

CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 14, 2018
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER Vice Chair Andy Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm

- a. **Members Present:** Vice Chair Andy Campbell; Members Cindy Black, Larry Courter, Kim Hendricks, Alex Reich, Steve Smith, Alternate #1 Cynthia McDonald, Alternate #2 Bill McCarty
- b. **Members Absent:** Chair Anna Vrska
- c. **Liaisons Present:** Parks & Recreation Commissioner Krissie Bogner, (for Chair Liz McNabb), Vice Chair Arlis Reynolds; Council Liaison Mayor Sandra Genis
- d. **Liaison Absent:** Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Liz McNabb

2. APPROVAL February 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes- Alex Reich motions to approve minutes as amended, 2nd by Cindy Black; passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terry Welsh, Banning Ranch Conservancy President speaking as Costa Mesa resident, reintroduced a previous idea of partnering with the City and other groups on a Coastal Conservancy grant to restore vernal pool number four. The grant is due April 15, 2018 but will be available again in the future and asks that the Committee consider it.

Jay Humprey, encourages seeking grant even though time is short. Speaks about the changes being made to the character of City through development, states that the Committee must find ways to maximize preservation of FVP for the general public. Comments that this is not being accomplished with installation of the median and associated and trees.

Douglas Westfall describes his book on preservation of FVP bluffs, points out that it is a special place, largest open air Native American site. Asks the Committee to please do whatever they can to preserve it.

Terry Koken reads into the record a letter previously delivered to the City Council on upcoming extension of OCME contract to be a 50-year lease agreement; expresses dissatisfaction with Placentia Ave median.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Subcommittee Updates:

- i. City policy 500-11-FVP Implementation Procedures- Andy Campbell reports that one Subcommittee meeting was held and that Anna Vrska will produce a draft comment for the next meeting.
Cindy Black asks if the entire Committee should see a copy of the policy; staff states that Policy 500-11 can be found on the FVP website.
- ii. North Bluff Trail & Habitat Restoration Grant- Andy Campbell reminds all that the Subcommittee made recommendations at last meeting and was to follow-up on three recommendations: 1) check that the recommendations are consistent with FVP MP, 2) identify what grading means in context of Measure AA, and 3) is the work compatible with Measure AA. Andy reports 1) MP talks about getting people off Placentia Ave and trail meets

that philosophy; 2) Andy expresses that grading will be minimal; and 3) that those members and voters he spoke with do not object to the project. Cindy Black comments that legal review of definition of grading will need to be done and asks if is this a good time to get opinion from City Legal Counsel. Staff comments that the City does need a definition of “grading” within the context of AA, but that it is premature with this grant as we have not heard back from the State as to whether or not this recommended change (and trail) will be acceptable to the grant, and that other sources like CEQA may need to be looked at for grading standards.

Andy asks about City grading standards for other projects/entities; staff will bring this information to the next meeting. Public member Jay Humphrey states that Measure AA is the law of CM and City attorneys have not come up with how AA will be integrated into City law.

Liaison Reynolds asks if the recent inquiry from Native American representatives on proposed trail in FVP was regarding this trail. Staff clarifies that the inquiry was addressing the Tanager trail, not this one.

- b. **Vernal Pool fencing project.** Staff provides update that all poles were removed in 2.5 days; backfill done according to approved protocol; coverage of project oversight was good; park looks great. Next steps presented:
- i. Ground truth-ing with staff and Subcommittee for north edge of pool #1 and bluff trail area.
 - ii. City currently has a Request for Qualifications out for surveyor to map the poles in the scale requested by the Committee.
 - iii. Confirm types of fencing to be used.
 - iv. Schedule installation of temporary fencing.

Cindy Black voices desire to have a vernal pool expert as surveyors. Staff responds that the surveyor will not be advising on locations of fencing, but will be mapping what the Committee agrees to expanding from the Glenn Lukos Associates map; this next step goes beyond those alignments so an expert is not required but consultation with USFWS will be. Andy Campbell reminds the Committee that this is temporary fencing being designed so that changes, if needed, could be made. It is not intended to be final delineation of the pools.

Member Genis recommends that the bluff needs prickly pear at base and pools need a thick vegetation border to keep people out of pools and on trails.

Andy Campbell asks about pole removal on east side of park; staff responds that every other pole was removed on interior but not on Placentia or parking lot. Andy requests to re-open this decision based on aesthetic look, and threat of vehicle entry, recalling that flyer field area was different than the eastside. It was concluded to put this discussion on April agenda.

