

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

April 26, 2006

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on April 26, 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 Commissioner Harris.

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
Richard Brunette, Recreation Supervisor

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried four to one, with Commissioner Stiller voting "No," to adjust agenda by moving Item 10e, Review of Proposed Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 through 2012-2013, up after 10b, Tree Removal Request – 1292 Londonderry Street.

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried five to zero, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2006 meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

**CALIFORNIA PARKS AND
RECREATION SOCIETY SKATE
PARK DESIGN AWARD
PRESENTATION**

Ms. Jana Ransom introduced Ms. Laura Detweiler, Director of Community Services for the City of Cypress and the Chair of the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) Awards Committee, and Mr. Steve Rose, with the design firm of Purkiss Rose.

Ms. Laura Detweiler presented the Commission with an award of excellence for Facility Design for the Volcom Skate Park. Ms. Detweiler also recognized and congratulated Mr. Steve Rose and the firm of Purkiss Rose for the outstanding architec-

tural work done on the Volcom Skate Park.

**EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT –
COMMUNITY GARDEN KIOSK**

Ms. Jana Ransom introduced Mr. Greg Stanley, Eagle Scout from Troop 711, to the Commission. Mr. Stanley worked on a kiosk project for the Hamilton Street Community Garden, which took him two years to complete.

The Commission presented Mr. Stanley with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his valuable contribution for an information kiosk to the Hamilton Street Community Garden.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Martin Millard
2973 Harbor Blvd., #264, Costa Mesa 92626

Mr. Millard displayed an overhead sketch for the Commission to view and requested that the Commission begin a conversation with the City of Newport Beach in regards to extending the City of Costa Mesa down to the beach.

Steve Ross
2084 Flamingo Drive, Costa Mesa 92626
Signage Chair, 5K Race and Pancake Breakfast Event
Representing: Orange County Track Club

Mr. Ross requested action by the Commission on his signage request letter, dated March 16, 2006, to place a banner announcing the event on the new bridge at Placentia Avenue, to be placed on the bridge on Saturday, May 27, 2006, and to be removed on Sunday, June 11, 2006, in the afternoon.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom ensued on the City’s sign ordinance and on Mr. Ross’ signage request letter.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Morris took place on the process for signs or banner requests. Mr. Morris said he would be in contact with Mr. Ross on the request.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**NEW INSTRUCTIONAL CLASS
AND PROGRAM FEE PROPOSALS**

Ms. Jana Ransom requested that the Commission pull this item for a separate discussion.

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Ransom occurred on the rates charged.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to approve the Chess for Teenagers and Adults class with the stipulated fees and direct staff to continue to search for a contractor to conduct the Summer Skate Board Clinics under terms not to exceed those stipulated in the staff report.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Items.

NEW BUSINESS

**CONSIDERATION OF A
DONATION TO PLANT TREES AT
FAIRVIEW PARK**

Mr. Robert Staples presented the report.

Discussion by Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Staples ensued on whether or not there is an irrigation system in place or if a water truck would be used to water the trees.

Public Comment:

Judi Berry

2064 Meadow View Lane, Costa Mesa 92626

Ms. Berry mentioned that, due to lack of water, most of the trees planted at Canyon Park almost ten years ago have died. Recommended that the Commission consider planting trees with only a small amount of water

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal and carried five to zero, to accept a donation of \$4,000 to plant trees at Fairview Park.

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 1292
LONDONDERRY STREET**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Public Comment:

Glen Brooks

Contractor

1292 Londonderry Street, Costa Mesa 92626

Representing: Scott Stevens, property owner at Londonderry Street.

Mr. Brooks was present to answer questions by the Commission.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chair Graham, seconded by Chair Leece and carried five to zero, to approve the request for the removal of one City-owned parkway tree located in the public right-of-way at 1292 Londonderry Street, with the condition that the tree be replaced with one twenty-four inch box-size tree, planted at that address, and two fifteen gallon container size trees to be provided to the City for planting elsewhere on public property. The tree must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 3140
COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation. Mr. Kevin Keenan, property homeowner, was present to address and answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley took place on whether or not the proposed tree to be replanted would be the

same height or size as the one being removed.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley occurred on whether or not staff replants a tree on top of sewer lines.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued on whether or not the tree is suitable for transplanting in its current condition.

Public Comment:

Kevin Keenan

3140 Country Club Drive, Costa Mesa 92626

Mr. Keenan voiced his request to the Commission to have a City-owned parkway tree removed in order to improve his property.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Keenan took place on Alternative #1 in the staff report.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Keenan occurred on who will be working on Mr. Keenan's front yard landscaping project and on the time frame for the project to be completed.

