

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

June 28, 2006

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on June 28, 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 Stiller.

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
Richard Brunette, Recreation Supervisor
Mark Taylor, Management Analyst
Jeff Ruth, Recreation Coordinator

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal and carried five to zero, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2006 meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

**PRESENTATION ON ‘THE RANCH’
AFTER SCHOOL
COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM**

Ms. Evy Edelo, Ranch Program Supervisor from the Orange County Fair and Exposition Center, made a power point presentation and was present to answer questions by the Commission.

**PROCLAMATION FOR “JULY IS
RECREATION AND PARKS
MONTH”**

Chair Leece presented the proclamation to Mr. Richard Brunette, Recreation Supervisor, Mr. Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager, and Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Martin Millard
Resident of Costa Mesa
Mr. Millard recommended that the Commission look into a developer requesting for a waiver of all or part of the park fees for the development of 890 apartment units in a gated community to be built on the Sakioka property near South Coast Plaza, which will be presented to the City Council on July 5.

Ms. Jacqueline Gray

2708 Cardinal Drive, Costa Mesa 92626

Ms. Gray is concerned with the lack of a lower area parking lot to be built at Fairview Park. She said that there is an overflow of traffic for the park on the side streets of Swan Drive and Cardinal Drive and that the residents would be bombarded with additional traffic on the street once Fairview Park is complete.

Ms. Teresa Talbott

2701 Cardinal Drive, Costa Mesa 92626

Ms. Talbott is concerned with the overflow of traffic and the safety of people jaywalking to get to Fairview Park, due to a lack of parking at Fairview Park, and recommends that the Commission consider having a lower area parking lot built at Fair view Park.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Items.

NEW BUSINESS

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –
NEWPORT MESA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation. Ms. Ara K. Zareczny, Facilities Analyst for the Newport Mesa Unified School District, provided information on the parking lot project and was also present to answer questions by the Commission.

Public Comment:

Martin Millard

Resident of Costa Mesa

Mr. Millard requested that the Commission consider relocating the trees that are being removed into Paularino Park.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley ensued on the possibility of relocating the trees.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chair Graham, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal and carried five to zero, to approve the request for the removal of two City-owned parkway trees located at Charles W. TeWinkle Middle School, 3224 California Avenue, with the condition that the trees be replaced with one twenty-four inch box size tree and two fifteen gallon container size trees for each tree removed. The trees shall be provided to the City for planting elsewhere on public property.

The trees must be removed and mitigation trees provided to the City within one year from the date of final approval, after which the approval expires.

**PLANT PALETTE ENHANCEMENT
– MESA VERDE DRIVE EAST AND
WEST AND PROCEDURAL
CHANGES TO THE STREETScape
AND MEDIAN DEVELOPMENT
STANDARDS AMENDMENT
PROCESS**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Hartley took place on the size of the surface roots on the medians.

Public Comment:

Martin Millard

Resident of Costa Mesa

Mr. Millard stated that the Carrot Wood Trees are classified as weeds in the State of Florida, the roots are in the sewers on the streets of Mesa North, their droppings are sharp hard nuts, and the roots lifts up the sidewalks. He recommends that the Commission considers tightening up the system and that some hard questions need to be asked of staff and answered before approving plant palettes.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley occurred on the Streetscape and Median Development Standards and on whether or not the Carrot Wood Tree is listed as an approved tree in the plant palette.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued on the type of fruit droppings by the Camphor Tree, the age of the tree to be planted, when pruning will begin, how the fruit droppings and leaves get cleaned up on the medians throughout the City, and on the fruit droppings of the Crown of Gold Tree and the Purple Orchid Tree.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley took place on the width of the medians.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley occurred on whether or not there are any trees that are not a nuisance.

MOTION

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

1. Change in planting palette for Mesa Verde Drive East and West, designating a Camphor Tree as an additional Primary Median tree, and designating Crown of Gold Tree and Purple Orchid Tree as Median Accent trees; recommending to the City Council that the Streetscape and Median Development Standards be amended to reflect the change.
2. Recommend to the City Council that the Parks and Recreation Commission be authorize to approve amendments to the Streetscape and Median Development Standards without further City Council action.

**CONSIDERATION OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF
COMMISSION POLICY #1 –
“CHAIRPERSON AWARD
PROGRAM”**

Mr. William Morris presented the report.

Commissioner de Arakal recommends that the following wording be used in the certificate “...for outstanding service and exceptional contributions to Parks and Recreation in the City of Costa Mesa.”

Commissioner Harris stated that he would not support the program because there are recognition awards currently in place such as the Employee of the Month Award and the Mayor's Award.

Vice Chair Graham believes that it is an acceptable program and recommends that the wording indicates what the certificate is being awarded for, such as "for saving trees."