Alex Reich asks if there is a city code for going into the pools that makes it possible to fine people? Staff responds that all codes are under review in an effort to bring consistency to signage.

Kim Hendricks questions park access by HSS, and what is contained within the storage unit moving that this should also be put on future agenda.

The Committee asked that two items on fencing be placed on the April agenda: 1) reconsideration of fence post removal along Placentia and along southern end of pools 5,6,7, and 2) would be a report out on what is being stored in the HSS bin and the need for

access.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Existing Subcommittees** - Staff provided a summary of Subcommittees charters, members and anticipated terminations. Group agreed that all Subcommittees will be classified as “ongoing” at this time.
- b. **Wetlands** -Staff provided update on City initiatives underway in the wetland area as response to neighborhood requests. Kim Hendricks asks for a review of the pesticide treatments being used at the park. Staff explains that City works closely with Orange County Vector Control District and US Fish and Wildlife Services on plans for chemical use. Kim Hendricks asks to review the plans. Cindy Black asks that non-toxic Costa Mesa or Irvine, should comment on the plan and that ‘conservation easements’ are noted for effects on operations.

The Committee asked that staff make available online, OC Vector Control practices for chemical applications within FVP.

6. PRESENTATION - MASTER PLAN ‘WORKSHOP’

- a. **Develop common understanding of MP** - Staff presented slides describing the current status of the Master Plan; the Committees charge with regards to the MP; and general items to provide a common understanding by Committee members.
- b. **Develop time line for consideration of each component of MP** - Staff presented a six-month timeline to review all areas of the MP at Committee meetings beginning with Archaeology in April. Members suggested the new vision date be 2019 instead of 2018, but agreed to the schedule layout within a flexible timeframe.

7. STAFF COMMENTS:

Cynthia D’Agosta distributes a new FVP map and narrative created for a tour of FVP that took place with the CA Park & Recreation Society; a flyer of a Native American cultural event; reminded everyone of Love Costa Mesa day projects scheduled for April 28th; and addressed Coastal Conservancy available grants.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Larry Courter presents slides on the City of Torrance successful Madrona Marsh, emphasizing that a similar successful non-profit and City partnership may be possible for FVP.

Bill McCarty thanks Larry Courter for the encouragement and example, stating that perhaps a FVP Conservancy is needed for FVP to get people excited about the park.

Steve Smith thanks Cynthia D’Agosta for the work done to put together the Master Plan process.

Cindy Black requests that two items, regarding vernal pool #4 restoration be placed on next agenda for consideration: 1) how a partnership with Banning Ranch Conservancy for vernal pool #4 restoration could be developed, and 2) an explanation of what is required from

USFWS for this restoration. She also asks that the process for requesting/placing items on the agenda be discussed; and that Nontoxic Costa Mesa gets included in discussions about the pond areas.

Mayor Sandy Genis states that new guidelines for CEQA are currently under consideration and that comments can be submitted online for one more day at Office of Planning and Research CEQA updates.

Alex Reich motions to move the meeting beyond 8 p.m., 2nd by Kim Hendricks with no opposition.

Alex Reich reports out that he is scheduling a meeting with Bart Mejia, Cynthia D'Agosta and Andy Campbell to discuss ADA parking lot concerns; agrees that protecting vernal pool #4 grant should be pursued; states that, in his opinion the median is in the park and should have been held to Measure AA standards; and he questions why Park Rangers are off trails so much in the park.

Kim Hendricks echoes sentiments on the median stated by others; asks if Raja and Andy met on pest management practices within the park, and if information shared could be brought to the Committee; asks that quarterly biology reports from Barry Nerhus be posted for the Committee to see; announces Earth Day event April 21st by FVP Alliance with Rob Hamilton, biologist.

Cynthia McDonald comments on the medians being corrected three times and adds that the bike path Committee is addressing issues with bike lanes on Placentia Ave.

Andy Campbell asks that the plant palette for medians be reported on; for clarity on alternates roll on voting when members are absent; and asks if the vernal pool #4 restoration plan currently at USFWS could be shared with Committee. He states that the MP process presented is good, and that he is in support of OCME's contract being extended.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. by Vice Chair Campbell

Next Regular Meeting: April 11, 2018 6:00pm at Costa Mesa City Hall Rm 1A.