
**OFFICIAL MINUTES
CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE
JUNE 9, 2021
5:00PM**

VOTING MEMBERS:

Andy Campbell, Chair
Evan Rothman, Vice Chair
Emily McClain
Shannon Levin
Dave Erickson
Terri Fuqua
Erik Roberts

ALTERNATES

Cara Raffe
Jeffrey Butcher

LIAISONS:

Council Member Arlis Reynolds
Council Member Jeffrey Harlan, Alternate
Council Member Manual Chavez, Alternate
Commissioner Andrade Vallarta, District
Parks, Arts and Community Services Commission
Hank Castignetti,
Orange County Model Engineers (OCME)

STAFF:

Cynthia D'Agosta, Fairview Park Administrator
Jason Minter, Parks & Comm. Services Director

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Campbell at 5:00pm
2. **ROLL CALL**
 - a) **Members Present:** Chair Campbell, Committee Member McClain, Committee Member Erickson, and Committee Member Roberts, Alternate Raffe, Alternate Butcher (arrived late)
 - b) **Members Absent:** Vice Chair Rothman, Committee Member Levin, and Committee Member Fuqua
 - c) **Liaisons Present:** Council Member Chavez, Commissioner Andrade Vallarta and Hank Castignetti, OCME
 - d) **Liaisons Absent:** Council Member Harlan, and Council Member Arlis Reynolds
3. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 14, 2021 MINUTES**
 - a) Committee Member McClain moved to approve with correction, and Seconded by Committee Member Erickson. Motion passed unanimously; 4-0. Vice Chair Rothman, Committee Member Fuqua and Levin absent.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
5. **COMMITTEE MEMBER and LIAISON COMMENTS**

Committee Member Erikson: Asked if, moving forward, there could be an estimated end time to the meeting based on the agenda.

Ms. Chalmers: Informed Committee Member Erikson that she will research.

Chair Campbell: No comment.

Alternate Butcher: Asked for clarification in regards to an Alternate's role in voting.

Alternate Raffe: Commented she was present and thanked the residents for submitting comments.

Council Member Chavez: Is eager to listen and learn about Fairview Park.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. UPDATE ON HARBOR SOARING SOCIETY (HSS) PROPOSAL AND FLY FIELD REVIEWS

Ms. D'Agosta referred to her staff report on the Committee's recommendation for the fly field and a summary of the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission's vote. The next step in the process is for City Council to make a decision potentially on July 20. She mentioned the Commission for Orange County Parks approved the Mile Square Master Plan, which contains a fly field, and the OC Board of Supervisors will review it on July 13, 2021.

i. PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Hendricks: Thanked the Committee and staff for their presentation to the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission. Commented there are outside agencies watching over the park.

ii. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Committee Member Roberts: Asked if any members of the Committee was present at the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission meeting and asked if they could give an update.

Chair Campbell: Informed the Committee that he was present at the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission meeting and gave a presentation on the reasoning of their recommendation.

Committee Member Roberts: Asked if the City Council will receive the recommendation of the Committee.

Ms. D'Agosta: Informed the Committee that the Council will receive the recommendations from both the Committee and Commission in her staff report.

Committee Member Roberts: Given the current bird surveys being provided by Audubon Society, it will be feasible to perform a study comparing the impacts of flying and not flying if the field is left open with modifications.

Ms. D'Agosta: Agreed and stated different environmental factors could affect the study.

Committee Member Roberts: Asked if Mile Square Park possibly adding a fly field is new information.

Ms. D'Agosta: Stated she was aware of the potential, but was not aware of the approval dates in Spring. She mentioned HSS has been engaged in the participation process for Mile Square Park.

Committee Member Roberts: Asked if there was a flying field previously in Mile Square Park.

Ms. D'Agosta: The idea of adding a fly field came from the park no longer utilizing one of the three golf courses. She then informed the Committee that the Mile Square Park Master Plan is available to read on the OC Parks website.

Committee Member Roberts: Asked if the information about Mile Square Park be given to City Council.

Ms. D'Agosta: Confirmed it will.

Chair Campbell: Asked is the information of how many permitted flyers are Costa Mesa residents and how many are Fountain Valley residents will be in the presentation to City Council.

Ms. D'Agosta: Answered it is possible to obtain the address information from permit holders. From her understanding, there are no sensitive habitats or threatened species at Mile Square Park.

Committee Member Roberts: Stated Mile Square is better suited for flying due to not having ecological restoration sites and asked if they can request City Council look into the Fountain Valley Master Plan prior to making a decision to the fly field.

Chair Campbell: Stated the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission would like to see the City work with HSS to find a common ground. Perhaps a future agreement could include the closure of Fairview Park Fly Field when the fly field and Mile Square Park is open.

Ms. D'Agosta: Stated the Mile Square Park Master Plan has been approved by their parks commission and will be going through the Orange County Supervisors on July 13. If passed, there will be phases of when items will be built out. She is unaware of which phase the fly field will be built in. An individual or a Committee can bring up the potential for Mile Square Park Fly Field to City Council.

