

CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
FINAL MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER Chair Andy Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

- a. **Members Present:** Chair Andy Campbell, Larry Courter, Steve Smith, Dave Erickson, Terri Fuqua
- b. **Members Absent:** Vice Chair Evan Rothman, Bill McCarty
- c. **Liaisons Present:** Parks, Arts, and Community Services (PACS) Commissioner Jim Erickson, OCME Liaison Hank Castignetti
- d. **Liaisons Absent:** Councilmember Liaison Arlis Reynolds

3. APPROVAL January 8, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes – Chair Andy Campbell calls for the approval of the January 2020 minutes; passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER AND LIAISON COMMENTS

Dave Erickson stated he noticed a lot of fenced off areas within the Park and asks what plan the City is working under. Cynthia D’Agosta states some of the projects were started before she was hired on and the hydro-seeding project is the last step of the winter 2019 emergency bluff restoration. Dave Erickson says he has talked with Park users and they stated that when they voted for the approval of Measure AA they wanted to keep the Park as is; wants to be kept in the know for activities within the Park; asks if there was a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) on the Park. Cynthia D’Agosta states there is a MND on the Park and the City will need to submit new Environmental Impact Report with the Master Plan update.

Jim Erickson talks about the importance and Measure AA’s support of recreation within the Park.

Larry Courter states he supports the Harbor Soaring Society (HSS); expresses the need for the Park’s name to be changed.

Chair Andy Campbell commends staff for their hard work on the comprehensive evaluation of the fly field.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. FLY FIELD COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW UPDATE

i. STATUS AND PROCESS

Cynthia D’Agosta presents the status and process of the comprehensive evaluation of the fly field; states all uses of the Park are being evaluated just in different periods of time; describes the evaluation’s summary; states top issues and solutions brought forward by the public and staff.

CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
FINAL MINUTES

ii. DISCUSSION

Cynthia D'Agosta states at the March 2020 meeting the committee will need to make a recommendation for the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission (PACS).

Chair Andy Campbell states that the motion to undergo this process was to evaluate the compatibility of HSS' relationship to the City, but everyone has primarily focused on how to make the relationship work; asks how much of the study was focused on the relationship of HSS to the City versus the compatibility with Measure AA and the Master Plan. Cynthia D'Agosta states the majority of the study has been the compatibility of the fly field, and there is a section of the study that evaluates the relationship of HSS; says that the relationship aspect is the weakest component of the document.

Larry Courter expresses he supports the fly field and HSS, but there needs to be modifications.

Dave Erickson states he supports HSS' recreational use of the Park and should partake in an environmental annual training.

Jay Humphrey, co-author of Measure AA, explains that the measure states that any activity that creates a setting preventing restoration, preservation, and maintenance have the potential to be voted on by the public.

Steve Smith asks about municipal coding if modifications are made and approved by City Council.

Jim Erickson expresses his approval for HSS' recreational uses at the Park and would like to see model airplane recreation classes.

Terri Fuqua expresses her support for HSS, but states her concerns for safety issues.

Hank Castignetti talks about making all flyers HSS members.

Cynthia D'Agosta states the City's legal counsel said the City cannot require flyers to be members of a club.

Chair Andy Campbell says he wants to keep the fly field open with modifications, but would be open to closing the field if the number of flyer permit start to decrease significantly.

Jim Erickson speaks on the importance of keeping the City a regional beacon within the area.

Cynthia D'Agosta explains that AMA described the decrease in the model aircraft hobby as an international phenomenon, not specific to HSS.

CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
FINAL MINUTES

Discussion about potential HSS events taking place and its capacity relative to the Park and Measure AA was ensued. Hank Castignetti asks if all flyers are not legally able to be members of HSS, then does that make the City more liable for enforcement of fly field rules.

Janeen Laudenback talks about having HSS be responsible through their partnership to provide trainings and leadership to aide enforcement at the fly field.

Cynthia D'Agosta states staff is recommending an enforcement plan with the evaluation process.

Dave Erickson asks about regulations and enforcement in the airspace.

Terri Fuqua states she would like to see public events promoting youth education in model airplanes.

Larry Courter says he supports HSS being able to be self-governing within their group.

Chair Andy Campbell opens up the floor for public comment.

Richard Moorley asks that park rangers do more enforcement by giving out tickets and not warnings.

Henry Smith states modifications need to be made to the fly field; says there are more non-permitted flyers than ever at the fly field; talks about HSS becoming incorporated; believes the City ordinance does not need to be changed; expresses that HSS wants all flyers to be members of their group; asks enforcement to be more prevalent; wants to require safety and environmental trainings.

Jim Hansen, HSS member, states he is a graphic designer and could improve the signage out at the field.

Kim Hendricks talks about drones effecting bird behavior; states the Master Plan uses the term "passive use"; says the natural resources at the Park need to be protected.

Douglas Garrett, Waldorf School Administrator, talks about safety concerns with the school being adjacent to the fly field; planes crash landing near students and traffic limitations in the Canyon parking lot.

Jay Humphrey talks about all flyers belonging to AMA and that the same process should be done with HSS; states enforcement will need to be modified through this process.

Ron Jongelins, HSS member, talks about modifying how the City presents rules to flyers through education and trainings; states enforcement could help with maintaining fly field rules.

Herbert Hamber, HSS member and faculty member of UCI, states the Park is a great resource for students testing out their projects for STEM competitions; comments on the condition of the field.

CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, February 12, 2020
FINAL MINUTES

Larry Courter states that Measure AA was intended as a guideline to keep people from making decisions that would be harmful to the natural resources in the Park.

Dave Erickson talks about the resources at the Park; explains having HSS at the Park will have an impact.

Jim Erickson expresses Measure AA's verbiage of it being a passive park.

Chair Andy Campbell says that there are some inconsistencies with the modifications of the fly field and the spirit of Measure AA; encourages HSS to form concrete ideas with how their relationship is going to work with the City.

Hank Castignetti talks about OCME's willingness to work with the City and the natural resources in the Park.

Chair Andy Campbell motions to extend the meeting after 8 p.m., 2nd by Larry Courter; unanimously approved.

iii. NEXT STEPS

Cynthia D'Agosta talks about how the final draft of the fly field comprehensive evaluation document will be written; states PACS will be holding a special study session to go over the fly field comprehensive study and she will be providing the opportunity for PACS commissioner to participate in a Park ride along; expresses she needs more information provided by HSS in regards to events, public benefit, and encounters with enforcement.

7. STAFF COMMENTS – no further comments.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next SPECIAL Meeting: March 11, 2020 at 6:00 pm, Costa Mesa City Hall, Room 1A.