

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

JULY 23, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23, 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 Graham**
- 3. Roll Call**

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Travis Karlen, Recreation Manager
 Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
 Kristina Roche, PRC Secretary
 William Lund, Recreation Coordinator
 Christian Hernandez, Recreation Specialist
 Alma Reyes, Recreation Supervisor
 Justin Martin, Recreation Supervisor
 Belen Becerra, Intern for Parks and Community Services

- 4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 25, 2015 Meeting of the PRC.**
MOTION made by Commissioner Graham to approve the June 25 minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Eckles; MOTION carried 5-0.

- 5. Public Comments**

No public comments.

- 6. Presentation – Playful City USA**

William Lund, Recreation Coordinator and Christian Hernandez, Recreation Supervisor presented PowerPoint.

Chair Pederson thanked Mr. Lund and Mr. Hernandez for their presentation and said thank you to all staff for the hard work everyone put in to become a Playful City. Chair Pederson asked if KaBoom is the toy company. Mr. Hernandez said that is correct. Chair Pederson said so that allows us as a city to network with other groups to see what other people are doing throughout the country to improve their cities. Mr. Hernandez said that is correct, we are able to attend webinars and see what other cities are planning to incorporate play into everyday life and it also makes us eligible to receive grants for

certain things.

Commissioner Harper asked for examples of what went into the application to receive this title. Mr. Lund said we used a lot of data from our current programs which are located in different parts of the city, low cost programming and free programs which demonstrates how we offer play in many different ways. Mr. Hernandez said Costa Mesa United helped write a letter of recommendations saying we help with the youth sports group to help make room for all kids to play. Commissioner Harper asked if we have to reapply every year. Mr. Lund said yes, we do. Commissioner Harper said this is great.

Commissioner Eckles said great work and he enjoyed the poem. He asked who the other two cities were that received the title in Orange County. Mr. Hernandez said La Habra and Anaheim. He asked if there is any marketing plan to promote this. Mr. Hernandez said we have been in contact with the organization and we are waiting to see what their plan is and going along with that and begin sending out press releases then.

Mr. Travis Karlen said this was not just with our department, it was a collaboration with Public Services and a couple other departments; we had a former employee who was here on a contract basis who worked for Bart who helped us with the application process.

Commissioner de Arakal congratulated the entire City staff for putting everything together and being rewarded with this. Parks and Recreation is doing great things right now, much more than they have ever been while he has been on the Commission and he is proud of everyone and for the volunteer work from the concerts, to the community run and to upgrading the fields. He said we are on a good course and he very proud of everyone.

Chair Pederson said good job for everything everyone did and we should keep promoting it.

7. Consent Calendar

No items.

8. Old Business

No Items.

9. New Business

a. Tree Removal Request – 3037 Capri Lane

Mr. Bruce Hartley presents report.

Commissioner de Arakal asked if it is or is not considered a problem species. Mr. Hartley said it is not a problem species.

Chair Pederson said one of the reasons that could go into this is if we had trouble shaving it; he said personally seeing the pictures after the shaving the sidewalks look like it is in pretty good condition. He asked if the effects of the unauthorized bricks

effect you and the ability to help that. Mr. Hartley said we can only put in a three foot root barrier; typically as soon as we see damage to the curbs or sidewalk we put in a bigger root barrier to help prevent damage but because there is limited space that causes an issue.

Commissioner Graham asked if the damage has only occurred on City property. Mr. Hartley said, that is correct.

Commissioner de Arakal said the street looks in fairly good condition and asks if there is any scheduling for street and gutter repairs. Mr. Hartley said that part of the City has just recently had their repairs done.

Chair Pederson asked applicant, Valorie Joyner to come to the podium.

Valorie Joyner said they built the house in 1969 and in 1973 they sand set the bricks around the original pear tree; she said they lift easily and that is why the roots move the bricks. She said they offered to pull the bricks up when they pruned the roots but the City said no, this would be sufficient. She said the tree overtakes their house; she said the tree is so massive that people do not see the residence anymore. She said you can see how wide the tree is. She said she would like to see the tree removed, and if the City won't remove it, she would like permission to move it at her cost.

