

JUNE 14, 2023
6:00 P.M. – OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Campbell at 6:02pm

ROLL CALL

= Present = Absent

Committee Member	Liaisons and City Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Baume, alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Arlis Reynolds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kohl Crecelius	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Jeffrey Harlan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia D’Agosta	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Manuel Chavez
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terri Fuqua	<input type="checkbox"/> Hank Castignetti, Orange County Model Engineers (OCME)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matthew Garcia, alt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Brown, Parks & Community Services (PACS) Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Edwin Glover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Dalton, Fairview Park Administrator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily McClain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Roberts, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Campbell, Chair	

Alternate Matthew Garcia was moved to voting member

Committee Member McClain entered at 6:10pm

Councilmember Arlis Reynolds entered at 6:47pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Hendricks, member of the Fairview Park Alliance, is happy with the direction the City is taking with contracting MIG for the master plan update.

COMMITTEE MEMBER and LIAISON COMMENTS

Committee Member Crecelius: Expressed excitement to hear from MIG consultants and learn about the master plan process and enjoyed being at the park and doing restoration for Love Costa Mesa Day.

Chair Campbell: Does not want the committee or staff to lose sight of capital improvement projects and budget. Would like the committee become more involved early on so incoming funds be used appropriately. Noted that he sees the restoration projects as overwhelming for volunteers. Suggested clearing mustard on the bluff because it would result in a nice view that will be rewarding.

Committee Member D’Agosta: Expressed excitement for the start of the master plan process because it’s been in the works for a long time. Gave update on Banning Ranch Conservancy events and noted there will be a name change soon.

Committee Member Fuqua: Excited about everything Committee Member D’Agosta mentioned.

Kelly Brown, PACS Liaison: Excited to be here and echoed Chair Campbell’s comments on CIP.

1. APPROVAL OF APRIL 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Committee Member Roberts noted corrections needed to the minutes.

MOTION: Motion to approve the April 12, 2023 minutes with adjustments

MOVE/SECOND: Committee Member Fuqua/Committee member D'Agosta.

Ayes: Committee member D'Agosta, Committee member Fuqua, Committee member Garcia, Chair Campbell, Committee Member Crecelius, Vice Chair Roberts

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Committee Member Baume, Committee Member Glover, Committee Member McClain

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

OLD BUSINESS

1. ANNUAL REPORT AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Campbell reported updates that the report has been submitted to Mr. Minter and Mr. Dalton. Noted that the report covers about three (3) years of information.

Committee Member D'Agosta noted that there has not been precedent for the committee to do annual reports in the past.

Chair Campbell requested an agenda item for the next meeting to dissolve the annual report committee and add a Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) subcommittee to start discussing projects for the park so that the committee can have input early on.

Committee Member Crecelius thanked the ad hoc committee for their work on the report.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE PRESENTATION

Mr. Dalton stated that the scope for this project was developed over multiple years and involving various community stakeholders. Is excited to share status updates and share what is to come.

Esmeralda, (MIG) facilitate the community engagement. Noted there will be a presentation, and will also be a workshop with attendees to gather feedback.

MIG team introduced themselves.

Esmeralda, (MIG) shared the agenda for the presentation and discussions.

Jenny, (MIG) mentioned MIG is doing historical documentation review and field surveys to understand the conditions of the park. Surveys were done during wet season and more to will be done for the dry season. Stated a community workshop is tentatively planned for July and more will come after. Noted that tribal advisory committee meetings will happen in the fall. After the draft master plan is completed, it will be presented in a community workshop. Noted that the CEQA aspects of the project are also being worked on.

Summarized the site conditions including biological and community use of the park.

Introduced different visuals and diagrams that will be used for workshopping portion of the presentation.

Chair Campbell expressed concern for the watershed. Stated that these disturbances cause other issues such as flooding and damage where the trails get very muddy and degraded.

Committee Member Crecelius envisions the park as an educational opportunity for future generations about why these open spaces are important. Challenges he sees is the public does not have a clear distinction/boundaries for sensitive areas or delegates what use it is for.

Commissioner Brown, PACS Liaison, would like to see cultural significance and history of the park for the education opportunity section. Expressed that the TAC will be important to telling that story.

Committee Member McClain agreed with Commissioner Brown and the importance of history of the park. Also mentioned that if hills are removed, asked staff to find alternative locations to have a safe space where the youth can ride their bike.

Committee Member Garcia noted use of the lawn areas for picnics, dog walking, soccer, biking, and many other activities occur due to the lack of West side park spaces.

Committee Member D'Agosta relayed a need for management regarding the natural resource of the park to determine the appropriate uses for the park.

Chair Campbell noted that the park is sometimes used by bikers as a cut through to other trails such as the river trail.

Committee Member Fuqua expressed habitat creation/preservation is important as her avian photographer friend has captured rare species and seen an increase of avian activity within the last year.

Kim Hendricks would like to see a restoration of the canyon and a boardwalk to get over the vernal pools.

Committee Member D'Agosta stated restoration has been a community request since the 80's.

Committee Member Garcia noted there will be questions about how the revision of the master plan works in conjunction with measure AA.

Chair Campbell inquired about how the CIP's and Master Plan will interface and align.

Committee members discussed Measure AA and what limitations it presents to changes in the park.

Committee Member Roberts wants the park to be for passive use and a potential name change to help educate the community with the plants, and animals and the need for restoration.

Chair Campbell noted the past Master Plan had plans for a native plant nursery and hopes it is something that can be executed.

Committee Member D'Agosta agreed that a native plant nursery is needed.

