

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

March 27, 2013

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, 2013, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

1. Call to Order: Kim Pederson

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Kim Pederson

3. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Dean Abernathy
Commissioner Byron de Arakal
Commissioner Robert Graham
Commissioner Donald Harper
Commissioner Kim Pederson

Officials Present: Mr. Ernesto Munoz, Public Services Director
Mr. Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Mr. Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Mr. Robert E. Knapp, Recreation Manager
Ms. Lisa McPherson, Recreation Supervisor
Mr. Robert Staples, Grant Coordinator

4. Administration of Oath of Office for newly appointed Parks and Recreation Commissioners

5. Parks and Recreation Commission Reorganization

Nomination made by Commissioner Robert Graham in favor of Byron de Arakal as Chairman; seconded by Kim Pederson; carried five to zero. Nomination made by Commissioner Dean Abernathy in favor of Kim Pederson as Vice Chairman; seconded by Robert Graham, carried five to zero.

6. Approval of the minutes of September 26, 2012, meeting

MOTION made by Vice Chairman Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Dean Abernathy and carried five to zero, to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2012, Parks and Recreation Commission.

7. Oral Communications

1. Dixon Sheldon
Diamond Bar

Mr. Sheldon, on behalf of OC Model Engineers, invited the Commission to Fairview Park on April 20 to ride the trains and attend the picnic.

2. Mayor Jim Righeimer
Costa Mesa

Mayor Righeimer extended congratulations to the new and returning commissioners and stated council was looking forward to working with them.

Vice Chairman Pederson expressed gratitude to the council for their support and invited the public to contact the Commission with their concerns.

3. John Anderson
Corona Del Mar

Mr. Anderson represents the Harbor Soaring Society and spoke of the STEM/STEAM program for youth.

Chairman de Arakal acknowledged receipt of a draft outline for a plan with Recreation and indicated the Commission would review it.

8. Consent Calendar

8a. Contract Instructional Youth and Adult Class Fees

The report was presented by Ms. McPherson.

Public comment was requested by Chairman de Arakal. No public comments were received.

MOTION made by Vice Chairman Kim Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Robert Graham; carried five to zero, to approve fee increases to six (6) existing contract adult instructional classes.

9 Public Hearing

No items

10. Old Business

No items

11a. Tree Removal Request – 284 Bucknell Road

The report was presented by Mr. Hartley.

The applicant had nothing to add to the report.

Public comment was requested by Chairman de Arakal. There were no public comments received.

Discussion between Vice Chairman Pederson and Mr. Hartley ensued on the condition of the tree.

Commissioner Graham spoke of the benefit of the tree to the neighborhood.

Commissioner Harper questioned if there are many complaints about the tree species.

MOTION made by Commissioner Dean Abernathy, seconded by Commissioner Robert Graham, and carried five to zero, to deny removal of one (1) city-owned parkway tree in the public right-of-way at 284 Bucknell Road.

11b. Renewal of User Agreement with Harbor Soaring Society

The report was presented by Mr. Staples.

Commissioner Abernathy inquired as to improvement projects completed by HSS (Harbor Soaring Society). He further inquired as to any specific improvement plans for the next five (5) years.

Commissioner Pederson questioned if HSS provides a yearly project report.

Public comment was requested by Chairman de Arakal.

1. Mr. Henry Smith
Tustin

Mr. Smith stated to the Commission that via volunteer efforts, they perform work at no cost to the City and also raise funds via the permit system.

Commissioner Harper inquired as to the membership of HSS and what the membership fees are. Mr. Smith indicated the membership base is approximately 80 to 90 and the fees are \$20 a year.

Commissioner Pederson thanked HSS for their presence at Fairview Park.

Chairman de Arakal queried Mr. Smith about their promotion of Harbor Soaring Society. Mr. Smith indicated they do that via their website, brochures, etc.

Commissioner Graham recommended establishing a mentor program with Estancia High School.

Commissioner Pederson encouraged Harbor Soaring Society to get their organization involved in Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee.

Chairman de Arakal spoke of Harbor Soaring Society as a fixture in the community. The audience was informed that the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee will be reviewing the reviewing the Fairview Park Master Plan to ensure the needs of the citizens is being filled.

Commissioner Graham suggested the Commission provide the Harbor Soaring Society with a vote of confidence by voting for a five (5) year term.

Mr. Munoz indicated applications for the Fairview Park Citizens Advisory Committee need to be received by April 28, 2013. He further stated that a commissioner and a staff member will also be part of the committee.

Vice Chairman Pederson encouraged Harbor Soaring Society members to apply for this important committee.

MOTION made by Vice Chairman Kim Pederson, seconded by Commissioner Dean Abernathy, and carried five to zero, for the renewal of the User Agreement with the Harbor Soaring Society with a one-year term for the use of a portion of Fairview Park.

11c. First Amendment to the Letter of Understanding with the Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation

The report was presented by Robert Knapp.

Public Comment was requested by Chairman de Arakal.

1. Kyle Montooth, *CFO and Treasurer of the Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation*
Costa Mesa

Mr. Montooth presented three (3) specific points of concern: The pay for use fee; the request that the President and Vice President of the foundation are Costa Mesa residents; and closing the Bark Park without notice.

Discussion between Vice Chairman Pederson and Mr. Montooth ensued on what assistance the foundation has provided to the Bark Park in the past five (5) years.

Commissioner Abernathy inquired about the foundations donation history.

Chairman de Arakal asked Mr. Montooth how donations are used.

