de Arakal asked on Page 9 of the proposed FUAP for the extra fees for the preparation of softball and baseball fields are \$40 per field, he asked if that is the cost of the manpower to prep those fields. Travis said that is a subsidized fee which means it costs more than the fee to prep those fields. Commissioner de Arakal asked what the cost is to prep those fields, Travis does not know the number. Commissioner de Arakal said that seems very low to him. Commissioner de Arakal said when we get to fees in a couple of meetings that is something he would like to look at further. Commissioner de Arakal said right below that box there is a note that converted fields will be charged for each converted fields and if the City finds it necessary due to extenuating circumstances fields may be temporarily split more than twice; Commissioner de Arakal is asking who makes that determination; Travis said that determination would be made by the City Assistant CEO. Travis said this coming fall we have two schools that are going to be under construction and we are already working with the school and the City of Newport Beach to discuss what we are going to do for those displaced teams and those teams might be placed at Balearic or Jack Hammett which would mean we would authorize our current users to split the fields more.

Commissioner Graham said he has been out to Jack Hammett on Friday nights when flag football is going on and it is chaotic. He said one of the things he has noticed is people are going in and out on the Jack Hammett side and other people are going in and out at the High School side; he said perhaps there is a way to make it so there is one way in on one side and exit at the other side and thinks that should be looked at. He said the other thing is splitting the fields into smaller fields' works for the user groups and if we limit it and say they can only split it twice then there will be

extra field capacity that is not being used.

Vice Chair Eckles asked to define a field, and a field at Jack Hammett is a lot different than a field at Lindbergh. Travis said when planning a complex, the fields are all planned out and parking is planned out based on the fields so when we have a fields complex it is different and easier to define a field rather than a field at a park. He said if we were allocating a field at Lindbergh we would work with other departments to identify how much parking we have out there, and how much that field can take. We would look at the neighborhood and what the neighborhood can stand in that park as well.

Commissioner Harper asks what Matt Leinart's and Friday Night Lights group residency percentages are. Travis said in the most current documents we have, Newport Mesa Friday Night Lights is at 73% and Matt Leinart is at 14%. Commissioner Harper asked what the definition of a governing body is. Travis said our definition is an organization that puts forth rules, has a board and sets up guidelines that the league follows.

Chair Pederson said we are recommending 100% residency for Friday nights at Jack Hammett sports complex but AYSO only has 78% so they could not play on Friday nights. Chair Pederson asked who could play at Jack Hammett on Friday nights. Christian said right now, nobody but in the new policy we are including Newport Mesa Unified School District, Costa Mesa Residents or kids who go to Private School in Costa Mesa and the numbers we are giving you are only Costa Mesa Residents.

Public Comment:

1. Sue Lester – Costa Mesa Resident

Sue Lester speaks about fairness in the recommendations that the commission makes and hopes that the commission will do the right thing when making recommendations to the City Council.

Chair Pederson said before he opens to up to rest of the public he would like one representative of each user group to come up and speak on behalf of their group.

2. Frank Albers – Matt Leinart Group

He said Matt Leinart Group is willing to repay the \$24,000 if that is what is requested. He said we have always worked with the department, and we have submitted all the paperwork and we have never held anything back and have been honest with them. He said their group has never bumped any other group out and all they are asking is to give them space to play, whether it is there or somewhere else. He said the group has never had a problem with Friday Night Lights. He is just asking to compete; he said all the other sports compete with different leagues but for some reason Friday Night Lights does not want to compete. He said they have only split the field into two and the most kids that are on a field at one time is 22.

3. Brett Woods – AYSO 97



Brett Woods thanks the commission for pushing staff to look at the FUAP and make changes and he thanks staff for doing a good job and their group is really impressed with everything that is created. He said he echoes Vice Chair Eckles' concerns about the definition of a field and field splitting. He said it would be beneficial if staff defined a field. He said their group is given a block of grass and then they go and line whatever fields they want on it; he is asking if that means they are splitting one field into three or do each of those count as one field and then in AYSO they have one team practicing on a half of a field. He said that is his only concern and he wanted to voice it.

4. Vince Rodriguez – AYSO 120

Echoes what Brett Woods said; he would talk about field splitting as well. He said when we do split fields that is with the smallest of the kids so there is not as much wear and tear but he has had players in AYSO for 16 years and what he has seen more recently when he comes out to the fields at Jack Hammett on Saturday mornings the fields are much more torn up than they ever were. He thinks field splitting is something we need to look at as well as how many kids are on each field and the time in between games. He said people comment during tournaments and say the fields are not the same during spring like they used to be. He said we have worked with the City and thanks everyone for all the hard work.

5. Ed Balmer – Newport Harbor Baseball Association

He thanks everyone for everything they have done. He said he appreciates the partnership the group has with the City.

6. Scott Mahaffey – Friday Night Lights

Scott said the competitive negative stuff that Frank Albers alleged has never come from Friday Night Lights or himself and the only time that has ever come up was during the May Commission Meeting when Matt Leinart's group got three fields for their 200 kids and Friday Night Lights requested four fields and were only given three for their 800 kids; and he said the policy was ignored during that time. He said in the proposed FUAP it reads that all events on Friday nights has to have 100% residency which means the McMillen Cup, Pilot Cup and all the other tournaments that open up on Friday nights will have to be held at the same standard or else there will have to be an exception to the policy. He said we run 11 fields on Friday Nights which means 133 kids at one time and there has never been a parking issue prior to Matt Leinart's group. He said we had one cardiac arrest, one broken hip and one drug overdose and fire and paramedics were able to come in easily and fast without an issue and everything was maintained. There are two parking attendants every Friday to make sure the parking flow is working well but we have had to strain that because of the other league who does not have anyone working in the parking lots. He said he has a satellite picture from 2008 that shows the wear and tear, a picture from 2014 and the wear and tear is from soccer, not from little kids playing flag football.

