

**CITY OF COSTA MESA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

January 25, 2006

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on January 25, 2006 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman de Arakal, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Vice Chair Leece.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Byron de Arakal, Chair
Wendy Leece, Vice Chair
Robert Graham, Commissioner
David Stiller, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Mark Harris, Commissioner

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Director of Public Services
Stephen N. Mandoki, Director of Administrative Services
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Jana M. Ransom, Recreation Division Manager
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Robert Staples, Fairview Park Plan Administrator

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Commissioner Graham, and carried four to zero with Commissioner Harris being absent, to approve the minutes of the November 30, 2005 meeting.

PRESENTATION

**PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLANS
FOR THE FAIRVIEW PARK
WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN
HABITAT**

Mr. Bart Mejia introduced Mr. Chris Webb, Senior Coastal Scientist from Moffatt and Nichol, Dr. Richard Meyer, Public Health Entomologist from Vector Management Technical Services, and Ms. Nancy Palmer, Landscape Architect from Lynn Capouya, Inc., who made a power point presentation and were present to answer questions by the Commission.

Commission will defer any action on the concept plan until the February 22, 2006 meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No Items.

CONSENT CALENDAR

DONATION OF MEMORIAL TREE AND PLAQUE

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to zero with Commissioner Harris being absent, to accept the donation of a memorial tree and plaque by Ms. Elizabeth McCormack to be placed in TeWinkle Park.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Items.

CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE HARBOR SOARING SOCIETY FOR THE USE OF FAIRVIEW PARK

Mr. Robert Staples presented the report.

Public Comment:

Mr. John Anderson, General Director, Harbor Soaring Society

In regards to an educational program, glider training is offered most every Sunday at the park. Mr. Anderson mentioned that he will be working closely with staff, in the coming months, to provide a more comprehensive, enjoyable, recreational, educational long-term flying/gliding program.

Commissioner Stiller suggested that staff include the word “liability” before the word “insurance” on item number 11 of the proposed agreement.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to zero with Commissioner Harris being absent, to recommend that the City Council approve the agreement with Harbor Soaring Society for the use of a portion of Fairview Park and to include, as noted by Commissioner Stiller on item number 11, the word “liability” before the word “insurance.”

NEW BUSINESS

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 2527 LOYOLA ROAD

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation. Mr. Erwin Sauer, resident at 2523 Loyola Road, Costa Mesa, and Ms. Rhonda Decooto, daughter of Ms. Betty Wakeley, were present to voice their concerns with the staff recommendation and to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley ensued on the sidewalk and drive approach.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley took place regarding the roots of the tree.

Public Comment:

Mr. Erwin Sauer, resident at 2523 Loyola Road, Costa Mesa, agreed with the applicant to have the tree removed and presented pictures of his drive approach and sidewalk to the Commission.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Sauer took place regarding the applicant's letter.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Sauer ensued on the repair of the sidewalk and gutter and on the condition of the driveway aprons.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Sauer occurred on the condition of the driveway apron, since the City worked on the root barriers, within the past three years.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. Sauer took place on the maintenance of the lawn and whether or not both property owners employ a gardener.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. Hartley ensued on the pod droppings.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Sauer occurred regarding the crack on the driveway.

Mr. Jan Vandersloot, resident of Newport Beach, suggested that the Commission retain this tree and that it is a beautiful tree, which adds value to the neighborhood and the environment.

Ms. Rhonda Decooto, daughter of the applicant, spoke on behalf of her mother, Ms. Betty Wakeley. Ms. Decooto mentioned that she is concerned with her 89-year-old mother's safety.

Vice Chair Leece stated she believes that the City should honor our senior citizens first. She also believes that a person's life is more important than a tree and that, in keeping the resident safe and accommodating their request, she would not agree with staff's recommendation but to rather have the tree removed.

Commissioner Graham thanked staff for their efforts they have made over the years to keep the tree. He recommended that the residents' gardener pick up the pods from both residents' lawns and driveways, which would be cleaned twice a week rather than once a week.

Commissioner Stiller agreed with Vice Chair Leece, for all the reasons that she mentioned, to have the tree removed and would like for the City to replace both driveways.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued on the evaluation of the aprons.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley took place on the grinding of the sidewalks due to differential lifts.

Commissioner Graham requested staff to take a picture of the

street and present it at the February 22, 2006 meeting.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chair Leece, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, to have the City remove the tree and for the cost of the removal to be borne by the City and not the property owner.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Graham, and carried four to zero with Commissioner Harris being absent, to continue this item to the February 22, 2006 Commission meeting.

