

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

**April 27, 2005**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on April 27, 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 Commissioner Harris.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present:

Byron de Arakal, Chair  
Wendy Leece, Vice Chair  
Robert Graham, Commissioner  
Mark Harris, Commissioner  
David Stiller, Commissioner

Also Present:

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

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried five to zero to approve the minutes of March 23, 2005.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mirna Burciaga, 1778 New Hampshire Drive, Costa Mesa  
Volunteer for the Neighbors to Neighbors Day at Canyon Park

Ms. Burciaga informed the Commission about an incident that occurred during the Neighbors to Neighbors Day at Canyon Park in which a resident trimmed a tree without City approval. She mentioned that she contacted the police department to report the incident but was informed that it was okay to trim trees during the Neighbors to Neighbors Day. She also suggested that a memorandum be provided to the police department on the policy during the Neighbors to Neighbors Day. Ms. Burciaga provided pictures for the Commission.

Chairman de Arakal asked Mr. Bruce Hartley to contact and inform the resident who trimmed the tree about the City's policy on tree trimming. Mr. Hartley will follow up on this issue and remind staff about the City's tree trimming policy.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

No Items.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No Items.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**DONATION OF MEMORIAL TREE AND PLAQUE**

Ms. Bruce Hartley made the presentation.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wilcof, 2702 Starbird Drive, Costa Mesa, were also present to address and answer questions from the Commission.

Discussion ensued between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley on placement and maintenance of the monument or plaque.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley on the City’s policy regarding “plaques memorializing individuals,” which does not mention pets. Commissioner Harris mentioned that this donation was in memory of a pet.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Vice Chair Leece, and carried four to one, with Commissioner Harris voting no, to approve the proposed donation in Tanager Park.

Chairman de Arakal indicated he would like to agendize, for the May meeting, an item to discuss recommendation(s) to the City Council to clarify the memorial tree policy as it relates to pets.

**EXTENDED COMMISSION APPROVAL TO REMOVE ONE INDIAN LAUREL FIG (FICUS) AT POLICE FACILITY, 99 FAIR DRIVE**

Mr. Bruce Hartley presented the report.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley took place on whether or not modification to the approval of an extension would be applied to the approval from the previous year, and the expense if a larger tree was chosen for replanting.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. William Morris occurred on whether or not the lateral sewer line replacement cost is budgeted for in the upcoming fiscal year’s budget and on whether or not the expansion for the new police facility would impact the newly planted tree.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried five to zero, to approve a one-year extension to the previously approved request to remove one (1) Indian Laurel Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* ‘Nitida’) located at 99 Fair Drive in front of the Police Facility and to remain with the Commission’s approval of a three-to-one replanting with a 36” box and two-15 gallons.

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –  
HARBOR BOULEVARD/GISLER  
AVENUE INTERSECTION  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Mr. William Morris presented the report with overhead pictures.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley took place on the cost involved to relocate or transplant the trees.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley took place regarding the type of tree to be planted because of the power wires in the area, and on the maintenance of the new trees after they have been planted.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Morris ensued regarding correcting the misalignment in the overall intersection traffic lanes.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. Morris took place on the start of construction for this project.

Commissioner Graham, Chairman de Arakal, Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley discussed the cost comparison related to the replacement ratio for installing new trees.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley occurred on the type of replacement tree chosen for the project.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley occurred on the placement of the tree near the curb line because of large vehicles traveling in the area.

Vice Chair Leece, Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley discussed the cost for each of the trees.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and carried five to zero, to approve the removal of seven American Sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua* trees located within the public right-of-way on Gisler Avenue to accommodate roadway-widening improvements along the north side of Gisler Avenue east of Harbor Boulevard; and install seven (7) thirty-six inch (36”) box Australian Willow trees in the adjacent private property planting area to the north, pending written owners permission.

**REVIEW OF PROPOSED  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR  
2005-2006 THROUGH 2011-2012**

Mr. William Morris presented the report.

Commissioner’s Comments/Recommendations:

**Commissioner Harris** agreed with everything listed on the CIP. He highlighted on a few projects, such as:

- Arlington Drive Parking Lot Lighting – it should have been done a long time ago.
- Athletic Field Lighting – a very good idea to put it forward.
- Estancia Park Monument Signage – glad to see it move forward.
- Fairview State Hospital Sport Fields-Renovation – very happy that it is moving forward. Suggest that the Athletic Field Lighting possibly be used to put in lighting there because there are no homes in the area to affect any residents.
- Raleigh Avenue Park Development – the architect fees are too much to upgrade and fix-up the property. He sug-

gested that City Maintenance staff take on the project because of outstanding work done on other City projects.

