

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

**May 25, 2005**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on May 25, 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 Stiller.

**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  
Jana M. Ransom, Recreation Division Manager  
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 April 27, 2005.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Martin Millard, Costa Mesa  
Group 6 Users - Soccer

Mr. Millard believed that adults should not play soccer in the City of Costa Mesa. He went on to mention how the City of Irvine managed their requests for adult soccer players and felt that they are managing it the right way. Mr. Millard suggested that the Commission look into this and spoke of a few of the City of Irvine's requirements, such as fees, a photo identification card, point verification system and roster system.

Mr. Mike Berry, 2064 Meadow View Lane, Costa Mesa 92627  
Group 6 Users

Mr. Berry believed that the Commission should address outside field users, Group 6, and perceived that is the area where there are problems, due to control factors and the decision process as to who will use the field. He suggested that the Commission reject staff's study, which indicated to move forward and keep the categories the same.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

No Items.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No Items.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Items.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**WAKEHAM PARK PICNIC  
SHELTERS – APPROVE  
CONCEPTUAL PLANS**

Mr. Bruce Hartley presented the report with several overhead pictures.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley ensued regarding the life expectancy of the recommended material.

Discussion between Commission Graham and Mr. Hartley occurred on the flexibility to move or use the recommended material elsewhere.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley took place on the longevity of the material to be used and on the termite damage on the wood.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley ensued regarding consideration for any other shade structures, number of companies in the tension fabric shelter business and the number of years the local vendor has been in business.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley took place on the durability of the wood structure and on whether it would be more cost effective to go more expensive now and save over the long run.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley occurred on the immediate urgency to replace the structures at this time and on the budgeted amount for the project.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. Hartley ensued regarding whether or not the proposed shelter is the same material being used by the railroad people at Fairview Park.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley took place on whether or not the cost for the project is included in the budgeted amount of \$85,000 dollars.

Public Comment:

Mr. Mike Berry, 2064 Meadow View Lane, Costa Mesa 92627  
States that the recommended shade structure is ugly and recommends not selecting any blue shade structure.

Mr. Martin Millard, Costa Mesa  
The structure is currently being used at Paularino School and does not shield the rain. Mr. Millard displayed a picture to show his recommendation.

Commissioner Graham commented that he likes the idea to consider other choices.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and carried five to zero, to direct staff to complete additional research and present alternative products for review,

and to include research on the products as to durability, capacity of the manufacturer to back-up their warranty and inspection of site where their product was installed.

**AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL  
POLICY 800-4 “ACCEPTANCE  
AND RECOGNITION OF  
DONATION TO CITY PARKS  
AND PUBLIC FACILITIES”**

Mr. William Morris presented the report.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Morris occurred on having pets memorialized.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Morris ensued regarding the recent number of requests for pets to be memorialized. Vice Chair Leece is also worried to have many requests brought before the Commission.

Commissioner Graham stated that to allow pets to be memorialized would seriously degrade the significance of the human memorials in the park.

Chairman de Arakal commented that he will not support the motion.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to one, with Chairman de Arakal voting “No,” to recommend that City Council approve the amended memorial plaque and Circle of Service donation policy with the following changes:

1. On Page 1, under Policy, delete the word “service” on sentence number three, which will read as follows:
  - “Any donation of equipment, park furniture or plantings that include a request for a donor or memorial plaque shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration or approval before installation.”
2. On Page 2, under Procedures and Guidelines, item number three, leave in the first sentence, delete the second sentence, and add the following sentence:
  - “Memorial plaques for pets are not allowed within City parks; however, trees and/or park furniture may be donated in memory of a pet without a plaque.”
3. Approve all other staff recommended changes, including:
  - Change title of the Policy to include Circle of Service Recognition.
  - Provide direction on how payments/cash donations can be received.
  - Delete the City Council and Mayor acknowledgment on donation.
  - Add standard for minimum 15-gallon size for tree donations.
  
  - Add standard for the shape, material and size of the memorial and donation plaques.
  - Clarify party responsible for acquisition and installation of donated items and plaques.
  - Clarify installation of the plaques to be flush with the

ground.