Commissioner Stiller recommends that, in the second paragraph on handwritten page 3 in Attachment 1 under Policy, the last sentence should read as, "The submitted information must indicate the outstanding work performed in and/or for the City, and the reason(s) why the individual or group should be recognized and acknowledged by the **Chairperson** for this effort." He also believes that this program is a great idea.

Chair Leece believes that the program is a good idea and that it gives purpose because it will elevate Parks and Recreation in the City a little more, and it will also acknowledge many volunteers who give selflessly.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried four to one, with Commissioner Harris voting "No," to approve the Parks and Recreation Commission Policy #1, "Chairperson Award Program" and direct staff to implement the program, and to also approve the following changes:

1. In Attachment 1, under Policy in paragraph two, the last sentence should read:
"The submitted information must indicate the outstanding work performed in and/or for the City, and the reason(s) why the individual or group should be recognized and acknowledged by the **Chairperson** for this effort."
2. In Attachment 4, after the awardees' name on the certificate, it should read:
"for outstanding service and exceptional contributions to **Parks and Recreation** **in** the City of Costa Mesa."

SELECTION OF SITES FOR USE OF TEMPORARY LIGHTS ON ATHLETIC FIELDS

Mr. Richard Brunette introduced Mr. Jeff Ruth, Recreation Coordinator, who presented the report.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Ruth ensued on reopening discussions between the School District and the City regarding the use of temporary lights on school fields.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Ruth ensued regarding fields being out of commission during the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Sports season under the current Joint Use Agreement.

Public Comment:
Martin Millard
Resident of Costa Mesa

Mr. Millard recommends that the Commission consider the Balearic Community Center fields as a temporary site for portable lights. He also suggests that staff provide a “scatter map” to show where the players are coming from in order to make sense of where to locate the lights in the city. Mr. Millard believes that there are not enough parks in the city and more park land needs to be acquired.

Stephen C. Imparato
2812 Shantar Drive, Costa Mesa 92626
Mr. Imparato does not approve of having temporary lights placed at the Balearic Community Center fields.

John Rubright
1090 El Camino Drive, Costa Mesa 92626
Regional Commissioner, AYSO Region 120
Mr. Rubright suggests that the Commission considers putting temporary lights at Davis School, Costa Mesa High School varsity field, Estancia High School and Parsons School.

Barry Zimmerman
470 E 19th Street, Costa Mesa 92627
Commissioner, AYSO Region 97
Mr. Zimmerman mentioned that the league is pressured for time during the winter months and suggests having two temporary lights placed at the Farm Sports Complex and two at Balearic.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Zimmerman occurred on whether the league plays games or practices at night and on the noise factor at night.

Ron Nugent
1585 Santa Ana Avenue, Costa Mesa 92627
President, Costa Mesa Pop Warner Football
Mr. Nugent recommends that the Commission consider having temporary lights at Costa Mesa High School utility fields and, as a short term solution, at the Farm Sports Complex Fields 3 and 4, and at Balearic.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Nugent took place on the location of the equipment storage bin at the Costa Mesa High School and on transporting the equipment to the Farm Sports Complex site from the storage bin.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Nugent ensued on the number of teams and levels in the Costa Mesa Pop Warner Football League and on whether or not the teams practice or hold games at night.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Nugent occurred on whether or not there are Newport Beach residents on the team.

Mark Arablaster
President, Newport Mesa Soccer Club
Mr. Arablaster said that from October through April the club is in need of lighted fields. He suggests that the Commission, during discussions with the School District, reconsider having lighted fields at Kaiser.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Ruth oc-

curred on what sports and organizations would be permitted to use the permanent lighted fields at TeWinkle School.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Brunette occurred on whether or not the existing fields at Balearic could be oriented east and west rather than north and south.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Brunette ensued on City negotiations with the School District regarding the use of temporary lights on school facilities and on the expected time frame for the Commission to receive more information and view the portable lighting equipment.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Brunette took place on the reason for the delay on a demonstration of the portable lighting equipment by the manufacturer.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, to designate the placement of temporary portable lights on fields under one of the following options:

- Option 1: Farm Sports Complex fields #3 and #4, and two fields at Balearic.
- Option 2: Farm Sports Complex fields #3 and #4, one field at Balearic and one field at Costa Mesa High School at either the northwest utility or the track field, depending on the Newport Mesa Unified School District's designation. If the Newport Mesa Unified School District is amenable to temporary portable lights on the northwest utility or the track field then Option 2 would become Option 1.
- Option 3: Farm Sports Complex fields #3 and #4, one field at Davis School Utility Track and one at Balearic.