Vice Chair Eckles asked in a compromise world how many fields could he get

away with? Scott said if we only split the field into two then we would need six or seven lit fields; he said we are one of the top users in the City with the most kids and there are not enough lit fields in the City. He said he cannot use temporary lights because they are only 20 feet high and if a ball is thrown, you cannot see it.

Chair Pederson asked if the other cities that Scott is in are having the same issues with the lit fields. Scott said Huntington Beach uses Marina High School and Huntington Beach which have a lot of lit fields. He said in the other cities he has about 12 fields at a time and in Los Alamitos is 18 fields because they have more kids. Christian said Los Alamitos only uses temporary lights.

Commissioner Harper asked Scott to go over the numbers again. Scott said there are 11 fields, there are two teams with six kids on the field, eight kids on the team. Commissioner Harper said there are 176 kids. Scott said there has never been issues before the new group came in. Commissioner Harper said he just wanted to make sure he had the math straight.

Commissioner de Arakal asked if there is just one game per field on a night or if there are more than one game played on a night. Scott said there are 11 fields and one is going at 5, then 5:50pm, 6:40, 7:30. Commissioner de Arakal asked, there are 11 operating fields, are there more than one game a night on one field. Scott said he was not understanding the question. Commissioner de Arakal said, let's say on field five, is there one game played on field five or is there two, three or four games played on field five in one night? Scott said there is a series of games that are played on one night. Commissioner de Arakal said during one game there are 176 kids on the field but if you multiple that by three or four there are more than that.

7. Marc Arblaster – Newport Mesa Soccer Club

Marc said the problem is the shortage of fields obviously or else everyone would have fields and there would be no problems, so if there's limited amount of something there has to be a process to allocate and find what is fair and some user groups try to get more fields and more time based on how they are structured. He congratulates staff on redoing the FUAP because it needed it. He said on the topic of field splitting, whatever the number of games are going on at a time, double it because the next teams are already there warming up and it is not really the kids causing the wear and tear, it is the parents who stand and they tend to weigh more so the sidelines take a lot of pounding so if there are three or four games going on in one field, all of those parents are on the sideline watching the games. There is also a big difference between game days and practice days. He said groups are growing and a lot of these groups are not really local anymore, they represent a big territory which is fine but when it comes to allocations, the locals should be taken care of first.

8. Lanea Parsons – Costa Mesa Residents

Speaks on behalf of Friday Night Lights, said before Matt Leinarts Groups was on the fields there were no problems like there are now. She said Friday Night Lights brings a sense of community that her kids cannot find anywhere else right now.

9. Demetrius Cash – Costa Mesa Residents

Speaks on behalf of Friday Night Lights, said he is a father and a coach. He has coached 11 seasons. He said the growth of Costa Mesa football is important and he is challenging everyone to find solutions to make sure all kids can play because it is about the kids. There is a way everyone can come together to make this work for everyone.

10. Jay Humphrey – Costa Mesa Resident

He said this meeting is to find an adequate way to make sure the kids in the city have a way to play in the city. He said some people are going to love it and some people are not and that is the way it goes. He appreciates staff to work numerous hours and acknowledged that they have learned lessons and commission has made comments that he agrees with completely because it is about the kids in Costa Mesa and the priority always needs to be with the kids in Costa Mesa. He looks forward to the commission making decisions.

11. Gay Royer – Costa Mesa Resident

Gay asks that no one spins things because the public is intelligent and hopes that things that are put forth are fair and just because we want the kids to see things that are fair and just. She thinks fields need to be given to the kids in Costa Mesa first and if there are left over fields then those fields can be given to kids outside of Costa Mesa. She also says we are in a drought and those fields are not going to be in tip top shape in this day. She hopes that staff and commission does what is best and fair for the kids of Costa Mesa.

12. Resident 1 – Costa Mesa Resident

Resident 1 thanks Mr. Hatch for addressing the issue but she said she is not sure if people are aware of the issue with Matt Leinart. She said the issue is the fact they said they were nonprofit when they are for profit. She is glad new process are going to be put in place but she does not think Matt Leinart should just get a slap on the wrist for something he did knowingly and betrayed the trust of the city as well as the kids. She said the kids are in these sports to learn right from wrong and fair treatment. She said this is political and it shouldn't be because it is about the kids. She is hoping that all of the things that were brought up in the article will be closely examined and made right and the kids in the city are the most important.

13. Resident 2 – Costa Mesa Resident

Resident 2 said that she seconds what Resident 1 said. She said she is not happy with the lack of leadership with the people she trusts to run the city. She said she is not happy that the Mayor insisted to put a Huntington Beach league on our fields when policies were overlooked. She said when things like this come up, it needs to be held accountable and we need to hold ourselves accountable.

