

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

February 23, 2005

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m., February 23, 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 Graham.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Byron de Arakal, Commissioner
Robert Graham, Commissioner
Mark Harris, Commissioner
David Stiller, Commissioner

Commissioners Absent:

Wendy Leece, Commissioner

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Public Services Director
Stephen N. Mandoki, Administrative Services Director
Jana Ransom, Recreation Manager
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Chairman Harris declared the Chairman position vacant.

Commissioner Harris indicated he would like to nominate Commissioner de Arakal for Chairman and de Arakal said he would accept the nomination.

Nominations were closed at this time.

Public Comments: A member from the audience mentioned that it was "A wise recommendation."

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Leece being absent, to appoint de Arakal as Chairman.

Chairman de Arakal thanked fellow Commissioners and acknowledged his teachers, which are his parents, who were in the audience. He also appreciates his fellow Commissioners' confidence and looks forward to leading the Commission.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Chairman de Arakal declared the Vice Chair position vacant and called for nominations.

Commissioner Stiller nominated Commissioner Leece as Vice Chair.

Nominations were closed and comments were requested from the audience. No comments were received.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, carried four to zero, with Commissioner Leece being absent, to appoint Commissioner Leece as Vice Chair.

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Leece being absent, to approve the minutes of January 26, 2005.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No Oral Communications.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –
452 EAST 18TH STREET**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made the presentation. Applicant, Dennis Atkinson, 452 East 18th Street, Costa Mesa 92627, was also present to answer any questions the Commission may have.

In response to questions from Commissioner Harris regarding the age of the tree, the applicant's contractor mentioned to him that the trees did not seem healthy, and that the applicant assumes the trees have been there since the house was built.

In response to questions from Commissioner Harris on whether or not the applicant was familiar with the discretionary measure on the decision of the Commission and should the Commission agree to the removal of the tree(s) request that the applicant would bare the cost, Mr. Atkinson concurs with the discretionary decision made by the Commission.

In response Commissioner Harris' question, which was asked of Mr. Hartley, on conditions placed on the trees, such as two 24" boxed trees, after the trees were taken out and the landscaping done, Mr. Hartley mentioned that the requirement is there on removals that met criteria. As for trees that have been removed, Mr. Hartley mentioned that property owners were given the option on whether or not the tree will be placed back in front of their home. However, Mr. Hartley did mention that there have been cases where the City required the trees to go back and other cases where the Commission had granted the people the option to plant them elsewhere on public property. Yet, Mr. Hartley was not sure what category removals they were.

Mr. Atkinson mentioned that he would prefer if the trees could go somewhere else because he plans on putting two more trees in his front yard.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question, which was directed to Mr. Atkinson, on whether he understood that the removal of the two trees and the cost for the new trees to be placed elsewhere would be at his cost, and Mr. Atkinson stated, "If it's your decision."

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question, which was directed to Mr. Hartley, regarding the distance needed for the public right of way, Mr. Hartley mentioned that he normally would contact Engineer, give them the address in question, and they would indicate the right-of-way from back of curb. Mr. Hartley never questioned it before, so he assumed they are correct when they give him the number.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question, which was directed to Mr. Atkinson, on whether or not Mr. Atkinson had a landscape plan or a concept plan that he could view, Mr. Atkinson mentioned that he currently has a concept plan and not a finalized landscape plan because he is waiting for the Commission's decision.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question regarding what type of fencing Mr. Atkinson would put in, Mr. Atkinson proposed to have a picket type fence put in, which would be in line with the other neighbors' fences. Mr. Atkinson also mentioned that he would be adding two more trees closer to the house with some turf and a lot of plantings alongside the outside of the fence as well as the inside.

Mr. Morris mentioned that he would certainly verify the exact location of the right-of-way line on whether it is twelve feet or eight feet.

Mr. Morris went on to comment that the City Municipal Code does require any encroachments into the public right-of-way, which would be anything other than turf or irrigation lines. And as a City, we have not gone out and proactively enforced that, at this point, because some of those improvements might be on the public right-of-way and have been there for such a long time. We are working on modifying the ordinance and a draft would be submitted to the City Manager's office within the next several months concerning encroachments within public right of way, which would look into easing the requirements. The findings that need to be made have to show a benefit to the public in general and it would be very difficult to do, such as the white picket fence.

