

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

**March 22, 2006**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on March 22, 2006 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chair Leece, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Vice Chair Graham.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present:

Wendy Leece, Chair  
Robert Graham, Vice Chair  
Byron de Arakal, Commissioner  
Mark Harris, Commissioner  
David Stiller, 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  
Ruth Raheb, Recreation Supervisor  
Jeff Ruth, Recreation Coordinator

**MINUTES**

Commissioner de Arakal requested that the following sentences be added, under the Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson just before each motion, to the minutes for the Chair and Vice Chair positions to read:

- Chairman de Arakal declared the Chairman position vacant and called for nominations.
- Chair Leece declared the Vice Chair position vacant and called for nominations.

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried five to zero, to approve the minutes, with the additions made by Commissioner de Arakal, of the February 22, 2006 meeting.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Glen Brooks  
Contractor  
1292 Londonderry Street  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626  
Representing: Scott Stevens, property owner at Londonderry Street.  
Mr. Brooks hoped to have the Commission expedite a tree removal request for Mr. Stevens' home remodeling project.

Commissioner de Arakal indicated that the Commission could not take any action on this request, as it is not listed on the meeting agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

No items.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No Items.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**FIELD USE AND ALLOCATION  
POLICY ANNUAL REVIEW**

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report. Ms. Ruth Raheb and Mr. Jeff Ruth were present to address questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Ransom ensued on whether or not staff anticipates the removal of fields from the school district for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sports and on the impact it will cause the City due to the loss of fields.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Ransom occurred on whether or not the meeting with the school district and the City would discuss the impact of the Measure F work on field availability and on the start date of the construction.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Raheb took place on the summary of the current Athletic Field Use and Allocation Policy and on the permitting challenges faced with the policy.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom ensued on the process used by staff to verify residency of each member in a user group who claims that they are a resident of Costa Mesa.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Ransom ensued on whether or not staff anticipates meeting the new maintenance standards of the Joint Use Agreement under the current rest and renovation timeline and whether or not there is a written policy on permitting youth play on Sundays.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Ransom occurred on whether or not staff is meeting the present field use needs of the community versus what is projected for the next few years.

**Public Comment:**

1. Cathy Whitford  
2625 Westminster Place, Costa Mesa 92627  
Representing: Newport Beach Women's Soccer League  
Ms. Whitford requested that the Commission allow the league to use the Harper School field, which they used the past three years, because their league is having conflicts with the men's league at the Balearic Center field.

2. Samar Needham  
1104 Valley Circle, Costa Mesa 92627  
Representing: Newport Women's Soccer League  
Ms. Needham requested that the Commission provide the league with one field for five hours on Sundays.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Needham ensued on the percentage of Costa Mesa residents in the league.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Needham took place on whether or not the league needs a lit field.

3. Jose Zamo  
1500 Adams Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Director, Newport Beach Women's Soccer League  
Mr. Zamo requested that the Commission consider having more fields available and asked for the league to use the Harper School field.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Zamo occurred on whether or not the league requested for a field with the Newport Beach Recreation Department.

4. Mike Barr  
14 Seabird Court, Newport Beach 92663  
Representing: AYSO Region 120  
Mr. Barr voiced his concern with Alternative #4, #5 and #6 in the staff report, and mentioned that the second season is just as important as the first season. He does not believe changing the field allocation formula would solve the current situation.

5. Carolyn Smith  
1803 Tustin Avenue, Costa Mesa 92627  
Representing: Newport Women's Soccer League  
Ms. Smith requested that the Commission open up Harper School and allow the league to use the field.

6. Brett Clement  
2364 Santa Ana Avenue, Costa Mesa 92627  
Representing: AYSO Region 97, Baseball America League  
Mr. Clement thanked staff for looking into obtaining additional fields at Fairview Developmental Hospital. Mr. Clement stated that he supports Alternatives #1, #3, #7, #8 and #10, and he also voiced his concerns on Alternatives #2, #4, #5, #6 and #9 in the staff report.

7. Terra McIntosh  
325 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Costa Mesa 92627  
Representing: Newport Women's Soccer League  
Ms. McIntosh supports adult soccer league and requested that the Commission allow the league to use the Harper School field.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom ensued on the leagues reason for their timing request and on whether or not there were any complaints from the residents near Harper School.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Ransom

took place on the reason for Harper School field not being offered for use.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Ms. Ransom occurred on having Back Bay/Monte Vista School field available for use.

8. Ron Nugent  
1585 Santa Ana Avenue, Costa Mesa 92627  
President, Costa Mesa Pop Warner Football League  
Mr. Nugent voiced his concern on the rest and renovation for the Farm Sports Complex in July and August. He also addressed Vice Chair Graham on the allotment of fields in Costa Mesa and on the Fairview Park Master Plan.

9. James Shoaff  
3272 Minnesota Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
President, Costa Mesa National Little League  
Mr. Shoaff is in support of the staff recommendation and recommends Alternatives #1 and #6 in the staff report to the Commission. He also believes that children should play all year-round.

