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**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
CITY OF COSTA MESA  
MEETING OF THE FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE**  
August 10, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.

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**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Campbell at 6:03 pm

**ROLL CALL**

= Present

Absent

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Committee Liaisons</b>	<b>City Staff</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terri Fuqua	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Dalton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily McClain*	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Chavez	<input type="checkbox"/> Jason Minter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Roberts	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Harlan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fautua
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair Andy Campbell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCME, Hank Castignetti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monique Villasenor
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PACS, Kelly Brown	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant		

*\*Committee Member McClain entered the meeting at 6:20pm, exited at 6:21 pm due to technical difficulties, and reentered at 6:24 pm after the approval of the minutes.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Kevin K:** Commended all who were involved in organizing the recent Concerts in the Park series and commented on it being an enjoyable experience for residents.

**Cynthia D’Agosta:** Inquired as to when questions regarding previous minutes should be posted.

**Wendy Leece:** Noted she was President of Fairview Park Alliance and encouraged all who love Fairview Park to submit an application to be a part of the Fairview Park Steering Committee, citing vacant positions.

**Kim Hendricks:** Noted the presence of RC cars in Fairview Park, the damage they can cause to the native habitat, and the lack of enforcement from Park Rangers.

**Olga Zapata Reynolds:** Requested clarification on the difference and overlaps between the Fairview Park Stakeholders Group and the Fairview Park Steering Committee.

**Kelly Dalton:** Clarified that the Stakeholders group Ms. Reynolds is referring to was a work group created regarding the Scope of Work that would be used in the RFP for the Fairview Park Master Plan Update project. The work group was assembled to gather input from Committee members and stakeholders specifically on the Scope of Work. All members of the public, stakeholders, and Committee members will have ample opportunity to participate and contribute to the Master Plan update during the community outreach process.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER and LIAISON COMMENTS**

**Committee Member Fuqua:** No comment.

**Committee Member Roberts:** No comment.

**Chair Campbell:** Thanked Senator David Min for the securing of \$10 million dollars of funding for City parks and looking forward to a share of that going towards bluff restoration.

**PACS Liaison Kelly Brown:** Echoed Chair Campbell's thanks to Senator Min.

**OCME Liaison Hank Castignetti:** Commended Senator Min for the funding and inquired as to whether this Committee would have any input as to how that money will be spent. Noted a recent encounter of a motorized plane being flown at the park.

**Chair Campbell:** noted that this Committee provides advice to the City Council regarding restoration development in Fairview Park.

## 1. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**MOTION:** To approve the June 8, 2022 minutes with the corrections proposed below by Cynthia D'Agosta by Committee Member Roberts and seconded by Committee Member Fuqua.

**AYES:** Committee Member Fuqua, Committee Member Roberts, and Chair Campbell.

**NAYS:** N/A

**ABSTAIN:** N/A

**ABSENT:** Committee Member McClain

**MOTION CARRIED:** 3-0

### Public Comments:

**Cynthia D'Agosta:** Recommended a correction to the previous Committee meeting minutes, clarifying that there is an agreement between the HSS and the FAA, not the AMA and the FAA as noted in the minutes. Inquired as to whether the alternate footprint that Mr. Minter had mentioned in the previous meeting had been presented to this Committee, and if so, if it could be made available to the public. Noted that Mr. Minter had projected that the Master Plan Update would be completed in 18 months and requested that Mr. Dalton create a schedule for posting. Recommended that Committee members be included in the interview process for consultants.

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

### A. REVIEW OF MODEL GLIDER FIELD AND DRAFT ORDINANCE

- i. Correspondence Received  
Mr. Dalton presented.

**Chair Campbell:** inquired as to whether to the work done to draft this ordinance and the conclusions and recommendations staff has made fulfills the request from City Council from their September 21, 2021 meeting.

**Mr. Dalton:** commented that he believes that there has been a thorough review of the draft ordinance and governing documents and satisfactory amount of effort to fulfill the City Council's request.

**Committee Member Roberts:** asked Mr. Dalton if he had read the letters from Cynthia D'Agosta and Kim Hendricks regarding the ordinance and whether the current draft ordinance addresses their concerns.

**Mr. Dalton:** clarified that the draft ordinance has been meticulously reviewed in an attempt to capture the concerns brought forth by those parties.

**Chair Campbell:** inquired as to whether an ordinance has an expiration date.

**Mrs. Villasenor:** clarified that an ordinance does not have an expiration, but City Council can request that it be reviewed or updated at a later period.

**Public Comments:**

**Kim Hendricks:** voiced concerns about the unclear location of the launch site in the ordinance.

**Mat Garcia:** Noted that the City has only provided 3 documents to HSS from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service regarding model aircraft activity and the environmental concerns they pose in Fairview Park. Disagrees with the classification of glider flying as a significant environmental concern.

