

THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE PARKS, ARTS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
September 24, 2020; 6:00 P.M.

1. **Call to Order:** The Parks, Arts & Community Services Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Erickson at 6:03 p.m. on May 28, 2020 via Zoom call.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Erickson
3. **Roll Call**

Present: Chair Erickson, Vice Chair McNabb, Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner DeCicco, Commissioner Frager, Commissioner Rutherford

Absent: Commissioner Fahy

Staff Present: Jason Minter, Parks & Community Services Director; Jennifer Rosales, Transportation Manager; Robert Ryan, Acting Maintenance Superintendent; Brenda Green, City Clerk; Sylvia Chalmers, Executive Secretary

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the May 28, 2020 Meeting of the PACS Commission**

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Erickson moves to approve the minutes/Seconded by Commissioner Ashendorf. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Erickson, Vice Chair McNabb, Commissioner, DeCicco, Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Frager, Commissioner Rutherford

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Fahy

Motion Carried: 6-0-1

5. **Public Comments**

1. Johnny Schillereff – Founder of Elements Skateboards and an active skateboarder asked why the Skate Park is still closed. Stressed to please reopen the Costa Mesa Skatepark.

Chair Erickson closed Public Comments.

6. **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Ashendorf – Welcomed Mr. Minter and thanked City staff and City Council for continuing to keep our City safe. Thanked Senior Center Staff on calls to Seniors. Noted the Senior community are anxious to have the facilities reopen. Thanked City Staff for having the Senior Center as a ‘Cooling Center’. Asked if the Senior Center will be a location for voting as it has in the past? Flu season is coming and encouraged others to get their flu shot. Mentioned that she is a liaison for the Newport-Mesa School District and there has not been a meeting needing her assistance.

Commissioner DeCicco – Welcomed Mr. Minter. Spoke on communicating to the public on opening of facilities and provide clear guidelines and criteria. Has received a lot of feedback from the public regarding guidelines. He also stated he is happy to assist and provide the knowledge to the public if assistance is needed.

Commissioner Frager – Welcomed Mr. Minter and is excited to get to know him and see his vision for the City. Mentioned it is a devastating time for the art industry and nonprofits, but they have been resilient during this time. Segerstrom has renamed their Dance & School for Children of Disabilities to Studio D Arts School for All Abilities to reflect a diversity for all ages they serve. They will be offering virtual classes for students aged 4-22. Pacific Symphony held their summer classes in June & July and rebranded to the name to AXP at home and focused in community building, interactive arts workshops, and Q&A with professional artists. Also mentioned the South Coast Rep Theater conservatory is holding virtual acting classes for kids and adults. Pacific Chorale will begin their program in a virtual setting and will be welcoming students outside the NMUSD and welcomes students from grades 2-6 and no singing experience is necessary. Arts & Learning conservatory has all kinds of programming for in-person or virtual from drumming to voice over. They are gearing up for Charlie Brown Christmas auditions begin on Oct. 3rd. Commissioner Ashendorf, Council member Marr and I are taking over Arlington Drive on Love Costa Mesa Day on Oct. 3rd. Crosswalk art and Bark Park mural art happening and work with the community on these projects.

Vice Chair McNabb – Welcomed Mr. Minter Thanked City leadership and staff for working so hard during this time. Alerted people to complete the US Census. There are 6 days left. This Census is a critical count and is a gateway for a lot of Federal dollars. We want to make sure everyone is counted for in our City. She also commended Mayor Foley and Mayor Pro Tem Stevens on Restore Costa Mesa group they have put together to incorporate City Staff on ways to bring our businesses back and be able to thrive in this very challenging time. A fair amount of information regarding DeCicco's questions can be addressed in the coding system that has been put out from the State and currently we are in the red tier. If everything continues to tread down, we can be eligible for the "orange tier", which then allows expansion of services. To follow the public comment regarding the Skate Park, that is a state regulation issue where our Assistant City Manager has been working very hard to try to clarify on why the Skate Park has not been able to be open on multiple occasions and has been declined. The City has been trying it's best, but it is out of our control.

Commissioner Rutherford – Welcomed Director Minter and acknowledged everyone's hard work during this challenging time that City staff and Council have put in and continue to do. He watched the Homelessness Study Session this week and can see staff's efforts are reflected with assistance we are providing. Thanked Director Minter on providing information to Youth Sports leagues with State regulations on the reopening guidelines. Encouraged residents to take the Census, remind 10 friends can make a difference and also vote this year to make sure your voice is heard.

Chair Erickson – Welcomed Mr. Minter to the party. Encouraged peopled to walk the Costa Mesa Parks. He has outline 26 of the 31 parks to tread and would love to have a trail posting available for park users to have an idea on a walking distance. Mentioned and suggested to have Frisbee Golf available at our parks and requested that theater parks areas be more easily available for public reservations.

7. Consent Calendar

- a) Donation of a Bench and Memorial Plaque at TeWinkle Park
No Presentation

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Erickson moved to approve donation/Seconded by Vice Chair McNabb. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Erickson, Vice Chair McNabb, Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Frager, Commissioner Rutherford

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Fahy

Motion Carried: 6-0-1

8. Old Business

No items

9. New Business

- a) Merrimac Way Active Transportation Improvement Project

Mr. Robert Ryan, Acting Maintenance Superintendent presented.

Commissioner Comments:

Chair Erickson - Thanked Mr. Ryan on his presentation. Appreciates all the efforts from staff and committees over the years. Acknowledged the improvements can definitely benefit the safety and appeal of the area.

Mr. DeCicco - Requested clarification on the amount of lanes being proposed for this project. Ms. Jennifer Rosales responded stated there will be one lane each direction. The traffic volumes are low and has been tested. The flow of traffic works great and will use the extra space for a safer environment for bicyclist. His concern was more for the confined space cars will have to pass through and wanted clarification on the consideration for the change? Historically, there has always been complaints of speeding and high cyclist volumes. During the demonstrations speeding did go down and the projected volume use can withstand the space. Where will the healthy trees go for the removal? Mr. Ryan stated those trees would be discarded due to the change of reconstructions. Due to the size of the trees and disruption of the removal it creates more harm and costly for replanting.

Vice Chair McNabb - Thanked Mr. Ryan for his presentation and expressed the benefit the improvement project has to the community.

MOTION/SECOND: Vice Chair McNabb moved to forward these recommendations to City Council/Seconded by Commissioner DeCicco. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Chair Erickson, Vice Chair McNabb, Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Frager, Commissioner Rutherford

Nays: None

Absent: Commissioner Fahy

Motion Carried: 6-1-0

10. Parks and Community Services Director’s Update

Mr. Minter presented the Parks and Community Services Director’s Update. At the conclusion of the presentation, committee member discussion took place. No action was called for, or taken by the committee as presentation was for informational purposes only.

After presentation, Chair Erickson requested a public commenter to speak. Commenter, Mr. Snow, thanked everyone for the approval of the bench donation. His mom and dad greatly appreciate it.

Vice Chair McNabb placed a comment to commissioners to complete an internal survey to modify the meeting time to be earlier. Taking into account staffing levels. Staff agreed to have a survey formed for an earlier time and follow-up with commissioners.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Erickson at 7:10 p.m.

**The Next Regular Meeting of the Parks, Arts & Community Services Commission
To be announced**

Prepared by Sylvia Chalmers
PACS Commission Secretary

Submitted by Jason Minter
Parks and Community Services Director