10. Mark Arblaster  
1921 Teresita Lane, Newport Beach 92660  
President, Newport Mesa Soccer Club (User Group 3)  
Mr. Arblaster voiced his concerns on the following issues:  
-Adult leagues having priority over youth leagues on Sundays and after 8:00 p.m.;  
-Proposed down time in the Summer for rest and renovation; and  
-Bringing Harper School back on-line for use by adult leagues.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Arblaster ensued on the number of Costa Mesa residents in the Newport Mesa Soccer Club.

## **MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to receive the report and recommend to City Council that staff implement an Adult Allocation Formula for Group 6 organizations, based upon actual number of documented resident players, expressed as a percentage of all residents playing in Group 6 organizations as premise for allocation of hours; and recommends that Back Bay/Monte Vista School, Killybrooke Elementary School and Harper School be added back in for use by adult leagues on Sundays.

## **LIGHTING OF FOUR SOCCER FIELDS AT THE FARM SPORTS COMPLEX**

Mr. Bart Mejia presented the report with overhead pictures and introduced Mr. Mike Marchetti, representative from MUSCO Sports Lighting, who presented the Sports Lighting System Design. Mr. Marchetti was also present to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Marchetti took place on the amount of light spillover behind the light fixture and on the light luminance.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Marchetti oc-

curred on the difference of lighting intensity for softball and soccer.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Mejia occurred on whether or not City staff will work with the neighbors on landscaping the site.

Public Comments:

1. Ed Keane  
2777 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Keane voiced his concerns for the drainage pan underneath the fields and on the statistics of how many homeowners would be affected by the lighting of the fields before the Commission makes a decision.
2. Robert Sudbeck  
1145 Salvador Street, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Sudbeck is concerned with the noise levels on a daily basis and on the light poles obstructing the mountain views from his home.
3. Sharyl Davis  
2749 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Ms. Davis disagrees with the staff recommendation in the report. She addressed the increase in noise levels if there were more lit fields and on the loss of privacy due to people climbing over her property walls. Ms. Davis also mentioned that the City led her to believe that only two fields next to Fairview would be lit seven years ago.
4. W.H. Hartloff  
2743 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Ms. Sharyl Davis read a letter from Mr. Hartloff to address the Commission on this item. Mr. Hartloff stated that a City engineer promised him several times that only the west end of the soccer fields would be lighted and that the east end would be small fields, which would be used by the younger soccer players.
5. Patrick Comfort  
1073 Salvador Street, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Comfort is a long-term resident of Costa Mesa. He stated that the original proposal, which was presented to residents in 1999, was to have only two fields lit and that a pan would be installed, in the rear portion of the field, to control the flooding problem. Mr. Comfort also voiced his concerns on the noise level, brightness of the lights, debris and that he disagrees with the staff recommendation for this item.
6. Michael Dilsisian  
2761 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Dilsisian voiced a few of his concerns, which were on the negative impact the existing lights have on the quality of his family's lives, the noise levels, people threatening him and trespassing on to his property in order to retrieve balls, and trash and rocks thrown on his property during the day. He does not support having the fields lit because it will extend the amount of time people are there. Mr. Dilsisian said that City staff told him that only two fields will be lighted and that youth leagues will use the other fields.

7. Lou Lelea  
2767 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Lelea does not support the staff recommendation and does not believe it would work. He is also concerned with fields 5 and 6 filling up with water when it rains. Mr. Lelea suggested that the Commission change the whole layout of the Farm Complex and only have three fields. He also mentioned that there might be litigation if the plan moves forward.
8. Virginia Smith  
1121 Salvador Street, Costa Mesa 92626  
Ms. Smith is against having more lights on the remaining fields. She is also concerned with the noise levels and she would like the City to build a cement block wall in order to minimize the noise levels.
9. Michelle Gomez  
2737 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Ms. Gomez is against lighting more fields. She is concerned with trespassing, light spillover onto her property, flooding and the noise levels.
10. Patrick Kunody  
2755 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Kunody does not support lighting more fields, especially in the evenings. He supports youth sports but not at night.
11. Terrance M. Neal  
1127 Salvador Street, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Neal has watched the City grow the past 41 years and does not support lighting more fields at the Farm. He asked the Commission to “Stop it.”
12. John Rubright  
1090 El Camino Drive, Costa Mesa 92626  
AYSO Commissioner, Volunteer Coach  
Mr. Rubright supports the staff recommendation for this item.
13. Edgar C. Baume  
263 Bowling Green Drive, Costa Mesa 92626  
Mr. Baume has been a resident of Costa Mesa for 41 years and has been associated with youth athletic groups for many years. He supports the staff recommendation for this item.
14. Mark Arblaster  
1921 Teresita Lane, Newport Beach 92660  
President, Newport Mesa Soccer Club (User Group 3)  
Mr. Arblaster is in favor of the staff recommendation because it will benefit the community by offering youth recreation, which will teach the children team building, exercise, character building and a healthy lifestyle, and it is also an anti-gang activity.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Mejia occurred on the eight-foot chain link fence and on whether or not more trees would be planted around the perimeter of the property.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Ms. Rehab took place on the hours of operation for the existing two lighted

fields and on establishing site restrictions for the fields at the Farm Sports Complex.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Mejia ensued on whether or not City staff will be able to check light reading levels if requested by a resident.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Mejia took place on the distance from the property line to the goal line span along the north and east side of the fields.