Chairman de Arakal stated that he is uncomfortable in taking any action without knowing what the accurate easement is, whether it is eight or twelve feet.

Commissioner Harris asked Mr. Morris about sidewalks that are no longer against the back of the curb. Mr. Morris agreed and mentioned that the City does make exceptions where there are parkway trees and if there is room to go around them. The first approach would be to obtain additional right of way from the homeowner, to be able to go around the back side of the tree, with the sidewalk; however, if it is refused and there is room between the tree and the curb, the City would take a look at putting it there rather than removing the tree to get the sidewalk in.

In response to Commissioner Harris' question regarding the "Safe Route to School" program in the area, Mr. Morris mentioned that there are no plans in the next several years to put sidewalks in the area. City wide, there are many places for sidewalks to be put in and there is a priority list. Locations next to schools are of highest priority. As funds become available, sidewalks would be installed.

Commissioner Graham believes that the aesthetic value of the trees is tremendous and that mature trees take 30 or 40 years to grow like this. He also felt that there is no damage being done right now and

that a tree like this could not be replaced with a 15 gallon tree. He believes that the value to the property is greater with the trees being there. He suggests that the Mr. Atkinson has the opportunity to design his landscaping around the trees that are there and does not see a need for them to be taken down. He would not support the motion.

Commissioner Harris agreed with Commissioner Graham and is interested to find out more about the easement.

Commissioner Stiller advised the applicant not to make or spend any money on any plans or changes until this item is resolved at the next Commission meeting.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Vice Chair Leece being absent, to continue this item until the March meeting and asked staff to come back with definitive factual information about the right-of-way location.

AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL POLICY 800-4 MEMORIAL PARK BENCHES

Mr. William Morris presented this report.

Commissioner Harris believes that the change of verbiage from “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” makes the people proud of what they are doing. Also, if “In Memory Of” and “In Honor Of” were taken away, there would be less people who would donate any benches to the City, which roughly costs \$400 dollars or \$500 dollars each. The cost will add up over time and it is something that would offset the cost.

In response to Commissioner Harris’ question about concrete plaques being placed underneath bench, Mr. Morris stated that all the benches that are placed in the parks must be accessible by all of the public, including the ADA requirements. Normally, a bench would be placed right next to sidewalk and a pad is poured to mount the bench on. Then the plaque (maximum of 32 square inches) is placed - circular hole in the concrete right at the foot of the bench and place a circular plaque, which is anchored with grout. Our policy does not allow for a plaque to be put on the bench itself to avoid the problem when a bench has outlived its useful life, then we would have to remove the plaque and place it onto a new bench. Putting it on the ground is much more permanent, longer lasting and it is easier to replace the bench.

In response to Chairman de Arakal’s question on whether or not a plaque is allowed on a park furniture, Mr. Morris said that the City encourages the plaques to be placed in the ground because there are mounting problems on the benches.

Commissioner Graham is impressed by the fact that the City has \$1,000 dollars worth of furniture at no cost to the City, and encourages the City to broaden this whole program, especially when it is regarding new furniture for some of the parks. Commissioner Graham mentioned that with proper notice to the people when/if they want to donate “In Memory Of” for someone, if the bench should be broken for whatever reason, it is not our responsibility to look after it. Since the plaque is separate from the bench, should the bench get destroyed, the plaque will remain in good shape. He is inclined to keep it as it is and provide notice to the people who donate.

In response to Commission de Arakal’s question regarding when and where are memorial trees are planted in the park, Mr. Hartley stated that it depends on the park the donor is requesting. Mr. Hartley said

that staff would look at the park and place the donation where the tree is best for the landscape and usually it is away from any hard-scape. As with a bench, it is in a path of travel. But with a tree, staff tries to fit it in the landscape, which could be anywhere in the park. Normally, out in open turf, though away from anything that the roots could damage and out of the way of sprinklers.

Chairman de Arakal's main concern is if we are reconfiguring parks or re-aligning a walkway, we may have to go back and ask the donors permission before removing the bench out of the park. He feels that there are plenty of opportunities for people to honor their loved ones by planting a living thing, which he thinks it is better, versus a memory plaque.

