

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

**March 23, 2005**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., March 23, 2005, 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  
Mark Harris, Commissioner  
David Stiller, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Robert Graham, Commissioner

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Public Services Director  
Stephen N. Mandoki, Administrative Services Director  
Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager  
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham being absent, to approve the minutes of February 23, 2005.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

No Oral Communications.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**PROPOSED USER FEE  
INCREASES**

Ms. Jana Ransom made the presentation with Ms. Ruth Raheb and Mr. Richard Brunette present to answer questions by the Commission.

In response to Vice Chair Leece's question regarding scholarship information, Ms. Raheb mentioned that there are available avenues for people who need financial assistance.

Responding to Chairman de Arakal's question, Ms. Ransom indicated that non-residents are charged an additional fee.

Vice Chair Leece asked if the City is in line with non-resident rates and asked to see a break down of information of what other cities are charging. Ms. Ransom mentioned that the City charges a

median rate of five dollars per person and that she would provide the Commission the necessary information as an Informational Item.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to approve proposed user fee increases to become effective for the Summer Quarter, 2005.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No Items.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. William Morris made the presentation.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to approve the committee appointments as assigned.

Committee Assignments:

City/School District Liaison – Wendy Leece, Alternate David Stiller

Bristol Street Specific Plan – Byron de Arakal, Alternate David Stiller

Skate Park – Mark Harris, Alternate David Stiller

Fairview Friends – Robert Graham, Alternate Wendy Leece

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –  
452 EAST 18<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

Mr. Bruce Hartley presented the report and answered a few questions by the Commission regarding the applicants' request and the public right-of-way.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried three to one, with Vice Chair Leece voting no and Commissioner Graham absent, to deny the request by Marion Hallock and Dennis Atkinson for the removal of two City parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at 452 East 18<sup>th</sup> Street.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CIRCLE OF SERVICE  
NOMINATIONS FOR  
ROBERT M. WILLSON**

Ms. Jana Ransom introduced Robby Waite, who presented the report.

The Commission indicated they were very pleased to recommend to City Council Robert M. Wilson's nomination into the Circle of Service.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to recommend that City Council approve the request for Robert M. Wilson to be inducted into the Circle of Service.

**COASTAL SAGE SCRUB OFF-SITE MITIGATION AND MONITORING PLAN FOR FAIRVIEW PARK**

Mr. Robert Staples presented this report. Tony Bomkamp, from Glenn Lukos Associates, Inc., was available to answer questions by the Commission.

**Public Comment:**

Dr. Jan Vandersloot, resident of Newport Beach, CA, is concerned with the Fairview Park project, specifically to have a generic coastal sage scrub community that is not native to the site, and recommends that the Commission consult with Mr. Rob Hamilton, who consulted on the Fairview Master Plan Committee. Dr. Vandersloot also suggested that the Commission impose a “No grow and kill policy” for the site.

Chairman de Arakal asked Mr. Bomkamp to further explain the difference between a coastal sage scrub and an alluvial scrub. Mr. Bomkamp offered to meet with and discuss the various plant palettes for the project with Mr. Hamilton, if the Commission desires. He is also willing to consider suggestions offered by Mr. Hamilton in order to have the best habitat for the area.

In response to Vice Chair Leece’s question on the track record of work done by the Headlands Reserve, LLC, Mr. Bomkamp mentioned that he is not aware of their track record because they have not done any restoration projects.

Commissioner Harris asked Mr. William Morris if there were timing issues that need to be considered. Mr. Morris confirmed that there is a timeline that the Headlands Reserve, LLC has to meet and that it will be brought up to the City Council on April 5, 2005.

Mr. Morris mentioned that a complete biological study of the entire Fairview Park site is proposed in the future, which will be a re-review of the original Fairview Park Master Plan document and environmental document so any new issues can be identified.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Vice Chair Leece, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to confirm that the Coastal Sage Scrub Off-Site Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Fairview Park is consistent with the Fairview Park Master Plan and to recommend to City Council that the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan not be allowed to proceed until a letter from Fish and Wildlife clearly states whether or not the area will be used as a pocket mouse relocation site. To also recommend to City Council that plant material, listed in the report, be added to the approved list for installation in the areas of the Fairview Park Master Plan designated for Coastal Sage Scrub.

**ANNUAL REVIEW OF ATHLETIC FIELD/FACILITY**

Ms. Jana Ransom introduced Ruth Raheb, who presented the report.

## **USE AND ALLOCATION POLICY**

In response to Vice Chair Leece's question regarding people being removed from a field on the Field Ambassador's Monthly report, Ms. Raheb explained that groups of over ten people are removed if they did not have a permit and also because a field is closed to everyone for various reasons such as rain, rest and renovation or Measure A, and mentioned that the report will be more detailed in the future.

