

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
CITY OF COSTA MESA
MEETING OF THE FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE
MARCH 8, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Campbell at 6:01pm

ROLL CALL

= Present

Absent

Committee Members

Committee Liaisons

City Staff

- Chair Andy Campbell
- Kohl Crecelius
- Cynthia D’Agosta
- Terri Fuqua
- Edwin Glover
- Emily McClain*
- Erik Roberts
- Daniel Baume - Alternate
- Matthew Garcia - Alternate

- Councilmember Reynolds**
- Councilmember Chavez
- Councilmember Harlan
- OCME, Hank Castignetti
- PACS, Kelly Brown

- Kelly Dalton
- Jason Minter
- Laura Fautua

**McClain joined at 6:07pm*

***Reynolds joined at 6:11pm*

1. NEW BUSINESS

A. REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP FOR 3RD SATURDAY RESTORATION PROGRAM

Mr. Dalton presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Hendricks: Is in favor of any restoration at Fairview Park. Concern is that it’s done properly. Noted ICRE president has had problems fulfilling past contracts and left items at the park. Stated that she hopes this would be different.

Committee members and liaisons discussed on selection of dates, techniques for restoration, mapping, vehicles on the property, training, and community outreach.

Luma Fowler, ICRE Representative, and Paul Waggoner, Banning Ranch representative, assisted with any questions the committee had regarding the restoration program.

Chair Campbell: Summarized that there is general consensus that this program should continue and more details be made available as it moves forward.

B. REVIEW OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mr. Dalton presented.

Committee Member Fuqua: Noted the crevice in the bluff trail is getting very large.

Chair Campbell: Asked Councilmember Reynolds how the committee should go about giving council input on Capital Improvement Projects (CIP’s). Noted in the past, projects

have been presented once the design has already been completed.

Councilmember Reynolds: Committee should be giving recommendations for projects that should or shouldn't be on the CIP list to staff. Advocacy in front of council is another method to give input on priority. There is a distinct process for that in the master plan update. Consultant team will be facilitating a process for input and channel the feedback through that process.

Kelly Dalton: Agreed. Noted anything that isn't in the updated master plan would not be viable to move forward with due to the environmental documents tied to the master plan.

Chair Campbell: Noted committee goals also include trails, fencing and signage. Asked if those should also be addressed via the master plan.

Kelly Dalton: Answered that if there is significant changes then that would be captured in the master plan. If it's something that a volunteer group can address on a weekend, it wouldn't necessarily need to be in there.

Chair Campbell: Gave example that the trail erosion is caused by water so rather than only fixing the erosion, water should be prevented from entering the park. Noted this is the type of input the committee would like to give. Noted committee should be involved early on before the design is complete.

Councilmember Reynolds: Stated that any CIP's will come from the master plan update, which will include heavy involvement from the committee and public. Noted a draft will be shown to the committee before the plan goes before the council and input can be given then.

Chair Campbell: Inquired about projects that are already on the CIP.

Jason Minter: Responded that if there are projects that were not discussed that the committee feels is necessary, those can be future agenda items to discuss. When design portion of projects starts, committee should be engaged for input in the early design phase. Noted there is an influx of funding for projects. Council joint meeting with PACS next week will discuss allocation of funds from Senator Min. Noted public works will also be giving an update. Want community input on Min money, a lot of which is targeted for Fairview Park. Encouraged committee members to attend meeting as members of the public to give their input. Noted presentations on specific projects can be given as well.

Chair Campbell: Stated he wants input early on before designs are complete because they're hard to change at that point.

Committee Member D'Agosta: State that this CIP presentation was given already. Noted she expected details on the budget and timeline so that the committee can comment on the budget cycle process. Noted that they have asked for public works to come to the meeting. State CIP process starts in November and other committees have already been giving input. Expected a more comprehensive discussion.

Kelly Dalton: Noted the projects shared today are ones that are already approved. Stated that specific figures on upcoming projects the budget are still being developed. Cost is

dependent on scale of improvements.

Committee Member D'Agosta: Asked why a discussion on the scope of these projects isn't being discussed.

Jason Minter: Responded that this is not a budget meeting. Noted Min money will be used to fund CIP's.

Committee Member D'Agosta: Asked about budget allocated to vernal pool restoration.

Kelly Dalton: Responded \$300,000 was originally allocated.

Committee Member D'Agosta: Asked if there will be additional budget asked for the 23-24 for the master plan update.

Kelly Dalton: Responded that \$150,000 approved for 22-23, figure for 23-24 is still being figured out but the budget will be for construction.

Committee Member D'Agosta: Noted recirculation project will be very expensive and may take funding from restoration. Noted it is also in sensitive habitat.

Chair Campbell: Noted that with a new slate of committee members, most don't know the history of these projects and it would be helpful to go into the details of these projects so that input can be given.

Kelly Dalton: Stated that having things in the master plan is critical to be able to move forward.

Chair Campbell: Asked if the committee has to wait until the master plan process to discuss these projects and ideas or if they can discuss beforehand so that when the consultants come, they have ideas ready to go prior to design.

Jason Minter: Asked if there is no funding for the design then where are these ideas being brought forward.

