

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
6:00 P.M. – OFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Roberts at 6:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

= Present = Absent

Committee Member	Liaisons and City Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Daniel Baume	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Arlis Reynolds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andy Campbell	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Jeffrey Harlan
<input type="checkbox"/> Edwin “Bo” Glover	<input type="checkbox"/> Councilmember Manuel Chavez
<input type="checkbox"/> Emily McClain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hank Castignetti, Orange County Model Engineers (OCME)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Brown, Parks & Community Services (PACS) Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kohl Crecelius, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Dalton, Fairview Park Administrator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erik Roberts, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alma Reyes, Deputy City Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seung Yang, City Engineer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant

PACS Commissioner Kelly Brown left at 7:16pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comment #1: Noted new vernal pools at the park and the large size of the existing pools. Stated there has been a lot of coyote activity at the park and she has been followed by some.

Public Comment #2: Proposed renaming the park to Fairview Nature Park and recommended regular presentation of capital projects in committee meetings, expressing hope for collaboration between staff and the committee on this matter.

Public Comment #3: Submitted questions to the committee via email: Is ICRE now fully in charge of the oak tree project down in the riparian area? When were they given the authority to be in charge of that area?

Public Comment #4: Reviewed minutes at the last meeting and noticed notes about a decline in RC cars, but still sees many out there. Asked if there is a reporting mechanism for the RC cars and who is responsible for enforcement.

Public Comment #5: Stated she is the OC Parks project manager for Talbert Master Plan update. Mentioned that they had a successful meeting for the Talbert Master Plan update. Thanked staff members for attending and supporting the effort.

COMMITTEE MEMBER and LIAISON COMMENTS

Vice Chair Crecelius: Stated that the park is amazing with all the vernal pools full and a lot of active wildlife. Hopes its valuable for the biologists who are reviewing the park for the master plan update. Thanked staff for hard work and meeting with him for support as a new vice chair.

Committee Member Campbell: Agreed with public commenter to change name to Fairview Nature Park. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) to be a standing agenda item. Stated that the Administrator's Update is very high level. Noted concern about losing funds if it's not used in time.

Committee Member Thomas: Requested a staff update regarding RC cars. Noted the views at Fairview Park are amazing. Stated that the new signs noting trail flooding are great. Encouraged everyone to visit the park and stay on the trails.

Chair Roberts: Spoke about an unofficial workshops at the Environmental Nature Center happening in March to learn about the species and plants that are at Fairview Park.

PACS Commissioner Brown: Concurred on CIP updates regarding Fairview Park and mentioned that PACS Commission is also asking for updates.

OCME Liaison Castignetti: Thanked the City for new gates that were installed on the East side. Noted vehicular vandalism has also been repaired that caused deep ruts in the soil and states gates have deterred any further vehicular vandalism. Gave updates on train station improvements.

1. MINUTES

A. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the December 13, 2023 minutes

MOVE/SECOND: Committee member Campbell/Vice Chair Crecelius

Ayes: Vice Chair Crecelius, Committee Member Thomas, Chair Roberts, Committee Member Campbell

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Committee member Baume, Committee member Glover, Committee member McClain

Motion Carried: 4-0

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. STATUS OF FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Fairview Park Administrator, Kelly Dalton, presented update.

Committee Member Campbell inquired if the next committee meeting is when the consultants will be coming to the committee again.

Mr. Dalton responded that the schedule is still being worked out.

Committee Member Campbell asked if it would be more efficient to have PACS and the committee meet with the consultants at the same time.

Mr. Dalton responded there is no precedent for a joint commission/committee meeting and it might present challenges with both bodies making recommendations.

Chair Roberts suggested separate meetings first, but having a joint one after.

Committee Member Campbell asked if the tribal advisory meetings will ever be public.

Mr. Dalton responded they will not, but there are conversations about having an open educational meeting about the indigenous history and importance of the park.

PACS Commissioner Brown noted that if the meeting is only an update, the order of PACS vs. Fairview Park Steering Committee (FVPSC) does not matter. If recommendations are being made then FVPSC should meet with the consultants first to make recommendations to PACS rather than the other way around.

Mr. Dalton noted older policies that list PACS as the decision-making body for the park that have not been updated since the establishment of the FVPSC.

Vice Chair Crecelius suggested that if there's new information going to PACS before FVPSC has a chance to meet, then asked if something could be done differently for the meetings.