Vice Chair Leece also asked for more clarification on the maintenance of the School District fields. Ms. Ransom mentioned that the School District and the City are working on an agreement to ensure maintenance standards are being met on an annual basis. Ms. Ransom also mentioned that, within the next three months, an agreement would be in place to identify maintenance standards and continuance of that level of maintenance for the various fields.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question on the percentage of school permitted fields that are not currently being used because of Measure A, Ms. Raheb said ten percent of the fields are not being used.

## **MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to receive and file the report.

## **ATHLETIC FIELD TEMPORARY LIGHT POLICY**

Ms. Jana Ransom introduced Ruth Raheb, who made the presentation.

### **Public Comment:**

- 1) Nancy Buchanan, 379 Catalina Shore Drive, Costa Mesa, does not want to tolerate the night time uses of Kaiser field that are being utilized by an organization whose participants are primarily from Newport Beach.
- 2) Terry Coville, 2481-A Irvine Avenue, Costa Mesa, President of Orange Coast United Soccer Club, mentioned that the impact of the inability to use portable lights would seriously damage the Club's ability to compete. He suggests that the Commission consider the minimal use and impact of portable lights on some fields, such as at the Parsons School site.
- 3) Susie Birmingham, 375 Catalina Shore Drive, Costa Mesa, has frequently reported the use of the fields during hours that it should not be in use, safety issues because the kids are not consistently supervised, parking issues due to double parking, people not using the assigned crosswalks, inadequate street lighting, noise, and the lights shine directly into her house. She asks for "peace and quiet" at night, especially at dinnertime.
- 4) Brad Gajda, 2089 Garden Lane A, Costa Mesa, recommended to change the mufflers on the portable lights because of the noise and to tweak the lights so they are not blocking visibility of the crosswalks. He also feels that there are safety issues involved in having the kids crank up the generator light poles.
- 5) Cheryl Carlson, 2116 Colina Vista Court, Costa Mesa, has experienced and endured the bright lights shining into her home for two consecutive years. She feels that it is extremely obtrusive, unacceptable, invasive and not a good neighbor policy. Other issues include safety, parking and noise, which negate any possible benefit for children playing after dark.
- 6) Albert Stanchfield, 2084 Garden Lane, Unit B, Costa Mesa, considers the portable lights a safety issue because the lights are not properly directed onto the fields.

- 7) Louis Cuccio, 396 East 21<sup>st</sup>, #13, Costa Mesa, has tolerated the continued excessive use of the fields and more activities, especially when the portable lights were brought in. His concern is mainly the noise generated from the portable lights being used on the fields.
- 8) Chris Sarris, 1758 Centella Place, Newport Beach, AYSO 97, asked Ms. Raheb for more information on when the portable lights were started when they were locked and why he was not informed about it. He would prefer not to use the portable lights if a lighted field was assigned to his organization. As far as lights being turned off late, he stated that they are generally done using the field by 6:30 p.m.; however, there may be one or two nights when an older team stays out until 8:00 p.m. He also mentioned that he worked with the City and residents and had the lights realigned and did not receive any complaints from the residents in the area since then. He has not received any complaints from the trailer park residents. If a resident has a complaint, he recommended that the resident walk around the field and speak with the coach. He asks that the City notify him of any complaints.
- 9) Kevin Shannon, 2120 Colina Vista Way, Costa Mesa, believes that the soccer team should play and practice during the day and not at night. The lights shine into his home.

In response to Vice Chair Leece's question regarding fields available for night use, Ms. Raheb and Ms. Ransom said that there are other fields available.

Ms. Ransom and Ms. Raheb further clarified Commissioner Stiller's question regarding the use of the middle field at Kaiser.

Chairman de Arakal asked Mr. Sarris what precludes AYSO 97 from using the Farm. Mr. Sarris said he would accept the use of the Farm.

Vice Chair Leece asked Ms. Raheb if there were any complaints from residents on JoAnne Street about the lights at Parsons School. Ms. Raheb said that there were very few complaints and that most of the residents also have Field Ambassador cards, which they would use to call the Field Ambassador's to have them re-adjust the lights.

## **MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Leece, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to continue to have the portable lighting policy, adopt policies amended in the staff report and discontinue the temporary lighting policy at Kaiser Field after the permitted season, which ends March 31, 2005.

## **SKATEPARK OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report.

Ms. Ransom clarified questions by Commissioner Stiller in regards to hours of operation and park ranger control of enforcement.

In response to Commissioner Harris' question on safety equipment requirements and how the three strikes rule will be enforced, Ms. Ransom said that there is no set standard for safety equipment other than the state law requires that the City post a minimum requirement on the use of safety equipment. She also mentioned that the police department indicated that their patrol people would get to know users in the Skatepark and monitor patterns of misbehav-

ior. With an ordinance in place, it will give the park ranger the capacity to issue a citation and/or to take away the individual's equipment for a period of time.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question on whether or not staff had consulted with other Skatepark operators and inquired about common problems they have encountered, Ms. Ransom mentioned that the City is part of the Southern California Skatepark Coalition, which is a group of skatepark operators who meet monthly to discuss all sorts of issues.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to recommend approval of the Skatepark Operational Plan to City Council.

