

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

February 25, 2004

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., February 25, 2004, at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Harris followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner de Arakal.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

Mark Harris, Vice Chair
Mirna Burciaga, Commissioner
Byron de Arakal, Commissioner
James Fisler, Commissioner
Wendy Leece, Commissioner

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Public Services Director
Steven E. Hayman, Administrative Services Director
Jana M. Ransom, Recreation Manager
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND
VICE CHAIR**

Vice Chair Harris declared the position of Chair open and called for nominations.

MOTION

Commissioner Burciaga nominated Vice Chair Harris as Chair. Commissioner de Arakal seconded the motion. Commissioner Leece nominated Commissioner de Arakal as Chair, and Commissioner Fisler as Vice Chair. Commissioner de Arakal declined the Chair nomination. Motion carried 5 to 0 to elect Vice Chair Harris as Chairman.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND
VICE CHAIR**

Newly elected Chair Harris declared the position of Vice Chair vacant and called for nominations.

MOTION

Commissioner Leece nominated Commissioner de Arakal as Vice Chairman. Chair Harris seconded the nomination. Motion carried 5 to 0 to elect Commissioner de Arakal as Vice Chair.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Burciaga, and carried 5 to 0 to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2004 meeting as received.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

The following residents from the Mesa Verde West area spoke in support of having a portion of either the Balearic Community Center (southwest portion) or Estancia Park every day from dawn to 8:30 a.m., when the park is not in use by any other group/people, for their dogs to run off leash. They stressed the community aspect of their proposal, indicating that there is no better way to meet people than through the interaction of animals and their owners. The group indi-

cated their willingness to work with the City to make their proposal happen (signage, liability concerns, cost, etc.): Adele Green 2853 Boa Vista Drive, Bryan Green, 2853 Boa Vista Drive, Dr. Sudhi Sant, 2018 Flamingo Drive, Mark Haverland, 3201 Minnesota Avenue, Dennis Olsen, 2806 Shantar Drive, Jan Ryan, 2820 Boa Vista Drive, Paul Hackleman, 2033 Balearic Drive, Matt Stennes, 2733 Sandpiper Drive, Chandra Prough, 2837 Shantar Drive, Lind Stennes, 2733 Sandpiper Drive, John Applegate, 3062 Capri Lane.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No items

OLD BUSINESS

No items

NEW BUSINESS

**COMMITTEE
APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Bill Morris made the presentation.

MOTION

A motion was made by Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Fisler, and carried 5 to 0, to confirm/select Commission representatives to the following Committees:

City/School District Liaison:

Appointee: Commissioner Wendy Leece

Alternate: Commissioner Mirna Burciaga

Bristol Street Mixed Use Overlay Committee:

Appointee: Vice Chair Byron de Arakal

Alternate: Commissioner James Fisler

Skate Park at TeWinkle Park:

Appointee: Vice Chair Byron de Arakal

Alternate: Chair Mark Harris

Fairview Friends:

Appointee: Commissioner James Fisler

Alternate: Commissioner Wendy Leece

**CONSIDERATION OF A
JOINT MEETING WITH
NEWPORT BEACH'S PARKS
AND RECREATION
COMMISSION**

Mr. Bill Morris made the presentation.

Commissioner Leece expressed her interest in discussing the Joint Use Agreement and the impact of the opening of the Bonita Canyon Park system as it relates to the use of fields by both cities.

Chair Harris suggested scheduling the joint meeting on the same night as a regularly scheduled Commission meeting, during the months of May or June, moving the starting meeting time to 7:30 p.m.

Responding to a question from Chair Harris, Mr. Morris indicated

that staff would need agenda items and comments from the Commissioners 2 ½ weeks prior to the scheduled meeting date.

MOTION

A motion was made by Chair Harris, seconded by Commissioner Burciaga, and carried 5 to 0, to have a Joint Meeting with Newport Beach's Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commission, to be scheduled the same night as a regular Commission meeting during the months of May or June, 2004. Regular Commission meeting to be moved to 7:30 p.m. Commissioners' input on Agenda items due 2 ½ weeks prior to the actual meeting date.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE STREETSCAPE AND MEDIAN DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Mr. Hartley made the presentation.

Vice Chair de Arakal indicated that he was bothered to see significant rewrite of the criteria for the removal of City-owned parkway trees due to two tree removal requests that had come to this Commission and one of them being appealed to City Council. He indicated that because of that, City Council had expressed an interest in the review of tree removal standards to make the process easier. Vice Chair de Arakal indicated that he still wanted this Commission to have the ability to closely monitor what parkway trees are removed. He indicated, however, that he accepts the rewritten standards and is confident that City staff will be careful about using its discretion to remove trees without having to come before this Commission.

Mr. Hartley indicated that it is staff's intent to follow this Commission's and Council's direction, which is to give staff the opportunity to make good decisions and hold them accountable in determining whether or not a parkway tree should be removed when there is damage to public or private property.

Chair Harris commented that he is in favor of the amendments being made to the criteria for the removal of City-owned parkway trees, which gives staff more discretion in making decisions regarding tree removals. He noted his full support for City staff, noting their professionalism and knowledge.

Commissioner Leece agreed with Chair Harris, and indicated that she is glad that discretion can be used, especially where there are senior citizens involved.

Vice Chair de Arakal confirmed his support for the amendments to the Streetscape and Median Development Standards being presented tonight, and the tree removal policy in particular. He indicated that he is confident that staff is not going to abuse the discretion being given to them, saying that he disliked the way this change came about.

