

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

FEBRUARY 26, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa, California met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, 2015 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

1. Call to Order: Chairman de Arakal

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Commissioner Graham

3. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairman Byron de Arakal
Vice Chair Kim Pederson
Commissioner Robert Graham
Commissioner Brett Eckles

Commissioners Absent: Commissioner Donald Harper

Staff Present: Tammy Letourneau, Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Bruce A. Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager Mr.
Travis Karlen, Recreation Manager
Bartazar Mejia, Parks Project Manager
Justin Martin, Recreation Supervisor
Kristina Roche, PRC Secretary

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

5. Parks and Recreation Commission Reorganization

Nomination made by Commissioner Brett Eckles in favor of Kim Pederson as Chairman; seconded by Byron de Arakal; No public comment. Motion carried four to zero.

Nomination made by Byron de Arakal in favor of Brett Eckles as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Chair Kim Pederson. No public comment. Motion carried four to zero.

**6. Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2015 Special Meeting of the PRC
MOTION made by Commissioner Graham to approve November minutes, seconded by Commissioner de Arakal; carried 3 to 0, to approve the minutes of the November 26 meeting. Vice-Chairman Eckles abstained (not present at the Nov. 26 meeting), and Commissioner Harper was absent.**

7. Public Comments

1. Rocky Evans . Costa Mesa

Mr. Evans spoke about extending the hours by an hour or two in the morning and in the evening at Volcolm Skate Park.

Chair Pederson asked Bruce Hartley when the six month time frame is up to come back and look at all of the skate park issues. Hartley explained that it was before Travis Karlen became the Recreation Manager and it may have fallen through the cracks.

Commission de Arakal explained that the Commissioners need a report from the Police Department and Parks and Community Services on any and all issues regarding the skate park.

Chair Pederson asked staff to have the reports ready for the next meeting and to ensure that Rocky Evans is informed.

2. Mark Arblaster . Costa Mesa President and one of the Founding Dads of Newport Mesa Soccer Club (NMSC)

Had two topics to discuss regarding the Field Use and Allocation Policy:

1. Rent that is paid to use the fields by the group

Mr. Arblaster explained that the club pays an hourly rate to use the fields because they are a Group 3 user due to group being a club and the youth having to try out in order to participate. Mr. Arblaster explains that NMSC has spent \$80,000 on field improvements at various schools. In 2014, NMSC spent \$41,000 in rent to the City to use the fields and 9,000 to Hertz Rental Equipment for portable lights because there was not enough lights at the fields. Arblaster asks Commission to consider giving some sort of credit to groups who put money into the City as an incentive to other groups to put money into the City fields and as a reward for the groups whom already do it.

2. Fields rented by outside groups

Mr. Arblaster explained that last August two outside soccer clubs rented fields in Costa Mesa for their tournaments which are fundraisers. Mr. Arblaster said that if the City had an abundance of fields he would not have a problem with the clubs renting space but the City does not have an abundance of fields and he does not feel that is appropriate that these groups can come in, make money and leave because they are not part of the community. Mr. Arblaster asks Commission to consider making these groups go through another level of consideration or have the City CEO sign off on it because it is not fair to the neighbors or the local groups whom put time and money into the fields. Mr. Arblaster would like this to be considered in the next Field Use and Allocation Policy.

Chair Pederson explains that it is important to look at these topics and to look at the Field Use Allocation Policy and see where and why the groups filter according to the FUAP. Chair Pederson says that these topics are one of his priorities. Chair Pederson said the staff have already been tasked with these topics and it will be moved forward.

Chair Pederson thanked Mr. Arblaster for the money that he has put into the City.

Introduction of New Staff

Travis Karlen introduced new staff to the Commission.

Kristina Roche: Interim Admin Secretary

Justin Martin: Recreation Supervisor

8. Consent Calendar

8a. Instruction Class Proposals

Vice Chair Eckles asked about the fee structure to the instructors and to the City and how it factors together.

Travis explains the Commission has adopted a chart that staff follows when deciding how much a class is going to be when working with private entities. Parks and Community Services have different classes that are either in-house classes or contracted classes. These classes in the proposals are contract classes, therefore the formula in the chart is followed.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve Instructional Class Proposals, seconded by Chair Pederson. MOTION carried 4 – 0

9. Public Hearing

No items.

10 **Old Business**

10a **Tree Removal Request – 3126 Cork Lane**

Bruce Hartley apologizes to applicant for not being able to take action due to improper notice from staff and thanks the applicant for persistence.

Bruce Hartley presented the report.

Chair Pederson thanks Mr. Bruce Hartley for the report.

Commissioner Graham asks Bruce Hartley if it is true if staff removes the tree in the parkway then staff is not obligated to remove the roots that are in the applicants property. Bruce Hartley explains that it is true because it is on the applicants property. Bruce Hartley explains the roots are now the applicants roots and the applicant can take the roots out now if the applicant wanted to.