Commissioner Harris believes that if donors are notified up front that their donation may be damaged and the City may replace it with something that does not look like what they wanted. He also suggests that we tell them that if the City ever has to do make any modification changes in the park, that the City has the right to do so because it is City property.

Public Comment: Michael Lodigard, 104 Lexington Lane, Costa Mesa 92627, is a life long resident of the area. He believes there are a few opportunities to have a public monument that memorializes a person and thinks that encourages participation and contribution to the beautification to our City. He is personally in favor of the idea but places his trust in the Commissions decision.

Mr. Morris suggested that rather than having the wording "at the discretion of the City" in the policy, that it might be something that we would hand out just on City letterhead along with the policy, when someone requests to donate a bench to the City. The letter would also clearly inform the donator that, just as discussed, if there is a re-design in the park or normal wear and tear, that the City is will make the appropriate decisions, based on the donated piece of property that it becomes the City's.

Mr. Morris suggested that the policy can remain the same and staff could develop a letter to properly notify a donor that the donated property would become City property. Commissioner Harris agreed that the donor should be told about their donation up-front and from the beginning.

Chairman de Arakal will not support this motion because he believes that there is an ability right now in the City for people to honor their loved ones by donating a tree and we still have the ability to receive donated park furniture under a "Donated By" setting.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried three to one, with Chairman de Arakal voting no and Vice Chair Leece being absent, to recommend to that the policy remain the same.

**CONSIDERATION OF
AMENDMENT TO THE
STREETSCAPE AND MEDIAN
DEVELOPMENT
STANDARDS-FAIRVIEW
ROAD PLANT PALETTE**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made the presentation.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question, which was directed to Mr. Hartley, on how will the accent trees be staggered, Mr. Hartley mentioned that they would certainly be mixed. Staff does not want to set a whole new street tree look of putting one species down a row and that there is no established order. The accent trees will be added over time, as opportunities permit.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question on berry droppings from the Willow Pittosporum tree, Mr. Hartley mentioned that they are called persistent trees. Although the berry forms after the flower develop, it does not drop them all at once and it is not excessive, not like a fruit tree that may drop all its fruit at once. Also, the berry droppings are dryer and they do not come off ripe.

Chairman de Arakal asked Mr. Hartley if the berry was soft and if it would stain the sidewalks. Mr. Hartley stated that it is a softer berry and they may stain the sidewalk. They are not a hard nut like berry. They are soft fleshy berries. Pittosporum, in general, has a softer fruit.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question on what flower color does the Ornamental Pear produce, which Mr. Hartley responded that the Pear is white, similar to the ones that are in front of City Hall, just with an upright form. They are a snow white in color and flower all at one time in the year. The duration is short, which is usually in late Winter and early Spring.

In response to Commissioner Harris' questions, Mr. Hartley mentioned that they are susceptible to fireblight and that these were specifically picked based on the available planting width. They are suitable for narrow parkways or small cutouts. They are an irregular cut-out. The tree wells are 3x5. Tree wells do exist and they are placed back against property, which is due to the width of the sidewalk. Should a tree be placed in the middle of the sidewalk, it may not meet ADA requirements for width on either side of the sidewalk. At some point in the past, the City decided to put them to the back in order to maximize the width of the sidewalk.

Mr. Hartley continued to mention that some of the residential complaints received were because trees were raised high and people would ask us why we are trimming them that way, which is because of large trucks and so forth that clip branches off.

In response to Commissioner Harris' question on claims for repairs to property owners, Mr. Morris stated that several trees were removed because of concerns from property owners and that, at this point, we have not gone to private property to repair anything.

Commissioner Graham asked Mr. Hartley if the Pear tree produced purple leaves all the time. Mr. Hartley stated that the Pear tree is briefly deciduous and that it does get Fall colors, which means that the leaves would turn various shades of red or brown. They will drop those leaves. It will flower and reset new leaves. The color of the leaves varies depending on temperature.