MOTION

A motion was made by Vice Chair de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Fisler, and carried 5 to 0, to recommend to the City Council the adoption of a resolution amending certain sections of the Streetscape and Median Development Standards as follows:

1. Allow the City to participate in the design and construction costs for upgrading and maintenance of existing arterial street walls, at specified locations. (Section 8.0)
2. Modify the criteria for the removal of City-owned parkway trees. (Section 4.0.2)
3. Establish criteria for the planting of American Sweetgum and Brisbane Box trees. (Appendix C).
4. Adopt the new plant palette for 19th Street. (Section 6.03)
5. Adopt the new plant palette for southbound Newport Blvd. Between Arlington Drive and Fair Drive. (Section 6.03)

RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Ransom presented the Commission with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the following items on her report: Downtown Recreation Aquatics Center, Camp Costa Mesa at Balearic Center, Youth Basketball Program, CostaMazing Fun Run, Circle of Service, Spring Aquatics Program, ACT Committee, Mobile Skate Park, and Mobile Recreation Program. Ms. Ransom indicated that once a quarter she would be bringing a presentation highlighting the goals and objectives of the different Recreation Programs to keep the Commission and the general public abreast of what the Recreation staff is doing out in the field.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bruce Hartley gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following park projects: Pinkley Park, extensive concrete rehabilitation, Shiffer Park, extensive concrete repair due to concrete damage by large mature trees, redesign of walkways to maximize turf and minimize concrete, and future landscape improvements; Marina View Park, installation of security lights, Ketchum-Libolt Park, installation of anti-graffiti cameras due to heavy graffiti, Fairview Park, vernal pool restorations, Arbor Day celebration (being put together with ReLeaf Costa Mesa), planting trees on Arlington Avenue along the School District offices; Bark Park, fix and strip parking area, Jordan Park, adding ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) picnic tables and barbecues; and Senior Center, landscape project continues.

Chair Harris asked staff to check the bases of the light poles at Shiffer Park, to ensure they are safe.

PARKS PROJECTS MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. Morris indicated that Mr. Hartley had gone through a number of the items in the Parks Project Manager's Report. He reported that staff is working hard on getting a signing program together to be posted at Fairview Park. He said that education of the sensitive areas at Fairview Park is staff's first and foremost goal to make sure that the public knows what's out there.

Mr. Morris reported that City Council did award the installation of the bike trail on southbound Newport Boulevard adjacent to the Fairgrounds, and that work should start in the next few weeks. Mr. Morris briefed the Commission on the Community Meeting held February 18 concerning the location and the concept plan for the proposed skate park at TeWinkle Park to be located at the northeast corner of Arlington Drive and Junipero Drive. He indicated that about 30 residents had attended and that the City's consultant, Purkiss-Rose facili-

tated the session. Mr. Morris indicated that staff would be bringing the report on the concept plan, the results of that meeting, and the environmental documentation for installation of a skateboard park to this Commission next month.

Chair Harris commented that he had attended the meeting, and that staff got a lot of input from the residents, mostly the Mesa del Mar Homeowners Association residents. He indicated that it was a good meeting where everybody learned a lot and a few misconceptions were clarified. He noted that Concept #2 was unanimously chosen and the one he found most appealing, not boxy, a little softer and with more landscaping in the design. He also mentioned that everybody in attendance liked the idea of having the entrance turn towards the parking lot to be shared with the Bark Park.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Fisler indicated that he really enjoys Mr. Hartley's PowerPoint presentations. He indicated he was outraged and saddened at the graffiti taking place at Ketchum-Libolt Park and the need to put anti-graffiti cameras. He said he was glad to hear from the Recreation Manager about the increased participation of youth in the Mobile Skate and Mobile Recreation programs at this park, indicating it helps to protect the park and fosters neighborhood pride.

Commissioner Burciaga agreed with Commissioner Fisler's sentiments about the graffiti at Ketchum-Libolt Park, indicating that that is an unacceptable activity. She indicated she was glad to hear about the landscape improvements taking place at the Senior Center, noting that the building is in need of a paint job. Commissioner Burciaga invited the community to the opening day ceremonies of the American and Little Leagues to be held Saturday, February 28 and Saturday, March 6th respectively.

Commissioner Leece requested the agendizing of the dog exercise area petition at Balearic Park by the Mesa Verde West residents for next month's meeting. She commented on how thorough the Park Rangers monthly report is and how it gives the Commission an idea of what the problem areas are at the different parks.

Vice Chair de Arakal agreed with Commissioner Leece's request of agendizing the Mesa Verde West residents request for a dog exercise area at the Balearic Community Center. He noted liability, enforcement and precedent issues as some of his concerns regarding this request.

Vice Chair de Arakal echoed Commissioners Fisler's and Burciaga's disdain for the criminal/graffiti activity happening at Ketchum-Libolt Park, indicating that it dishonors the memory of the officers after who the park was named for.

Vice Chair de Arakal announced the Costa Mesa United kick off event at the Costa Mesa Hilton from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. tomorrow evening. He noted that this is the campaign to raise funds to build a lighted football stadium at Estancia High School and a 50-meter swimming pool at Costa Mesa High School. He encouraged individuals and the business community to participate, noting that these will be great assets not only to the School District but to the City as well. He reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday.

Chair Harris confirmed the dates and times for the American and Little League opening day ceremonies and invited his fellow Commis-

sioners to attend. He asked staff to agendize the concrete crew issue, and to include the following information: 1. How many surrounding cities have in-house concrete crews, 2. How many members on their crew, and 3. How many cities do repairs as needed. He also asked staff to include in the staff report how much money the City has spent for sidewalk trip and fall claims.

Chair Harris indicated he was saddened, as his fellow Commissioners, about the need to put an anti-graffiti camera at Ketchum-Libolt Park. He suggested that staff have the local newspaper do a story about the anti-graffiti cameras, as an effort to help deter that activity.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. to the Study Session on Wednesday, March 24, 2004 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
Public Services Director