

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

May 24, 2006

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on May 24, 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 de Arakal.

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
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Robert Staples, Fairview Park Plan Administrator
Ruth Raheb, Recreation Supervisor
Jeanne Douglass, Recreation Coordinator
Jovita Guthrie, Recreation Leader IV

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2006 meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF
TEENS ANNUAL REVIEW
PRESENTATION**

Ms. Jeanne Douglass, Recreation Coordinator, and Ms. Jovita Guthrie, Recreation Leader IV, introduced ACT members who were present to conduct the ACT Annual Review.

Mr. Jesus Perez, Ms. Norma Alvarez, Ms. Victoria Guthrie and Mr. Javier Arriola, students from Estancia High School, made a power point presentation and were available to answer questions by the Commission.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No items.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Items.

NEW BUSINESS

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –
3107 WARREN LANE**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation. Ms. Cindi Staudigel, the applicant, and her daughter, Ms. Valerie Staudigel, were present to voice their concerns for the removal of the trees and to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued on replacing sidewalk panels and whether or not there is a time table set for sidewalk maintenance to replace sidewalk panels.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Hartley took place on the length of time it would take to fix the sidewalks, on the continued lifting of the sidewalk when roots were already severed and whether or not there would be any future lifting of the sidewalks.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley occurred on the varying height of each of the lifted sidewalks and, because they are a hazard and needs immediate attention, Commissioner Stiller requested that staff take care of them.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley ensued on the procedures taken to handle and to track resident complaints on sidewalk problems.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley took place on whether or not the City is responsible to repair any damage caused by a City tree to a homeowner's irrigation sprinklers and lines.

Public Comment:

Valerie Staudigel
3107 Warren Lane, Costa Mesa 92626

Ms. Staudigel spoke on behalf of her mother, Cindi Staudigel, on the various reasons they would like the trees removed from their residence.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Valerie Staudigel took place on the damages caused by the trees to the sprinkler system.

Commissioner Harris stated that he would support the removal of the trees if the trees caused problems to vital infrastructures; however, there is no vital infrastructure damage in this request.

Vice Chair Graham does not believe there is a justification in removing the trees and stated that the significance of the trees affects the value of the home and the neighborhood and that the problems with the sprinkler system could be resolved with more root barrier work.

Chair Leece believes that the City has an obligation to taxpayers to remedy a situation that is out of control, creating a nui-

sance and is a hardship for the homeowner.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley occurred on the City's process to resolve the damages caused by the trees to the sidewalks and water sprinklers, and on the best remedies and least expensive options available for the homeowner to make the necessary repairs.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Ms. Valerie Staudigel ensued on the location of roots sprouting.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley occurred on whether or not staff would work closely with the homeowner if the tree removal request was denied and on the next step to be taken.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal, to deny the request for the removal of four City-owned parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at 3107 Warren Lane with conditions for staff to root prune accordingly where the sidewalk is raised at each location in order to determine if roots are growing underneath the sidewalk and to grind the sidewalks where necessary.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Chair Leece and failed two to three with Vice Chair Graham, Commissioner de Arakal and Commissioner Harris voting "No," to have staff investigate the measure of the problem and return to the Commission with options and recommendations in order for the Commission to make a reasonable and intelligent decision.

ORIGINAL MOTION

The original motion carried four to one with Commissioner Stiller voting "No."

REVIEW OF PROPOSED MINOR AMENDMENTS TO THE FAIRVIEW PARK WETLANDS AND RIPARIAN HABITAT PROJECT

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation. Mr. Robert Staples was present to answer questions by the Commission.

Vice Chair Graham requested that the Commission separate each item in the staff recommendation for discussion.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Staples ensued on whether or not the widening of the trail from 3 feet to 12 feet be considered a reduction of open space.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Mejia occurred on the materials to be used for the pedestrian and handicap accessible trail.

With overhead pictures displayed, discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Mejia took place on the square footage of the pond and on inadequate parking for the park.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Mejia took place on whether or not the material to be used for the trail is handicap accessible and if it will easily accommodate senior citizens using a walker or cane.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Mejia occurred on clarification of the grade on the trail.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Staples took place on whether or not the trail meets the guidelines of the American with Disabilities Act.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chair Graham, and dies for a lack of second, to accept the additional Mulefat and Willow Scrub plants to be added to the Fairview Park Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project plant palette.

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to concur with staff's findings that the three amendments to the Fairview Park Master Plan constitute minor amendments to the master plan as defined in the Costa Mesa Council Policy 500-11 and that the recommended amendments are consistent with the approved Fairview Park Master Plan.

CONSIDERATION OF INSTITUTING A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION "CHAIRPERSON AWARD PROGRAM"

Mr. William Morris presented the report.

Commissioner de Arakal expanded on his request for the program with the following suggestions:

- Would like to elevate the value and awareness of the parks and recreation programs and facilities.
- Encourage the public to be more involved in the recreation programs.
- Recognize people who made outstanding contributions to the City.
- Award to have value to it.
- Open to any person, business or City employee within the City.
- Publicize the award on Channel 24, City newsletter and City's website.
- Chair to consider the nominations and make a decision.
- Chair to present a letter and certificate to awardee.

Commissioner Harris believes that the award program is a worthy program and recommends that the Chair establish a letter congratulating the awardee.