14. Mario Ramirez – Costa Mesa Resident

Mario speaks on behalf of Friday Night Lights, said it comes down to the kids. He has coached voluntarily and loves doing it and loves the city and wants to teach his kids respect, responsibility, trust, perseverance and having fun. He said it is about the kids and everyone should be able to go out there and play and hopes it can be figured out so everyone can play.

15. Cindy Black – Costa Mesa Resident

Cindy reads pieces of the article that was in the OC Register and a statement read by Tom Hatch previously in the meeting. Cindy said she has heard time and time again that there are not enough fields in Costa Mesa and the fields are for Costa Mesa kids and should not be used for profit groups. She is asking to deny Matt Leinart use of the fields and wanted to know if Group 1 users are 100% Costa Mesa kids.

16. Jillian Whistler Cash – Costa Mesa Resident

She said she has coached soccer and her husband coaches soccer and football at Jack Hammett. She always wondered why Friday Night Lights split the lower fields instead of using the bigger fields, but AYSO 120 had those fields on those nights but then another league came in and were able to use those fields; which did not make a lot of sense. She said she would park anywhere to watch her kids play and she currently parks at OCC and walks across to the fields but the parking issues only occurred after Matt Leinart's group came in; this season was the worst due to construction at Costa Mesa High School. She said Friday Night Lights has a sense of community that no other group she has been a part of has. She thinks the fields should be given to the kids of Costa Mesa.

17. Mrs. Drain – Costa Mesa Resident

Mrs. Drain said she grew up with a Coach who taught how to be a team member, how to be a leader, good sportsmanship which builds good character, respect for the rules. She said as a coach he followed his kids through all their schooling and their lives. She said she believes in youth sports and as a resident of Costa Mesa, she would like to see Costa Mesa residents use those fields.

18. Chris Cox – Costa Mesa Resident

Chris said he has been a coach at Pop Warner and coaches at Matt Leinart and has nephews who play at Friday Night Lights. She said having too many kids wanting to play is a good problem to have. He is also very happy to see staff's recommendation to include kids who go to school at a private school in Costa Mesa be included in the residency. He said in his experience the 14% is not an accurate number for residency. He said the article that came out, both leagues are being compensated and that is well known and it is unlike Pop Warner where people spend hours and hours voluntarily which is why they are a Group 1 user. He thinks Group 3 is fair for Matt Leinart; he said he donates a lot to the different youth sports in the City and to the schools within the City. He said they have done a lot of good and have been good people. He thinks finding a solution to make it so both groups get fields and all kids can play is positive. He also said

Pop Warner practices with portable lights on Parsons field so you can use portable lights to practice and play football games.

19. Jana Beekman – Costa Mesa Resident

She said Costa Mesa is her home. She wants to request Matt Leinart's Group 3 extension for a year not be granted. She said as Tom Hatch has mentioned giving Matt Leinart Group 3 status should not have been granted because they are a for profit group. She said her other issue is with dividing the fields; the ability for Friday Night Lights to divide the fields is the cause of how efficient the program is run and while it is crowded, she said it is not as crowded as the fairgrounds during the OC Fair, and South Coast Plaza at Christmas time. She said as far as safety goes, if the group is able to accommodate parking with the surrounding parking areas then there is no reason to limit the amount of times you can split a field for safety reasons. She seconded what Scott Mahaffey said about the emergency situations. She said this seems to be a revenue generating plea by the City. She said Friday Night Lights would have to pay quadruple the amount of money which could be a quick way to drive Friday Night Lights out of the city.

20. Kelly Waterman – Costa Mesa Resident

She seconds everything Chris Cox says. She said she has personally seen the Matt Leinart Group give to inner city football leagues. She said she would hate to see any of the groups leave. She does think being a Costa Mesa resident is important but there are a lot of Costa Mesa residents on both groups.

21. Vince Rodriguez – Costa Mesa Resident

Vince wants to address a safety issue; there has been a long standing parking issue even before the construction happened at Costa Mesa High School. He said with the amount of people coming in and out of the parking lot someone is going to get hurt. He said we need to look at how frequently we separate the games.

22. Ben Lower – Costa Mesa Resident

He said there is no better community of sports than Friday Night Lights; he said when he coaches other sports people come to the games and leave but when he coaches football people stay and talk and build community. He said one of the reasons why there is such a community is due to the splitting of fields. He said as a community we need to work together so all kids can play. He said he thinks the parking issues are going to go away when the construction is finished.

23. Frank Albers – Costa Mesa Resident

He said he has coached in Costa Mesa for seven years, and he is not trying to kick anyone off any fields. He loves football and wants every kid to play. He said this is about having an equal opportunity. He said his concern is leagues marketing in other cities like Irvine or Huntington Beach and getting kids from other cities that way.

Chair Pederson closes public comment.

Chair Pederson says if there is a direct item that the commissioners are interested in adding and/or deleting to the document, they should present it, we vote on it and go down one by one or else this can be a real mess.

Chair Pederson said a lot of the public comments spoke about it being all about the kids but then talked about kicking one of the groups out and it is all about the kids and he is not a judge and jury for Matt Leinart's group or Friday Night Lights group, he is a judge and jury for this situation as far as this document. He said they are all great for volunteering hours and no one is trying to slam into that in anyway and they are looking for a fair way for everyone. He said there is not really a shortage of fields, there are a shortage of lights and this is not a battle only Costa Mesa has, a lot of other cities deal with the same thing.