Chair Campbell: Stated that the master plan will include ideas for these designs and asked if the committee should discuss these ideas prior to the official process starting.

Committee Member D'Agosta: Stated there is a difference of opinion in process. Noted the committee would like more input and an every other month meeting is not enough. Stated that subcommittees were not allowed so the committee needs an avenue to prepare for the master plan process and address committee goals.

Committee Member Roberts: Thanked Mr. Dalton for the presentation. Asked if presentation could be emailed to the committee members. Agreed with Committee Member D'Agosta's comments. Budget, cost, expenditures were not included in presentation and he would like to see that. Noted committee wants to be more involved to preserve the park and is frustrated. Noted that him and Chair Campbell will improve communication and would like input into the agenda creation for the meetings.

Committee Member Crecelius: Agreed with Committee Member D'Agosta that more information on budgeting is needed. Asked for clarification on what needs to wait for the

master plan to make decisions and what are things that can be acted on now. What are things that can be done now in advocacy for CIP even before the master plan is completed? Likes Chair Campbell's proactive approach of coming up with ideas prior to the master plan process begins knowing that some of those ideas may not come to fruition.

Jason Minter: Noted that the master plan is a lot more than just CIP's and is not intended to be CIP or budget document. Current project that is staff priority is the wetland recirculation which can be advocated for now. The project impacts health of wetlands and health of community and it cannot be put aside; has to be prioritized and is not negotiable.

Committee Member Crecelius: Understands that the wetlands is a priority for staff.

Chair Campbell: Asked if the pump station is the solution or if there is another solution. Stated that this solves the mosquito issue, but the water should go through the wetlands and then back into the banning channel as the purpose of wetlands is to clean the water. And this would also save energy. Asked if these things have been considered.

Jason Minter: Noted those things have been thought about: design intention and why it didn't come to fruition as well as the energy, water flow, etc.

Councilmember Reynolds: There is constraint on staff time. Stated it would be great if there is specific interest on one of the projects to discuss in detail. Noted this year will likely not see CIP projects added because there are already more than the city can do. Noted this is why the master plan process is a good place for suggesting future projects.
Councilmember Reynolds left the meeting at 8:03pm

Committee Member Baume: Stated without subcommittees, meetings will be long and they would like to have them to get work done.

Committee Member D'Agosta: Stated she wants to understand priority of other projects aside from recirculation pump. Noted the need to be on the same page on prioritization and funding. Asked for staff's priority for Min funding.

Jason Minter: Stated that the meeting on Tuesday is less about staff prioritization but more about council.

Committee Member D'Agosta: Clarified that a list of projects will be presented from staff about potential projects at Fairview Park for the Min money.

Jason Minter: Responded yes but noted that it will be a high level presentation, no budget included.

Committee Member Roberts: Suggested a training for new committee members, Committee Member D'Agosta and Chair Campbell to lead it, on how to be a committee member. Suggested agenda item for future: vote among committee members for new chair and vice chair.

Chair Campbell: Noted groups of 3 can get together without staff or Brown Act violation. Asked if these groups can meet to discuss topics of interest such as the previously

mentioned training and trails.

Committee Member Garcia (alt.): Noted defining subcommittees makes it easier to not violate Brown Act.

Committee Member Crecelius: Agreed with Chair Campbell.

Jason Minter: Stated advice on subcommittees was from the city attorney.

Chair Campbell: Asked if a meeting like that would be considered a subcommittee.

Jason Minter: Stated he cannot answer that question because he cannot control that. Noted that those types of meetings are open to violation of the Brown Act, especially serial meetings. Staff errs on the side of caution.

Chair Campbell: Noted this is why the committee asked to formalize this under subcommittees.

Committee Member D'Agosta: City is petitioning for new members for this committee and other committees. Not clear if April meeting is going to be new members.

Jason Minter: Responded that committee appointments will not be done in April. Those who are in the expiring seats can continue serving until new appointments are made. Noted there is an effort for all committees to operate under the same regulations and rules and timelines.

PACS Liaison Brown: For item 8 (education and signage) she noted there are historical, ecological, and restoration stories to be told. Communication should be woven into projects from the beginning and recommended a more comprehensive approach to communication.

Chair Campbell: Clarified if storm drain improvement alternative was rejected by the committee.

Kelly Dalton: Confirmed.

Chair Campbell: Asked for more details on storm drain project in future meeting.

Kelly Dalton: Encouraged him to submit feedback to the provided email so that the feedback is on the record.

Kelly Dalton and Chair Campbell discussed details of the storm drain improvement project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ralph Taboada: Thanked staff for the presentation and committee members for their comments. Mentioned 7 of these projects were approved 3 years or more ago with funding approved at the same time. Asked staff for current status of these projects and when these projects will be starting.

Kim Hendricks: Asked committee members to read Fairview Park Master Plan because it has background on these projects. Noted concern about storm drain project because it's close to the vernal marsh. Expressed confidence in engineering team, but she hopes they are consulting with biologists. Stated more suggestions on water flow in the park and suggested ongoing maintenance.

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Campbell at 8:28PM

Next REGULAR Meeting: April 12, 2023 at 6:00pm