- Lions Park/Davis Field – project is way overdo.

**Commissioner Stiller** commented that Commissioner Harris did a nice job of covering the projects, and the only additional comment he had was on the:

- Athletic Field Lighting – although the Fairview Developmental Facility may come on-line, he would like to urge Council to consider alternatively putting those new lights at the Farm Sports Complex because the fields are already established, and fields #3 and #4 would be acceptable to AYSO for both games and practices.

**Commissioner Graham** discussed the following programs/projects:

- Estancia Park Monument Signage – would like city facilities with a monument sign to specify that the facility is a ‘Costa Mesa’ facility.
- Lions Park/Davis Field – recommends that it be turned into a soccer field or a second site for a skate park facility, after we see the outcome of the first one. There are not many places for children to play soccer and this would be a better use for it, instead of another baseball field.

**Vice Chair Leece** mentioned a few programs/projects, which follows:

- City Entry Monuments and Signs – proud of the ‘Costa Mesa’ entry sign into the city, and happy about the work being done with the signs.
- Street Median Improvement Project-Placentia Avenue – looking forward to seeing the concept plans.
- Athletic Field Lighting – glad that City staff are working with AYSO to get funding to install lights on soccer fields.
- Fairview State Hospital Sports Field-Renovation – felt this is a large project, would like to ensure that there will be adequate parking, and encourage the City Council to consider lighting for this project.
- Concrete Walkway Replacement-Multiple Park Sites – glad that the walkways will be replaced because of safety hazard.
- Lions Park/Davis Field – believes the west side needs more playing fields and for City staff to consider other ideas to utilize the fields.

**Chairman de Arakal** mentioned that he is really happy with the 2005-2006 Capital Improvements and wanted clarification on a few projects, which follows:

- Arlington Drive Parking Lot Lighting – lighting is requested since the skate park is proposed to be open in the evenings.
- Athletic Field Lighting – generic description so that several different sites can be considered.
- Raleigh Avenue Park Development – property is too small to be developed, and the adjacent property owners have shown no interest in purchasing the property.

Several comments were also made by the Chairman, as follows:

- Recreational use Concept Plans, Various Properties – appreciates Vice Chair Leece and Commissioner Harris’ compliments and is proud of this Commission for advancing this project.
- He encouraged City Council and City staff to begin discussions with the Coast Community College on a long-

term lease option opportunity for the piece of land at Adams Avenue and Pinecreek Drive for what would be a significant recreational sports facility.

- On the long-term 7-Year Capital Improvement Projects, he wanted to be sure that the second skate park location was included, which was listed under the FY 2009-10 budget year.
- Overall, he felt very, very pleased with the CIP, and said that next fiscal year would be the “Year of Parks and Recreation” in the city. He also hoped that the City Council would be recreationally minded when reviewing the budget and understand that parks, playing fields and grass for children and adults to play on are an important infrastructure element.

Public Comment: None

## **RECREATION MANAGER’S REPORT**

Ms. Jana Ransom was not present. Chairman de Arakal advised the Commission to review the report, which was provided.

## **MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER’S REPORT**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

- Neighbors for Neighbors event was held on the past weekend, which was coordinated with other city departments to implement some improvements with federal funds on houses of seniors and those with low to moderate income. Also, an event was held at Canyon Park where hundreds of volunteers showed up for cleaning and planting.
- Arbor Day celebration was held at the Costa Mesa Senior Center.
- Balearic Community Center Improvements included design and installation of a new sign, slurry sealed the tot-lot area, added new sand to the tot-lot, restriped the playground, four square and hopscotch markings, and pressure washed and applied some exterior accent painting to the building.
- The Home Depot Neighborhood Improvement Project at the Neighbor Community Center Plaza landscape.
- Marina View Park Improvements, which included slope stabilization and some replanting.
- New swings were installed at Marina View Park and Paularino Park.
- Improvements to an area at Fairview Park, which was being destroyed by overuse of bicycles, were made by placing boulders and signs to encourage natural vegetation to return.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley ensued regarding slope restoration at Canyon Park.