Commissioner Stiller questioned Mr. Hartley on the aerial portion of the tree and, once the tree grows next to a concrete block wall at the back of the sidewalk is the wall going to interfere with the growth of the tree and leave a misshapen tree when it gets to an aerial portion above the wall. Mr. Hartley mentioned that the walls are generally

six to eight feet tall and that wall will influence the growth of the lower branches but once it gets above it, the tree will be in competition with adjoining property owner's trees. He continued to say that there will be a little bit of misshapen trees where there are competing trees on the other side of the fence.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question regarding the aerial height of the tree above the ground, Mr. Hartley said it depended on the species. Normally, with a 15-gallon tree, they would usually be six to eight feet tall, so the aerial portion would be two feet or so, which would be around the height of the wall. The aerial portion of the tree may touch the wall or may be close depending on the fullness of the tree or on the species.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's questions regarding trees removed at Fairview Park, Mr. Hartley mentioned that there were seven Liquid Amber trees that were fully grown.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's questions on property owner's complaints about trees on their walls, Mr. Hartley stated that the complaints were more on the influence of the trees on their walls than on the growth of the tree or on the damage they felt that the roots might be doing. There have been no complaints on the aerial portion of the tree.

Public Comment: Michael Lodigard, 104 Lexington Lane, Costa Mesa 92627. Mr. Lodigard mentioned that the list was excellent and that he recommends the Commission only choose one species for an accent tree, if possible. He felt that the four species selected were not native to the Americas (the New World).

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question, directed to Mr. Hartley, in regards to selecting one species and not two accent trees, Mr. Hartley mentioned that staff brings any amendment to the Streetscape Standards to the Commission and tries to be consistent with the document. He continued by saying that there were no accent trees specified for Fairview. Staff is now faced with the problem of how to replant these small tree wells and, when Commission and Council approved the removal, they anticipated the planting. The Streetscape Standards say two accent trees for a City entry like this. Commission may designate one or they could designate two and recommend that to Council.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried four to zero, with Vice Chair Leece being absent, to recommend City Council amending Section 6.03 of the Streetscape and Median Standards, to designate the Ornamental Pear and the Lavender Trumpet trees as the accent trees for Fairview Road from San Diego Freeway to Newport Boulevard.

SITE FURNISHINGS IN CITY PARKS

Mr. Bruce Hartley presented this report.

Commissioner Stiller asked Mr. Hartley if there were any of these currently on order and not yet delivered. Mr. Hartley was not certain, but that benches are usually ordered during the early part of the budget year. He mentioned that it is a constant process in ordering the benches and having them installed on site.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question on having the recycled equipment painted, Mr. Hartley mentioned that having it painted is not easily done because the paint does not stick to the material, which is one of the attractions of the material.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question on whether or not the prices are comparable when ordering from different companies, Mr. Hartley said that the tables are ordered from a particular vendor and would remain consistent with that vendor.

Commissioner Stiller asked if one panel should break on a recycled table would it easily be replaced, and Mr. Hartley said individual slabs may be purchased to replace the damaged one because they are made from dimensional plastic lumber.

In response to Commissioner Harris' question on whether or not the tables are ADA accessible to wheelchairs at the end, Mr. Hartley said, "No," the City does not purchase all tables to be handicap accessible. Staff would purchase some tables to be handicap accessible and ensure that, when it is install, it is placed in an area that is handicap accessible. Some of these are placed randomly out on the turf. Handicap accessible recycled tables have a blue strip on the end and the top is about two feet longer than the bench. There is at least one in every park.

Commissioner Harris asked Mr. Hartley if the web pattern tables are more resistant to graffiti and Mr. Hartley confirmed that they are because of all the holes in it.

Chairman de Arakal wanted to know if the furnishings at Ketchum-Libolt Park are more expensive than what is presented and Mr. Hartley confirmed that the wide variety of site furnishings are more expensive.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and carried four to zero, with Vice Chair Leece being absent, to recommend that the Commission concur with staff's proposed site furnishing 'packages' for City parks.

PROPOSED USER FEE INCREASES

Jana Ransom stated that, because they are fees and need to go under public hearing, she requested that the Commission continue this item to public hearing at our next regular meeting on March 23.

MOTION

Motion by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Stiller, carried four to zero, with Vice Chair Leece being absent, to continue this item to the next regular meeting in March.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. William Morris presented this report.

Comment made by Commissioner Harris to have new Commissioners contact staff or our Chairman if they are interested in any of the committees, to find out more about them, and to see if it is something that they would like to serve on between now and the next meeting.