- Clarify that park furniture installation will be at locations that are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible.
- Delete reference to application forms for tree and park furniture donations.
- Clarify procedure to nominate Circle of Service Honorees.

Chairman de Arakal voted “No” and stated that, in the lives of some people, pets are very important, which compels people to beautify the City with the addition of a tree or a bench, and believes that people will not offer a donation without a memorial plaque.

## **FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN TRAILS REVIEW**

Mr. Robert Staples presented the report with overhead pictures.

Vice Chair Leece commented that this is a great idea and to have staff do more research.

With a map displayed on the overhead projector, Commissioner Graham would like for staff to communicate with the County to grant the City to have access to the property in order to pave and connect the bike trails.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Staples ensued regarding the reason as to why the bike trail was not included in the master plan.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Staples took place regarding any other consideration to narrow the trail and to use a different surfacing material.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Morris occurred on having a feasibility study done.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Staples ensued on whether or not the bike trail/haul road within the County’s property necessitate an amendment to the Fairview Park Master Plan.

### Public Comment:

Mr. Martin Millard, Costa Mesa

Mr. Millard agreed with Commissioner Graham and suggested that the Commission request that City Council get the land from the County.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Morris took place regarding whether or not the flood control channel and the two levies are part of the park and the placement of wells in the park to test ground water by the County.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Commissioner Graham occurred regarding safety issues if the haul road was made into a bike trail.

## **MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried five to zero, to recommend to the City Council to allow staff to discuss with the Flood Control District to determine the feasibility of establishing a bike trail on the

south side of the Fairview Channel levee, and if it is determined feasible, to begin the process.

## **GROUP FIVE FIELD USER REVIEW**

Ms. Jana Ransom requested that the Commission not take any action on the particular issue of Group Five usage, and to direct staff to hold one or two town hall meetings on field use to gather input from the community and present recommendations from the town hall meetings to the Commission in the June meeting.

### Public Comment:

Mr. Martin Millard, Costa Mesa

Mr. Millard was pleased that the item was withdrawn because he felt that there was not enough information in order to make an intelligent decision. Mr. Millard suggested that 75% residency should be considered and not 51% in number two of the alternatives considered. He also recommended that a spreadsheet be made available to list all the fees and facts, which would include five surrounding cities.

Mr. Mike Berry, 2064 Meadow View Lane, Costa Mesa 92627

Mr. Berry stated that there was not enough information to make a decision and suggested, that when more research is done, to include the impact of the school district, food discount programs and on the Costa Mesa Day Care Programs.

Mr. John Zich, Ellesmere Avenue, Costa Mesa

Mr. Zich pointed out two problems in Attachment 1, which were:

1. Comparison between American Youth Soccer Organization and Orange County United; and
2. Mr. Zich found a statement in the addendum, to the staff report, to be insulting to the AYSO Programs.

Commissioner Stiller stated he would support any motion made by the Commission to hold public forums for residents to state their point of view.

Commissioner Graham stated that he would prefer to provide facilities to the residents of Costa Mesa only.

Vice Chair Leece agreed with Commissioner Graham and commented on whether or not the revenues collected by non-residents are enough to repair any damage made to the fields.

Chairman de Arakal agreed with Ms. Ransom's recommendation and statements made by the Commissioners. From his personal view point,

Chairman de Arakal believes the process may take a year to be done correctly. He mentioned that the City is currently in negotiations with the school district for a new Joint Use Agreement (JUA), and he also hoped there would be fields made available at the Fairview Development Center through negotiations with the hospital administration.

Chairman de Arakal said that he had publicly stated that the City should open discussions with the Orange Coast Community College about a long term lease or lease purchase agreement for the property at the north west corner of Pinecreek Drive and Adams Avenue, and that there is also the Bristol property, that is currently County property, is used for storage, which has the possibility for being a recreation facility. He continued to say that over the next three to five years there would be additional field space, which will be in addition to the park feasibility study that City Council would

authorize on the surplus parcels of the City.