Chair Pederson asks if we have talked to neighboring places of the Jack Hammett Complex if people can park there to help with the parking issue. Travis said we do this on a regular basis, as Friday Night Lights mentions they have taken it on themselves to look at places to park. He said we have approached the fairgrounds and it is seven dollars per car; we have also worked closely with the district to know which nights they have events going on. He said we allocate parking ambassadors to help with parking also.

Chair Pederson asked the public to write letters to Orange Coast College to help with the parking issue.

Vice Chair Eckles says it interesting being on the commission side because for years and years he was on the other side fighting for lights. He said he ran AYSO 97 and as AYSO 120 would admit there is a lot of competition between the leagues. He said we want the kids to be able to play. He does not want to run anyone out of town or to not allocate fields to one group and allocate it to another group because of X, Y, Z. He said the FUAP is designed to set the rules and standards so we don't make mistakes and staff has clear direction when allocating fields so that every single child in the community who wants to play, can play. He said he believes the City residents need to be served first. He said Newport Mesa Unified School District is the one few districts that cover a couple different cities, so he looks at it a little bit differently because kids go to school with kids from other cities. He said we are not in the business of allocating fields to residents in other cities like Irvine, Tustin and Huntington Beach. He said lights are something he has argued for, for years and he encourages the public to show up when things like this come up and that can solve many issues in the public. He said in general the FUAP is to set the rules, to make sure the rules are followed and clear.

Commissioner Graham said he was thinking about the fields being split up four ways and thinks it is a lot easier to rest fields because there are four times the amount of fields so he would not like to limit the amount a group can split a field. He said in regards to the whole document, he thinks it is great except for the rule for splitting of the fields. He asked what a pathfinder is; but said he might have heard it wrong.

Commissioner Harper said he appreciates all of the passionate emails. He said a lady spoke tonight about fairness; he said he sits on the commission independently and tries to listen to everyone fairly. He said the flag football groups are not like AYSO, they are for profit groups and that makes sense because things and times change, if there were no soccer league today, and someone started a new soccer league it might be a for profit group. He said he really appreciates the community that occurs for Friday Night Lights, getting a group of kids together and playing in close area to one another; it is similar to the Daily Pilot Cup and the kids get to watch one another and it is really important to recognize. He said this is about fairness and the FUAP needs to support the kids in the community.

Commissioner de Arakal said he has been on the Commission on and off since 2003 and we are still fighting the battle of having enough lit fields as the community grows. He said his chief objective as a commissioner is to recreate our kids who live in the community first and if there is anything left over, then great. He said he is disappointed in most recent activities and revelations that have come out and in the past with Friday Night Lights about compensation, he said to him there isn't a lawyer in the world that won't find a little crack to hide in to save money and he is disappointed that the leagues went that way. For Friday Night Lights, they said they won't pay anyone for profit but the intent of the language is the revenue – it is all a volunteer program and no one is making revenue. The Matt Leinart group gamed the system for the non-profit and for profit. He gets that the lawyer said it was fine but he is sure the lawyer didn't come to the city to see if it was ok with the City. He said he has asked them to pay the fees and they are supposedly going to pay the fees so he is going to push that to the side and we are good there. He said the issue with Hammett, the complex was never intended to handle 800-1000 kids a night. He said he was looking at Friday Night Lights facebook page and they were saying in a recent post they had a playoff tournament where they had 68 games on 15 fields in four hours and that is a huge impact on that facility and destroying those fields is not fair to the tax payers and that is why he does not have a problem with the field splitting issue. He said we have to take care of the facility responsibly and the policy is a responsible way of dealing with splitting issue. He said he is going to need assurance that private school kids will fall under the residency rate, Travis said that is correct. Commissioner de Arakal said 14% residency rate is really low and it makes him really uneasy and asks if we could bring the residency issue back to the July meeting because he wants them to stay in town and for them to succeed and for their group to grow. He said he thinks the group can meet the 100% residency as Frank Albers has said.

He wants to motion to require utility bills or picture ID to prove residency for all groups, they need to have everything in at the meetings. He said he knows this is a ton of paperwork but until we leverage more facilities and on page two he recommends special residency status may be granted following review by the Assistant CEO and be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval or denial. On page four, he would like to offer to eliminate Group 6 and lower the Group 4 residency requirement to 50%. He said he is trying to figure out ways to open up more field space and better serve our Costa Mesa residents and adults; he does not think we need the Group 6. He said on page 5, third

paragraph up from the bottom, it says, if approved new leagues may be given a lower priority than existing leagues or the need to rest fields and he did not understand that so he recommends saying, if approved, new leagues may be given lower priority than existing leagues in order to maintain adequate rest and renovation. He said on page six, he would like to add the Assistant CEO may at any time declare moratorium on league splits, or new leagues due to lack of field availability or field condition. He said on page 8, the second bullet from the top regarding league splits, the existing language is Teams and organizations may be required to provide schedules to show that all of the allocated fields are being utilized. If an allocated field(s) is not utilized by the designated organization/teams a total of three times during a season or reserved period of use, the field(s) will be reassigned. Teams/organizations will be notified by City staff when it has been determined that a field(s) is (are) not being used (and prior to the reassignment). He would like to add the fields will be reassigned and lack of use of the field may also result in revocation of the permit for the allocated fields, the team or organization will be billed and the fields will be reassigned. He said on page 9, it says, Should City deem it necessary due to extenuating circumstances, fields may be temporarily split more than twice; he wants to make sure it clarifies that the authority rests with the Assistant CEO to determine field splits.