**Cynthia D'Agosta:** suggested that the Committee not accept the ordinance and suggested the following alternative language to staff recommendation #2:

- Committee deems the model gliding activity infeasible and incompatible with environmental constraints, current enforcement capabilities, and ordinance definitions at Fairview Park. Committee does not approve the revised draft ordinance and recommends staff have no engagement in finding a flying club site at Fairview Park, and instead be focused on strengthening the Fairview Park Steering Committee's purpose and membership, Fairview Park Master Plan process, and community engagement.

**Henry Smith:** Introduced himself as a long-time member and past President of HSS, voiced how eliminating model aircraft flying at Fairview Park is not finding a solution.

**Wendy Leece:** concurred with Kim Hendricks and Cynthia D'Agosta with their recommendations and concerns. Thanked staff for working for a long time to find a solution to this issue.

**Mike Costello:** Voiced concern over a child not being to use a toy airplane at a public park. Noted that the City does not have jurisdiction of airspace, only the FAA does.

**Jeff L:** Expressed that having a flying field at Fairview Park could inspire children who go to neighboring schools to pursue engineering.

**Kevin K:** stated that many Costa Mesa residents would like to see model aircraft activity resume in Fairview Park and noted that City Council had provided direction as to how to include model airplane activity within the park.

**Debby Koken:** Agrees that the Committee not accept the revised draft ordinance.

**Committee Member Fuqua:** noted that there is another site that model aircraft flyers are currently using, though the location is unknown to her. Would like the park to be used by all in a reasonable manner.

**Chair Campbell:** recognized the recent funding given to the City for park restoration. Voiced how he is leaning towards staff recommendation #2.

**OCME Liaison Hank Castignetti:** recommends to the Committee that they choose staff recommendation #2.

**Committee Member Roberts:** voiced his support for HSS and their mission but also recognizes the sensitivity of Fairview Park and the issues that model aircraft activity poses.

**PACS Liaison Kelly Brown:** asked Mr. Dalton what would happen next if the Committee decides to choose staff recommendation #2.

**Mr. Dalton:** answered that after taking the Committee's recommendation into consideration, the City Council would then decide whether to suspend the model flying activity in the park or move forward with the revised draft ordinance.

**Committee Member McClain:** cited how the residents of Costa Mesa voted for Measure AA and how it outlines keeping it as a passive use park while restoring its natural resources.

The following modifications were made to staff recommendation #2 after Committee deliberation:

- Committee deems the model gliding activity at Fairview Park contrary to the objectives of Measure AA and the Fairview Park Master Plan, and thus infeasible and incompatible with environmental constraints at Fairview Park; despite further staff revisions to the ordinance to address the Committee's concerns, the Committee recognizes that there are ongoing challenges to the viability and compatibility of a model gliding field at Fairview Park relating to habitat protection, potential impacts to sensitive resources, enforcement capacity, and legal and regulatory issues associated with the City's permitting of the model gliding activity. The committee recommends that staff have no engagement in finding a flying club site at Fairview Park, and instead be focused on strengthening the Fairview Park Steering Committee's purpose and membership, implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan, and expanding community engagement.

**Public Comment:**

**Mat Garcia:** reiterated his concerns over the lack of evidence that model aircraft activity poses an environmental concern.

**Kim Hendricks:** agrees with the modified wording of staff recommendation #2.

**Cynthia D'Agosta:** appreciates the time spent on the modifications made to staff recommendation #2.

**Committee Member Roberts:** addressed HSS concerns by reiterating that model aircraft activity is not compatible with the sensitive plant and animal species in Fairview Park.

**Chair Campbell:** concurs with Committee Member Roberts and supports choosing staff recommendation #2.

**Committee Member Fuqua:** agrees with the modified verbiage of staff recommendation #2.

**ALTERNATE MOTION:** To approve alternative #2 of the staff recommendations with the modified verbiage seen above by Committee Member Roberts and seconded by Committee Member McClain.

**AYES:** Committee Member Fuqua, Committee Member Roberts, Committee Member McClain, and Chair Campbell.

**NAYS:** N/A

**ABSTAIN:** N/A

**ABSENT:** N/A

**MOTION CARRIED:** 4-0

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

**MOTION:** To move new business item to the next regular meeting on October 10, 2021 by Chair Campbell and seconded by Committee Member Roberts.

**AYES:** Committee Member Fuqua, Committee Member McClain, Committee Member Roberts, Chair Campbell

**NAYS:** N/A

**ABSTAIN:** N/A

**MOTION CARRIED:** 4-0

### 4. MONTHLY REPORTS

#### A. PARK RANGER REPORTS – Received and filed.

- i. June 2022
- ii. July 2022

#### Public Comments:

**Cynthia D'Agosta:** noted the improvement in communication by having these reports provided to the Committee at the request of Jason Minter. Suggested to the Committee to ask for Park Ranger's response times to be noted in reports.

#### B. ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

Mr. Dalton presented the report.

**Committee Member Roberts:** inquired as to whether there would be more Committee Members present at the next regular meeting.

**Ms. Fautua:** clarified that committee member selection is tentatively scheduled for mid-September and whether there will be new members by the next meeting is currently not known.

5. **ADJOURNMENT** by Chair Campbell at 8:18 pm.

**Next REGULAR Meeting: October 12, 2022 at 6:00pm**