Chairman de Arakal stated that Costa Mesa is getting to a stage where it is a large urban city and the demand for youth sports in this city is only going to increase. Given all the dynamics that he had mentioned, he indicated that the Commission should take the time to get it done right.

A comment was made by Chairman de Arakal regarding prohibition of Group Five and Group Six to use City fields; he mentioned, however, they bring in a significant amount of revenue. He continued to say that, if the Commission curtails both Group Five and Group Six users, the City would lose revenue to maintain the fields.

Chairman de Arakal stated that the fees should be waived for Group One users; however, would it be possible for the group to accept a 75, 80 or 90 percent fee waiver.

Chairman de Arakal would like an Ad Hoc Committee to fully examine the field needs of the City, the Allocation Policy and the Joint Use Agreement and to hold town hall meetings.

Public Comment:

Mr. Mike Berry, 2064 Meadow View Lane, Costa Mesa 92627  
Mr. Berry would like for the Commission to consider putting a moratorium on reserving future field use at this time.

Commissioner Stiller commented that he liked the idea to establish an Ad Hoc Committee.

Vice Chair Leece and Chairman de Arakal discussed representation for the Ad Hoc Committee.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried five to zero, to recommend that City Council establish an Ad Hoc Field Use Committee to examine the current field allocation policy and provide recommendations to the Commission. If the City Council establishes an Ad Hoc Field Use Committee, the Commission recommends to the committee to hold at least two town hall meetings in the course of their work, and that the Ad Hoc Field Use Committee provide their recommendation to City Council at a date certain to be determined by the Council.

**COST RECOVERY METHODS FOR DAMAGED/REMOVED PARKWAY TREES**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made the presentation.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley on providing more information in order to understand the value of the trees.

Comment made by Commissioner Graham that he would like to promote an active tree publication to educate and inform residents about the City's tree policy.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley ensued regarding cities in the immediate area that are currently engaged in such a cost recovery process and whether or not they had any litigation losses based on the methods used.

**MOTION**

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chairman

de Arakal, and carried five to zero, to direct staff to provide additional information.

## **RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ms. Jana Ransom made a power point presentation.

- Spring Camp was full with 120 participants for the week.
- Summer Camp registration began. A price increase went into effect on May 1, which showed some impact, and there were comments were made by residents. Revenue productions would still be met.
- New Recreation Leader IV, Karlie Friesen, works with the Advisory Committee of Teens (ACT), which held a dance on April 1 at the Downtown Recreation Center with over 150, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students in attendance.
- Michelle Epperson, new Aquatics Recreation Leader IV. Registration for the swim classes will begin on Saturday.
- Adult Softball Leagues were rained out and are making up games.
- Eric Yarger, new Recreation Leader for the Adult Basketball League.
- Summer brochures were mailed out and residents should be receiving it sometime this week, which lists instructional classes offered. Spring classes are on-going through June 13 and Summer registration began on May 16 for residents. Non-resident registration will begin in June.
- Field Use: Thirty-one days were rained out since January 1 and field allocations are currently in the process for user groups. Revenue to date is \$172,034 dollars.
- Youth Co-Ed Soccer Developmental Program began at 12 playgrounds, which is a non-competitive program, where the children learn soccer skills.
- Flag Football and Cheerleading sign-ups will begin in June for the Fall.
- Mobile Skate Park Program will end June 30 and the new permanent skate park will be open soon.
- Mobile Recreation Program continues at four locations with expanded Summer hours, once the school year ends in June.
- Early Childhood Program (ECP) has graduation scheduled for Wednesday, June 22. Summer sessions for ECP are full.

Things not to miss are:

- July is Parks and Recreation Month and the proclamation will be presented on July 5 at the City Council.
- Circle of Service Bob Wilson Induction Ceremony will take place on July 29 at the Neighborhood Community Center at 11:30 a.m.
- Volcom Skate Park of Costa Mesa Grand Opening and Dedication Ceremony are tentatively scheduled for August 4 with the time to be determined.