Vice Chair Eckles asks how staff is going to determine residency with the school district. Travis said we would have to work with the district to see what kind of proof is given from the students to the district. He said he is all for Newport Mesa Unified School District being part of the residency rate. All the leagues he has been a part of all do online registration and he is not sure how feasible collecting utility bills is. He said at the national level such as AYSO there are some privacy concerns that their lawyers are going to have with that. Commissioner de Arakal said he understands that concern but if there is a residency issue how do we prove residency? He said maybe there is another method instead of a utility bill that we have to work out but given where we are at with the demand for field space and the requirements we are putting in place for residency there has to be a way to prove it. He said we have provisions in this FUAP for audits but how are we going to audit. Vice Chair Eckles said that's why he feels comfortable with the language as is

Commissioner Harper asks if it is possible if we can give staff the comments and suggestions like Commissioner de Arakal did and then staff goes and works through those comments and recommendations and then come back to the commission. Commissioner de Arakal said it would but staff is taking the policy to the first July Council meeting because they want to get it approved in time to use for the fall. Commissioner Harper asks if we can do a Special Meeting in the time between that. Travis said we could but it would push everything back and prevent us to get the allocations done in time for the fall and could force us to use the existing FUAP for the fall allocations. Vice Chair Eckles said as a former administrator he is very aware that if groups don't get their permits their registration will be low. If we come back in two weeks and then go to council in the following two weeks then what we will see is advertising for other cities which he said he has a real problem with, so unfortunately he said we need to crank this out tonight. Chair Pederson said to staff, this is why we wanted these earlier because the gun is now to our head to finish this. Commissioner Harper said he



could argue all night about special residency, audit and random audit; and he does respect staff for the work but he is looking for a way that we can get through this because it could be all night. Commissioner Graham said on this kind of document every word can have significance and it is an injustice to the document to dictate what the wordage should be from up there; staff spends hours on this document, he thinks they have gotten close enough to it that he could approve it as is tonight and come back in six months and review it. Commissioner de Arakal said he will withdraw his first request but he needs to have a way to check for residency and make sure the kids that say they live in Costa Mesa do live in Costa Mesa. Commissioner Harper said he has four items to go over; if you could put each item into a motion and we can discuss it, vote on it and then go to the next item that would be his recommendation because when there are five or six items at a time he said he gets lost. Commissioner de Arakal says, at discretion of the chair. Chair Pederson said it is up to the individual, if you want to bring all recommendations as one motion they could all get turned down by one vote but he says Commissioner Harper makes a good point and asks Commissioner de Arakal what he thinks. Commissioner de Arakal says, ok, I remove the first request for the utility bills.

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to have on page 2 say, special residency status may be granted following review by the Assistance CEO. A recommendation will be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval or denial, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal on page 4 to eliminate Group 6 and lower the residency rate for Group 4 users to 50%.**

Vice Chair Eckles asks the maker of the motion to add resident of Costa Mesa or employed in Costa Mesa for the adults. Maker of the motion, Commissioner de Arakal agrees.

**Motion is seconded by Vice Chair Eckles.**

Commissioner Harper asks how this could impact usage. Travis said it impacts adult leagues greatly. It will reduce them to one or two users. Commissioner de Arakal says, but predominantly not Costa Mesa residents. Vice Chair Eckles said that is why he included the employment part in the motion. Travis said he does not know what that change would do. Commissioner de Arakal says motion stands.

**MOTION FAILS 2-2, with Commissioner de Arakal and Vice Chair Eckles voting yes, and Chair Pederson and Commissioner Graham voting no and Commissioner Harper abstaining from the vote.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to change wordage on page 5, to if approved, new leagues may be given lower priority than existing leagues in order to maintain adequate field rest and renovation, seconded by Vice Chair Eckles.**

Commissioner Graham asks to repeat the motion. Commissioner de Arakal

repeats motion.

**MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to add language on page six: The Assistant CEO may at any time declare a moratorium on league splits or new leagues based on field availability or field conditions, seconded by Vice Chair Eckles. MOTION CARRIES 4-0 with Commissioner Harper abstaining.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to change language on page 8, second bullet to, in addition to fields being reassigned, lack of the use of fields may also result in the revocation of the permit for the allocated fields, the team or organization will be billed and the fields will be reassigned, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to clarify the authority rests with the Assistant CEO to determine field splits on page 9, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**MOTION made by Vice Chair Eckles to designate all Group 3 users as 90% Costa Mesa residents, NMUSD student and/or student of a private school in Costa Mesa.**