Vice Chair Eckles asked when she offered to remove the bricks, Ms. Joyner said when they did the root pruning.

Commissioner Harper asked if she would like another tree to replace it or if she does not want any trees in that area. Ms. Joyner said she would be happy to have a tree, just not that tree. Commissioner Harper asked if the map of the front yard that she gave the commissioners are all drought resistant. She said there was going to be a vegetable garden as well as the drought resistant plants.

Commissioner de Arakal asked Mr. Hartley if the tree is fully mature. Mr. Hartley said he has not seen one of these trees much larger than this but he cannot say for sure.

Chair Pederson asked when the next root pruning is going to happen. Mr. Hartley said sometime in this next year.

Commissioner Graham asked if there is a way to take some of the large branches out that are lower and leave the higher branches. Mr. Hartley said what we have been doing with these trees is trying to keep the height down. Commissioner Graham said he was not speaking about taking the height down but freeing it up more so the house is more visible. Mr. Hartley said it is difficult to do with these trees but they could possibly open it up more.

Chair Pederson opens public comment.

No public comment.

Chair Eckles asked Mr. Hartley if they remove the brick and install the root barriers, it'll have to be root pruned often. Mr. Hartley said as the roots continue to grow they are going to push against the side walk and curb and if the bricks come out and we

root prune along the side walk and keep the roots out of the sidewalk, you will see cracks in the curb and gutter and eventually those will have to be replaced.

Chair Pederson said it is a beautiful tree and it loves its spot; but if they're taking out to do the work they are doing and when they do that the bricks could come out and then the root barriers could go in and go further down preventing further damage to the sidewalk. Mr. Hartley said we could go in as deep as 18 inches and go as far along the side walk as we need.

Ms. Joyner said if we do the root pruning and with the size of the tree, if the Santa Ana wind comes, what is going to happen to the tree. Mr. Hartley said we would be cutting on the other side of the tree, not on the wind side; anytime you take out roots, there are risks, if you take out all sides then the tree would probably come down which is why we would not do that but if we root pruned on one side and typically we would thin it out as well. Chair Pederson said if we root pruned it and thinned it out then we could make it work and look good for everyone.

Commissioner de Arakal asked the applicant how many hours during the day does the yard get sun. Ms. Joyner said the front yard gets a full day of sun. Commissioner de Arakal said from the picture it looks like there is a lot of shade, and asked when she is planning on completing the plan in the front yard. Ms. Joyner said within the year. Commissioner de Arakal said if the tree created a lot of shade he is aware of how much sun a vegetable garden needs because he is an avid vegetable gardener, he said he was trying to figure out if the tree caused a shade problem for the vegetables. The applicant said no, unfortunately shade is not a problem.

Vice Chair Eckles asked what the applicant meant when saying aesthetic impact will only be improved with the removal of the tree. Ms. Joyner said the tree is the biggest tree on the street; she said the tree is too big. She said they put a lot of pride in their home and people cannot see the house because the tree is too big.

Commissioner Graham said with the climate change, the shade is very important, especially in the summer with all the hot days. He said he would hate to see trees get cut down that do provide such great shade.

Chair Pederson said if he were to stay consistent with how he over sees tree removals, and to him there is nothing that is pushing him over the edge to remove the tree. He said with creative work as far as trimming, it'll be just fine. He said he just does not see a reason to take something down with that much beauty.

Vice Chair Eckles said he does not see visible property damage. He said he thinks there are some remedies that can be done, putting in barriers and root pruning is a remedy. He said down the road, if it causes more damage then we can look at removing it again but for right now we can save the tree and help with the aesthetic.

Commissioner Harper said he always has a different angle; if a community or a resident wants to redo their yard and they are going to pay for the tree to get removed and put a new tree in then he is more supportive of the applicant.

MOTION: MOTION made by Chair Pederson to deny the removal of the tree. Seconded for discussion by Commissioner de Arakal.

