

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

November 17, 2004

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., November 17, 2004, at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner de Arakal.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

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

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Public Services Director
Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager

MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Burciaga and carried four to zero to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2004, meeting with Chairman Harris not voting due to absence at that meeting.

Separate motion made by Leece, seconded by Vice Chairman de Arakal and carried five to zero to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2004, meeting.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No Oral Communications.

CONSENT CALENDAR

**DONATION OF TREE AND
MEMORIAL PLAQUE**

Consent calendar items are considered routine and enacted in one motion. There is no separate discussion.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Fisler and carried five to zero to accept the donation of the tree and memorial plaque to be installed in Estancia Park.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –
COSTA MESA HIGH SCHOOL,**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made the presentation.

2650 FAIRVIEW ROAD

Dr. Fred Navarro, Principal of Costa Mesa High School, 2650 Fairview, Costa Mesa, addressed the Commission in support of the tree removal. Dr. Navarro stated that the tree is blocking the view of the marquee when traveling south on Fairview. He also informed the Commission that they are putting in a new scrolling letter marquee and state law requires identical placement, size and height for the new marquee or a request must be sent to the state architect. In response to a question from Commissioner Leece, Dr. Navarro stated that they hope to have the marquee installed before the first of the year.

Mr. Bill Sneen, 974 Begonia, Costa Mesa, addressed the Commission informing them that the student body at Costa Mesa High School saved \$42,000 to pay for this new marquee, which will affect the moral at the school and inform parents and students about current and upcoming events. Mr. Sneen also stated that there are 65 scouts in their troupe and almost half of those scouts are life scouts with three eagle scouts and they would be willing to plant as many trees as the City would want; noting that they are always looking for community service hours.

Bonnie Saryan, 751 Olympic Avenue, Costa Mesa, addressed the Commission stating that this is a safety issue and with the tree gone people coming southbound on Fairview will be able to see the sign clearly, which would prevent accidents.

In response to questions from Vice Chairman de Arakal regarding who would pay for the removal of the tree and the cost of filling in the tree well with concrete, Mr. Hartley stated that normally the applicant pays all costs associated with the removal of the tree.

Commissioner Leece stated that she agrees with the removal request because there is a need for clear visibility in both directions and that concrete should be put in the tree well because it does not make sense to put another tree there when they would just have to remove it at a later date. She also stated that she believed the tree removal would be in the best interest of Costa Mesa High School and the whole community.

In response to questions from Chairman Harris regarding placement of the replacement trees, Mr. Hartley stated that they would go in a City park or another park way. He also noted that they receive requests for tree plantings on a regular basis.

Chairman Harris stated that it would be nice to put the replacement trees at the Farm Sports Complex; however, he would leave it to Mr. Hartley's discretion as to where they are placed.

In response to questions from Commissioner Fisler, Mr. Hartley stated that some branches go out in a southerly direction but they do not extend into the roadway. He also stated that their normal trimming would be to keep the street cleared for the trucks and let the canopy get larger and full; however, the center portion of the tree could be thinned.

In response to a question from Chairman Harris regarding the age of the tree, Mr. Hartley stated that he was unsure of the age, however it is only sixteen inches in diameter and about 35 feet tall and they have seen these types of trees 20 to 30 feet taller and over two feet in diameter.

Vice Chairman de Arakal stated that he would support the tree removal because the high school is a part of the fabric of the community and the events at the high school are important for the commu-

nity to know. He also stated that he appreciated the efforts of the students to save the money.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Leece, seconded by Chairman Harris and carried five to zero to approve the request to remove the City parkway tree located on Fairview Drive at Costa Mesa High School with standard 3:1 replacement ratio (one twenty-four inch box-size tree and two fifteen gallon-size trees) to be planted elsewhere on public property. Tree well to be filled in with concrete and all costs to be paid by Newport Mesa Unified School District.

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –
2854 CHIOS ROAD**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made the presentation.

In response to questions from Vice Chairman de Arakal regarding the raised gutter area, Mr. Hartley stated that the sidewalk is chipped, probably from the sweeper, and over time as the severity of the raising increases the sweeper might have to steer around it.

A discussion ensued regarding root pruning, the damage to the street, gutter and sidewalk and Mrs. Cozer's request to have the same type tree that the City recently planted across the street replace the existing tree.

Chairman Harris stated that he visited the site earlier and noted that, although the report does not mention it, the sidewalk has been replaced at least once. He was also concerned about the street light wire that is running through the center of the tree, the damage to the curb, gutter and sidewalk to the left of the tree and that it looked like the roots were heading towards the fire hydrant on the right. He stated that this tree removal request seems to meet the Health and Safety section of the City's Streetscape Median Standards.

In response to a question from Commissioner Fisler, Mr. Hartley confirmed that the removal of the tree would be at the City's expense if the request was granted under the Health and Safety section of the City's Streetscape Median Standards.

In response to questions from Chairman Harris, Mr. Hartley stated that the curb, gutter and sidewalk would be repaired as bet as possible by the City's Maintenance crews until it could be added to the contract that the Engineering Department controls.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Leece and carried five to zero to remove tree under the Category 1 Health and Safety Section of the Streetscape and Median Development Standards with all costs to be paid by the City.

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –
1961 SWAN DRIVE /
FAIRVIEW PARK**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made the presentation.