Commissioner de Arakal asks if Vice Chair Eckles is talking about usage on Friday nights at Jack Hammett; Vice Chair Eckles says he is talking about all Group 3 users because he said he has a problem that Group 1 is 75%, Group 3 is 50% but two groups in order to play at Jack Hammett are at 100%. He said lets make it consistent and it sounds like the majority of the Group 3 users would be able to make that percentage. Commissioner de Arakal said, right now group 3 is 50% or greater Costa Mesa residency and asks Vice Chair Eckles if he wants to move that to 90%. Vice Chair Eckles said yes, including the Newport Mesa Unified School District. Travis asked if that would include the private school, Vice Chair Eckles said yes. Commissioner Graham said he finds this so arbitrary because there is no justification except for what we think and he has trouble with that because we are throwing numbers around when we do not know what the numbers mean. Commissioner de Arakal asks Christian how many group 3's we lose if we change the percentage from 50 to 90%. Christian said right now, we do not have the numbers from the schools in Costa Mesa we only have the numbers for the Costa Mesa residency but based on the numbers right now our largest group 3 is at a 76% residency rate so they would not meet the requirement but again, he says he only has the numbers of actual Costa Mesa residents. Commissioner Harper says he agrees with Commissioner Graham because he is sensitive to changing numbers, he would look at it with data. He said he wants to make a comment about the field allocation process at Jack Hammett because we received a lot of information about the design of the facility and the safety within the facility and the parking but then we wrote a policy that required 100% residency which does not connect to him and he has a problem with that entirely. He said if you want to write a policy about Jack Hammett because we have an issue with safety then that needs to be written in a policy and certain rules need to be observed. He said he likes Vice Chair Eckles about defining a field.

**MOTION DIES WITH LACK OF SECOND.**

**MOTION made by Vice Chair Eckles to delete first two sentences on page 9: Any permitted field that is converted into multiple fields will be charged for each converted field. For example if one utility field is converted into two individual fields, the user group will be charged for two fields, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Commissioner Harper asks if the public has the document. Chair Pederson says yes.

Vice Chair Eckles asks on page 14 in the inclement weather guidelines, in the current FUAP it says the users may call playability in the Newport Mesa Unified School District fields and it is taken out in the new FUAP; Vice Chair Eckles asks if there is a reason for that. Christian says group 1 users and group 3 users are able to call their own field based on a criteria that matches both the city and the district. He said a lot of the youth groups have followed the mudline recommendation and have been ok with that. Vice Chair Eckles asks if there are other fields that can accommodate the growing groups because the groups are growing and that is phenomenal so he asks staff to work with the groups to find solutions for example, Lions Park has lit fields.

Commissioner de Arakal asks Bruce Hartley to come to the microphone to ask a rest and renovation question. Commissioner de Arakal says on page 17 in the FUAP there is a rest and renovation schedule and at Balearic we have two rest and renovation periods: one from August-September and one November-December; he asks what is the possibility of allowing the use of Balearic in September and giving it a one month break during the summer. Bruce said the rest and renovation schedule is driven by the league use, not so much by weather or the times we can use it. He said it is the same at Jack Hammett. He said if we shorten the rest and renovation period it won't recover as quickly; it does need growth time. Commissioner de Arakal said he is wondering if we could play flag football at Balearic if there are temporary lights during September and November. Christian said we do not have approval for the use of temporary lights at Balearic right now; there are other fields that have two to three hour time gaps during the fall at multiple facilities. Commissioner de Arakal said he is very interested to see if the Matt Leinart group gets their number up and if they have to go to other facilities, he would like to explore those options. Chair Pederson said just because it is says rest and renovation that does not mean all fields are closed and it is written in stone. Bruce Hartley says we accommodate as much as possible but we guard the rest and renovation time because if they do not guard those times the fields will not grow and recover adequately.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Harper that the wording be changed on page 4 under Field Allocations at Jack Hammett to: Sports organizations offering programs at Jack Hammet Sports Complex (JHSC) will be limited to facility and parking capacity at JHSC, the number of participants/ spectators may be limited and/or the field request may be reviewed by other City departments for safety and Costa Mesa Municipal Code violations.**

Travis asks if the final decision would go to the Assistant CEO like we have done in other sections of this policy or if staff would need to go the commission.

Vice Chair Eckles asks if Commissioner Harper is motioning to eliminate any residency requirement and adding your language; Commissioner Harper said no, he is not, the user group requirements still apply.

**MOTION DIES WITH LACK OF SECOND.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner Harper to change language on page 6 in the offense paragraphs to verbal or written, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION CARRIES 3-2 with Chair Pederson, Commissioner Harper and Commissioner Graham voting yes and Commissioner de Arakal and Vice Chair Eckles voting no.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner Harper to change language on page 8 to audits to establish residency will be performed on a routine basis. Commissioner de Arakal asks for clarification.**

**MOTION DIES WITH LACK OF SECOND.**

Commissioner Graham does not have any motions.

**MOTION made by Chair Pederson to approve and make a recommendation to the City Council that the following youth sports groups: AYSO 97, Newport Harbor Baseball Association and Newport Mesa Girls Softball be granted permanent Group 1 status, furthermore extending Group 3 status for Matt Leinart Football for a period of one year. MOTION for the last part to come back to us, seconded by Commissioner Graham.**

Vice Chair Eckles asked if what we have done so far, would they make Group 3 status because they either are going to make it after tonight or they won't and will have to come back to us. Travis said there have not been any changes to the policy that would make it so they couldn't go further. Vice Chair Eckles asked so it would only come back to us if they didn't meet the residency requirements. Travis clarifies that being a Group 3 user have two classifications, one being a nonprofit status or the other one being a private group.

**CHAIR PEDERSON RESCINDED HIS EARLIER MOTION.**

Vice Chair Eckles says Group 3 is 50% residency but Jack Hammett on Friday nights needs 100%, he said he believes this is too much inconsistency.