**UNAUTHORIZED TREE  
TRIMMING-1781 C NEWPORT  
BOULEVARD**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

**Public Comment:**

Mr. Behzad Jazayeri, 1781-C Newport Boulevard, Costa Mesa, owner of Subject Matter, indicated he provided information to staff before he had the tree trimmed, which is located in front of his business. He also showed some pictures of the tree before and after the tree was trimmed from various angles of the street, which blocked the view of his business sign.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to receive and file the report.

**CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT  
MEETING WITH THE  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. William Morris presented the report.

Commissioner Harris commented that this is a very good idea and Chairman de Arakal concurred.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Vice Chair Leece, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to approve a Joint Study Session meeting with the Planning Commission for April 4, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the first floor Conference Room in City Hall.

**CHANGE OF DATE FOR  
REGULARLY SCHEDULED  
PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION MEETING DATE  
FOR APRIL 2005**

Ms. Jana Ransom made the presentation.

Chairman de Arakal recommended that, given the importance of the agenda in April and not having the facility schedule for the Council Chambers available, the Commission should forego attending the CPRS District X Awards and Installation this year and participate next year.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to keep the regular scheduled April 27 Commission Meeting.

**2004-2005 CITYWIDE  
PARKWAY MAINTENANCE  
PROJECT**

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Graham absent, to approve staff's request for the removal of three parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at the following locations:

587 W. Bay Street  
2046 Anaheim Avenue (W. Bay Street side)  
264 Bowling Green Drive

To also approve staff's request to replant the required trees with the approved species for the specific streets at a one-to-one ratio.

**RECREATION MANAGER'S  
REPORT**

Ms. Jana Ransom made the presentation with some overhead information.

Recreation Division is recruiting for Summer staff for various positions.

Also, the City Council has requested that staff bring forward the Mobile Recreation Program and the Mobile Skate Park Program for review on April 19, 2005.

The ACT Teen Program prepared a brochure for distribution to the community. Ms. Ransom also said, "that this group of kids are just doing a great job." A black light teen dance has been scheduled for April 1 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and for more information to call the Downtown Recreation Center at (714) 327-7560. Chairman de Arakal suggested that staff contact the Daily Pilot and notify them of the story.

The Spring Camp Costa Mesa Program is getting ready to start on April 5, which will run from Monday to Friday. The program is full with 50 participants.

For people who would like to have a good time, the Family Day Out is scheduled for April 16 at the Balearic Community Center with bingo and pizza from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Fee of \$10.00 dollars per participant includes pizza, bingo and prizes. Pre-registration will close on Tuesday, April 12.

**MAINTENANCE SERVICES  
MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Mr. Hartley showed the Commission some pictures taken of graffiti on city property under the Graffiti Abatement Program, which also gathers statistical information. He mentioned that the City does have a graffiti hotline and all calls are tracked. He also said that pictures taken of hate or violence graffiti are forwarded to the Police Department to assist in their investigation. He further explained the process of removing graffiti.

Commissioner Harris recommended that Mr. Hartley present his

report to City Council.

**PARKS PROJECTS  
MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bart Mejia presented this report.

Update on several projects currently under construction are:

- Fairview Park Multipurpose Trail – contractors are currently grading the west side of the park and as soon as the rain stops they will start pouring the first section.
- There has not been much progress with the lakes project because of the rain.
- As for the Skate Park, the contractors have been working diligently to complete some work in between the rains.
- Finally, the contractor for the Gisler Park Slope Repair Project has started planting the plant materials, and the next phase of work to be done will be the sidewalk improvements and the remaining concrete improvements, which will complete the project. The expected date of completion is hopefully within the next four weeks.

**COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Harris thanked fellow Commissioners and staff for all their hard work.

Vice Chair Leece commended the staff on a thorough Costa Mesa Recreation Review and for their hard work. She would like staff to look into re-establishing a Neighborhood Community Award to encourage residents to spruce up their neighborhood. She also recommended that staff possibly have park rangers put up flyers at Canyon Park because there are some concerns with people living under the picnic benches.

Chairman de Arakal addressed his concern to Mr. Bart Mejia about people getting through the fence in order to skate at the Skate Park. He also informed the Commission on the Bristol Street Mixed Use Overlay Committee's progress on drafting a Mixed Use Ordinance for the City, which will be the City's first Mixed Use Ordinance. He will keep the Commission informed on when the ordinance will be scheduled to go to the Planning Commission, which may be sometime in May or June and then forwarded to the City Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at **10:54 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, April 27, 2005 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  
Public Services Director