

**CITY OF COSTA MESA
FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 10, 2018
MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Anna Vrska called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Anna Vrska, Vice-Chair Andy Campbell, Cindy Black, Larry Courter, Kim Hendricks, Alex Reich; **Absent:** Steve Smith

Alternate Members Present: Cynthia McDonald; **Absent:** Bill McCarty

Parks and Recreation Commission Liaisons Present: Vice Chair Liz McNabb; **Absent:** Commissioner Arlis Reynolds

Council Liaison Present: Mayor Sandra Genis

2. APPROVAL OF December 13, 2017 Special meeting minutes – Unanimously approved.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS on items not on the agenda.

-Speaker # 1 representing Orange Coast River Park speaks about the opportunity for connecting trails of FVP to regional parks and trails, the great opportunity to connect agencies, and thanks the Committee for their work.

-Speaker # 2 a member of Fairview Park Alliance, an organization that sponsored Measure AA, states that the first step in FVP planning should be to consider finding a restoration specialist to a make restoration plan addressing the overall picture.

-Speaker # 3 Speaks about the Citywide Bikeways Map and the Tanager trail at FV Park. The speaker asks that the Steering Committee (FVP SC) keep an open mind about the trail, as he sees it as a perfect off road, safe trail.

-Speaker 4. Treasurer of the Fairview Park Alliance and the Fairview Park Preservation Alliance, is grateful that the FVP SC has been formed.

4. RECOMMENDATION TO HOLD FEBRUARY SPECIAL MEETING AND CALENDAR REGULAR MEETINGS FOR MARCH-AUGUST 2018

Chair Anna Vrska discusses, given the length of agendas and items to cover, that the FVP SC hold monthly meetings from March to August 2018. Mr. Alex Reich motions for approval, motion seconded by Ms. Kim Hendricks; motion unanimously approved.

5. OLD BUSINESS

a. Placentia Ave Connector Trails Update

Vice Chair Andy Campbell, a subcommittee member, stated that the subcommittee was still in process of reviewing materials provided by City Staff, and requested that the update be moved to the next meeting.

b. Vernal Pool Fencing Project Update

Vice Chair Andy Campbell informs the FVP SC that installation of the vernal pool fencing project, which was supposed to be paused over the holiday break, had erroneously continued, and appeared more permanent rather than temporary as was discussed. Mr. Campbell concludes that there was a breakdown in communication which permitted the work to continue.

Mr. Raja Sethuraman, City Staff member, apologized for the continuation of work and miscommunications regarding temporary vs. permanent fencing. He explained that the work was done erroneously, and proposed to remove the posts and redo the work to the standards the committee was originally expecting. Mr. Sethuraman assures the FVP SC members that City staff are committed to doing what is right for Fairview Park.

Chair Anna Vrska suggests that City Policy 500-11 needs revision. Chair Vrska discusses that the Policy should potentially be an agenda item for the next FVP SC meeting so that the Committee could make recommendations for revision to the City Council. She states that revisions are needed because the Policy does not recognize the Committee, Measure AA, nor the new management structure for the FVP Administrator.

Members of the committee express several specific concerns about the fencing process as it moves forward including: that the Parks & Community Services Dept. oversee projects and the Committee's needs, and that Public Services is involved with project implementation; questioning of the strength and stability of temporary posts currently used in the park now, asking for a larger temporary post; request a desire to see specific plans that delineate where each post will be placed; and questions the style of fencing used on public right-of-way vs. the parks interior.