**MOTION made by Vice Chair Eckles to change the language on page 4 for Group 3 users to 75% or greater Costa Mesa residents and/or Newport Mesa Unified School District Students and/or Students who attend Private School in Costa Mesa, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal.**

Commissioner Harper asks how that impacts the teams and who gets to play and

Commissioner Harper asks how that impacts the teams and who gets to play and who does not get to play. Travis said we would only have the numbers for actual Costa Mesa residents; we would have to go back to all the teams and get rosters and the numbers. Commissioner Harper asked if anyone would meet the 100% if it did include the school district and private schools. Christian said we do not have those numbers so we do not know.

**MOTION FAILS 2-2 WITH COMMISSIONER DE ARAKAL AND VICE CHAIR ECKLES VOTING YES AND CHAIR PEDERSON AND COMMISSIONER HARPER VOTING NO AND COMMISSIONER HARPER ABSTAINING.**

**MOTION made by Vice Chair Eckles to approve the proposed Field Use Allocation Policy with the previously approved changes, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION CARRIES 4-0 WITH COMMISSIONER HARPER ABSTAINING.**

**Commissioner de Arakal sought and received clarification from staff confirming that under the motion just passed, Matt Leinart Football will continue to have Group 3 status.**

**MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve staff recommendation no. 2 recommending to the City Council that the following youth sports groups: AYSO 97, Newport Harbor Baseball Association and Newport Mesa Girls Softball be granted permanent Group 1 status, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Chair Pederson calls for a five minute recess.

Commissioner Harper requested Ms. Roche, the Commission Secretary, to repeat the last motion, Ms. Roche stated she did not have the official record and Ms. Roche would need to look back at the recording but could read from her notes. Ms. Roche read: MOTION made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve staff recommendation to the City Council that following youth sports groups: AYSO 97, Newport Harbor Baseball Association and Newport Mesa Girls Softball be granted permanent Group 1 status and extending Group 3 status for Matt Leinart Football.

Commissioner Harper asked whether they were extending Matt Leinart Football's 501(c)(3) designation and Chair Pederson responded that they were just extending their Group 3 status.

Ms. Reyes, Recreation Supervisor, stated the motion that was passed is to grant them Group 3 status, not discussing the 501(c)(3) status, that issue will be handled by staff and will be dealt with accordingly.

Commissioner de Arakal stated, you do not need to be a nonprofit to have Group 3 status.

Chair Pederson also stated the approved actions are recommendations to Council.

**b. Temporary Installation of Bench at Fairview Park south of Canary drive**

Bart presents report.

Commissioner Graham said we have a beautiful area that people can go to now because of the stairs but there is nowhere to sit and enjoy the sunsets. He wants to try it out and see what people think of the bench. He said there were problems in the past with mostly teens going up there and drinking which was stated by Mr. King, Commissioner Graham said Mr. King supports the bench but he does not want it anywhere near his house so we looked at the trail and put it in an area where you can look one way and see the golf course or you can look the other way and see the park. He said it is a beautiful place for a park bench.

Commissioner Graham said Mrs. McCormick wrote an email about the lack of the light for visibility in that area and asks Bart to look into that light further. He said the one month trial is a great way to pull the public and see what they think.

Commissioner de Arakal said he does not know why we have to do a survey or a poll, the Fairview Master Plans calls for the installation of these benches in that area so he thinks we should put it in there permanently.

Vice Chair Eckles asked why we are doing a 30 day period. Commissioner Graham said he suggested the trial period because it might need time for the concurrence of the public and due to the lack of light. Bart said staff is working with Edison to put a street light at the end of the culdesac which will light the end of the street and the park bench area.

Chair Pederson asks Bart how we are putting in the bench; Bart said we thought about just surface installation but now we are planning on putting it in as a permanent installation. Chair Pederson said if we are putting something in permanently why are we taking it out in a month, we might as well make it permanent.

Commissioner Harper asked if we put it in for 30 days and there is no issue, can we just leave it there and continue it. Commissioner Graham said if we want to put it in permanently then great.

Chair opens Public Comment.

Chair closes Public Comment.

**MOTION made by Commissioner Harper to approve the bench in Fairview Park permanently, seconded by Commissioner Graham. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

**c. Tree Removal Request – 871 Prospect Place**

Bruce Hartley presents report.

Commissioner de Arakal asks about the S4 tree which has the bark beetle; is that tree going to die eventually. Bruce said yes. Chair Pederson said there is no cure for bark beetle, correct? Bruce said no, you can prevent further attacks but

once they are in the tree they bring the fungus with them and it declines.

Commissioner Harper asks how soon is going to take to die. Bruce said right now he cannot predict when it will die but they have seen them go out in a matter of weeks. It can both survive and look good for the next couple of months or it could die in the next couple of weeks.

Chair Pederson asks for Applicant to speak.

David Browne who lives on 871 Prospect Place speaks about why these trees need to be removed. He said the trees are causing damage. He thanks staff for recommending one removal; he said the other tree's roots are massive and pushing against the wall and causing damage; he said about five or six feet away from the tree, there is visible damage to the wall. He said he has seen other trees go straight through the wall that are similar to his trees so it is hard for him to believe that the tree is not causing damage. He invited Bruce and the Commissioners to come and see the channels he dug up on his side of the yard that proves his trees in his backyard are not causing the damage.

Chair Pederson opens it up for public comment.

1. Kim DeBroux – Costa Mesa Resident

Kim speaks in favor of keeping the trees.

2. John – Costa Mesa Resident

John speaks in favor of removing the trees.

