

**CITY OF COSTA MESA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

January 26, 2005

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., January 26, 2005, at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Harris, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Burciaga.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present:

Mark Harris, Chairman
Byron de Arakal, Vice Chairman
Mirna Burciaga, Commissioner
James Fisler, Commissioner
Wendy Leece, Commissioner

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Public Services Director
Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager
Bart Mejia, Parks Project Manager

MINUTES

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Leece and carried five to zero to approve the minutes of October 27, 2004 and November 17, 2004.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No Oral Communications.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

**FAIRVIEW PARK – ORANGE
COUNTY MODEL
ENGINEER’S PROJECTS
UPDATE**

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation and introduced Terry Cummings, an OCME representative, to provide additional information and answer any questions or concerns.

In response to questions from Commissioner Leece, Mr. Mejia stated that the life expectancy of the canopy was approximately ten years but that a five-year life expectancy was more realistic.

Mr. Terry Cummings, Vice President for Facilities of OCME, 3046

Capri Lane, Costa Mesa, stated that the premise of the Club, when it was first established and continues to this day, is to create a first rate facility for public use and, in the process, improve the park. He continued to mention that the trees were planted by people in the Club, who are volunteers, and that they operate on a volunteer basis. The OCME members have put in over 10,000 hours of time over the past few years. Also, a great deal of that time was dedicated to serving the public with train rides and maintaining the park facility.

In response to questions from Commissioner Leece regarding the expense to get a green canopy, Mr. Cummings mentioned that the blue canopy sticks out and that OCME is willing to purchase a better color canopy.

In response to questions from Chairman Harris regarding the use of the canopy when work is being done on the trains in the area, Mr. Cummings stated that, at the moment, they are not working on any major track construction but that, in the future, they would place construction benches under there, on a temporary basis.

In response to questions from Vice Chairman de Arakal, Mr. Cummings mentioned that they currently have five to six portable shade structures, roughly ten or twelve feet square, which they move around. He also stated that they are not very effective because they are usually too small.

In response to Vice Chairman de Arakal's questions regarding the gates for the loading dock, Mr. Cummings described the requirements needed for the rail. He mentioned that there would be four chain link gates or two pairs, that would be 42" wide and swing open to give access for the trains.

In response to questions from Commissioner Fisler, directed to Mr. Bill Morris, regarding what type of control the City may have over what goes on at the Fairview Park in reference to the Fairview Park Master Plan, Mr. Morris mentioned that there is an agreement between the City and the OCME, which lays out what can and cannot be done out at the site. He stated that City staff are the curators and overseers of the park; however, in the past and in a few cases, there have been a few things that have been put up where the City was not involved. If the Commission approves the master plan, there would be control.

In response to Chairman Harris' question on whether or not the canopy is permanently mounted, Mr. Mejia stated that the City was aware of the canopy being constructed in the area and was fortunate to find out that it was not permanently attached to any structure.

In response to Vice Chairman de Arakal's question, which was directed to Mr. Bill Morris, regarding whether this is the first 10-Year Master Plan that was received from OCME over the course of the agreement between OCME and the City, Mr. Morris stated that there has been none since he took over responsibility for the implementation of the Fairview Park in 1999 and that he is not aware of any other master plan, prior to 1999.

Vice Chairman de Arakal stated that a master plan should be done and brought to the Commission before any type of improvement is done. He feels that these improvements are great, except for the canopy because everywhere else in the City canopies are frowned upon.

Commissioner Leece agreed with changing the color of the canopy from blue to a green one but wondered if maybe a few trees might solve the problem.

Chairman Harris fully supported the request for a canopy but would prefer that the OCME pay for a different color. He believes that trees planted in the area would not provide enough shade for the people who work in the area and that, as the trees mature, the canopy would be less noticeable.

Commissioner Fisler agreed with Chairman Harris' statement and believes that, because it is a work area, the canopy would be appreciated by the people working there.

Commissioner Burciaga also agreed with Chairman Harris' statement but would prefer that the color be changed from blue to a different shade of green.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Leece, seconded by Chairman Harris, and carried four to one, with Vice Chairman de Arakal voting no, to confirm that the following improvements conform to the approved Fairview Park Master Plan: to construct a shade structure with the understanding that the canopy color should be other than blue and to work with staff to select an appropriate color; the Safety Gate at the Loading Dock; the Concrete Walkway Expansion; and the future 10-Year Improvement Projects, subject to detailed approval by the Public Services Department.

