

CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 11, 2018
REVISED AS APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER Chair Anna Vrska called meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Anna Vrska, Vice Chair Andy Campbell, Members Cindy Black, Kim Hendricks, Steve Smith, Alternate #1 Cynthia McDonald, Alternate #2 Bill McCarty

Members Absent: Larry Courter, Alex Reich

Liaisons Present: Parks & Recreation Commission Chair Liz McNabb, Vice Chair Arlis Reynolds; Council Liaison Mayor Sandra Genis

2. APPROVAL March 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes – Andy Campbell motions to approve minutes as amended, 2nd by Cindy Black; passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Terry Koken discussed previous City Council actions in regards to OCME contact and requested a 50-year extension on the contract.

Dr. Mehran, President Fairview Park Alliance (FPA), expressed concern for the proposed Tanager Park Bikeway and Ramp on Canary Dr. which would go through Fairview Park. Dr. Mehran stated that Measure AA would be triggered with the project and that FPA is prepared to have a law suit with the City if further actions are implemented.

Richard Huffman, member of the Bike and Walkability Committee, presented two events happening at Orange Coast College: An Earth Day event taking place April 21st and a Green Coast Day on April 19th.

4. PRESENTATION – MASTER PLAN ‘WORKSHOP’

- a. **Archaeology: Guest speakers Joyce Stanfield Perry and Patricia Martz, Ph.d.** – Joyce Stanfield Perry spoke about Native American history and her ancestor’s village in Fairview Park, and presented Federal laws protecting Native American land and artifacts. Patricia Martz gave a slide presentation she had given to the City of Costa Mesa in 2013 about the archaeological site located in Fairview Park. Ms. Martz discussed the issues and potential solutions to better preserve the archaeological sites within Fairview Park. Both speakers took questions and provided answers to Committee members and the public.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **City Policy 500-11-FVP Implementation Procedures** – Subcommittee member Anna Vrska reported that this is in progress, but the subcommittee will wait to see the direction and changes taken with the Master Plan before continuing with recommendations.

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b. Vernal pool fencing project

i. Consider additional pole removal in two areas (Placentia Ave. & south edge of pools 5 and 6).

Cynthia D'Agosta presented images of the vernal pool fencing on the eastside of Fairview Park for discussion regarding any additional post removal to occur along Placentia Avenue. Committee discussion followed.

A motion to remove every other post along Placentia Ave. was made by Vice Chair Andy Campbell, 2nd by Steve Smith; Motion approved 3-2; opposed: Kim Hendricks and Anna Vrska.

Discussion of post spacing at the edge of vernal pool 5 and 6 was moved to a future meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a. Harbor Soaring Society storage unit - Cynthia D'Agosta presented that the outgoing Harbor Soaring Society President Joni Whitsitt, had provided an itemized list of contents within the storage unit as requested. The history and approval of the storage bin placement near vernal pools 5 and 6 is still under review by staff; a full report is pending. Research is being done by the City for the best practices for storage of materials near the vernal pool habitat.

b. Vernal pool restoration projects - Update

i. Coastal Conservancy Grants & Potential Partners

Cynthia D'Agosta presented information regarding the City's interest in creating potential partnerships with local non-profits in seeking and implementing grants for restoration. Cynthia is currently in contact with the State Coastal Conservancy, which administers grants for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. She has submitted a letter of interest to the Coastal Conservancy for a grant to address restoration of all vernal pool complexes within Fairview Park. (Vernal pools 5 and 6 cannot be included in the grant because the ongoing restoration was at the directed of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). If there is a positive response to letter of interest, the City would continue into the application process.

ii. US Fish & Wildlife restoration requirements

Member Cindy Black had asked at the last meeting for information regarding U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (Service) requirements on restoration of vernal pool 4. Cynthia D'Agosta reported out that she had had a conversation with the Service regarding this question and was told that the objective in any restoration effort is to preserve the integrity of the hydrological function of a vernal pool

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watershed over time, and that any guidelines for a specific restoration project are structured around the existing and current conditions of the pool. Conditions factored into the pool 4 area may include the existing user defined trails and resulting need for a boardwalk, the connecting ponded area between pool 1 and 4, the adjacent development, etc.