Commissioner de Arakal indicated he would like the Commission to explore, as an agenda item, whether or not to recommend to the City Council a clarification of the existing plant palette policy.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried four to one with Vice Chair Graham voting "No," to authorize the removal of the tree, per the Streetscape and Median Development Standards, Section 4.0.3 – Discretionary Removals, which would require the replacement of the tree with one twenty-four inch box-size tree to be replanted at 3140 Country Club Drive and two fifteen gallon-size trees to be provided to the City to be planted elsewhere on public property. The applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs. The tree must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

Vice Chair Graham stated that he did not support this motion because he would like the private landscaping improvements to be done before the tree is removed.

**THEATER AND ARTS DISTRICT
STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
AND TREE REMOVALS**

Mr. Bruce Hartley presented the report with overhead pictures. Mr. Hartley introduced Mr. William Rabben, from Rabben/Herman Design Office, Ltd., who was available to provide a brief report and to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Rabben ensued on the type of canopy trees to replace or to be planted on the median located on Anton Boulevard.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Rabben took place on whether or not the theme would be carried on to private areas.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Rabben oc-

curred on whether or not the medians would have an arch or be flat on top with a curved face, on stamped concrete and on the type of purple orchid tree to be planted.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried five to zero, to approve the following:

1. Proposed change in planting palette for Sunflower Avenue, Bristol Street, Avenue of the Arts and Anton Boulevard and recommend to the City Council that the Streetscape and Median Development Standards be amended to reflect the change.
2. Request for the removal of twenty City-owned trees located in landscaped medians on Sunflower Avenue and Avenue of the Arts, in conjunction with the development of the Theater and Arts District, with the following conditions:
 - a. The trees shall be replaced with a mixture of eighty-five trees and palms per the proposed plan.
 - b. All trees planted in the public right-of-way as mitigation shall be twenty-four inch box-size or larger and all palms shall have a minimum height of twenty feet of clear trunk.
 - c. The trees must be removed and mitigation trees installed within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 THROUGH 2012-2013

Mr. William Morris presented the report with overhead pictures.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Morris took place on whether or not the Canyon Park Slope Stability Study (item #20) project will be hindered by encroachments that have taken place in Canyon Park and on the status of rectifying the encroachments at the park.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Ransom occurred on the status of the lease negotiation with the state in regards to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairview Developmental Center and the City.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Ransom ensued on Paularino Park – Replace Playground Equipment and on City Council’s prior direction to staff concerning Paularino Park.

Commissioner de Arakal stated that the Commission is searching for more fields and parks for the community.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Morris took place on the slope study status done at Fairview Park, due to erosion issues, and on the Canyon Park Slope Stability Study.

Discussion between Commission Harris and Ms. Ransom occurred, in regards to the Fairview Developmental Center

Agreement, on the number of fields, and number of lit fields, to be provided.

Public Comment:

Mr. Martin Millard
2973 Harbor Blvd., #264, Costa Mesa 92626

Mr. Millard mentioned that no money has been put in the budget for Paularino Park. He also stated that, to his recollection, the City Council directed staff to put in some trees and boulders to make the park a passive park.

Mr. Millard displayed an overhead drawing to show and explained several activities to the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Millard took place on whether or not groups over ten were adults or youth playing soccer at Paularino Park.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Millard ensued on whether or not boulders and playground equipment were included in the City Council's recommendation based on Mr. Millard's recollection.

Ron Nugent
1585 Santa Ana Avenue, Costa Mesa 92627
Representing: Costa Mesa Pop Warner Football League

Mr. Nugent voiced his support for lighting the Farm Sports Complex and requested that the Commission provide safe and secured fields for organized youth sports in the community.

Mike Berry
Costa Mesa Resident

Mr. Berry asked the Commission to consider taking some type of action to control the problem with ground squirrels at Canyon Park. He also believes that the City of Costa Mesa is supplying fields to sports leagues and groups that have a majority of players who are non-residents.

Brian Gowdy
1531 Highland Drive, Newport Beach 92660
Representing: Costa Mesa Pop Warner Football League

Mr. Gowdy supports lighted fields at the Farm Sports Complex.

Mr. Gowdy addressed Chair Leece's comment made on the March 22, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting regarding profanity used by the Pop Warner coaches. He stated that the conduct of the coaches is graded on language, behavior, general sportsmanship and overall character and that the league does not tolerate the use of profanity by the coaches.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Gowdy took place on the noise intensity during the practice sessions and during a game.

Lisa Secrest
1008 Wilson Street, Costa Mesa 92627

Ms. Secrest supports the lighting at the Farm Sports Complex and suggested that the Commission focus on having lit fields for youth sports.

Ms. Secrest also recommended that the Commission have the noise levels as a separate issue and to regulate the use of lit fields in order to control the noise levels.

Sharon Comer

1139 Salvador Street, Costa Mesa 92626

Representing: AYSO Region 120 and Youth Sports

Ms. Comer supports lighted fields at the Farm Sports Complex.

Judi Berry

2064 Meadow View Lane, Costa Mesa 92626

Ms. Berry believes that the Canyon Park Slope Stability Study has been in the budget for the last ten years and she would like to know the results from the study.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Morris ensued regarding the budget for the Canyon Park Slope Stability Study project and if there are any existing reports on the study.

Ross Pfautz

1845 Anaheim Avenue #10B, Costa Mesa 92627

Representing: Self and tax paying homeowners

Mr. Pfautz supports sports programs and the lighting of fields. He believes that youth sports programs teaches rules and consequences and builds character.

Sharyl Davis

2749 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626

Ms. Davis is not in favor of lighting fields at the Farm Sports Complex. She questioned the Commission on what happened to the promise and commitment made by the City to homeowners living within the vicinity of the sports complex. Also, the noise levels from the sports complex have negatively impacted Ms. Davis' family.

Michael Dilsisian

2761 Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa 92626

Mr. Dilsisian stated that, based on promises made by the City to homeowners living near the sports complex, only two fields would be lit and he is not in favor of lighting more fields at the Farm Sports Complex. He also mentioned that the overall impact on the noise levels is negative.

Allyson Wallace

712 Hamilton Street, Costa Mesa 92627

Representing: AYSO Region 120

Ms. Wallace supports lighting of fields at the Farm Sports Complex because of safety issues.

Jeff Grant

466 Broadway, Costa Mesa 92627

Mr. Grant supports lighting of fields at the Farm Sports Complex.

Joe Leal

2532 Orange Avenue, Costa Mesa 92627

Mr. Leal supports lighting of fields at the Farm Sports Complex because the lights are a necessity for our youth and it shows them that the community supports them.

Jeff Braun

Costa Mesa Business Owner and Newport Beach Resident
Representing: Director of Fields for AYSO Region 97

Mr. Braun strongly applauds the Commission and staff who have taken great efforts to advocate the additional use of lights and fields in the community.

Phil Hughes

2537-B Orange Avenue, Costa Mesa 92627

Mr. Hughes supports lighting of the fields at the Farm Sports Complex because it is a vital need for the community.

John Rubright

1090 El Camino Drive, Costa Mesa 92626

Representing: Commissioner, AYSO Region 120

Mr. Rubright supports lit fields in Costa Mesa because it is needed for the youth groups in the community.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Morris ensued on the \$520,000 earmarked in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 for the Recreation Use Concept Plans, Various Properties and whether or not the City Council uses its discretion to move funds in order to procure properties.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Morris occurred on having the Civic Center Japanese Garden project moved to Fiscal Year 2008-2009 budget.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Hartley took place on whether or not staff has determined that the condition of the restrooms at Smallwood Park calls for renovation, or should be replaced.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Hartley ensued on the cost for the Gisler Park – Replace Irrigation Control Wiring project.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Ms. Ransom occurred on the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fairview Developmental Center and on the lease agreement status with the State.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley took place on availability of the fields at the Fairview Developmental Center.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom ensued on the on Memorandum of Understanding with the Fairview Developmental Center.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Morris took place on whether or not the City has an opportunity to work with the County in obtaining property at Talbert Park on the west end of 19th Street for fields.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Ransom occurred on whether or not having three softball fields online at TeWinkle Park would be adequate for the City's demand for fields in the foreseeable future.

FIRST MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried five to zero, to recommend

the following to the City Council:

1. Adoption of the proposed Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Capital Improvement Program as it relates to Park Maintenance and Park Improvements and to include the following:
 - a. Accelerate the Paularino Park – Replace Playground Equipment, under Park Maintenance on handwritten page 25 in the staff report, in the amount of \$35,000 to the proposed FY 2006-2007 C.I.P.
 - b. The TeWinkle Park Tot Lot Improvements and the attached B-12 form to the proposed FY 2006-2007 C.I.P.
2. Adoption of the proposed 7-Year Capital Improvement Program as it pertains to the categories of Community Health and Environment and Leisure and Community Services with the addition of accelerating the Paularino Park – Replace Playground Equipment to the proposed FY 2006-2007 C.I.P.
3. Remove Line Item 19 – Athletic Field Lighting, under Park Improvements on handwritten page 4 of the report, for separate consideration.

SECOND 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 recommend to City Council the adoption of the proposed FY 2006-2007 C.I.P. Line Item 19 – Athletic Field Lighting, under Park Improvements on handwritten page 4 of the report.

Chair Leece believes that property rights, quality of life, peace and relaxation in one’s own home do matter and it is wrong for the government, in the form of the Parks and Recreation Commission as an appointed body, to recommend to the City Council that lights be installed when there will be a backlash from the Mesa Del Mar community. She continued to state that the Mesa Del Mar community has been good neighbors to the TeWinkle Park, Skate Park and the Farm Sports Complex and that it is wrong to dismiss the residents’ concerns.