A discussion by Vice Chairman de Arakal as to his decision to not support the motion was due to the canopy issue. He does not believe that a canopy would match the intent of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN – SILENT FLYER LAUNCH/LAND SITE

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation and introduced Karl Hawley, President of the Harbor Soaring Society, to provide additional information and answer any questions or concerns.

Karl Hawley, 296 16th Place, Apartment B, Costa Mesa, briefly summarized the types of planes that are being flown and the path used by flyers at Fairview Park.

In response to questions by Vice Chairman de Arakal regarding the quantity of electric planes being flown in the park since the closure of Mile Square Park, Mr. Hawley mentioned that there are approximately 60 or more flyers and roughly six to eight of them being flown at one time. Mr. Hawley went on to say that the electric planes fly in a condensed area.

In response to Chairman Harris' questions about the height of electric planes and if there are any federal laws restricting the height, Mr. Hawley stated that the electric planes would normally fly as high as it can be seen and that, currently, there are no federal laws restricting model airplanes from flying below 500 feet. He continued to say that the Harbor Soaring Society has a verbal agreement with the FAA that nobody would fly over 500 feet within a certain distance and, when there is a contest, he does notify the police department about the contest.

In response to questions from Chairman Harris on the growth of the electric planes being flown at Fairview Park, Mr. Hawley admitted that he is unable to answer Chairman Harris' question.

In response to Chairman Harris' question about the proposed irriga-

tion improvement, Mr. Mejia stated that it is proposed that it will tie in to the existing irrigation system and that it is a provision of the Maintenance Services staff.

In response to questions by Chairman Harris, which were directed to Mr. Bill Morris, on whether or not the two groups, Harbor Soaring Society and the Orange County Model Engineers, would be closely monitored by City staff, Mr. Morris shared his concern with anybody going out and moving dirt around on Fairview Park, other than City staff or under contract with the City. Mr. Morris also stated that any type of work being done is very sensitive and that he is under the direction of the Planning Department. He continued to say that, in some cases, the City would require an archeologist on the site to monitor the work being done. Mr. Morris feels comfortable that the responsibility of the City is to maintain control and closely monitor any type of work being done at Fairview Park.

In response to Vice Chairman de Arakal's question on whether the Planning Department needs to work on the grading because of its extent or to have an archeologist on site, Mr. Morris stated that the Planning Department would closely monitor the work being done and they would make the final decision.

MOTION

Motion made by Vice Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Fisler and carried five to zero to confirm that the requested improvements to the Silent Flyer Launch/Land Site conform to the intent of the approved Fairview Park Master Plan.

**BICYCLE TRIAL
IMPROVEMENTS ON THE
SOUTH SIDE OF GISLER
AVENUE BETWEEN
WASHINGTON AVENUE AND
SANTA ANA RIVER**

Mr. Bart Mejia made a power point presentation.

Chairman Harris stated that this would be a nice improvement and that the improvements could be made to the City in part utilizing grant monies.

In response to Chairman Harris' question on the expected date for the bid advertisement, Mr. Mejia stated that the Transportation Services Department had completed the design of the project and has scheduled to advertise the project sometime next month, which would place the project under construction towards the beginning of the Summer.

Chairman Harris recommended that City staff contact Relief Costa Mesa, to have some trees planted in conjunction with this project. Mr. Mejia reminded the Commission that the plant palette for this section at Gisler has already been approved by this Commission.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman Harris, seconded by Commissioner Burciaga and carried five to zero to approve the removal of six (6) trees to allow the construction of a proposed bicycle trail and associated drainage improvements along the south side of Gisler Avenue between the Santa Ana River and Washington Avenue, and to contact Relief Costa Mesa about putting some trees into the location as desired by City staff.

**RECREATION MANAGER'S
REPORT**

Ms. Jana Ransom made the presentation.

Ms. Ransom stated that there were not many field ambassador issues because of the rains at the end of December.

Ms. Ransom provided an update on the snow hill event, which was very successful with 2,500 people present. Chairman Harris was missed as Santa Claus this year. At the event, there were many other activities such as hayrides, face painting and cookie decorating. She mentioned that many thanks goes out to Torelli Realty for donating the funds for the snow, which was about 60 tons of snow, cookies and for having their staff help with cookie decorating.

During the month of December, Ms. Ransom's teams went to an Alzheimer's Center and sang Christmas carols, made New Year's cards and delivered the cards to the people at the center.