Commissioner de Arakal said if it causing property damage, he has no problem taking out the tree. He said it is a little bit of a nuisance that we are going to be spending money fixing the gutter and root pruning over the next couple of years if the tree gets bigger but he agrees that the tree does not have a reason to be removed right now. He said he hopes there is a way to open it up a bit and a better sight line. He told the applicant that he hopes she carries out the plan for the front yard and he would love to come and look at it once it is finished.

Chair Pederson said the applicant can come back in a year to try to get it removed again.

Commissioner Harper said he is going to vote against the denial but he never wins these topics.

MOTION CARRIES 4-1 with Commissioner Harper voting no.

b. Tree Removal Request – 3106 Murray Lane

Bruce Hartley presents report.

Commissioner de Arakal asked Mr. Bruce Hartley if he had the opportunity to go into the applicants backyard to observe the damage. Mr. Hartley said there are sprouting of the roots; she has removed some roots but there are roots coming up in all the cracks and the planters, there are several locations.

Chair Pederson said Mr. Hartley said the curb and gutter were redone so roots were cut when that was being completed so that makes root pruning on the side walk side is risky so we cannot root prune that side safely.

Vice Chair Eckles asked Mr. Hartley if he has an approximate age difference between S1 and S2. Mr. Hartley said we do not have a planting date in the report; they could be the same age and just grow and mature at different speeds; they are only ten feet and one inch different in sizes. Vice Chair Eckles asked if S2 is going to do something similar as S1 in time. Mr. Hartley said there will be similar damage but it is not immediately adjacent to a fence or a planter so it has a little bit more space.

Chair Pederson asked applicant, Wendy Geiser to come up and speak.

Ms. Geiser said she pulled out a root that was approximately two to three feet long and about an inch in diameter that she pulled out from behind her house in a planter. She said there was also a planter that was broken so she removed the plant that was in there because she thought the plant had broken it and started digging and found the root that went through the corner of the foundation of her house and into the planter and broke it. She said she started looking more and had an aberist look at the roots. She said she lived there since 1984 and loves the trees but in the last year and a half the damage that has been caused to the sidewalk, the planter, the patio and the house. She said she is only asking for them to be removed because of the damage that it is causing to her backyard. She said is she going to have to replace her sidewalk to the garage because of the damage.

Chair Pederson asked commissioners if there are any questions for the applicant. No questions for applicant.

Chair Pederson opens Commissioners Comments.

Commissioner de Arakal asked Mr. Hartley what Category II removals fall under; if it is potential damage? Mr. Hartley said Category II removals are for problem tree species, there is a list of about five trees that fall under this and liquid ambers are not designated as a problem tree species.

Commissioner Graham asked Mr. Hartley if it is true that once the roots get into the private property then the owner has all the rights to remove the roots. Mr. Hartley said yes, that is true. Commissioner Graham said all the roots on the other side of the side walk can be cut and taken out.

Commissioner Harper asked if this is a common problem with this tree species. Mr. Hartley said the liquid amber is very popular, it is a great tree; if it has eight feet it does much better. He said they are massive trees and gorgeous but now they are starting to outgrow their location, they need a lot of room.

Commissioner Graham pointed out how much shade both the trees are giving and said he would hate to see both of the trees removed.

Vice Chair Eckles asked what the remedies would be if S2 did not get removed? Mr. Hartley said we don't have an opportunity to root prune because the roots have already been compromised, one thing we could do is put a root barrier on the private property side but we do not normally do that except for extreme cases.

Chair Pederson asked the applicant if she was wanting to have another tree replaced; she said she loves the tree and they are gorgeous and she would never ask to have the tree removed except for the fact that it is causing damage.

MOTION made to remove the S1 tree and deny the removal of the S2 tree. Seconded by Commissioner de Arakal for discussion. Commissioner de Arakal asked if the removal is at City's expense; maker of the motion agrees. MOTION CARRIES 5-0.

10. Maintenance Manager's Report

Mr. Bruce Hartley presents report.