Other announcements:

- In regards to the Temporary Lights Appeal to City Council, the decision by the Parks and Recreation Commission was upheld but, in the intervening time, the school district announced that they were no longer going to allow any temporary lights on any school fields here or in Newport Beach. The school district considered it to be a pilot program and they are no longer interested in allowing temporary lights of any sort, gas or propane, on school district

fields.

## **MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

- TeWinkle Park/Arlington Drive Parking Lot
  - Staff had removed the asphalt driveway and installed 20 yard of concrete driveway.
  - Installed new curbing on the south edge of the parking lot.
  - The center driveway was removed, and a new curb, gutter and sidewalk, along Arlington Avenue, would be installed.
- TeWinkle Skate Park opening preparations
  - Fencing around the parking lot would be removed, which would be open and able to support the Bark Park, Tennis Center and the skate park.
  - A trash dumpster enclosure would also be installed.
  - New shrubs would replace others that have died.
  - All the work should be done before the “soft” opening in June.
- Marina View Park – staff had restored some of the slopes with planting.
- Tree removal request from the school district to clear the view of the Costa Mesa High School message sign, which was approved by the Commission.
- Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wilcof memorial tree donation had an impact at Tanager Park. The Wilcof's also wanted to thank the Commission and staff for their support with their donation.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued regarding the fence at Gisler Park and the tree trimming at Canyon Park, which was brought to the Commission's attention at the April meeting.

## **PARKS PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bart Mejia presented the report.

- Fairview Park – Placentia Drain Riparian Area
  - The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued for the design of improvements and there was a large response.
  - A walk-through of the project site and a tour of the County facilities were done to show the consultants all the obstacles and challenges that may be faced.
- Fairview Park – Multi-Purpose Trail
  - Project is complete and in operation, with the exception of the bridge.
- Fairview Park – Placentia Bridge
  - Project has been advertised and proposals are expected.
  - The new bid opening has been scheduled for June 2 because of the May 31 holiday.
  - With the approval of the project by the Commission, staff would like to present the project to City Council within this fiscal year.
- Fairview Park – Restoration of Coastal Sage Scrub Habitat



- Improvements should be seen within a year.
- TeWinkle Park Athletic Field
  - Funding for the construction of the entire project was requested.
  - With the approval of funding, construction may begin sometime in August.
- TeWinkle Park Lake Improvements
  - The project is back on schedule. All of the underground work has been completed.
  - Contractors are currently working on sidewalk improvements, park amenities and the restoration of the streams
- TeWinkle Skate Park
  - Currently working on the restroom buildings.
  - Sports and walkway lights standards have been installed.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Mejia took place regarding fencing around the skate park.

- Gisler Park Slope Renovation
  - Plant establishment is underway.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. Mejia ensued regarding bridge lighting to have banners or signs displayed at Fairview Park.

**COMMISSIONER'S  
COMMENTS**

Commissioner Stiller requested staff to provide the findings by City Council when they established the Circle of Service qualifications. He also would like staff to provide the Commission with information on any type of agreement between the City and the neighbors at the Farm Complex, that would preclude the installation of lighting on fields three and four.

Commissioner Graham mentioned that the Balearic Center sign did not indicate that it is a City facility, which should be identified. He continued to state that there are two signs at Fairview Park that are advertising the Bark Park and other things, which could not be read, and it shows a lack of interest. Commissioner Graham suggested that staff should take them down or update them. He also wanted to thank the staff for their hard work.

Vice Chair Leece thanked Ms. Ransom for the memorandum regarding Measure A dates, which stated the construction status at the schools.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom took place on the many violations occurring at Rea School fields by people because of Measure A, and on permits issued for use by a large group of people at Canyon Park every weekend.

Vice Chair Leece recommended that staff post information on park rules/policy, both English and Spanish, in the kiosk at Canyon Park.

Vice Chair Leece continued to state that the meeting with the school district was fruitful. Items that were discussed included the Joint Use Agreement, which is currently being revised and hoped that it is brought to the Commission for review before the end of the fiscal year. She provided copies of the City of Newport Beach's Joint Use Agreement to the Commission members and

suggested that they review it.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at **9:20 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, June 22, 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