MOTION

Motion by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Graham, carried four to zero, with Vice Chair Leece being absent, to continue this item to the March meeting.

RECREATION MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Jana Ransom made the presentation.

In the most part, a lot of rain has had serious impact on our revenues at the golf course, tennis centers, our fields and park rentals. Many refunds and rescheduling were done.

The President's Day Camp was able to continue, with 50 children at the Balearic Community Center everyday, which is a full camp that has increased over the past two years. Based on responses received from our questionnaires relating to why their children are in camp, is not because they need the care but because they want to be there.

Remind Commissioners and members of the public that nominations for Circle of Service are still being accepted until February 24 at 4:30 p.m. in the Recreation Division office on the third floor of City Hall.

Youth Basketball Awards Ceremony is scheduled for March 12 at the Downtown Recreation Center, which invitations were given to all Commissioners.

Mobile Recreation Program is operating this week because the children are off and averages about 125 children per day, per site.

Helmet grant is a joint project with the Costa Mesa Police Department. There are 400 helmet received, which are roughly \$400 dollars and are custom fitted. Applications are currently being accepted. Once an application has been submitted, they then have a helmet fitting so that the children wear the helmets properly and receive the helmet for free.

KOCE Butterfly Project, which involves two butterflies about five feet wide (wing span) and about six feet tall. Each butterfly was painted by local artists, one by Harvey Clemans and the other by Donna Robb. They will be on display until the end of July. There may migrate over to the Fairgrounds for the Fair and then return until they find their permanent home.

A program snap shot will be presented each month, beginning next Month, which will provide a focused program view.

Commissioner Harris wanted to confirm if the helmet program is for Costa Mesa residents only, which Ms. Ransom confirmed it was.

Chairman de Arakal wanted to know the status on the District in terms of looking at modifying the Joint Use Agreement. Ms. Ransom mentioned that, at this time, language relating to use of high schools during baseball season and some modifications are being looked into by the School District. There may be a presentation on it at the next City/School liaison meeting. At the earliest time, the proposed agreement will be brought to the Commission in May 2005.

Commissioner Stiller inquired about the status on the Skate Park donor who wanted to donate \$10,000 dollars to the City for the park. Ms. Ransom said that the donor is ready to write the check, which

will include interest, and that staff needs to collect and identify cost information for the donor.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Bruce Hartley presented this report.

Mr. Hartley mentioned highlights of what staff had done at the various parks and recreational facilities. Normally during the Spring and Summer, in-house projects are done.

In anticipation of rebuilding the Athletic Complex, staff renovated the in-fields and out-fields at Luke Davis field. Today they still look as wonderful as the day it was finished. In conjunction with the contractor, staff renovated all three in-fields, two softball fields and a baseball field, at TeWinkle Park. Staff re-established the turf edge and re-established the grade and all three fields look perfect. The rains came in just the right time before they had any play in them, so it helped the fields settle in.

One of our vendors, United Green Tech, provided our central irrigation equipment and all the support for that system is just about complete Citywide. The report will be brought to the Commission on that system.

United Green Tech was looking into the residential synthetic turf market, rather than sports field. There is a market small to medium installations of synthetic turf for yards and they wanted to test it, so they approached us for this test. Staff thought that the Bark Park might be an appropriate place. So, the Bark Park and United Green Tech discussed it and had the City Manager approve the test. The artificial turf was installed around the watering hole at the Bark Park. There is not a lot of turf that can stand up to the dogs and certainly the watering hole is one of favorite play zones for most of the dogs. After two weeks of use, other than being dirty, there was no wear on the artificial turf.

A new swing set structure was installed at Paularino Park and Moreno View Park.

Thirty-eight Myrtle trees were planted to re-establish streetscape on Baker Street, on Royal Palm and Mesa Verde Drive East, to re-establish streetscape. Thirty-six, out of 37, residents participated in the project, which was initiated by a resident of Costa Mesa.

In response to Commissioner Harris' question regarding cleaning up after dogs on the artificial grass, Mr. Hartley stated that there is an ordinance that specifically says people are suppose to pick up behind their dog. Bark Park Volunteer Foundation does their own maintenance in the area and there are also water sprinklers that can wash the mess off, as needed. It can be washed off, it drains through and everything drains with it.