Chair Pederson thanks Mr. Hartley for all of the responses that he writes to the correspondences. Mr. Hartley said he believes these emails are proof that the district park signs are working because that is where they are getting the email. Chair Pederson said he just wants to thank Mr. Hartley for responding very quickly and he knows the public likes that and they want to be heard.

Commission Harper told Mr. Hartley that his responses are very well done and thanks him for a great report.

Vice Chair Eckles asked to repeat what he said about the wood chips. Mr. Hartley said

there are two parks that have wood chips and it comes from a company for this specific purpose. He said the wood fiber is handicap accessible as well. He said it seems to be well liked and it does not get compacted like sand does; the wood fibers stay soft. Vice Chair Eckles asked if he had received complains; Mr. Hartley said he has not received any complaints about it. Vice Chair Eckles said a couple months ago Mr. Hartley mentioned the Fairview Development Center and the water and was not sure what the state mandates and things like that and how it would effect FDC; Vice Chair Eckles asked if he has gotten any answers about this. Mr. Hartley said he contacted them about it and had received no direction from them and we are on a two day watering system which has huge impact on the fields. Vice Chair Eckles said he went to the fields there the other day and the first fields are dirt and the fields further back are in pretty good shape; Mr. Hartley said there is a border that separates what the City maintains and which the state maintains and the fields that the state maintains is not being watered and the fields that we maintain are being watered twice a week and we are paying for it; he said that is probably what he is seeing. Vice Chair Eckles said these fields are these fields are a big facility for AYSO 97 and he is concerned with the fields and said the far fields are going to get torn to shreds in two weeks; he said he is not sure what the answer is. Mr. Hartley said you are seeing the same thing at Balearic and Davis, if it is a really good system then two days of watering is enough but a lot of these fields do not have a lot of root depth. Chair Pederson asked if the state would give a waiver for sports fields because of chance of damage and injury. Mr. Hartley said the only consideration they have gotten is if the City is doing renovation. Chair Pederson said the districts are getting cut back and there were parents who did law suites because the kids were getting hurt in the sports fields.

Commissioner Graham thanked Mr. Hartley for everything he does.

11. Recreation Manager's Report

Mr. Karlen presents report.

Chair Pederson thanked Mr. Karlen for the previous meeting last month and thanked the staff for guiding and helping the Commission through the document. Chair Pederson said as he has mentioned before he would like to have the document a little earlier in case they want something to come back and they will not have their back to the wall but other than that he wants to thank everyone and overall it's a good document.

Vice Chair Eckles asked Mr. Karlen in general does he have an idea of how the auditing of residency is going to look or is this too early? Mr. Karlen said we are in the developing process. Vice Chair Eckles asked in a future meeting if they can get an update on the FUAP and the auditing as well as all the changes.

Chair Pederson asked if the commission can be notified whenever there is functions or anything like that so maybe one of them can show up and he does like hearing about them.

Commission Harper told Mr. Karlen that the City is lucky to have him and he did good work with the document and although the Commission may have fumbled and did a lousy trial run at least it was a trial run for Council to see and say, "we can do it better" and if we watched ourselves we would do better the next time. Commissioner Harper said he is joining Mr. Karlen on the meeting for the software and the auditing and has

some ideas and hopefully will be a help; he said Vice Chair Eckles is welcome to join them.

Commissioner de Arakal thanked Mr. Hartley and Mr. Karlen for great reports and asked Mr. Karlen was the council's decision to redefine Residency to include Costa Mesa Residents and students from Newport Mesa Unified School Districts which vastly expands Group 1, and one day we might have more Group 1 users than fields and we will have to start telling them no but theoretically they have the highest priorities so how do we work through that process. He said he has some concern about this. Commissioner de Arakal said he thought the Commission did a very good job going through the document and it's a complex document. Commissioner de Arakal said all in all it's a good document and it will evolve.

12. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Graham said we need to recognize the changes in the water usage and see how it affects the parkway trees and we are going to see a tremendous effect on that and we already have. He would like to see this be agenzized for a future meeting to discuss in front of the public how we can better communicate to the public. He said there is a lot of great regulation on how to do this but he is not sure how well it is communicated to the public. He said he receives a newsletter from the Costa Mesa Water District and if we communicate the regulations better to the public they can respond better. He said he came across a flyer last week to help save the Fairview Natural Park but he was out of town but he was really interested in this and found out that Commissioner Harper was at the meeting and if he would say a little bit about it, he would be interested in hearing from him. He thanked the staff and everyone else and said he thinks everyone is working hard.

Commissioner Harper said he did attend the Fairview Park meeting and it was a great meeting put on by people who love the park and they did tours and they had booths and did education and kids showed up and it was a pleasant events. He said they may have different opinions and we all have different opinions about the park but in a positive sense they are out there doing the right thing. He echoed Commissioner Harper about the parkway trees and the water and there needs to be some coordination because there the residents are being told what to do by the Water District and there are City trees that needs to be maintained. He thanked staff for everything.

Vice Chair Eckles said great job for Playful City USA and that is a great accomplishment. He said everyone did a great job putting together the document and at the end of the day there was not any whole sale changes, there were some modifications and changes and is pretty supportive of the document and it is a living, breathing document. He said he wanted to mention the motion in the last meeting and asked for clarification from Mr. Karlen earlier about the City attorney's take on it and he would like to hear more about that in the future because he sees the minutes and watches the video and heard what he heard and voted based on what the heard and he said it is his fault for not taking action when the motion was read back an hour plus later but he said he takes issue on that and it is precedence that he does not necessary like but in general we are doing good things up here and said enjoy the summer and to enjoy the OC Fair.

Commissioner de Arakal said he echoes Vice Chair Eckles and he was relatively vocal about it in the press about the motion so he said he reserves further comment on that.

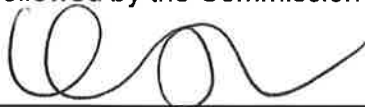
He said he agrees with Commissioner Graham about agenizing something about the water usage and parkway trees and maybe we need a presentation from staff as to all the various ways we communicate with the public, he said he was not sure exactly what Commissioner Graham wants to agenize so maybe it could be the presentation about the different ways we communicate to the public. Chair Pederson said they talked about it at the pre meeting and believes everyone has a good idea of what it is we need agenized. Commissioner de Arakal said ok, good. Commissioner de Arakal said something he would like to see agenized for the next meeting is to have the Police Department come in and give a presentation and provide the commission a report on incidents of illicit activity at Wilson Park in the last six months. He said he has a pretty good idea of what is going on over there and it is not good. He said he wanted to remind the Commission that in October they are giving the second parks report. He said he wanted better lighting pushed back at Ketchum Park because of things going on deep in the park because there is not good lighting. Mr. Hartley said that when the lights were being put in there were some concerns by the residents near that area. He said he talked to one of the park rangers, Matt Pallo and he said there were going to be increased patrol in that area and he is not sure if all the lights are working so he was going to check on that and report back to us. Commissioner de Arakal said maybe Matt can be the one to come and report back to us about the two different parks because what concerns him about Wilson Park is where it stretches way back because he does not believe there is any lighting over there. Mr. Hartley said there has been a lot of activity and resources being applied to Wilson Park and he will make sure PD is aware of his request to have a report. Commissioner de Arakal said ok, thanks. Commissioner de Arakal said he enjoyed the fair this morning and please go out and enjoy the fair.

Chair Pederson told Mr. Karlen that he would like to be updated on the fee study and keep us informed and would like to attend meetings about this. Chair Pederson said he is going to let the water issue play out and he is tentative about asking it to be agenized. Chair Pederson said the morning at the fair for Costa Mesa Day was really fun and he really enjoyed it. He thanked the fairgrounds for inviting us.

Commissioner Graham said he is concerned about the relationship with the trees and the parkways. When the residents were told to turn off the water, most of them just turned off the water and the parkway trees rely on their grass being watered so we are going to see a lot of fall out from that. He said he does not think people understand the relationship between the parkway trees and their property. He said he thinks that needs to be explained to them and that is why he thinks it needs to be agenized.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pederson. The next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, August 27, 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