Vice Chairman Pederson requested a yearly financial report. Mr. Montooth indicated that they have a monthly report and it will be displayed on their upcoming website.

2. Shirley McDaniels
Costa Mesa

Ms. McDaniels expressed concern about the current soil condition at the Bark Park and the issue of displaying banners on the fence.

3. Patricia Bell
Irvine

Ms. Bell indicated she has been on the board for more than 19 years and she addressed the pay for use portion and the displaying of banners.

Chairman de Arakal asked the commissioners if they had any questions and none were asked.

4. Linda Kwoun

Costa Mesa

Ms. Kwoun questioned the proposed fee for displaying banners and how the funds would be used. On behalf of the foundation, she requested assistance from the city in obtaining sponsors.

5. Patricia Allen
Huntington Beach

Ms. Allen informed the Commission that the foundation currently has twelve (12) volunteers and one (1) major fundraiser each year.

6. Al Melone
Costa Mesa

Mr. Melone, a former foundation member and prior foundation director, questioned the purpose of the Letter of Understanding, and stated pay for use is the future for needed funding.

Chairman de Arakal called for questions from commissioners.

Vice Chairman Pederson thanked the group for coming to speak and sharing their concerns. The conversations have been a good start to a long-range plan.

Commissioner Harper indicated setting common goals with the foundation will accomplish much. Mr. Knapp was thanked for his report.

Commissioner Graham indicated direction needs to be obtained from Council and staff as far as goals.

Commissioner Abernathy thanked all meeting attendees and extended support.

Chairman de Arakal queried the genesis of the Letter of Understanding and suggested a maintenance cost analyst. He requested a staff report in sixty (60) days on re-turfing, maintenance and utility costs. Dialog with the foundation should commence with a commissioner and a staff member to define the relationship with the foundation.

Commissioner Abernathy inquired if there was a document that defines the park.

Mr. Hartley indicated there is a conceptual plan.

Mr. Munoz stated there is the TeWinkle Park Master Plan. The Letter of Understanding defines the foundations responsibilities and the city's responsibilities, and liability is not addressed.

MOTION made by Chairman Byron de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chairman Kim Pederson; motion carried five to zero with the following directives:

- 1. Chairman de Arakal and Vice Chairman Pederson will meet with the CMBPF and a city staff member to define the relationship with the organization going forward.**
- 2. Direct staff to develop a report that assesses the condition of the bark park currently with the conceptual plan, and provide cost estimates regarding maintenance and re-turfing. Direction was given to provide the report no later than the May 2013 meeting.**

12. Manager's Report

Mr. Hartley provided a PowerPoint presentation on the following:

- City Hall – Turf Renovation
- Costa Mesa Senior Center – New Signage, Floor Project
- Neighborhood and Downtown Recreation Centers – New Landscaping
- Downtown Recreation Center – Plaster Repair in Pool and Maintenance, New Bicycle Racks
- Wakeham Park – Gate Installation, Posting of Municipal Code Signs, Parking Lot Repaving, Renovated Basketball Hoops, Replaced Trashcans
- Smallwood Park – New Park Rules and No Smoking Signs, Replaced Backstop and Fencing at the Softball Park, Restroom (Painting and Fixtures) and Arbor Renovation
- TeWinkle Park Angels Playground - Arbor Repainted
- Estancia Adobe – Removal of Hazardous Pepper Trees; Hydro-Seeded Turf
- Gisler Park – Replaced Concrete
- Victoria Parkway – Turf Installation Project

- Fairview Park – Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony; Wetlands and Riparian Habitat Project Phase II; Fairview Channel Bike Trail; Connector Trail; Area F Storm Drain Improvements; Placentia Avenue Medians; Placentia Ave./Fairview Channel Bicycle Trail Signal; Visual of the Wetlands and Riparian Progress; Overview of Intended Projects
- Brentwood Park – Approved Master Plan; Visual of Park Progress
- Beautification of Harbor Blvd, from Baker to Gisler
- Smallwood Park – Remodel of Existing Restroom; Replaced Concrete
- FDC Soccer Fields – Replaced Parking Lot (Joint Project)

13. Commissioner's Comments

Commissioner Graham thanked staff and was grateful to be back on the Commission.

Commissioner Abernathy recommended in June perhaps Park Tours could be revisited. Encouraged supporting the Costa Mesa Bark Park Foundation and thanked staff for their effort.

Commissioner Harper thanked Council for the confidence in selecting him to the Commission.

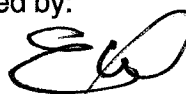
Vice Chairman Pederson would like the following topics addressed in future meetings: the golf course, JUA, user groups and ways to improve the fields, reinstating the Chairman's and Beautification awards, and the appointment of Commissioners to the committees. The audience was reminded the city's 60th Anniversary is approaching and the public is encouraged to attend. Vice Chairman Pederson offered assistance to staff.

Chairman de Arakal thanked the Council for his appointment to the Commission. Fairview Park has been a phenomenal project and thanks were extended to Mr. Staples, Mr. Mejia and Mr. Munoz. He recommended future discussion with the Commission about Park Tours and engaging with the community on what the parks should include. A Joint Study Session with City Council is in the planning stages and Chairman de Arakal would like to see the Open Space and Master Plan on the agenda.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **9:13 p.m.** to the next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, April 25, 2013, at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 1A of City Hall, followed by the Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Submitted by:



ERNESTO MUÑOZ
Public Services Director