OCME Liaison Castignetti noted tribal advisory reminded him that the audio system at the train will be updated in the next 30 days. Suggested a variety of PSA's to be recorded for train riders.

Public Comment: inquired what is the best avenue to get more details for the community workshop?

Mr. Dalton responded that the information is always posted on the City social media and website, kiosk at the park and the public can sign-up to be on the email distribution list.

Public Comment: requested that changing tables be placed in both men and women's bathroom at the OCME station.

OCME Liaison Castignetti responded that they are already planning on doing that.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

A. DONATION OF TWO TREES, MEMORIAL BENCH AND PLAQUE

Mr. Dalton noted the item was reviewed by PACS last week and explained the nature of the request.

Committee Member Campbell reviewed Measure AA and noted it supersedes municipal code. Stated that changes in the park should come to the committee before it goes to PACS.

Alma Reyes stated those comments will be relayed to the city attorney.

Committee Member Campbell stated there may be other parks that are more in need of benches and trees if the person does not have a direct connection to Fairview Park. Noted the type of tree that is installed is important due to sensitive habitats. Stated that adding trees to the park should require an archeological survey due to the indigenous history and importance of the park. Asked if adding a tree could be seen as an expanded use per Measure AA. Asked if there is a limit on how many memorial plaques will be allowed at the park, suggested a limit in the updated Master Plan. Noted he is not opposed to installing the trees at Fairview Park, but he would like it done properly with an

archeological monitor.

Chair Roberts asked details about what is being requested.

Mr. Dalton responded they are requesting two (2) trees, a plaque, and a bench. Asked where the plaque would be.

Mr. Yang responded that most plaques are placed in the ground.

Chair Roberts confirmed that tree species has not been confirmed by city arborist.

Vice Chair Crecelius noted that the park has a manicured side and a nature side that are managed differently. Asked for clarity if the committee has jurisdiction over the entire park or only certain areas.

Mr. Dalton responded that the manicured landscaped areas are managed by public works maintenance. Brightview takes care of the bathrooms, landscaping, parking lot, etc. The habitat, trails, remaining part of the park, is managed by the parks department. Noted this is not a formal policy but historically is how it's been managed.

Vice Chair Crecelius stated this is less about the request itself but about how future and all request are made and what role the committee plays. Suggested that the committee get ahead of this and potential master plan updates by establishing procedure and jurisdiction. Suggested tree palettes.

Mr. Dalton noted the committee can speak on items on the manicured lawn area, but decisions will be deferred to city arborists and maintenance. The rest of the park is where the expertise of the committee and city staff come in.

Committee Member Thomas stated that the manicured area and habitats are connected and impact each other. Noted she is not opposed to a bench in the suggested spot. Recommends not to install any trees.

Committee Member Campbell noted it cannot be stated that the manicured area of the park has been cleared of archeological significance. Also mentioned Measure AA clearly identifies what is included in the definition of the park and the manicured section is included in that.

Chair Roberts appreciated this item being brought to the committee. Noted changes in procedure on FVPSC will come later in the year. Stated the plaque placement is not chosen yet and tree species are not chosen yet, so the request is brought to the committee prematurely. Noted these types of changes should not be made prior to master plan update. Thanked the family for the donation request.

Public Comment: noted a bench would be useful, but agrees that no trees should be installed.

Public Comment: agreed and appreciated the caution of the committee.

Public Comment (OC Parks): planting at Talbert is only from seeds that are locally

gathered, not even using nurseries. Agreed on not installing trees for now.

Public Comment: noted if a tree is installed the maintenance of the tree should be considered. Noted oak trees were planted years ago and have been maintained since then.

Chair Roberts summarized that the committee is in favor of the bench, but not the two (2) trees due to the timing with the master plan update.

Committee discussed the different options for the plaque installation and placement.

MOTION: Recommend the Parks and Community Services Commission approve installation of a bench with a plaque on it with no concrete pads at Fairview Park and defer the two (2) trees and in ground monument to another park(s) in the city due to the environmental and archeological concerns.