Commissioner de Arakal asked Bruce Hartley when the street gets improved, would the practice be to root prune the tree on the street side or take the tree out. Bruce Hartley explained that engineering would do a two-inch grind mill where the pavement is grinded down and repaved and in this situation engineering would have to go in, dig out all of the roots and rebase it in and repave it. Commissioner de Arakal asked in Mr. Hartley's experience how long it is until a tree starts creating damages again. Mr. Bruce Hartley explains that sometimes it never creates damage but sometimes in five to seven years you see the roots regrow and start moving things around again.

Chair Pederson asked applicant to come forward.

Applicant is present. Applicant is Shaun Stellman

Mr. Shaun Stellman reads statement explaining why he wants trees removed: Safety concerns and plumbing problems.

Chair Pederson apologizes to Shaun Stellman for the length of time this request has taken and asks Commissioners if anyone has questions for Shaun Stellman

Commissioner de Arakal asks if there is damage from the S1 tree on the other side of their fence where public cannot see. Shaun Stellman says there is a planter box there so he is unable to see.

Commissioner Harper asks Shaun Stellman if the plumbers that he mentioned were plumbers or if they were people who specialized in replacing the lateral pipes. Shaun Stellman said they were plumbers.

Chair Pederson told Shaun Stellman the Sanitation District offers help with the relining of pipes. Shaun Stellman explained that he already knew this and is already approved for the help.

Chair Pederson asked for public comment.

No public comment.

Commissioner de Arakal asks Bruce Hartley if private property damage typically falls under health and safety or if it falls under Category II Discretionary Removal. Bruce Hartley explains the two ways of dealing with private property damage.

Commissioner de Arakal explains why he thinks S2 needs to be removed on Category I.

Chair Pederson agrees with Commissioner de Arakal and does not think the S2 needs to come out because there is no proof of damage.

Commissioner Graham asks which tree is causing the side walk to rise. Mr. Bruce Hartley explains that S2 sidewalk is showing lift but he does not see new damage with S1.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner de Arakal to approve request of tree S2 as a discretionary I removal at City expense and to deny the removal of S1, Chair Pederson seconds. Motion carries 4-0

Commissioner de Arakal asked Bruce Hartley about choosing a tree replacement. Mr. Bruce Hartley explains the process of choosing a replacement tree.

11 **New Business**

11a **Tree Removal Request – 216 Flower Street**

Bruce Hartley presented the report.

Commissioner Graham asks Bruce Hartley if a branch did fall from the tree. Bruce Hartley explains that a limb did fall from into the street.

Commissioner Eckles asks Bruce Hartley about the oozing from the tree and asks if that is a sign that the tree is healthy. Bruce Hartley explains that these types of trees have a lot of sap; therefore when it is pruned or wounded a lot of sap comes out from either the wound or the bark. The sap leaking does subside once the tree adapts to the pruning and that it is a sign of a healthy tree.

Chairman Pederson explains applicant sent a letter explaining her absence and asks for public comment.

Adam Pop speaks on behalf of applicant. Adam Pop lives at residence and Dorothy Bayliss is his landlord. Adam Pop explains his and Dorothy Bayliss' request for tree removal for safety concerns, concrete damage and the failure of the tree.

Chairman Pederson thanks Adam Pop and closes public comment.

Commissioner de Arakal asks Bruce Hartley when the last time the tree was pruned. Bruce Hartley explains the pruning of the tree happened about a year ago.

Chair Pederson asks if the damage on the drive way is on private property or city property. Bruce Hartley does not know exactly where the line is drawn for private property versus city property; he would need to measure it.

Chair Pederson explains that he does not believe there is going to be any root damage when the concrete is fixed.

Commissioner Graham presents pictures of the tree and the street and explains why the Commission fights so hard to keep the trees in the City.

Vice Chair Eckles asks Bruce Hartley if they repair the driveway and ask the City to look at the roots, what would that process be like if there was root damage. Bruce Hartley explains that if there is visible root damage they would evaluate it at that point and his guess would be that they would do root pruning and root barriers on the western side of the tree to protect the driveway improvement.

MOTION: Motion made by Commissioner Graham to deny tree removal request, seconded by Vice Chair Eckles. Motion carries 4 – 0 vote.

Chair Pederson calls for a five minute break.

11b Tree Removal Request – 3050 Madison

Bruce Hartley presents the report.

Vice Chair Eckles asks Bruce Hartley about the unknowing of what tree is causing the sewer damage. Bruce Hartley explains that it is unknown what tree is causing the problem because there is no sewer video. Also explains the request for tree removal is not for sewer damage it is for health problems.

Suzann Cummins speaks about why she wants the tree removed; explains two issues: foundation of home, explains that plumbers came and removed the toilet and you could see branches underneath the toilet. Also explains health problems that is made worse because of the tree. Third issue is not being able to spend time outside with Autistic grandson because of the tree.