Committee Member Roberts: Believes that this information about Mile Square Park could have been a good point to bring up to the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission. He would like City Council to have all the information available.

Ms. D'Agosta: Stated this information will be in her staff report to City Council. She also informed the Committee that they would be able to submit this as a comment for the City Council meeting.

Committee Member Roberts: Asked if the Orange County Fairgrounds has been considered to be utilized as a fly field.

Chair Campbell: Stated they have had the idea of utilizing the Fairgrounds but the Committee does not have jurisdiction.

Alternate Butcher: Stated alternate locations would require FAA approval.

Chair Campbell: Informed the Committee that the HSS brought new ideas to the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission meeting. One of their new ideas was to make the fly field smaller. If the HSS will accept a smaller field, alternate locations will be easier to find. He also asked how the Committee would be able to protect the habitat with RC activity. He would like to see the size of the plane in the guidelines for flying at the park. He asked Ms. D'Agosta to put the tragedy of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in her staff report to City Council.

Committee Member Roberts: Asked what the definition of passive use is in the Master Plan.

Ms. D'Agosta: Stated that she will further discuss the Master Plan in the next presentation.

Committee Member Erickson: Due to COVID there has been an increase of visitors at the park this past year. With an increase of visitors and no flyers the bird surveys still showed an increase in species.

Chair Campbell: Stated the birds benefitted from no flying activity and many visitors.

Hank Castignetti (OCME): Noted that during the Commission meeting HSS seemed uninterested in moving the fly field. He asked if that would affect anything.

Chair Campbell: Stated the HSS has a history of reworking their proposals.

Ms. D'Agosta: Stated the PACS Commission would like to see a flying organization partner assist with the funding for the Eastside evaluation. With investigation, the Commission would consider moving the flying field to the Eastside of the park.

Hank Castignetti (OCME): Commented he met with members from HSS to point out areas on the Eastside of the park that would make for a good fly field.

Alternate Butcher: Asked for clarification on the motion for the fly field from the Commission meeting.

Chair Campbell: Believes their motion will lead to further negotiations on what flying will be at the park.

Ms. D'Agosta: Added if Council approves the fly fields, then there will be a period of time in which modifications, documents, and ordinances will need to be finalized.

Mike Costello (Public Comment): Brought up concerns about the Mile Square fly field being too small for flying. He also stated the proposals have not changed and HSS are willing to make more compromises.

Commissioner Vallarta: Thanked Ms. D'Agosta for her report. She stated she supports the Committee's recommendation and will continue to support them in anyway.

Bettina Eastman (Public Comment): Asked for clarification on the motion for the fly field from the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission meeting. She asked if the motion contained a modification of slower planes, limited hours, and an agreement for Audubon Society and HSS to work together to find the best solution in regards to the birds.

Ms. D'Agosta: Answered Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission incorporated some of the items from the HSS proposal as potential modification and asked for further delineation of those in the motion. She believes the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission requested continue work with the Audubon Society for the bird survey and determination of the modifications. There will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to be engaged in this process.

Bettina Eastman (Public Comment): Asked if that was asked by Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission and not placed in the official motion.

Ms. D'Agosta: Clarified that the motion and minutes are not official until it is approved by the Commission on June 24. At that time there will be finalized motion language.

Bettina Eastman (Public Comment): Asked if her report given to the Parks, Arts, and Community Services Commission will also be given to City Council.

Ms. D'Agosta: Confirmed that she will be forwarding her report to City Council.

Chair Campbell: Stated that he would like to have the Audubon Society involved in any negotiations.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. MASTER PLAN BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

Ms. D'Agosta gave a presentation on the Fairview Park Master Plan history and process.

Chair Campbell: Asked for clarification on the activities at Fairview Park.

Ms. D'Agosta: Responded in a previous master plan a lawn area was planned to be utilized for a fly field.

Hank Castignetti (OCME): Stated Measure AA has changed the City's desire of the use of the park. The previous master plan had elements of recreation, now citizens have expressed they do that want that kind of recreation in the park.

Chair Campbell: Asked if citizens will vote on the master plan.

Ms. D'Agosta: Responded the City Council will vote on the master plan.

Chair Campbell: Asked if Measure AA will be taken into consideration prior to a decision.

Ms. D'Agosta: Informed the Committee there will be a formal step top review measure AA prior to approval.

Committee Member Roberts: Asked if the previous drafts of the master plan were done by professionals.

Ms. D'Agosta: Answered yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kim Hendricks: recommended everyone to read Measure AA and review the drafts of the master plan. Would like to see the park restored.

8. STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. D'Agosta informed the Committee every second Saturday from 9am-11am is a restoration day at the park. There is no Committee meeting in July however, there is a potential City Council meeting on July 20th. On July 31st there will be a Concert in the Park event at the park. Instead of having a concert every Tuesday in July, there will be only one concert day. She is working with the Public Services department to install bike racks at the park.

9. ADJOURNMENT Chair Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm