

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

August 24, 2005

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Costa Mesa met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on August 24, 2005 at City Hall, 77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California. The meeting was called to order by Chairman de Arakal, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by Commissioner Harris.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:
Byron de Arakal, Chair
Wendy Leece, Vice Chair
Robert Graham, Commissioner
Mark Harris, Commissioner
David Stiller, Commissioner

Also Present:

William J. Morris, Director of Public Services
Stephen N. Mandoki, Director of Administrative Services
Bruce Hartley, Maintenance Services Manager
Jana M. Ransom, Recreation Division Manager
Ruth A. Raheb, Recreation Supervisor

MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Vice Chair Leece, and carried four to zero, with Commissioner Harris not voting, to approve the minutes of July 27, 2005.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried five to zero, to move items 9a and 9b under New Business forward, just after item 8c.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Martin Millard
2973 Harbor Blvd. #264
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Mr. Millard stated that he has respect for the City Council, Planning Commission and the Parks and Recreation Commission, and he recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission consider what is good for the City of Costa Mesa because they represent the citizens of Costa Mesa and not people from other cities.

Mr. Kim Pederson
3154 Killarney Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Mr. Pederson asked the Commission to include an item on the agenda for the next Commission meeting in regards to the usage of Fairview Park for a sports facility, which Commissioner Graham mentioned on the July 27th Commission meet-

ing. Mr. Pederson believes that it is a great idea, and he recalled that the master plan showed there was a survey done, which stated that the citizens of Costa Mesa supports spending more money for sports facilities.

Commissioner Graham thanked Mr. Pederson for bringing his recommendation forward to the Commission.

Chairman de Arakal briefly explained that there is a specific Council Policy in place and it explains the necessary procedures needed in order for any member of the community to bring forward recommendations to open the Fairview Park Master Plan.

CONSENT CALENDAR

No Items.

PUBLIC HEARING

No Items.

OLD BUSINESS

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 1962 BALEARIC DRIVE

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley ensued regarding ivy and on the growth height of the ivy.

Commissioner Graham had pictures available, on an overhead projector, to show his philosophy regarding tree removals.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Vice Chair Leece, and carried four to one, with Commissioner Stiller voting “No,” to approve the request for the removal of two City parkway trees located in the public right-of-way at 1962 Balearic Drive and that Alternative 1 be used for replacement, which requires the replacement of the two trees with one twenty-four inch box-size tree and two fifteen gallon-size trees to be planted on City property for each of the trees removed and that the applicant would pay all removal and replacement costs.

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 1155 DORSET LANE

Mr. Bruce Hartley provided pictures on an overhead projector while presenting his report.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley took place regarding sewer problems, crack in the sidewalk, length of time for the applicant to re-apply and seed pod droppings.

Commissioner Graham stated that the removal of the tree would be a great loss and it would definitely affect the overall look on this street, and he would not be voting on the removal of the tree.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley oc-

curred on whether or not re pruning the tree and fixing the curb and gutter would make a difference.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley ensued on whether or not the resident at the address is ambulatory and if the type of fruit droppings, the tree produces, would cause any harm to the resident.

Public Comment:

Ms. Judi Berry
2064 Meadow View Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Ms. Berry asked the Commission and staff whether or not the City is responsible for the street cleaning of gutters in Costa Mesa and stated that the situation may or may not be a water problem.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and carried five to zero, to deny the request to remove the City parkway tree located at 1155 Dorset Lane, and directed staff to grind the flow line (curb and gutter) and provide a root barrier on the street side of the tree.

**TREE REMOVAL REQUEST –
246 BOWLING GREEN DRIVE**

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Commissioner Graham and Mr. Hartley ensued on the removal and replacement of the tree.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley took place on the variety type of the pear tree.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley occurred on who would incur the cost for the removal and replacement of the tree.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried five to zero, to approve the request for the City to remove the tree at 246 Bowling Green Drive.

**FIELD USE RECOMMENDATIONS
TO CITY COUNCIL**

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report. Ms. Ruth Raheb was present to answer questions by the Commission.

Public Comment:

Mr. Martin Millard
2973 Harbor Blvd. #264
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Mr. Millard respectfully requested the Commission consider alternatives on page 5 of the report regarding Group 5 and 6 organizations. He believes that residents of Costa Mesa should not have to fight with non-residents for the use of fields. Mr. Millard also recommended that all groups should pay with a check, which should have the organization's name on it, and should an organization make a false statement on their application form, they should be barred from using the fields ever again.

Ms. Robin Akiers
2089 State Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Represented Freedom Homes

Ms. Akiers stated that she is infuriated by this whole situation because the soccer teams have taken over Victoria School. She mentioned that a petition was started to request that the Commission stop the use of Victoria Elementary School, on the weekends, as a soccer field for adults. Ms. Akiers continued to state that, "It is an inappropriate use of a neighborhood children's school. The annoying sounds of angry male voices and whistles starting at 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday permeates our peace. We no longer can enjoy the quiet of our own houses and yards that we paid dearly to obtain. It is not safe for our children to be near the schools during the times of the activities and the games. The school grounds are torn up, untidy and unsanitary following these activities. Our school children are endangered by the results of these games. Crimes at the school have increased. Our homes and persons have been threatened by the players."

Ms. Akiers also provided pictures of the school site for the Commission.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Ms. Akiers ensued on the length of time the incidents have been going on, and with whom complaints were made to and on the outcome of the complaints.

Ms. Judi Berry
2064 Meadow View Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Ms. Berry agreed with comments made by Ms. Robin Akiers and read out item number 10 from the Newport Beach Joint Use Agreement. She stated that if Newport Beach cannot help Costa Mesa residents, then Costa Mesa should not help Newport Beach.

Ms. Berry said she was confused on how reducing the residency requirement from 90% to 75% was going to help.

Mr. Mike Berry
2064 Meadow View Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Mr. Berry recommended that the Commission also speak with Council Member Bever to get more information on the incidents that had occurred at Victoria Elementary School.

Mr. Berry stated that all the categories do not relate to field use and that they relate to the type of field user. He also suggested that the Commission discontinue acting as a leasing agent for the school district and that the user category selected, by staff, is not optional.

Mr. Mike Barr
14 Seabird Court
Newport Beach, CA 92663
AYSO 120

Mr. Barr agreed that adult soccer organization should not be allowed to use elementary schools. He stated that the Joint Use Agreement document is a work in progress and that the Farm Sports Complex is a facility used for adult programs, which does not have any baseball fields.

Mr. Barr recommended that the City cooperate with the School District, and for the Commission to make a unanimous vote to the City Council to support the Joint Use Agreement.

Mr. James Shoaff
3272 Minnesota Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Representing Costa Mesa Little League

Mr. Shoaff recommended that the Joint Use Agreement stay in place and that he supports staff's recommendation. He also recommended that the Commission make the same recommendation to the City Council.

Mr. Mike Rausch
932 Jasmine Circle
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Athletic Director, Calvary Chapel High School

Mr. Rausch hoped that the Commission does not curtail or restrict Group 5 users.

Mr. Jesus Duarte
2116 Parsons Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Representing Orange County Soccer League

Mr. Duarte agreed that there has to be some control for adult soccer leagues and that the use of fields should be by Costa Mesa residents.

Mr. Bill Graham
2792 Redwing Circle
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Mr. Graham stated that his children have benefited by the Joint Use Agreement, especially for little league baseball, and that he does not believe it is fair to do away with the Joint Use Agreement. Mr. Graham recommended that the Commission keep the Joint Use Agreement, as it is now, with a look to the future of what can be done to build a complex for youth sports in the community that would include baseball fields.

Mr. Ed Keen
Lorenzo Avenue, Costa Mesa

Mr. Keen asked the Commission on whether they were planning on adding more lights to the fields at the Farm Sports Complex.

Discussion between Mr. Keen and Ms. Ransom ensued on whether or not football players have the approval to use the field at the Farm Sports Complex.

Mr. Roggio Tomragesi
Resident of Anaheim
Represented YMCA, Adult Soccer League

Mr. Tomragesi stated that the only problem he had experienced was with the use of Victoria Elementary School.

Mr. Ron Nugent
2154 B. San Michel Drive West
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Representing Costa Mesa Pop Warner

Mr. Nugent thanked the staff for providing the use of fields in order to have additional hours, which was needed for the players. He supports the Joint Use Agreement.

Mr. Nugent was disappointed that there have been no discussions on the future of youth programs and recommended that the Commission discuss the future of youth programs in their meetings for the residents of Costa Mesa.

Chairman de Arakal and Vice Chair Leece commented on the on-going work that is still in process for more sports facilities for youth programs.

Ms. Mylle Fredrikson
1010 Oak Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Ms. Fredrikson stated that the situation has gone from bad to worse at Victoria Elementary School because of the loud noise, balls flying and many other inconveniences to the neighbors surrounding the school.

Mr. Kam Carter

Mr. Carter submitted letters for the Commission in regards to the inconveniences placed on the residents from the adult soccer leagues using Adams Elementary School such as loud noise, balls in the resident's yards and trashing of the fields.

Mr. Kim Pederson
3154 Killarney Lane
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Resident of Costa Mesa

Mr. Pederson supports the Joint Use Agreement.

Mr. Sean Paterson
Resident of Costa Mesa
Little League Coach
Football Coach, Pop Warner

Mr. Paterson questioned the Commission on why the City would take the only lit field away from them without first having a solution.

Mr. Bob Knapp
2705 Sparrow Circle
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
Member, Executive Board of Costa Mesa National Little League
Coach, Soccer

Mr. Knapp stated that it would be a huge mess for all the organizations without the Joint Use Agreement. He also mentioned that there is a lack of adequate facilities for the youth in regards to lit fields. Mr. Knapp recommended that the Commission provide permanent lit fields for youth sports and strongly supports the Joint Use Agreement.

Mr. Todd Otte

Mr. Otte mentioned that he has documentations, records and videotapes available for the Commission and staff for review on what actually occurs on the fields by user groups, and that adult group users should be kept off elementary schools.

Mr. Bob Ramirez
2895 Baker Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Mr. Ramirez stated that adult soccer leagues do not belong on elementary fields, particularly at Adams School, because of various incidents such as rubbish left behind, indecent exposure, noise, public urination, people drinking beer and more.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Ramirez took place on steps taken to make complaints.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Ms. Ransom ensued on communication regarding complaints made to the police department or park ranger.

Mr. Reynaldo Luna
Representing New Values Adult Soccer League and New Values Youth Soccer League

Mr. Luna stated that the field ambassador would be contacted should a negative situation occur. He continued to state that his league does not allow their members to drink and ensures that garbage is picked up before leaving the field.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Luna took place regarding the number of youths registered in the league.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Luna ensued on the fields used by both the youth and adult soccer leagues.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Luna occurred on the number of registered adults in the league and on whether or not members in the league are disciplined or removed for unacceptable behavior.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Luna took place on whether or not the league plays in other cities or only in Costa Mesa.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Luna ensued on the number and percentage of Costa Mesa youths registered in the New Values Youth Soccer League.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Luna occurred on the number and percentage of Costa Mesa residents registered in the New Values Adult Soccer League.

Ms. Missy Simple
1014 Oak Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Resident of Costa Mesa

Ms. Simple recommended that the Commission consider not permitting adult use of fields at Victoria Elementary School because of several incidents that had occurred, such as urinating on the field, the amount of trash left behind by the league, and climbing over the fence to her back yard in order to retrieve a soccer ball.

Ms. Wanda Bale
900 Joann Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Ms. Bale stated that if it were not for overused fields, parents do not feel that they have use of their parks or their schools, and that it is nice to have some time off from the activity.

Mr. Bill Redding
Resident of Costa Mesa

Mr. Redding does not believe that adults should play on elementary school fields. He stated that he is in favor of the Joint Use Agreement; however, it should be more specific such as who is responsible for what.

Mr. John Zick
2851 Ellesmere Avenue
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Mr. Zick stated that he is happy with the staff report, which has factual information. He supports no change in the Group 4, 5 and 6 definitions. Mr. Zick recommended that the Commission restrict the adult use of fields to Costa Mesa and Estancia High Schools, Parsons School and Davis School.

Mr. Zick mentioned that the City should cooperate with the School District in regards to the Joint Use Agreement.

Mr. Mark Arblaster
1921 Teresita Lane
Newport Beach, CA 92660
President, Newport-Mesa Soccer Club

Mr. Arblaster asked the Commission to take into consideration youths between the ages of 17 and 18.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Arblaster ensued on the use of baseball fields and whether or not the Club also uses fields in Newport Beach.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Arblaster took place on whether or not Mr. Arblaster supports the Joint Use Agreement.

Commissioner Graham thanked everyone who attended the meeting and expressed himself or herself.

Vice Chair Leece stated that the Commission received copies of 20 or more e-mail messages at 5:30 p.m. today and that the Commission did not have enough time to read through all of them, and that the Commission understands that the messages are very important.

Commissioner Stiller stated that there were so many e-mail messages received at the last minute and asked the community to not send messages at the last minute.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Ms. Ransom ensued on clarifying Council's directive to maintain the same number of user groups even if new fields are added in the future.

MOTION

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Leece, and carried five to zero, to recommend that City Council continue to have staff move forward to revise the existing Joint Use Agreement with the Newport Mesa Unified School District and to support the inclusion of maintenance standards in any re-worked Joint Use Agreement with Newport Mesa Unified School District.

Motion made by Vice Chair Leece, seconded by Commissioner Graham, and carried five to zero, for adult soccer organizations not to be permitted to use elementary schools, and to restrict adult soccer use to Costa Mesa and Estancia High School fields, Parsons School field and Davis School field.

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, and died for a lack of second, to make no change to Group 5 organizations' use of fields and to change Group 4 status to groups with at least 75% residency requirement (from groups with at least 90% residency).

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried five to zero, to make no changes to Group 5 organizations' use of field and to leave Group 4 status as it is at 90% residency.

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Vice Chair Leece, and carried five to zero, to make no changes to year-round use of fields for any organization and to direct City staff to initiate and/or assist with development of rest and renovation periods at school and City fields that will ensure maintenance standards are met.

Chairman de Arakal would like to agendaize reviewing the policy of grandfathering AYSO 97 and Newport Harbor Baseball Association, as Group 1 users, at the September or October meeting.

Motion made by Chairman de Arakal, seconded by Commissioner Harris, and carried five to zero, to make no changes to the allocation of lit fields formula.

NEW BUSINESS

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 290 SIERKS STREET

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Saia were present to answer questions by the Commission.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Saia ensued on the cost to be borne by the applicants.

Discussion between Commissioner Harris and Mr. Hartley took place on the underground infrastructure near the tree.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Stiller, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and carried five to zero, to approve the request to remove a tree at 290 Sierks Street in Costa Mesa and replace it with three mitigation trees, one (1) twenty-four inch box-size tree and two (2) fifteen gallon-size trees, one of which in the same parkway, and the expense to be borne by the applicant.

TREE REMOVAL REQUEST – 3201 IDAHO PLACE

Mr. Bruce Hartley made a power point presentation.

Discussion between Commissioner Stiller and Mr. Hartley occurred on the apparent roots from the tree growing into the street and on the sidewalk, and whether the tree should be removed now or later because of the damage caused by the tree's roots.

Discussion between Vice Chair Leece and Mr. Hartley ensued on whether or not a root barrier was put in.

Commissioner Harris stated that work had already been done previously on the tree, in reference to the root barrier, and that the sidewalk does need repair. Commissioner Harris also stated that he does not want to leave the tree alone and for the City to continually have problems with it.

Discussion between Chairman de Arakal and Mr. Hartley took place on the location of the sidewalk and the cost involved to relocate it.

MOTION

Motion made by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Vice Chair Leece, for City Council to remove a tree at 3201 Idaho Place in the public right-of-way and that the City pays all removal and replacement costs as requested by the applicant.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION

Substitute motion made by Commissioner Graham, seconded by Chairman de Arakal, and failed one to four, with Chairman de Arakal, Vice Chair Leece, Commissioner Harris and Commissioner Stiller voting “No,” to leave the tree until the sidewalk had been grinded and revamped, and to wait and see what would happen because the tree is too important.

ORIGINAL MOTION

The original motion carried four to one, with Commissioner Graham voting “No.”

RECREATION MANAGER’S REPORT

Ms. Jana Ransom presented the report.

- The Playground Program Recreation Leader III, Juan Manzo, from College Park was selected as “Employee of the Month” by the City Council.
- The Summer Concert Season is over and we had a great year.
- The Lounge Chair Theater is coming up in September.
- The Volcom Skate Park Dedication Ceremony – Every single City department were represented and staff are grateful for all the support in making this event a success. Staff is excited for the future of skate parks for the City of Costa Mesa.

MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER’S REPORT

Chairman de Arakal recommended that members of the Commission review the attached report.

PARKS PROJECT MANAGER’S REPORT

Chairman de Arakal recommended that members of the Commission review the attached report.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Commissioner Harris requested that staff provide, as an informational item, an overall survey of the City's parks to identify active and passive uses.

Vice Chair Leece requested to agendaize, as an informational item, encroachment onto Canyon Park from homeowners who reside on Meadow View Lane. She also commended staff on the current Community News and Recreation Review booklet, which provided much information.

Vice Chair Leece also mentioned that there was an article in the Daily Pilot regarding field use.

Vice Chair Leece provided an overview and an agenda to the members of the Commission on the liaison meeting that took place between the School District and the City.

Chairman de Arakal thanked the staff for their great work and for members of the community who attended the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at **10:45 p.m.** to the Study Session on Wednesday, September 28, 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
Director of Public Services