Discussion among Commissioner Stiller, Ms. Ransom and Ms. Raheb occurred on the standing provisions for tournaments and the length of time it has been in effect.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Ms. Ransom ensued on the number of days per year the fields are rested and on the number of days per year, due to the extended hours of field use with lighting, will the fields be used.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Mejia took place on whether or not staff found any documents in reference to the promise that was made by the City to the homeowners in regards to limiting the number of lights at the Farm Sports Complex.

Chair Leece stated that the residents' quality of life has been impacted and she feels that it is wrong to impose this concept plan on them and, because of this, she will not support the concept plan.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Raheb occurred on whether or not more teams use the fields during the daylight savings time period.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Raheb ensued on the percentages, for the use of fields at night, by the soccer leagues practicing and on having a game.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Ms. Ransom took place on the possible number of fields for use at the Fairview Developmental Center.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Mejia occurred on possible future field sites at Parsons School and Bristol Street properties.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried three to two with Chair Leece and Commissioner Harris voting "No," to approve the proposed concept plan for the lighting of four soccer fields at the Farm Sports Complex and recommends City Council approve the funding for the lighting of Fields No. 3 and No. 4, at this time, and that perimeter signage prohibiting trespassing be posted around the property.

Commissioner Stiller withdrew himself from the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF PARK** Mr. William Morris presented the report on behalf of Mr.

**SIGNAGE DESIGN FOR FAIRVIEW PARK**

Robert Staples.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Morris ensued on the type of anchor to be used.

Vice Chair Graham suggested a third location for posting a sign in the railroad area of the park, which would identify the park as a facility of the City of Costa Mesa and that it is also an Orange Coast River Park.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Chair Leece, seconded by Vice Chair Graham and carried four to zero with Commissioner Stiller being absent, to approve the design of proposed signage of Attachment 4 to be installed at two locations in Fairview Park.

**RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Jana Ransom made a power point presentation.

- Recreation Leader III Brian Beerbower was presented with a "Cougar Pride Award" from the California Elementary School PTA for his outstanding service to youth.
- Mobile Recreation staff participated in a "Mobile Recreation Display" at the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) State Conference in Ontario on Friday, March 17, and provided information on the program activities, advertising and services.
- Volcom Skate Park of Costa Mesa was recognized and presented with a "Facility Design Award" at the CPRS State Conference.
- The second Artist Showcase is sponsored by the Cultural Arts Committee from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on April 6 at the Neighborhood Community Center and admission is free.
- Fairview Development Center Fields Complex Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been approved. At this time, staff is working with the state on a lease, which will allow improvements to be made on the fields.
- The Community News and Recreation Review were distributed to residents on March 11.
- Aquatics Programs are doing really well. The Polar Bear Plunge, which is a new program that was offered during the Winter, was enjoyed by participants. The Adult Lap Swim and Senior Aquatics programs are very popular and are considered strong programs.
- Adult Softball Leagues are looking forward to the inaugural Softball Tournament for Fall, which is in conjunction with the opening of the new TeWinkle Park Athletic Complex.
- The next Family Night Out event will be a "Newport Film Festival" scheduled for Saturday, April 22, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The next Kids Night Out event will be taking participants to "Fountain Valley Skate Center" on Saturday, April 22, from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
- Circle of Service will be cancelled this year, due to no nominations being received.
- The Child Care & Youth Services Committee meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall Conference Room 1A.



- The Historical Preservation Committee and Cultural Arts Committee meetings will be held on Thursday, April 13, at 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. respectively.
- The Teen Activities and Services Directory is being updated by the members of the Advisory Committee on Teens (ACT).
- The Historical Preservation Committee is finalizing the “Story of Costa Mesa” booklet, which will be distributed to fourth grade classes in Costa Mesa, to the library and community centers.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Ms. Ransom occurred on the snack stand at the TeWinkle Park Athletic Complex.

**COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Harris mentioned that he was honored to receive the award for the Volcom Skate Park at the CPRS Installation Banquet and that he enjoyed himself.

Commissioner de Arakal echoed Commissioner Harris’ remarks on the CPRS Installation Banquet and he is proud that the Volcom Skate Park was recognized.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Mejia took place on the status of surplus parcels in the community for active and passive recreational use.

Vice Chair Graham thanked everyone for the Bridge at Fairview Park. He also mentioned that the Skate Park, the Farm Sports Complex, TeWinkle Athletic Complex are all first class City facilities.

Chair Leece stated that the Park Ranger’s Reports showed that the Park Ranger’s are active and on top of things. She was unable to attend the CPRS Conference in Ontario; however, she believes in the theme on Health and Wellness in the community. Chair Leece would like for staff to find ways to encourage citizens to use our City parks for healthy reasons and she would like this to be agendized.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at **10:20 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, April 26, 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:

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WILLIAM J. MORRIS  
 Director of Public Services