Ms. Cynthia D'Agosta, City staff member, presents a list of potential next steps for fencing removal / re-installation for the Committee to agree upon. Each area of the ponds, and next steps for fencing, were discussed using a show of hands for group agreement on the following actions to be taken:

- a. At the trail edge on the **west side of vernal pools 5,6,7**, all poles already installed will be removed; this will be the "test" area for successful, least disruptive removal of all posts. Vice Chair Andy Campbell will submit a protocol for post removal to City staff. When the fence is re-installed, it will be set back five feet from the trail (toward vegetation) wherever possible. Temporary posts (green driven) will be set at sixteen feet on center.
- b. Poles already installed **around vernal pool 4, on the interior of the park and those connecting vernal pool 4 to vernal pool 1**, will be removed and re-installed with the same protocol as in item a. above.
- c. Poles already installed along **Canyon Drive** will remain in place (protection from autos) at eight foot on center.
- d. The **areas connecting pool 4 to vernal pool 1** will be cordoned off with yellow caution tape during any wet weather and until new temporary posts (green driven) are installed.
- e. To date, no fencing has been placed in areas around the **northern edge of vernal pool 1** (no removal necessary). Temporary posts (green driven) to be installed per FVP SC recommendation to include additional potential restoration areas. FVP SC commits to further examination of this area and to provide recommendations to the City. The City will then generate a drawing with specific post locations before installation.
- f. To date, no fencing has been placed in area **along the bluff trail** (no removal necessary). No new stakes will be placed until after Staff and FVP SC has had time to review alignment with US FWS.
- g. On the park's **east side, along Placentia Ave and on the interior of the park**, poles have already been installed at eight foot on center. Every other pole will be removed to create a sixteen foot on center separation. Pole removal process will be same as in a. above.
- h. On the park's **east side, along the parking lot edge of vernal pool** (where logs are placed) the already installed poles will remain eight foot on center to provide protection from autos.

Ms. Kim Hendricks and Mr. Alex Reich request that Vice Chair Andy Campbell be present to oversee removal of poles.

A request was made to have Mr. Barry Nerhus and Ms. Cynthia D'Agosta review areas of sensitive plants for further consideration in fencing plans.

Chair Anna Vrska motions that a subcommittee be established to work with staff on protocols and alignments for the fence removal and replacement process, and to study north end of vernal pool 1 and bluff trail area. Motion is seconded by Mr. Alex Reich; motion passes unanimously. Ms. Kim Hendricks, Ms. Cindy Black and Vice Chair Andy Campbell will be on the subcommittee.

A public speaker suggests that drones could be used to address the needs of mapping the fencing project within the park, as well as many other potential needs. He introduces his company as a potential source for meeting those needs and offers to meet with City or Committee representatives to discuss further.

At 7:57 p.m. Chair Anna Vrska motions to extend the meeting beyond 8 p.m. to hear Agenda Items 7 and 8 and to table Agenda Item 6 to the February meeting. The motion is seconded by Mr. Larry Courtier; motion passes 5-1 with Mr. Alex Reich opposing.

6. NEW BUSINESS – Tabled to next meeting

7. STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Cynthia D'Agosta announces a lecture to be given by Mr. Barry Nerhus, January 18th at the Senior Center on vernal pools; and that the current 5th floor art exhibit displays photographs of Fairview Park, encourages Committee members to attend the artist reception on February 20th.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Mr. Larry Courter asks to add an agenda item at next meeting so that he may relay information regarding other city processes for nature park preservation. He also requests that a presentation on the Bikeway Plan be put on a future agenda.

Vice Chair Andy Campbell voices his frustration with current process but is pleased to be moving in a good direction. He thanks City staff and the Committee for working together; and suggests a document repository be created by the Committee to share historical and interesting items / documents. He also recommends a visit to the Costa Mesa Historical Society for research on FVP.

Mayor Sandy Genis thanks Andy Campbell and Jay Humphry for their engagement and suggests that the Committee take a walk together in the park.

Ms. Cynthia McDonald provides an update on the City's Bikeway and Walkability Committee.

Mr. Alex Reich thanks public speakers for their comments and requests that the water fountain in FVP be fixed.

Ms. Cindy Black asks that the supervision of model airplane navigation at the park be increased.

Ms. Kim Hendricks requests that a presentation on restoration by Land IQ be an item on the March agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. the Chair.

Next Regular Meeting: February 14, 2018, 6:00pm at Costa Mesa City Hall Rm 1A