Chair Leece recalled, as being a member of the School Board, that part of the issue was an agreement (gentleman’s word) that the development of the Farm would only include lighting the two front fields, and as a Commissioner, she will continue to work with staff on solutions. Also, because of the verbal agreement made by the City to the residents, Chair Leece will not support the motion and recommendation on lighting more fields at the Farm Sports Complex to the City Council.

Commissioner Harris stated that the former Parks Director promised the residents to only have two lit fields and, because of the promise, he will not support this motion.

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PLANS

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation.

**FOR THE LANDSCAPING OF A
PARKWAY AREA ADJACENT TO
2155 RALEIGH AVENUE**

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Mejia ensued on whether or not there is any room for a picnic table on Attachment 4 of the staff report.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Morris occurred on a letter submitted by a Costa Mesa resident on graffiti and trash in area of Victoria Street, and on the Victoria Street Widening project.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Mejia took place on the cost for the project.

Commissioner Stiller suggested that the Commission defer from making a decision on this item and requested that staff take photographs of the area from time to time in order to verify how much trash has accumulated in the area.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Mejia ensued on the design presented to the Commission.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal and carried five to zero, to approve Concept Plan No. 1.

**YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
PROGRAM**

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report and introduced Mr. Richard Brunette, Recreation Supervisor. Mr. Brunette was present to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion among Commissioner Stiller, Ms. Ransom and Mr. Brunette ensued on clarifying the age range.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Brunette took place on the difference between the Advisory Committee of Teens (ACT) and the Youth in Government Program.

Commissioner de Arakal recommended that staff work with the School District to ensure that students who participate in this program are credited hours towards their community service requirement for graduation.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chair Leece and carried five to zero, to support the City funding and the implementation of a Youth in Government Program for the next fiscal year, and to have staff work with the School District to ensure that students who participate in this program are credited hours towards community service requirement for graduation.

**SUMMER YOUTH BASKETBALL
PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report with Mr. Richard Brunette, Recreation Supervisor, present to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom occurred on Option #1 in the staff report and on the implementation of the program.

Discussion among Vice Chair Graham, Ms. Ransom and Mr. Brunette ensued on whether or not the City is competing with any other programs and, if so, with whom.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Ms. Ransom occurred on advertising the program.

Discussion among Commissioner Harris, Ms. Ransom and Mr. Brunette ensued on whether or not this program would be a competitive sport.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Ms. Ransom took place on whether or not there is enough staff to cover the current programs.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried three to two with Chair Leece and Vice Chair Graham voting “No,” to recommend that this program NOT be considered for possible funding and implementation for the next fiscal year.

Commissioner de Arakal stated that he believes the market is currently being served for this type of program and he is concerned with adequate staffing.

PARKS PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation

- Fairview Park – Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project: Issues addressed were operations logistics and a maintenance agreement with the County of Orange; work is progressing as scheduled.
- Fairview Park – Placentia Bridge: The bridge was assembled and installed on February 10, 2006.
- TeWinkle Park Athletic Complex: The contractor has completed installing the fences, rough grading operations, irrigation lines are now in place and the soil is being prepared for hydro seeding.
- Tot Lot, Picnic Shelter and Restroom Improvements at TeWinkle Park: The needs and parameters for the design of the project are being discussed by City officials and the architects for Angels Charity.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Mejia occurred on whether or not reclaimed water is being used at TeWinkle Park.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS

Commissioner de Arakal thanked the community for voicing their concerns regarding the lighting at the Farm Sports Complex. He mentioned that it was a pleasure to attend the Fairview Park-Placentia Bridge dedication with Vice Chair Graham, Counsel Member Foley, Mr. Roeder, City Manager, Mr. Hatch, Assistant City Manager, and former Mayors Libby Cowan and Sandi Genis present at the event.

Commissioner de Arakal announced several upcoming events such as the Ranch After School Program Open House scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2006, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and officially announced that he will attend, and two events scheduled

for Saturday, April 29, 2006, which are the Wild Flower Walk at Fairview Park at 9:00 a.m., for more information please call Fairview Park Friends at (714) 754-5698, and the Orange Coast River Park Open House and Gateway Design Contest Award Ceremony will be held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Graham announced that he would formerly like to RSVP for the Ranch After School Program Open House. He also recommended that a flag pole be installed at both ends of the Placentia Bridge and suggested that a Fairview Park Garden Club be created to take care of gardening at both ends of the bridge.

Vice Chair Graham displayed an overhead picture of a 75' tall tower made entirely of wood that he came across in the State of Illinois, which he recommends for Fairview Park.

Chair Leece announced that she would attend the event scheduled for Friday, April 28, 2006, at the Farm Sports Complex.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **10:40 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, May 24, 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