Once the portable lighting equipment is made available, to also have staff set up the equipment on the track field at Davis School and arrange for a community meeting with the residents at Kaiser School in order to get feedback on the portable lighting equipment.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chair Leece and failed two to three with Vice Chair Graham, Commissioner de Arakal and Commissioner Stiller voting "No," to recommend temporary lighting at the Farm Sports Complex Fields 3 and 4, and have staff contact the Newport Mesa Unified School District to select the best site, either the utility or track area at Costa Mesa High School, or at Estancia High School.

Commissioner Stiller stated that he would not support the substitute motion because Commissioner de Arakal's motion would enable the Commission to implement the use of temporary lights sooner.

ORIGINAL MOTION

Motion was carried three to two, with Chair Leece and Commissioner Harris voting "No."

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner de Arakal thanked Costa Mesa Pop Warner, AYSO Region 97 and AYSO Region 120 and all the supporters who attended the City Council meeting last week. He also thanked City Council for voting on permanent lights for Fields 3 and 4 at the Farm Sports Complex for next year's budget.

As a long term strategy, Commissioner de Arakal mentioned to the City Council that he would like to open up the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in order to make a thorough assessment of what the City's anticipated growth would be over the next 10 to 20 years given new developments on the west side overlay, and potentially the new apartment community on the Sakioka property; and, to also consider what the City's field needs would be for all sports and then to develop a specific strategy for identifying property, projects, sports complexes and funding mechanisms that will provide the Parks and Recreation Commission with a concrete framework for identifying future parcels in the City. Commissioner de Arakal said that the City Council asked for a joint study session, to include the user groups, with the Parks and Recreation Commission within the next month or two to define the scope of what the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Review would be in terms of fields and sports complexes.

Commissioner de Arakal would like to establish a joint meeting between this Commission and the City of Newport Beach's Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission, and working with AYSO Region 97 and 120, to get an understanding of the City of Newport Beach's perspective on lit fields and to help them understand what Costa Mesa's concerns are for field usage, what the user groups concerns are for field usage, and to jointly explore developing additional lit facilities in Newport Beach that would help accommodate AYSO Region 97.

Vice Chair Graham had pictures displayed on the overhead projector and said that he is concerned about the City's need for more fields and, because of it, he feels that, as an option, he asked the Commission to consider the area between the train tracks on the east side of Fairview Park, just north of the train station, as a site for more athletic fields.

Vice Chair Graham had pictures of the City of Irvine's bicycle and foot trails displayed on the overhead projector and said that the City has many opportunities to do the same.

Vice Chair Graham had a map of Fairview Park displayed on the overhead projector in order to explain the current bike trails at Fairview Park and an area which is currently inaccessible for parking. Vice Chair Graham would like the Commission to address this issue in order to satisfy the needs of the community because he believes that a better access to the lower area of Fairview Park should be created.

Commissioner Stiller quoted a section from a two page document that he received, along with all the Commissioners, from Planning Commissioner Bruce Garlich, in which Mr. Garlich referred, as an option, to having 10 acres of Fairview Park used for athletic fields. Commissioner Stiller was also pleased that the City Council approved the lights for Fields #3 and #4 at the Farm Sports Complex.

Commissioner Harris mentioned that next week Tuesday, July 4th, is a holiday and he wanted to provide everyone with information he received from the Fire Prevention Division regarding the use of fireworks in Costa Mesa, which follows:

- Fireworks can only be set off between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. on the 4th of July; fireworks are not allowed at city parks
- People are not allowed to set off fireworks on city streets unless approval was obtained by the City for a street closure, along with insurance liability

Commissioner Harris suggests that residents report illegal fireworks being set off and enforce the law, and recommends that user groups consider other means to generate revenue other than selling fireworks.

Commissioner Harris agreed with Vice Chair Graham's recommendation on potential athletic fields at Fairview Park near the train tracks.

Commissioner Harris was asked to mention that parents of children in AYSO Region 97 commented that they were ecstatic that Costa Mesa will be having additional lit fields and that they no longer would have to worry about spending their taxpayer money to light fields at the City of Newport Beach.

Commissioner Harris said that he is happy that lights would be installed at the Bark Park and in the parking lot between the Bark Park and the Skate Park, which would make it much safer. He agrees with Council Member Dixon on ways to generate funding for future improvements for the Bark Park.

Chair Leece mentioned that the Commission continues to work hard in searching for more fields and that the City Council does understand the problems the Commission faces regarding athletic fields.

Chair Leece mentioned that she received a letter from Gilbert Collins, which addressed Vice Chair Graham's suggestion on having additional sports fields at Fairview Park, and that Mr. Collins recommends not using Fairview Park for sports fields.

Chair Leece also said that she attended the skateboard day event last week at the Skate Park and that Council Member Monahan's recommendation was to look into putting a second Skate Park at Lions Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **9:29 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, July 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:

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Director of Public Services