Ms. Ransom mentioned that the aquatics program started two new senior aquatic exercise programs, due to the pool being closed at Newport-Harbor High School. She also mentioned that Newport Beach's staff is transporting their seniors to Costa Mesa to participate in the program, which averages 35 people per class.

Also, Ms. Ransom stated that the youth basketball season is up and rolling with 360 children on 36 teams. Last year, Costa Mesa partnered with Newport Beach for the older children; however, this year, there are enough children in our own leagues and in their leagues.

Ms. Ransom announced that the Circle of Service nominations are now opened and will remain open until February 24. If anyone is interested in nominating a person for consideration, the nomination form is available on-line at www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us, in the back of the Council Chamber and in the Recreation Office.

Ms. Ransom mentioned that for all beginners in the swimming classes there are safety activity books available, which are for both parents and children, and will help them to remember safety rules, everything from swimming with a buddy, walking and not running, and so forth.

**MAINTENANCE SERVICES
MANAGER'S REPORT**

No Maintenance Services Manager's Report.

**PARKS PROJECTS
MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Bart Mejia displayed pictures of the north and south bowls at the TeWinkle Skate Park and mentioned that, due to the recent rains, there have been slow progress to the construction. He also said that the contractors are making every effort to accomplish as much as possible; however, the completion of the park has been delayed approximately six weeks.

Chairman Harris recommended that Mr. Mejia make an effort to show the City Council his brief presentation on the status of the construction at the skate park.

**COMMISSIONERS
COMMENTS**

Commissioner Fisler encouraged everyone to attend the Winter Park Tour of the Vernal Pool areas, which is scheduled for Saturday, February 26, at 9:30 a.m. at the south end of the main park parking lot, west side of Placentia and Fairview Park.

Also, Commissioner Fisler mentioned that this is his last meeting as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner because he did not reapply to this Commission. He enjoyed his two-year term, meeting staff and making friends. He wished everyone the best of luck in the appoint-

ment process. He also encouraged the other Commissioners to be a liaison to the Fairview Park Friends Committee, which meets monthly, and that it is very informative.

Commissioner Fisler went on to say that he would be watching the development of the skate park, the bridge at Fairview Park, the lake and the ball field at TeWinkle Park, until its completion.

Commissioner Burciaga was pleased to see that the skate park is near completion. She mentioned that it has been a pleasure to be part of this Commission and that she really enjoyed the last 12 or 13 months. She also thanked everyone.

Commissioner Leece mentioned that the last two years have been very eventful and that she learned a lot. She went on to say that the Commission worked hard to make Costa Mesa's Parks and Recreation programs and the fields better. She felt that the Commission could look back and be able to say that they had solved some problems with residents in the area and also upgraded, to some degree, the facilities. She also mentioned that she appreciated the staff.

Vice Chairman de Arakal mentioned that Claire Flynn from the Planning Department presented to the Bristol Street Mixed-Use Committee a draft ordinance for a mixed use overlay for the overlay study area, which is a very exciting ordinance. He said that the City is close to codifying mix uses in Costa Mesa, which is needed given the economies of land development these days.

Secondly, Vice Chairman de Arakal wanted to mention that he appreciated the work Commissioner Fisler has done on the Commission and as a liaison with the Fairview Park Friends. He also wished Commissioner Fisler good luck with the Planning Commission, which he applied for.

Thirdly, Vice Chairman de Arakal wanted to acknowledge that he is appreciative of all the Commissioners because they have served the community and to do so is hard work.

Fourthly, Vice Chairman de Arakal stated that this Commission was instrumental with the idea and putting the skate park in the TeWinkle Park Master Plan. He went on to mention that the City Council agreed to take the Commission's recommendation to assess parcels in the City for active and passive use of park facilities and that we need more fields.

Lastly, Vice Chairman de Arakal is proud of all the good and hard work done by this Commission and wished everyone good luck, and he thanked the staff for all their hard work.

Chairman Harris mentioned that he reapplied to the Parks and Recreation Commission. He enjoyed being part of the Commission and felt that this Commission has been a unique and special Commission. He went on to say that they got a lot of work done; although, they did not always agree on everything, but when they walked out the door they remained friends and that they got along, which is what it is all about.

Chairman Harris continued to say that he would miss everyone if he were not reappointed. He hopes to see everybody in the place wherever they applied.

Finally, Chairman Harris thanked the staff for everything.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **7:52 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 1A, followed by the regular Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Submitted by:

WILLIAM J. MORRIS
Public Services Director