**PARKS PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. William Morris presented the report for Mr. Bart Mejia.

- Fairview Park – Multi-Purpose Trail project is near completion.
- Fairview Park/Placentia Bridge Project – the final design of the foundations are nearly complete.
- Fairview Park – Restoration of Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat project was reviewed by this Commission at the last meeting, and was approved. The implementing agreement and a land covenant document were approved by City Council at their last meeting.
- TeWinkle Park Lake Improvements project is still on schedule despite all the rains.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Morris took place regarding the bottom of the lake at TeWinkle Park.

Commissioner Graham agreed with Commissioner Harris and requested to see the report regarding the bottom of the lake at TeWinkle Park.

Mr. Morris continued his report:

- TeWinkle Skate Park project is near completion. By June, the lake portion of the park will be open to the public.

Commissioner Graham commented that the skate park project is great.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. Morris ensued regarding the placement of sub-base under the new concrete Bike Trail at Fairview Park because it would have provided cushion between the adobe soil and concrete.

Commissioner Stiller commented that the skate park looked great and the donation of \$15,000 dollars, which included interest, enabled the City to have brown concrete at the skate park.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Morris took place on possible damage made to the skate park due to its current use by trespassers, since the project is not yet complete.

**COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Stiller had no comment.

Commissioner Harris recommended that the Neighbors for Neighbors Committee implement some type of system to pick a few parks or have a pre-registration and assign different parks rather than focusing on one park each year. Mr. Hartley provided some input regarding Commissioner Harris' recommendation.

Commissioner Graham apologized for not attending the last Commission meeting. He stated that he would not have voted to give away 11 acres of our park in perpetuity after paying for it and we are desperate for parkland in the City for children to play ball and things. He also suggested that the City's bike trail is considered in the property on Harbor Boulevard at Fair Drive that is being sold by the state. Commissioner Graham was also concerned as to whether there will be one or several maintenance facilities in the area of Fairview Park near the 11 acre parcel to be developed with Coastal Sage Scrub. He continued by stating that the County has an extensive maintenance facility at Talbert Park for their prop-

erty. Finally, he would like for the City to consider extending the existing bike trail from Pacific Coast Highway to Fairview Park along the Greenville/Banning Channel, which the County gave to the City years ago, along the levy of the Fairview Channel over to Placentia Avenue, and to have this item agendized for discussion.

Once the City Council approves the funding for the Recreational Use Concept Plans, Various Properties, Vice Chair Leece stated the importance to publicize and to provide an explanation to the community that the Parks and Recreation Commission is forward thinking and envisions the need for more playing fields, due to the recent articles published in the community, and she also recommended that the City somehow publicize these plans through newsletters, a press release and/or by various avenues available. She spoke with Joe Moody and the residents at Mesa Verde Villas are happy with things at the TeWinkle School fields. She also recommends that a little league center be made available for the little league to use, which would not be around houses, such as the soccer league has at the FARM. Vice Chair Leece would like the Commission to review a copy of the Joint Use Agreement with Newport Unified School District, which was signed in 1987 and a copy would be provided before the next meeting.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Morris took place regarding the next scheduled meeting with the School District and the City. Vice Chair Leece also recommended that the meeting be publicized for the community to attend.

Chairman de Arakal requested that staff screen the portable restrooms at Mesa Verde School with some boxed trees. He would like staff to discuss holes in the fence at the skate park with the contactors, and would like staff to communicate with the skate board community on the proper use of the facility that the current use may determine if the operational guidelines will be restrictive and will reflect on whether or not there will be a second skate park.

Chairman de Arakal received a letter from Club Live, which is a TeWinkle School Student Leadership Organization, which mentioned that they were cleaning up Gisler Park and noticed a gate, separating the Edison facility from the freeway, was torn down. He requested that staff check on who owns the property and to ensure that a gate is in place.

Chairman de Arakal commented that the Gisler Street Renovation Slope looked great. He also informed Commissioner Graham on the history behind the Fairview Park Master Plan.

Commissioner Graham commented that the land should be used for soccer fields or something for the children, in regards to the 11 acres given away at Fairview Park.

Vice Chair Leece and Chairman de Arakal discussed with Commissioner Graham the current lack of playing fields due to Measure A construction, which is only temporary.

Commissioner Harris recommended to staff that a solid cross bar be installed on the fence at the skate park for more stability.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:00 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, May 25, 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