SKATE PARK PROGRAMMING

Ms. Jana Ransom made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom occurred on whether or not there is any “down time,” when the skate park is not being used, and if there is interest in having classes or events at the skate park.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Ms. Ransom took place regarding the number of requests to rent the facility and/or provide skate park programming from institutions or companies, as opposed to individuals or families.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Ms. Ransom ensued on the use of the Mobile Skate Program equipment.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commission provided comments as follows:

- Institute a pilot program to include lessons for beginners and to use the equipment from the Mobile Skate Program in the parking lot area of the Skate Park and Bark Park.
- Preference to have the park closed when lessons are offered and have the lessons offered during off peak hours.
- Consider utilizing the park to generate revenue by permitting promotions and filming.
- Consider offering an adult club between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

PARKS PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation.

- Fairview Park – Placentia Bridge: Drawings have been completed, a contractor has been retained and work on the project has started, which was over-excavation for the foundations; a storm drainpipe, which ran through the foundation, was relocated away from the foundation and the area has been backfilled; the bridge was delivered in two pieces; and, the contractor is on schedule with the project.
- TeWinkle Park Sports Complex: The contractor is on schedule with the project; the base asphalt course of the parking lot is complete; and, the construction for the foundation for the fencing and sports lights has started.

- TeWinkle Park Lake Improvements: The project has been delayed due to various problems; filling of the lake is a slow process, which began in late December, and will take another two to four weeks in order to reach the desired water level; and, surrounding work continues to be done in conjunction with the sports complex.
- 19th Street Pavement Rehabilitation and Median Improvement Project: The project is substantially complete and a celebration for the completion of the project is scheduled for February 7, 2006.
- Raleigh Avenue Pocket Park: The location of this project is north of Victoria, south of Wilson and west of Harbor Boulevard; and, the development of the concept plans has begun, with input from the Maintenance Services staff.
- Tot Lot, Picnic Shelter and Restroom Improvements at TeWinkle Park: Staff plans to issue Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design to reconstruct the tot lot, picnic shelter and restroom, which will be done in the next four weeks; staff is hopeful to have the designs completed by the end of the summer and expect to start construction by the end of the year; and, have the project completed by Summer 2007.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Mejia ensued on the status for improvements to the skate park and on whether or not the lake project will be completed and open to the public by the beginning of summer.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. William Morris occurred on the status of the bike trail between the end of 19th Street and the Santa Ana River.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Graham thanked everyone in the City for the great work done on the Placentia Bridge project, which will be a terrific statement for the City. He is pleased that the trees will remain in place while work is being done on the new sidewalk on Adams Avenue. Commissioner Graham stated that the progress in obtaining fields from the Fairview Development Center is terrific.

Vice Chair Leece recapped on the meeting held on Tuesday, January 24, 2006, at 8:30 a.m. between the Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) and the City. Items on the agenda for discussion included the following:

- Joint Use Agreement (JUA) is going to the School Board for approval on February 14.
- California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) – NMUSD's decision to accommodate those unable to take the test and provide them with a certificate.
- Update on the Advocates Supporting Kids (ASK) – Project to help kids who are failing, dropping out and offer parenting classes; NMUSD has received an \$8.3 million, three-year grant, for the project.
- City's \$1 million commitment to CM United vs. Measure F's "full" funding of CM United:
 1. Interpretation of where the money should go.
 2. District will form an oversight committee.
- Youth Leadership Council (different than ACT) will expose young people to government and to provide recommendations to the City Council from youth input on issues.

In regards to the Concept Plans for the Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project, Vice Chair Leece would like for our trustee to attend the Vector Control meetings in order to be kept updated.

Vice Chair Leece noticed that there is a trend on the Field Ambassador Monthly Reports regarding adults playing on fields and having to be removed.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom ensued on issuing citations to the adults playing on fields and on whether or not the adult groups are associated with a league.

Vice Chair Leece asked staff what is the process someone would go through if they were issued an alcohol citation at the park.

Commissioner Stiller requested that staff provide the number of hours the Park Rangers work daily, and he extended an invitation to Sgt. Richard Allen to attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in order to discuss some of the issues the Commission has about the Park Rangers Report.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Mejia took place on the status of the feasibility study, that the City Council approved, regarding the Commission's request on the surplus parcels of property in the City to find out if they are suitable for active recreational field programming.

Chairman de Arakal thanked City Council for approving the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with minor modifications, which will be going before the School Board on February 14, 2006.

Chairman de Arakal reminded staff that, for the 2006-2007 Capital Improvements Budget, he wants to see proposed appropriations for additional lighting at the FARM fields.

With respect to the west side, the overlay and the residential development that is expected in the coming years, Chairman de Arakal hopes that the City Council entertains land conveyances back to the City for the purpose of developing athletic fields in those communities.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **9:40 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 1A, followed by the regular Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Submitted by:

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services