Commissioner de Arakal asks Suzann Cummins if a doctor has told her that her health problems are caused from the tree. Suzann Cummins said yes, she has an allergy to the pine tree. Commissioner de Arakal asks if there is a letter that explains the allergy. Suzann Cummins said yes, but does not have the letters with her. Commissioner de Arakal explains that if there was documented proof from a doctor about the allergy, he would take the tree out. Commissioner de Arakal goes on to explain that there are other 14 other pine trees on the street and that removing the tree in front of her house might not help the issue. Suzann Cummins says it would help. Commissioner de Arakal asks if there is anything else going on the house that could be causing the health problems. Suzann Cummins says no. Commissioner de Arakal asks if the house has been checked for mold. Suzann Cummins says yes, in 2009.

Chair Pederson asks if there are any further questions for applicant. No more questions. Chair Pederson closes questions and opens public comment.

Toby Rash speaks. Neighbor of Suzann Cummins.

Toby Rash explains that he has seen the allergies and wants the tree to be removed.

Chair Pederson closes public comment.

Chair Pederson asks commissioners for further questions.

Commissioner Graham shows pictures of the street and the tree.

Commissioner Graham explains shows a picture that shows the two replacement trees for the trees that were already taken out. Shows another picture of the tree that she wants to be removed now; explains that when you drive into the street, you see the pines and explains why he fights so hard for the trees. Shows another picture of a street with no trees and says the trees make houses more valuable. Explains that he wants to a letter from a physician with documented proof of the health problems caused by the tree because he would hate to lose the tree.

Vice Chair Eckles agrees with Commissioner de Arakal about having a letter from a doctor he would want to take the tree out. Also explains that there are a lot of pine trees and removing the one in front of her house may not help the health concerns. Agrees with Commissioner Graham that the trees add certain value to the street. Research done by the City staff, Vice Chair Eckles does not see justification that the tree is causing plumbing issues.

Suzann Cummins speaks again about the street looking better if the tree was removed because there are houses that do not have trees; explains that the tree is dangerous to the house.

Chair Pederson asks Bruce Hartley when the last time the tree was had been pruned. Bruce Hartley says the tree was fully pruned September 2014.

Chair Pederson explains that this is a tough situation and that he agrees what has been stated earlier; the pollen from the trees would not change due to the amount of trees on the street. Agrees that if there were more evidence from a doctor about the allergy he would feel more inclined to remove the tree. Asks Bruce Hartley if it is possible to trim the tree more. Bruce Hartley explains that it was trimmed hard and if they were to trim it more, more pines would come out.

Chair Pederson asks commissioners for anymore comments.

Commissioner Graham motions pending a letter from a doctor he would move to deny the tree removal request.

Commissioner de Arakal seconds for discussion; asks the maker of the motion to remove pending doctor letter due to the amount of trees on the street and to add pending video evidence of the sewer lateral proving the sewer lateral is being damaged due to the roots of the tree, then commission gives staff the permission to remove the tree based on the video evidence. Chair de Arakal seconds motion. MOTION carries 4-0 vote.

11c Portable Turf

Travis Karlen presents report.

Chair Pederson thanks Travis Karlen.

Chair Pederson says the cost is too high and does not see it going into the budget soon. Chair Pederson says it comes back to the need to develop fields.

Vice Chair Eckles explains that it is needed to find alternatives for fields and portable turf was a great idea but it is not fiscally possible and without knowing where the portable turf could go, it is not good but does not want to dump it either. Explains that there is a lack of grass as well as lights.

Commissioner Graham explains the health hazards of the ground up rubber, especially with soccer and the goalies falling on the rubber. References an article about the turf and that it is something that staff and commissioners need to look into the health hazards and be concerned with when talking and thinking about turf fields.

Commissioner de Arakal commends Chair for encouraging new fields and thinking creatively about having more surface area to play on. Explains how shocked he is of how expensive it is and it would cost to put the portable turf somewhere and then light it would be more expensive. Explains that there is going to be a lot of different locations where there will be space to test the concept. Commissioner de Arakal says there may be potential down the line but at this point Commissioner de Arakal recommends that commission receives and files the report.

Chair Pederson agrees.

12. Parks Project Report

Bartazar Mejia presents report

Chair Pederson thanks Bartazar Mejia for the report.

Commissioner de Arakal asks if there could be a recreation master plan update if there could be a master calendar of the process so they can monitor how it is going and what kind of outreach is going to be done. Bartazar Mejia agrees.

Commisisoner de Arakal asks what the status is for the master plan for all Fairview Park projects. Bartazar Mejia explains that the master calendar is still in the environmental phase.

Chair Pederson compliments Bartazar Mejia and staff on the hard work that has been put in the Fairview Park projects.

13. Recreation Managers Report

Travis Karlen presents report.

Chair Pederson asks Travis Karlen if he can provide dates of upcoming events via email.

14. Maintenance Services Managers Report

No report given.

15. Commissioner Comments

All commissioners make final comments.

16. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pederson. The next regular scheduled agenda review on Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 3A of City Hall, followed by the Commission meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.