Commissioner de Arakal requested that staff return to the Commission with a criteria and a nomination form for the award program.

Commissioner Stiller stated that he foresees, that on any given month, the Commission may have more than one awardee and, on other months, no awardee.

Commissioner de Arakal concurs with Commissioner Stiller's statement.

Commissioner Stiller requested that the Commission also include institutions in the nomination process.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried five to zero, to establish a

recognition award program and direct staff, at a future date, to bring the proposed program back to the Commission for consideration. As stipulated in the discussion, the Parks and Recreation Commission requested the following as part of the proposed "Chairperson Award Program:"

- Recognize people, businesses, institutions and organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to parks and recreation in Costa Mesa.
- Nominations may be made by any person, business, institution or organization.
- Chairperson to consider nomination for the award.
- Chairperson to establish a letter congratulating the awardee.
- Chairperson would present awardee with a congratulatory letter and certificate at a Commission meeting.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation on the following:

- Community Events that the Maintenance Services Division supports:
 - Neighbors for Neighbors event
 - Canyon Park Clean-Up event
 - Earth Day event
 - Paws Around the Park event promoted by the Fairview Friends
 - 2006 Public Safety Expo at Fire Station 4
- Senior Center:
 - Exterior Painting
 - Directional Signs
- Arbor Day Celebration - Gisler Avenue Bike Trail
 - Center for Spiritual Discovery donated 35 trees
 - Orange County Sanitary District coordinated a mulch donation with Synagro
 - West Coast Arborist, the City's contracted tree trimmer, provided seedlings and information to those who showed up
 - Cost Mesa residents assisted in the planting and had a good time at the event
- Canyon Park Kiosk
 - Donated by the Eagle Scouts
 - Information updated and maintained by Ms. Marian Stueve, Administrative Secretary, in the Maintenance Services Division
- Friends of Mesa Verde Library
 - Dan Worthington requested assistance from City staff on a volunteer project for an "After Hours Book Drop"
 - "After Hours Book Drop" metal bin was donated by Hollywood Video
 - City staff installed the concrete slab, metal bin and modified the landscape surrounding the area
 - Maaco Auto Paint's donation was to paint the metal bin
 - Diamond Sign Company's donation was for the lettering for the metal bin

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Hartley ensued on the ownership at Canyon Park, irrigation repair, tree trim-

ming, and commitment between staff and homeowners to maintain the park.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Stiller invited Mr. Bart Mejia to provide information, to the Commission, on the results from a grant proposal he had worked on.

Mr. Mejia mentioned that the City applied for \$256,000 dollars from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Recreational Trails Program for a bicycle trail and it has been recommended for funding.

Mr. Mejia also stated that the City received a grant in the amount of \$930,000 dollars for the construction of a new universally accessible playground at TeWinkle Park and the reconstruction of one restroom facility and several picnic shelters. Also, the Angel's Foundation donated \$350,000 and the Orange Coast College Department of Architecture agreed to provide architectural services for the project, which will be part of the curriculum for the Fall schedule for the college's second year architectural technology students.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley took place on whether or not Eagle Scouts approached staff in the Maintenance Services Division to ask for project suggestions or ideas.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley occurred on "bio barriers" for tree root containment. Commissioner Harris also requested that staff provide the Commission more information on bio barriers for future consideration.

Commissioner de Arakal spoke on the following topics:

- Acknowledged attending the "Ranch After School Program" Open House with Vice Chair Graham and Mrs. Graham.
- Acknowledged Donna and John Crean for contributing to the Costa Mesa Senior Center.

Commissioner de Arakal made a statement as to where he stands in regards to the Farm Sports Complex Lighting project. Commissioner de Arakal strongly urges the City Council to support the allocation for additional lights at the Farm Sports Complex because he believes it is a prudent, reasonable investment on City owned land which will meet an immediate need for additional fields for night time use. He also believes that it would create a permanent asset that would serve current and future youths of the City and, as well as, to enhance the quality of life for our youth.

Chair Leece commented that she has faith in the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, trustees and the administration, and in its relationship with the City and with the Joint Use Agreement. And, Chair Leece believes that the Commission needs to be aggressive in finding more fields for our youth and that City Council members and staff are working on creative solutions. Concerning the Farm Sports Complex, she felt that the City gave its word in the past to only light two fields.

Vice Chair Graham said that he supports Commissioner de Arakal's statement.

Vice Chair Graham, with support from Chair Leece, Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Stiller, recommends that the City Council discuss and address modifying the ordinance on signage over the public right-of way, such as the Placentia Avenue Bridge and Estancia High School, in order to promote park events.

Vice Chair Graham, with support from Chair Leece and Commissioner Stiller, requested staff to look into the installation of flag poles on each end of the Placentia Avenue Bridge.

Vice Chair Graham, with support from Chair Leece and Commissioner de Arakal, requested staff to look into expanding the plant palette selection in order to plant additional varieties of trees along the center median on Mesa Verde Drive.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Morris occurred on signage advertising over the public right-of-way.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Morris took place on whether or not the State of California's Vehicle Code prohibits signage over the public right-of-way.

Chair Leece mentioned that she went to the Paws in the Park event and enjoyed herself.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **9:17 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, June 28, 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