

City of Costa Mesa
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
OFFICIAL MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Campbell called the meeting to order at 5:04pm
2. **ROLL CALL**
 - a. **Members Present:** Chair Campbell, Vice Chair Rothman, Committee Member McClain Committee Member Levin, Committee Member Erickson, and Committee Member Roberts.
 - b. **Members Absent:** Committee Member Fuqua
 - c. **Liaisons Present:** Councilmember Reynolds, Councilmember Chavez
 - d. **Liaisons Absent:** Councilmember Harlan
3. **APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**
 - a. Committee Member Campbell is nominated by Committee Member Levin and Seconded by Committee Member Rothman. Motion passed unanimously. 6-0; Fuqua absent due to technical difficulties.
 - b. Committee Member Rothmans is nominated by Chair Campbell and seconded by Committee Member Levin. Motion passed unanimously. 6-0; Fuqua absent due to technical difficulties.
 - c.
4. **APPROVAL of the October 14, 2020 Minutes** (Please note: Committee members may legally approve minutes of meetings that took place before they were appointed, or on meetings they did not attend.)
 - a. Committee Member Levin moved to approve the minute and Seconded by Committee Member Rothman. Motion passed unanimously; 6-0. Fuqua absent due to technical difficulties.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Speakers will be limited to two minutes for items **not** on the agenda. The total time allotted for all Public Comments will be ten minutes.)
 - a. **Kim Hendrix** – member of Fairview Park Alliance (FPA) that helps protect Fairview Park for present and future generations and wanted to introduce to the new Committee members and is excited to work with the City to continue to preserve what Fairview Park is all about.
 - b. **Jim Erickson** – Following up with a request he had given the PACS commission regarding a bicycle rack at Fairview. Such a popular park for bicyclists and needs an area to allow bicyclists a place to rest their bikes if they enjoy the outdoors. Appreciates an update on it.
6. **COMMITTEE MEMBER and LIAISON COMMENTS**

Chair Campbell – Mention there was a lot of bird activity and passive use at the park. Welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Vice Chair Rothman – Through COVID have used the park more frequently, and northern harriers and great horn owls present at the park and sees a lot of more bird activity going on at the park since the pandemic.

Committee member Erickson – No real comments, but wanted to make a note that Vice Chair Rothman's comments are observational only during the time of his presence at the park and has nothing to do with the shutdown of HSS.

Hank Castignetti OCME Liaison – Looking forward to working with the new commissioners and would like to invite anyone who is not familiar with the trains to reach out to learn more. Have a bridge trestle to get replaced and conducting fundraising activity. Exciting to know Burrowing owls are present at the park.

Committee member Alt. Butcher - Resides in eastside Costa Mesa and has been here for 30 years and enjoys Fairview Park and visits to the trains over the years. Looking forward to with working with everyone.

Committee member Levin – On the Freedom tract of town. Has history working with parks and excited to implement her knowledge into the community she resides in.

Committee member Alt. Raffele – Has been a resident of Costa Mesa for most of her adult life and has started 2 businesses here and has experience with working with the State and NOA on CA wetlands and ocean protection projects.

Committee member Roberts – Live from District 2 near Bristol and Paularino cross streets. He loves the wildlands in suburban areas and is a big advocate to keep the native plants present.

Committee member McClain – Has lived for about 9 years. I use the park with the friends and family every week and looking forward to be a part of it. Also commented on the Cynthia’s background of the wetlands.

Councilmember Reynolds – Welcomed everyone and looking forward to working with everyone.

Councilmember Chavez – Looking forward to everyone’s input from the various applicants who applied.

7. NEW BUSINESS – None

8. OLD BUSINESS – a. Fly Field Comprehensive Review Update

Fairview Park Administrator D’Agosta presented PowerPoint.

Committee Member Erikson – Asked if research has been done into the impacts of drones, UAVs or any RC airplanes and impacts on birds or other species.

Chair Campbell - Our prior committee member Larry Quarter provided us a USB drive full of various reports on this topic. He mentioned the findings can be included on the steering committee’s data on for everyone to read.

Committee Member Erickson - We need to inform ourselves on this topic. Has anyone else reviewed correlations with sounds and bird activity? Any evidence that the use of airplanes, drones or people’s use of the park impacts species more negatively than any other use. I did do research of impact of RC powered devices on birds. How close can we get to birds without having an impact. There was negligible impact after 100 flight hours. Found photos of birds flying with drones, was seen as harassment, but that isn’t true. Fairview Park alliance asked a couple questions, wanted sound level monitored, monitor sound of jets, parking lot noise, ambient noise, kids playing. Lots of species over 60 years of parks life have persisted. Fish and wildlife letter also attached doesn’t note the action to remove HSS. Noted that grading of that path, impact on hydrology, so does driving at the park and creating ruts. A lot of information out there for NOT having HSS.