3. Kelly Waterman –Costa Mesa Resident

Kelly speaks in favor of removing the trees.

4. Scott Waterman – Costa Mesa Resident

Scott speaks in favor of removing the trees.

5. Gabriella Oseguera – Costa Mesa Resident

Gabriella speaks in favor of removing the trees

6. Claire Li – Costa Mesa Resident

Claire speaks in favor of removing the trees.

7. Steve Li – Costa Mesa Resident

Steve speaks in favor of removing the trees.

Chair Pederson closes public comment.

Chair Pederson asks Bruce about the creeping fig. Bruce said on Yukon the creeping fig was growing extensively along that walls and over the years with the complaint of the residents the City would remove it on their side and the residents would remove it on their side so over time it all got cleaned off.

Vice Chair Eckles said S1 has caused significant visible damage and the S4 sounds like it is going to cause damage we just do not know when. Bruce said that was his opinion. Vice Chair Eckles said it is a safety issue since it is dying and could potentially come down.

**MOTION made by Vice Chair Eckles to remove both the S1 and the S4 trees as Category 1 removals, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.**

Commissioner de Arakal said he looked up bark beetles and read that it actually signals them to go to the next tree so all of the trees are in danger if they do not take the tree out.

Commissioner Harper thanks residents for sitting through the Field Use Allocation Policy.

**MOTION CARRIES 5-0**

**d. Tree Removal Request – 879 Prospect Place**

**Bruce presents report.**

Chair asks applicant to come and speak.

Claire Li speaks in favor of removing the trees. Claire thanks Bruce and staff for everything they have done. She said these trees have shown above and underground damage. She said the roots are going into the wall and causing the lift. She voiced her reservation for keeping the second tree because they have required a very negative reputation with the residents who are living with them on a daily basis. She asked how effective the root barrier is because she has read often with the size of these trees, the roots often grow beyond the barrier and come back up for water. She said having a neighborhood with fences falling apart would do no good for the neighborhood. She said her family takes no delight in removing trees and her family loves trees.

Chair Pederson opens Public Comment.

1. Steve Li – Costa Mesa Resident

Steve speaks in favor of removing the trees.

2. Kim DeBroux – Costa Mesa Resident

Kim speaks in favor of keeping the trees.

3. John – Costa Mesa Resident



John speaks in favor of removing the trees.

4. Kelly Waterman – Costa Mesa Resident

Kelly speaks in favor of removing the trees.

5. Gabriella Oseguera – Costa Mesa Resident

Gabriella speaks in favor of removing the trees.

6. Scott Waterman – Costa Mesa Resident

Scott speaks in favor of removing the trees.

7. David Browne – Costa Mesa Resident

David speaks in favor of removing the trees.

Chair closes public comment.

**MOTION made by Chair Pederson to approve the request of the removal of S8 tree as a Category 1 and to deny the request of the removal of the S7 tree and leave the location of newly planted tree and the species to staff, seconded by Commissioner Graham. MOTION CARRIES 5-0**

#### **10. Parks Project Manager's Report**

Bartazar Mejia presents report.

Public Comment:

Jay Humphrey – Costa Mesa Resident

Jay said he wanted to bring two things to attention: if we are going to put lights up in a parking lot in a park that is closed at dusk then we are making it a forever open after dusk, park. He said the same thing goes for Parsons School. He said he would be very concerned with these issues.

#### **11. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Graham thanks Bart for the work he did for the bench at Fairview Park. He thanks the Commission and staff for the meeting that went well and has a bunch of pictures that he has been taking at the different parks but will save them for the next meeting.

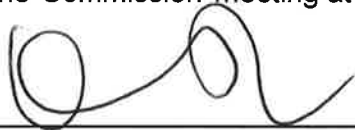
Commissioner Harper said thanks Travis and his team for putting together the allocation policy and while everyone is passionate about the items, the groups work well together and respect one another which he believes is a reflection of leadership shown by Travis and staff. He said one of his favorite things he has ever done is approve the park bench, and thanks Commissioner Graham for that.

Vice Chair Eckles thanks staff for getting through the night and the hard work that has been put in for this meeting. He said at the end of the day we made very minor changes to the document and the end result is good which shows how well staff did while putting together the document. Vice Chair Eckles says to enjoy Independence Day and to be safe.

Commissioner de Arakal gave a report on the recent City District Liaison meeting that was held; most of the things discussed regarded field issues; the good news is the school district is undertaking an appraisal of Balearic as a first step to the City purchasing that property which is something he has been advocating for a while and he believes could turn into a sports park for the City and could help alleviate the lit field issues. Commissioner de Arakal said the district made it pretty clear that they have significant concerns about the stress that is being put on school fields because we are allocating them so much and there is a lot of play going on. He said that situation is going to get worse because they are going to be turning off the sprinklers so there are going to be a lot of brown fields on most of the district facilities. He thinks we are over programming our facilities because the demand is there for it. He knows we do our best to accommodate everybody but we cannot accommodate everyone because we do not have the space. He said he echoes Vice Chair Eckles for a happy Fourth of July and to please keep firework use under the legal times and to only use legal fireworks. He said he wanted to give a shout out to Costa Mesa Resident, Jake Knapp who is our resident star golfer; he qualified for the U.S. Open. He said we have a lot to be proud of him and he is a great kid and congratulated both his parents.

## **12. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pederson. The next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, July 30, 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 Travis Karlen  
Recreation Manager