At the request of Vice Chairman de Arakal, Mr. Morris stepped up to the podium to advise the public of the City's policy regarding keeping or removing any trees within Fairview Park that may not have been part of the encroachment property. Mr. Morris explained that they had notified all residents/homeowners along Swan Drive, that back up to Fairview Park, of certain trees within the park that are close to their property of the window of opportunity for the City to allow the removal of those trees. Afterwards, if the property owners want to have any of those trees removed, they would have to go through proper procedure with the Parks and Recreation Commission and if they were granted approval, they would have to pay all of the

costs associated with the tree(s) removal. He also noted that in the future as Fairview Park is developed it could become a very desirable view, which is why he wanted to give all of the homeowners advanced notice of how tree removals would work in the future.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Leece and carried five to zero to approve the removal of the Yucca plant and the Pepper tree and waive the replacement requirement.

FAIRVIEW PARK ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Bill Morris presented the Fairview Park Annual Report.

In response to questions from Vice Chairman de Arakal, Mr. Morris stated that the 1.245 million dollars of unencumbered appropriation was a carry-over amount. He further explained that historically the City Council has allocated approximately \$250,000 per year of general or park development fund monies towards Fairview Park. Mr. Morris also stated that it helps to accumulate the funds in order to use as leverage in obtaining the grants because most grants require a fifty percent match in funds.

Commissioners Harris, de Arakal and Burciaga stated that they were pleased with the report. Chairman Harris also applauded staff's creativity in placing the rocks at the bottom of the hill to stop the bicyclist from doing more damage.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Chairman Harris and carried five to zero to approve the goals for the fiscal year 2005 and expenditures as indicated in the Fiscal Review Section of staff report.

CHANGE/CANCEL REGULAR COMMISSION DATE FOR DECEMBER 2004

Mr. Bill Morris presented the agenda item requesting cancellation of the December Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and assured the Commission that there are no pressing issues or time sensitive issues that need to be brought before the Commission for the December meeting. He also stated that historically, if there has been a December meeting, it is very difficult to get the public to come out to the meeting even if they have an issue or item on the agenda. It was also noted that the cancellation of this meeting saves the City \$600 in expenses.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Fisler to cancel the December 22, 2004, regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Ransom displayed pictures and informed the Commission of the First Annual Chalk Art Festival stating that approximately 200 people participated with another 400 to 500 people looking at the drawings. People were so excited about the drawings that they decided to participate. There were initially 50 squares drawn, however by the end of the day there were over 100 pictures. Phil Roberts, a professional artist living in Corona del Mar, was the featured artist. He donated his time for the day and it took him 14 hours to produce the mother and child drawing. The Police Department supported the event and did "The Incredibles". The pictures are on the City's web site (www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us).

Ms. Ransom noted that the After School Program (the Ranch co-op

program in conjunction with Newport Mesa Unified School District and the Orange County Fairgrounds) is including fourth and fifth graders this year. Also, some of the children were asked to go up to Sacramento to meet the governor and have the program recognized by him. They were very excited.

Ms. Ransom also updated the Commission on the Teen Program; Aquatics Program; Adult Softball; Extended Childcare Program's Open House (tomorrow at 7:00 p.m.); Historical Preservation Committee's guide to building history, which will display all the different classic architecture in the City; Winter Camp Costa Mesa and Holiday Snow Hill on December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

No Maintenance Services Manager's Report.

PARKS PROJECTS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bart Mejia displayed pictures of and updated the Commission on the Fairview Bike Trail, the lakes at TeWinkle Park, the Skate Park and the Gisler Park slope restoration (which includes the construction of sound walls).

Mr. Mejia's final picture was of the Newport Boulevard bike trail and entry monument sign where staff was recently awarded the "Employee of the Month" for the project.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Fisler stated that his cat was eaten by a coyote earlier today and wanted to encourage the people that live in the Mesa Verde area to check on their animals and cautioned them about putting pet food outside because of the sense of smell for coyotes.

Also, Commissioner Fisler advised the community of the walking tour through Fairview Park this Saturday at approximately 8:00 a.m. and suggested people go to the City's web site (www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us) for more information.

Lastly, Commissioner Fisler thanked the departing Council members Libby Cowan, Mike Scheafer and Chris Steel for their service and encouraged the community to attend the December 6 Council meeting to applaud the departing Council members and welcome the new Council members.

Commissioner Burciaga wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Leece noted that the number of infractions listed on the Field Ambassador's monthly report has decreased and noted that there are still a few weak areas at Estancia and Costa Mesa High Schools, Rea School and Estancia Utility Field. She also noted that on the Park Ranger's monthly report there seems to be a decrease in citations and stated that she felt having the Park Rangers out there keeps our parks safe.

Commissioner Leece thanked Ms. Ransom for the report regarding the use of Lindbergh, Harper, Monte Vista and Back Bay fields and for the Temporary Light Policy update.

Lastly, Commissioner Leece mention that she and her daughter went to Fairview Park and enjoyed walking down in the river area and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Vice Chairman de Arakal expressed his gratitude for his fellow Commissioners and for the opportunity to serve on this Commission. He also stated that he was thankful for all of our men and women in the armed services, particularly in Iraq.

Vice Chairman de Arakal also mentioned his father had emergency quintuple bypass surgery and thanked Hoag Hospital and Dr. Colin Joyo in particular for saving his father's life.

Chairman Harris advised Ms. Ransom that for safety reasons the Temporary Light Policy should include a rule about fuel cans being removed when the adults leave the property.

Chairman Harris congratulated Commissioner Burciaga on a very successful campaign run and noted that receiving over 5,500 votes for her first run was outstanding. He also encouraged her to pursue her goals for City Council.

Chairman Harris reminded everyone that Snow Hill will be on December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

In response to a question from Chairman Harris, Mr. Morris stated that per Council Policy on Commission and Committee appointments, the Council members consider appointments to the various Commissions and Committees at their second meeting in January.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **7:59 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, January 26, 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:

William J. Morris
Public Services Director