

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

July 26, 2006

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on July 26, 2006 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chair Leece, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Vice Chair Graham.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

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

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Director of Public Services
Stephen N. Mandoki, Director of Administrative Services
Jana M. Ransom, Recreation Manager
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Mark Taylor, Management Analyst

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried five to zero, to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Martin Millard
Resident, Costa Mesa
Mr. Millard recommended that the City purchase properties for Parks and Open Space, and suggested that the Commission create a "scatter map," which would be used to place parks throughout the community.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Items.

NEW BUSINESS

**2005-2006 CITYWIDE PARKWAY
MAINTENANCE AND MISSING
SIDEWALK PROJECT – REQUEST
FOR TREE REMOVAL AT TWO
LOCATIONS**

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation. Mr. Bruce Hartley was also present to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Mejia took place on whether or not the project could be accomplished without the removal of the tree.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley took place on the number of parkway trees in the City.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Mejia ensued on whether or not a tree would be replanted in the same location.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller and carried four to one with Vice Chair Graham voting “No,” to approve:

1. The removal of two parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at the following locations:
 - a. 430 Lenwood Drive
 - b. 971 Cheyenne Street
2. Staff’s request to replant the required replacement trees (24” box) with the approved species for the specific streets at a one-to-one ratio.

**PAULARINO PARK USE
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ms. Jana Ransom made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom occurred on the police officers having discretion on issuing citations for the “ten or more participants” rule.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Ransom took place on whether or not there are any potential park sites for children who live in the area.

Vice Chair Graham referenced a letter received from Ms. Ellen Wright addressed to the Commission in regards to possible suggestions on ways to improve the park in order to effectively reduce the amount of ball playing opportunities for larger groups at the park.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom occurred on the current park rules and the location that they are posted at the park.

Public Comment:

Humberto Caspa
Resident of Costa Mesa

Mr. Caspa mentioned that, based on his observations, complaints made about organized soccer play are not necessarily true and that people making the complaints are against ethnicity of people who play soccer at the park and recommends that an investigation be done on the person making the complaints.

Martin Millard
Resident of Costa Mesa

Mr. Millard mentioned that many complaints have been made about organized play at the park and that something should be done about it because the park is not designed for this type of play.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Millard ensued on whether or not repairs have been made to the tot-lot, and on Mr. Millard's contention of on-going organized soccer play at the park and with whom he submitted his findings to.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Millard occurred on whether or not the organized soccer play typically takes place in a north to south or east to west direction by the tot-lot at the park.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Morris took place on whether or not there are graffiti problems on large boulders throughout City parks.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom ensued on staff working with the Newport-Mesa School District to establish some type of controlled, supervised youth program at Paularino Park.

Commissioner Stiller mentioned a letter received by Ms. Ellen Wright on July 26, 2006. Ms. Wright is concerned with who will represent the children living in the neighborhood who have no yards and need places to play. Commissioner Stiller recommends that staff work with the school district to develop a youth program that provides evening supervision at the Paularino Park.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Ms. Ransom took place on whether or not written notices were sent out to inform residents in the neighborhood about this meeting.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Ms. Ransom occurred on the City's permitting process and the types of permits issued.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Morris ensued on reviewing programming of Paularino Park in partnership with the neighborhood in order to determine appropriate programming and to later incorporate the review into the Open Space Master Plan of Parks and Recreation.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Ms. Ransom took place on establishing a youth pilot program at Paularino Park.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris and carried three to two with Chair Leece and Vice Chair Graham voting "No," for:

1. The Commission to initiate a Paularino Park programming process, in conjunction with the Mesa North neighborhood, to determine what uses are feasible, what improvements the neighborhood would like to see made at Paularino Park and what uses are and are not appropriate for the park; recommendations from staff to come back to the Commission at the October or November meeting.

2. Staff to initiate the process to develop a youth soccer after school program at Paularino School as a pilot project, which could be made available to children throughout the community, and the fee structure to be determined by staff.

**REQUEST OF THE COSTA MESA
BARK PARK FOUNDATION FOR
CONVERSION AND USE OF A
SECONDARY GATE AT THE
TEWINKLE BARK PARK**

Mr. William Morris presented the report. Ms. Donna Theriault, Management Analyst for the Public Services Department, and Ms. Patricia Allen, President of the Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation, were also present to answer questions by the Commission.

Public Comment:

Patricia Allen
9656 Durham Drive, Huntington Beach, CA 92646
President, Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation

Ms. Allen explained the reasons for the request for improvements at the Bark Park and the need for a secondary gate entrance to the small dog area, and requested that the Commission approve the requests.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Ms. Allen ensued on whether or not the current entrance gates used at the Bark Park are compliant with the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Morris took place on the difference in funding costs to alter the existing gate or to install a new gate for the secondary entrance in to small dog area, and on whether or not the secondary gate needs to be ADA compliant.

Al Melone
P.O. Box 4286, Costa Mesa, CA 92628

Mr. Melone explained the \$8,000 cost needed for the project was for the secondary gate to be ADA compliant and he believes that the only issue is, "where do we go from here." Mr. Melone also asked if the Commission would be able to pay for half, if not all, of the cost for the improvements.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Melone took place on the use and safety of the current gate.

Jan King
140 Cabrillo Street, Space 6, Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Ms. King recommends that the Commission approve the improvement of the secondary gate to the Bark Park.

Terry Tyson
2298 Santa Ana Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Vice Chair, Bark Park Committee

Mr. Tyson thanked the Commission for addressing the issue and for looking at ways to rectify the situation. Mr. Tyson wants to work with the City diligently and recommends that staff contact him.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Tyson occurred on whether or not an estimated cost has been obtained for an appropriate gate. Mr. Tyson stated that he would prefer

that the City incur the cost for the project.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Tyson took place on whether or not the foundation has a donation box or solicits for donations for capital improvements.