7. STAFF COMMENTS:

Cynthia D'Agosta provided responses for two previously asked questions from Committee members after speaking with the City Clerk:

- Andy Campbell asked for clarification on the role of Committee Alternates. Alternates do not vote, nor provide for a quorum if members are absent from meetings. If a member steps down from their position, the Chair would ask Alternates if they wanted the position; If two or more Alternates are interested in the position, the Committee would vote on replacement. If none are interested, the City would post an opening notice and the Council would appoint a new member of the public to the Committee.
- **Cindy Black** requested clarification on how items get placed on the agenda. Determination of what and when items are placed on the Agenda are determined by the Chair, Vice-Chair and staff liaison given consideration of many factors. Any member can make a request with any of these three persons whom will consider and collaborate on the request.
- Staff agreed to pursue further clarification on members' roles and distribute the City's handbook for committees.

Cynthia informed the Committee of a need to change the May and June meeting agendas. If there are to be FVP projects on the November ballot, the Committee must make recommendations to the Council in time for deliberation in the month of June. Therefore, the May Steering Committee will need to focus on capital improvement projects previously discussed by the Committee, and recommendations must be made regarding each projects need (or not) to have voter approval, according to Measure AA. The restoration panel previously planned for the committee be updated on the Placentia Ave. Connector Trails.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Andy Campbell requested that an update by the vernal pool fencing subcommittee be put on the agenda in May, and that the Placentia Connector Trails item also be discussed in May.

Cindy Black requested that the City not use aluminum phosphide for the containment of gophers in FVP, but instead requests an alternative from pesticide or cinch traps be used. She also requested that the City endorse Prop 68, and mentioned an upcoming public race in Huntington Beach.

Anna Vrska motions to move the meeting beyond 8 p.m., 2nd by Andy Campbell with no opposition.

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Steve Smith thanked Cynthia D'Agosta for bringing in Joyce Stanfield Perry and Patricia Martz to speak to the Steering Committee.

Mayor Sandra Genis suggested looking into using raptors to maintain the populations of the ground squirrels and gophers in FVP, and stated that is more cost efficient and better for the environment. She also stated that the City has endorsed State Proposition 68.

Commissioner Arlis Reynolds also thanked Cynthia for bringing in Joyce Stanfield Perry and Patricia Martz to speak to the steering committee; and agreed with a previous comment about growing a larger pool of contractors that the City can use for different projects in FVP.

Kim Hendricks agreed that it was great to have the guest speakers at tonight's meeting. She also expressed dissatisfaction with the non-native trees in the street medians on Placentia Ave. and suggests removing the trees from the end of Estancia High School to the beginning of the lower Bird streets; and asked for an explanation of the protocols for non-profits using FVP for events. She expressed dissatisfaction with the mindset of certain Parks and Recreation personal. She also suggested more signs for dogs off leashes on Placentia Ave entrances.

Bill McCarty mentioned that the statute of limitations is rapidly approaching on the incident of a DG path being installed at vernal pool 5 and 6; he inquired if the person responsible for putting in the path has, or will be, receiving the same treatment as the man who vandalized vernal pool 4 and if the City was filing a police report against the person.

Cynthia McDonald mentioned that May is officially bicycle month, and encouraged all to get out and bike. She stated that it is not the intention of the Bike Way and Walkability Committee to put a concrete path in FVP, but to make a connection to allow for everyone, regardless of their physical capabilities, access the park, adding that at the Bike and Walkability Committee meeting the Tanager Trail extension was taken off the map; and that a ramp for Canary Drive is being studied by staff. She also recommended that a plein-air painting event be held on the eastside of FVP.

Anna Vrska stated that she believes the person responsible for the DG path in vernal pools 5 and 6 should be held responsible, but that it would be up to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the County DA office to pursue and prosecute.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. by Chair Anna Vrska

Next Regular Meeting: May 9, 2018 6:00 p.m. at Costa Mesa City Hall Rm 1A.