Chairman de Arakal asked if the artificial turf was similar to the turf at Orange Coast's new soccer field, which Mr. Hartley confirmed that it was. Mr. Hartley also mentioned that it may not be the same manufacturer but it is the same product.

Mr. Hartley answered Commissioner Harris' question by stating that it is an all weather turf, which could be played on it when it is raining.

PARKS PROJECTS MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. William Morris presented this report. He filled in for Mr. Bart Mejia.

Mr. Morris mentioned that the multi-purpose trail at Fairview Park is scheduled to begin construction this coming Monday. There are some construction stakes out at the park and in the location where the trail will be installed.

In the north westerly portion of the master plan on Fairview Park, staff has been working with a developer from Dana Point to allow them to plant in Fairview Park a restoration of the Coastal Sage Scrub as mitigation for a development, which they had approved in that location. The proposal for development is for approximately 11 acres of about 20 acres that we have on the site for coastal scrub. Once the agreement has been approved by City Council, the concept plan would come for your concurrence that it does meet the intent of the Fairview Park Master Plan.

Very little progress has been made at the TeWinkle Skate Park because of the rains.

TeWinkle Lake has also slowed down, again because of the rains.

Commissioner Stiller was not familiar with the redevelopment trade-off concerning LAX and wanted some clarification. Mr. Morris briefly explained that the City has marketed a mitigation bank for developments anywhere in Southern California where they need to redevelop habitat that they might be destroying because of their development. The penalty for mitigating off-site is that they would have to redevelop either two to three times the area they destroy in their development.

In response to Commissioner Stiller's question on whether the City has identified and formalized recognition of all the vernal pool sites or marsh sites at Fairview Park, and has the process been completed, Mr. Morris mentioned that the City has identified all of them. Mr. Morris also stated that there is potential for developing several small vernal pools on the east side of Placentia Avenue as well.

Commissioner Stiller wanted to know what measure has the City taken to keep people from getting into these sites and to prevent any damage. Mr. Morris said that the process used, at this time, is not to advertise those locations and staff are keeping an eye on it.

In response to Commissioner Harris' question on re-stocking fish at TeWinkle lake, Mr. Morris stated that Fish and Game would return to re-stock the lake when the City is ready.

Chairman de Arakal wanted to know the timetable for the TeWinkle Park Softball Complex Renovation because it has been stalled due to budgetary reasons. Mr. Morris mentioned that the plans are ready and that the City is about \$900,000 dollars short. In this upcoming Capital Improvement Program for 2005-2006, the City is proposing that funds be allocated to make up the difference and then it will be able to go out to bid. Of course, the proposed Capital Improvement Program for the 2005-2006 budget year will be brought to the Commission in the April meeting.

In response to Chairman de Arakal's question on what would be the schedule impact of a modification of that design, Mr. Morris said that there is a window set-up to do this project. It revolves around the beginning in August, after the Summer baseball league ends, and working through the Winter so that staff would be able to plant the final turf in early Spring, which is the start of the growing season. Hopefully, by the following late Summer, the leagues would begin to use the fields again.

Chairman de Arakal wanted to know if a removal of an element out of the design have an impact on the schedule and when would it begin. Mr. Morris stated that there would be potential re-design of the plans; however, if it were not too major, it would not take very long. Sometime in April, staff would provide the Commission for review of the proposed capital improvement program for fiscal year 2005-2006. Within that proposal, there would be the additional funds that are needed to be able to put the project back out to bid.

Chairman de Arakal would like to arrange a meeting with staff to discuss the impact on timing and cost to revisit the plan take the third softball field out and leave the utility field.

**COMMISSIONERS
COMMENTS**

Commissioner Stiller commented that he is glad to be here and is looking forward to the challenge. He missed the process, while I was away and is glad to see Commissioner Harris is still here. He encourages the public to participate in this deliberative process because it is a community process.

Commissioner Graham thanked staff for their consideration this evening and fellow Commissioners for their patience. He is looking forward to the next meeting.

Commissioner Harris mentioned that Chairman de Arakal did a great job this evening.

Chairman de Arakal said he appreciated and thanked his fellow Commissioners for their support and confidence in him to serve as Chairman of the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **8:55 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, March 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