Chair Campbell – requested if Committee Member Erickson can send the group his findings. Provide the files to CD and can arrange it for everyone to view.

Committee Member Roberts – Looking forward to discuss more next month regarding the proposal

Hank Castignetti – Asked if this an appropriate time to move a motion to meet for March? I would like to meet in March, if possible.

Director Minter – We are looking to see what is requested from other committee members prior to making a special meeting decision and discourage to make any premature motions.

Committee member Alt. Butcher- Do they have regular hour or days to operate or certain times of day or week.

Levin mentioned would not fly Tuesdays and Thursdays. Do we know if other fly locations are closed on alt. days?

Committee member Levin – Suggested we do not vote in march and vote in April.

Committee member McClain – Would this be a self-enforcement or more information regarding drones and aircrafts differences.

Chair Campbell – Found research drones different than hobby aircrafts. Wants to propose seasonal activities and times where maybe look into two consecutive days to spread out the hobby in the park. Thinks more delving is needed to provide better feedback to this proposal. March meeting would be ideal.

Committee member Alt. Raffela – silver lake and Silverado canyon so it can benefit everyone around. Humans and how to minimize human's behavior as well.

Public Comments:

Luke Hoehman – Asks why is it so hard for aircraft to be at FVP ?

Henry Smith – current VP president of HSS and hope there's a solution for the quiet drones. Gas modeled are not allowed. Silverado is private and expensive.

Kim Hendrix – The wildlife is barely hanging on and that's why they're endangered. Special concern. McClain is right and recognizes drone's pusher and aero jets should not be allowed to fly. FPA is concerned to 1:02:00 FPA agrees with staff suggestion and reject the proposal for HSS.

Bettina Eastman – Sea and Sage Audobon and sent in a letter and appreciate that HSS created a proposal and concerned about the enforcement and chose to speak to let the public know that research drones are hobbyist drones. Would love to see the study Committee member Erickson proposed and have been seeing over 100 species and more than just Raptors. Look forward to the compilation of data received.

Jim Erickson – Want to echo and Hoehman and my kids have got to experience and they are 5-7 and been a year and a half an irreplaceable good of the community.

Wendy Leece – 49 yr. resident and enjoy my walks with my dog at Fairview park and encourage to read the FVP alliance letter that was sent and hopes the grading noise can be eliminated and hopes there's sometime of restriction

Debra Koken – FVP Alliance member. HSS does have good suggestions and concerned about the enforcement. Study done 2 years and have lost a huge percentage and birds declining in the United States.

Don Wittenberg – Member of Harbor Soaring Society (HSS) and HSS has been here for a couple years and fairly recent has been proposed. Remove the planes that create a lot of noise and can provide noise meters to help. Requesting minimal help for park rangers and enforce the rules and everyone needs to have a permit would go a long way to removing people that don't belong there.

Henry Smith – Saw Irvine Tom a while back in Silver Lake and is waiting to see the field at Fairview open up again, so he can start working with his student's again.

End of Public Comment.

Chair Campbell – we give recommendation and do not make the decisions

Committee member Erickson – wanted to clarify that we are only providing recommendations and not making any final decisions regarding the HSS Fly Field.

Chair Campbell – Request move a motion to approve 1 & 2 of staff recommendations.

Committee member Levin – requested more information to feel more appraised with the information.

Chair Campbell – Moves to approve March special meeting. All unanimously; 7-0 (Fuqua present)

Chair Campbell – Moves to form a subcommittee to assist with this decision. Committee member Erickson seconded.

All voted unanimously; 7-0.

Committee members Erickson, Levin, and Chair Campbell were selected for the subcommittee.

9. STAFF COMMENTS

D'Agosta requested clarification on what the subcommittee research entails and confirmed the March 10 date to return for the special Fairview Park Steering Committee to answer questions regarding the comprehensive review. Director Minter mentioned the subcommittee will have a meeting or two and connect with subcommittee to update, but no voting will take part in March 10 special meeting. D'Agosta also mentioned she will provide an email regarding the agenda to the committee for the special meeting. Moving forward, she also mentioned a high school race scheduled at the park with modifications to

comply with COVID-19 restrictions. On February 27 Fairview Park Alliance will hold a restoration from 9am-12pm. Director Minter mentioned the high school race will consist of 3 meet dates happening CIF regulations and welcomed everyone and looking forward to working with everyone.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:48pm.

Next SPECIAL Meeting: March 10, 2021 at 5:00pm, LOCATION TBD, pending COVID restrictions.