Ms. Allen stated that donations are currently being accepted for specific projects to improve the Bark Park.

Discussion between Commissioner de Arakal and Mr. Morris ensued on whether or not improvements made to the Bark Park were City projects.

Public Comment Re-Opened:

Terry Tyson
2298 Santa Ana Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Vice Chair, Bark Park Committee

Mr. Tyson recommended that the Commission consider adding additional handicap parking spaces if the secondary gate to the small dog area is to be ADA compliant.

Discussion between Chair Leece and Mr. Morris took place on the City's bidding process and on whether or not the Bark Park Foundation is permitted to make any capital improvements.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Morris occurred on the process to get an estimated cost for what is needed to make the secondary gate operational.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Chair Leece and carried four to one with Commissioner de Arakal voting "No," to:

1. Have staff, in conjunction with the Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation, informally invite several fencing companies to the Bark Park, at 890 Arlington Drive, in order to provide proposals on what needs to be done to have the secondary gate for the small dog area operational at the park.
2. Provide information received from the fencing companies to the Commission.

Commissioner de Arakal stated that he will not support the motion because he believes that the Bark Park needs a secondary entrance for the small dog area, which should be ADA compliant, the project should go through the normal bidding process, and for it to be on the Capital Improvement Project Review for the 2007-2008 budget.

ADDITIONAL MOTION

In addition to the first motion, Commissioner Stiller moved, Commissioner Harris seconded and carried four to one with Commissioner de Arakal voting "No," to approve the concept of a secondary gate for the small dog area and to proceed with the project based on the following:

1. Proposals from various fencing companies are received;
2. The Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation has funds available to pay for the project; and,
3. The Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation and City staff are satisfied with the design and selection of the fencing company.

RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Jana Ransom made a power point presentation.

- July is Parks and Recreation Month with various displays in the City Hall lobby area.
- Summer Concert Series had 2,000 people in attendance for the first concert, which was performed by The Answer.
- Summer Camp Costa Mesa was at 99% capacity this year; the only unfilled openings were during the first week of the camp.
- There are 12 Recreation Leaders in Training this year, who work about four weeks each; 80% return to become counselors.
- The Teen Camp program was filled for this Summer. Ms. Jovita Guthrie, Recreation Leader IV for the Teen Program was nominated for Employee of the Month for the City in recognition for her efforts for teens.
- June attendance for the Downtown Aquatic Center exceeded 2,500 people. The First Annual Family Fun Day event is new and offers families to acclimate themselves to the facility.
- The Summer Playground Program are held at the Balearic Community Center, Wakeham Park, Lions Park and at the Sonora Elementary School.
- The Mobile Recreation Program will be at Shalimar Street, Valencia Street, Joann Street and Rutgers Street with an average of 50 children per site.
- The Adult Softball program continues to be at capacity with several teams on the waiting list. All leagues are anxiously waiting for the opening of the TeWinkle Park Athletic Complex.
- Our best wishes goes out to Rob Cavanaugh and Jeff Ruth, both Recreation Coordinators, who have accepted positions with the City of Yorba Linda and to Richard Brunette, Recreation Supervisor, who was with the City for over 17 years and has accepted an offer of employment with the City of El Segundo as their Director of Recreation and Parks.
- The Recreation Division supports three City Council appointed committees, which are the Child Care & Youth Services Committee, the Historic Preservation Committee and the Cultural Arts Committee. All committees are working on projects that would make living and working in Costa Mesa even better.
- The Artist Showcase will be held at The Camp on Thursday, August 3, 2006, with live entertainment, food and over 50 local artists displaying their work. This event is co-sponsored by the The Camp and Air Restaurant.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Harris thanked staff for providing good reports.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Morris ensued on the shade structure for the Model Engineers at Fairview Park and on whether or not authorization for an over-the-shelf covering could be approved.

Discussion between Vice Chair Graham and Mr. Morris took place on whether or not an environmental study was done for

the parking needs on the lower area of Fairview Park.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chair Graham, seconded by Chair Leece and failed two to three with Commissioner de Arakal, Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Stiller voting “No,” to agendize the Fairview Park Master Plan to discuss putting in a parking lot in the lower area of Fairview Park.

**COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS
CONTINUED**

Vice Chair Graham displayed pictures of trails in the City of Irvine on the overhead projector and he would like to open up Canary Drive by putting in trails so that people may have an easier access to Fairview Park.

Chair Leece stated that she rode the train at Fairview Park and thought of Vice Chair Graham’s suggestion of putting in a soccer field in the open area near the train. Chair Leece attended the first Concert in the Park, which was fun.

Chair Leece mentioned that the Mayor, City Manager, new School Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent met to discuss field issues and to establish a relationship with the new Superintendent. Also, last Monday, Chair Leece attended a temporary field light demonstration, which she found to be very interesting and informational. The Mayor recommended locations for consideration for temporary lit fields, which would be at Estancia High School and the Costa Mesa High School Utility Fields.

Chair Leece stated that the Costa Mesa Community News and Recreation Review brochure seems to be getting better every time. She announced the Twilight Tour and Train Ride, which will be held on Saturday, August 19, at Fairview Park.

Chair Leece also showed a picture of playground equipment she came across in the City of Irvine.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **10:07 p.m.** to the Special Joint Study Session with the City Council and the Planning Commission on Tuesday, August 8, 2006, at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room 1A. Thereafter, the regular Study Session will meet on Wednesday, August 23, 2006, 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
Director of Public Services