Councilmember Reynolds would like to see community ownership and involvement through community work and volunteering. Noted importance of educating on both historical indigenous use but also current indigenous use of the park and the cultural importance. Stated that the park needs to be seen as park of the larger Santa Ana river watershed. Wants to see it as a resource for social connection.

Committee Member Fuqua stated she loves seeing the kids come out to play soccer, especially because the schools have fenced their fields.

Committee Member Roberts asked if there will be actual structures built for the educational aspects and the native nursery.

Committee Member D'Agosta said that is a regional question including other parks in the area. There is no museum for any of these.

Group discussed aspects of the 2008 master plan that were not built/created and whether they are still appropriate/needed.

Jim Humphrey mentioned there is a piece of land that is technically part of the golf course that falls outside of Measure AA that could be appropriate for the native plant nursery or educational center. Also noted, Measure AA does not prohibit, it would just need to be voted on by the residents.

Chair Campbell noted that water restrictions may be coming for the golf course so they may also need native plants and it could be beneficial for both parties.

Esmeralda, MIG asked about approaches or thoughts on restoration projects.

Committee Member Crecelius mentioned uses may precede restoration because the uses can disrupt those efforts. Acknowledged all the restoration efforts that have been done by the community are a great way to educate the public.

Travis (MIG) stated community stewardship is a great way to get community buy in for restoration efforts. Noted the native plant nursery is good to get volunteers and community, but it is a large undertaking.

Committee Member D'Agosta noted other native plant nurseries in the area can be referenced to get started. Private restoration efforts for large areas take precedent, and it should be noted that it will require a restructuring of staff resources because it is not possible with current staffing limitations. Expressed wetland restoration area does not function correctly, is a big money sink, but also attracts many birds. So, it's

a success with many problems from a management perspective. The dysfunction of the wetlands leads to erosion at the base of the bluffs. Stated that the bluffs and mesa need to be re-engineered. Santa Rosa Plateau should be a model for re-engineering the bluffs and mesa. The highest success restoration project in the park is vernal pools 5,6,7.

Chair Campbell wants to avoid the maintenance has been done from the wetlands. The vegetation is so dense that people cannot see the ponds and it would be good if they can. Suggested they should be seasonal wetlands.

Committee Member D'Agosta explained that the conservation easement for the wetlands limits public access, which is why the trails only go around the ponds.

Travis (MIG) noted the difference between restoration and creation of habitat. Stated that the wetlands were a habitat creation project and that's why many issues have happened. Introduced the concept of forblands, which is what the park has on the mesa, not a grassland.

Committee Member McClain observed that in the past, failures have included community volunteers accidentally removing plants that should not be removed. Noted that there is a need for additional staff or dedicated volunteers to better educate.

Travis (MIG) noted that once the fill is removed, the site will be much more open for wildlife viewing and better enforcement of park uses because large weeds will not be covering.

Chair Campbell noted the need for good, permanent fencing.

Committee Member D'Agosta mentioned that the 2008 master plan has fencing detailed and in 2018 the installation started, but it looked very bad and it disturbed the soil, which resulted in them being taken out and having it re-filled.

Committee Member Crecelius noted users currently are not educated on acceptable uses so community policing doesn't happen because people don't know.

Travis (MIG) stated that the protection of the pools need to be approached as an entire area rather than fencing each individual pool. Explained that pools may change over the years, might fill more or less depending on the year. If watershed is restored that can also change the shape and fill and that's why the entire area needs to be protected.

Committee Member D'Agosta noted the vernal pool on the east side has not been touched with restoration, but there are thousands of people who wait in line right in front of it for train rides. Suggested that an educational kiosk would be good at that location and it could be a good starting project to educate the community.

Councilmember Reynolds highlighted the importance of telling the why the restoration, why the restrictions, so the community has a better understanding and be excited about it.

Jim Humphrey mentioned the park has many entrances, so any efforts for outreach or informational post locations should be reviewed.

Committee Member D'Agosta mentioned there are eleven entrances to the park.

MIG team discussed next steps.

Committee Member D'Agosta noted Concerts in the Park in July would be opportunity to get the word out about upcoming community input meetings.

Committee took a 5-minute break, returning at 8:05pm.

STAFF REPORTS

1. PARK RANGER REPORTS

Mr. Dalton stated that there is no presentation for the ranger reports, they are to receive and file.

Chair Campbell thanked rangers for taking care of motorcycle incident.

2. ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Dalton presented the update.

Committee Member D'Agosta inquired for when Public Works will introduce projects and had concerns about the butterfly garden and the new species it may bring to the park.

Chair Campbell would like to see the committee be involved from the start of an idea.

Councilmember Reynolds suggested an internal discussion on the issue.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

Committee Member Garcia thanked the committee for putting together these reports and is excited to participate.

Committee Member Fuqua agreed.

Chair Campbell gave details on concerts in the park and suggested that committee members volunteer for a booth to engage the public on the Master Plan update.

Committee Member McClain inquired for when the community outreach meeting will take place.

Mr. Dalton responded that its intended for mid-July.

Committee Member D'Agosta asked to borrow maps, posters, etc for the booth. Volunteered to coordinate committee member presence.

Multiple Committee members shared excitement for community engagement and provided suggestions on forms of outreach.

Councilmember Reynolds thanked Mr. Dalton for putting together the RFP for the Master Plan update and Thanked the MIG team.

Commissioner Brown, PACS Liaison expressed excitement for community engagement and provided suggestions on forms of outreach.

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Campbell at 8:23pm

NEXT REGULAR FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.

DRAFT