MOVE/SECOND: Committee member Campbell/Committee Member Thomas

Ayes: Vice Chair Crecelius, Committee Member Thomas, Chair Roberts, Committee Member Campbell

Nays: None

Abstains: None

Absent: Committee member Baume, Committee member Glover, Committee member McClain

Motion Carried: 4–0

4. STAFF REPORTS

A. PARK RANGER REPORT

i. December 2023 & January 2024

Chair Roberts Requested more information. Resolutions to incidents, what the citations were for, etc. Noted January has less data and information than December. Noted 18 calls for service in FVP with only 19 patrol checks. Requested more patrolling, especially because there are more calls for service for this park.

Alma Reyes responded that monthly meetings have been reinstated with the park rangers and she will share these comments with their staff.

Committee Member Campbell asked about what kind of violations the report is discussing and if they are specific to model gliders or other violations. Noted he gets a lot of calls about planes landing in the vernal pools or planes being retrieved. Asked who checks permits for flyers.

Mr. Dalton responded there has been no reported non-permitted flyers by park ambassadors.

OCME Liaison Castignetti asked for information to be included in the report about location of a crime.

Alma Reyes responded that if it's an open investigation information is limited.

Mr. Dalton noted any violation should be reported directly to the police department as

they are the enforcement body and have around the clock staff.

Committee Member Campbell stated that maintenance gates are open all the time and wooden posts are far enough apart for a car to get through. Suggested this is why a lot of vehicular vandalism occurs. Suggested better security at the park.

Chair Roberts asked when the stabbing took place and what the resolution was.

Alma Reyes Responded that if it's an open investigation there is limited information, but she will ask the Park Rangers.

Committee Member Campbell noted repeated violations of motorcycle users. Asked if that damage should be reported to city staff instead of the rangers.

Mr. Dalton responded the park is very accessible so controlling these activities is difficult. Noted there are potential design solutions that are being considered in the master plan update.

Alma Reyes noted the Costa Mesa 311 app can be used to report as well.

Committee Member Campbell asked if there are statistics kept by the app.

Alma Reyes responded that she would have to ask the communication team.

OCME Liaison Castignetti asked if e-bikes are considered motor vehicles and who should be contacted to report.

Alma Reyes responded that there is an ordinance being worked on. Suggested calling the Police Department when e-bikes are seen in the park.

Public Comment: agrees with request for more detail in the reports. Asked if he should call the police if he sees RC cars.

Committee responded that there is a non-emergency number he can call for those incidents.

Public Comment: stated he's been in the park about 2 times a week weeding in the oak tree project. Noted he has never seen police presence at the park except for one incident. Said he sees e-bikes running down the concrete path at 35 miles per hour.

Public Comment (OC Parks): noted e-bikes were a big topic of conversation at the Talbert Master Plan update meeting and are an issue there as well.

Report received and filed.

B. ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Dalton presented update.

Chair Roberts suggested watermarks on educational material (winter poster) to help all birds in flight.

Committee Member Campbell noticed a clearing of weeds and wanted to thank staff. Also noted there are large puddles around the boardwalk near the large vernal pool. Asked if there is opportunity throughout the park to assess where trails could be moved without having to bring in heavy equipment.

Mr. Dalton noted existing fill material needs to be assessed and could be removed in the future, but other areas could be considered for trails.

Committee Member Campbell stated that signage falls under purview of the committee. Asked how the signage will be handled and how to incorporate that into the master plan.

Mr. Dalton responded that the committee will have an opportunity to give feedback on style and type of signs. Noted vernal pool signage is time sensitive so it had to be completed before the master plan update.

Public Comment: relayed his experience with the sage scrub vandersloot restoration project and long-term maintenance/costs.

5. ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

Committee Member Campbell reiterated changing the name to Fairview Nature Park. Noted he would like to see more programming in Fairview Park such as guided nature tours, birding tours, Native American tours, or other topics.

OCME Liaison Castignetti noted OCME has a spot in the Spotlight that usually includes a picture with their section. Asked if there is someone they can submit pictures to.

Alma Reyes responded they can be submitted to Laura Fautua.

Vice Chair Crecelius Stated that he loves seeing all the activity at the park and the projects happening.

Committee Member Thomas thanked Mr. Dalton for his report.

Chair Roberts stated things are improving at the park. Suggested putting capital improvement projects as a standing agenda item. Suggested agenda item for upcoming meetings: creating another liaison position for a non-costa mesa resident who frequents the park.

6. ADJOURNMENT by Chair at 8:05 pm

NEXT REGULAR FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.