

**THE CITY OF COSTA MESA  
MEETING OF THE PARKS, ARTS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION  
May 28, 2020; 6:03 P.M.**

1. **Call to Order:** The Parks, Arts & Community Services Commission meeting was called to order by Chair Erickson at 6:03 p.m. on May 28, 2020 via Zoom call.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chair Erickson
3. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Chair Erickson, Vice Chair McNabb, Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner DeCicco, Commissioner Fahy, Commissioner Frager, Commissioner Rutherford

**Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Yvette Aguilar, Acting Parks & Community Services Director; Raja Sethuraman, Public Services Director; Bart Mejia, City Engineer; Brenda Green, City Clerk; Sylvia Chalmers, Executive Secretary

4. **Approval of the Minutes of the February 27, 2020 Meeting of the PACS Commission**

**MOTION/SECOND:** Vice Chair McNabb moves to approve the minutes/Seconded by Commissioner Rutherford. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Chair Erickson, Vice Chair McNabb, Commissioner, DeCicco, Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Fahy, Commissioner Frager, Commissioner Rutherford

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** None

**Motion Carried:** 7-0-0

5. **Public Comments**

No member of the public present.

Chair Erickson closed Public Comments.

6. **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Ashendorf - Thanked City staff and City Council for keeping our city safe. Provided thanks to our Park, PD, and Fire Departments. Encouraged to check out the Virtual Community Center on the City website. Classes, tours, and talks for all ages can be found on the Virtual website. Thanked the Senior Center for keeping food and basic necessities available for our Seniors as well as wellness checks to every senior member during this time.

Commissioner Rutherford – Agreed with Commissioner Ashendorf on staff’s work during this time and emphasized a greater thanks regarding the setup with virtual meetings. Noted there are amazing resources for residents through the Senior Center. Attended the Westside Food Distribution event with Council Member Reynolds and Chavez last Friday. Also commented on a need for activities available on the Westside and wanted to voice a need for fields to be available to the public during this time. He also thanked Ms. Aguilar for her work during this time.

Commissioner DeCicco - Was happy to be back. Feels we have a good sounding board and good representation of the City and able to give feedback to City officials in regards to parks, arts, community, and seniors and hopes the City continues to utilize commissioners.

Commissioner Frager - Thanked our City leadership with being admirable and prioritizing community safety and wellbeing while having to navigate complex situations. Gave a shout out to Trellis food drives at Ikea and the center on 19<sup>th</sup>. Sent gratitude and best wishes to all small businesses who had to get extra creative with ways they operate and serve. There are two summer art programs at Segerstrom's Center and Pacific Symphony. Middle School dates: June 22 - 26, High School Dates: June 29 - July 3. Pacific Symphony AXP for 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade June 22 - July 3 and July 6 - July 17. More information regarding these camps can be found at Segerstrom's Center and Pacific Symphony websites.

Commissioner Fahy - Echoed thanking the City Staff and City Council Members. Noted as a Parks commissioner and participant in the community, it had been very hard to see parks closed, and was excited to see the parks available for movement now. Echoed Commissioner Rutherford regarding people who don't have yards and was so pleased to see them open.

Vice Chair McNabb - Thanked City leadership and staff for working so hard during this time. Very heartened to live in a community that cares so much. Wanted to commend our City for implementing a mask ordinance to help protect each other and our front line workers who put their lives at risk every day. Attended the Red Cross blood drive in April at the Senior Center and staff did a great job, 60 pints of blood was donated. Encouraged people who have food needs to call 211. Wanted to commend the OC United Way who provided \$500 gift card to 75 families in Costa Mesa who are in need. Has been honored to participate in the Restore Costa Mesa Committee. Help protect our seniors and front line care workers. Stay home when possible and wear a mask during the stay at home order. Thanked Ms. Aguilar. Had the opportunity to walk at Fairview Park and Talbert Regional Park and is thrilled to have the parks open for active recreation again.

Chair Erickson - Walking has been a big thing for him and he has walked about 18/30 parks in Costa Mesa. Wanted to extend his mapping to the City, to provide to the community (if permitted). Has about twelve more parks to go. The information could be helpful for people who don't have workout equipment. Also, mentioned he wanted Luke Davis Field opened for use to the public rather than having it closed. Thanked all the people who leash their dogs.

**7. Consent Calendar**

No items

**8. Old Business**

No items

## 9. New Business

- a) Review of Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Through 2025-2026

Mr. Raja Sethuraman and Mr. Bart Mejia presented.

Commissioner Comments:

Chair Erickson - Thanked Mr. Sethuramen and expressed that many of the updates seem absolutely necessary in a safety standpoint. Asked if other funding could be found that can help for these projects.

Mr. Sethuramen mentioned that park fees or Gas Tax were some options for alternative funding, as long as there is a justified charge.

Chair Erickson asked if they continued to be funded annually? How does the City keep track of available grants to not inadvertently pass by?

Mr. Sethuramen mentioned that staff try to maximize the restricted funds to the fullest extent. Depending on the area that requires updating, certain park accessibility projects can be categorized differently where it can fall into other funding options other than park fees, such as Gas Tax. Staff also follow grants closely by the federal, state, and local sources and an outside consultant tracks these on a monthly basis to see what opportunities are out there.

Commissioner Ashendorf - Asked how is the public kept informed on the CIP process?

Mr. Sethuramen's expressed this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> presentation for the public and will go back to council on June 9<sup>th</sup> for the final budget on June 16<sup>th</sup>. There have been multiple avenues for the public to provide any comments prior to the budget adoption.

Commissioner Ashendorf asked if the information is available on the City's website. Mr. Sethuramen confirmed that the reports are available to the public online.

Commissioner Ashendorf asked if in the expansion design for the Ketchum Libolt Park the City is considering removal of the four mature trees on the street side of the wall?

Mr. Sethuramen replied staff does not have any plans at this point and staff will do their best to preserve all healthy trees.

Vice Chair McNabb - Asked if grant funding is available for the Ketchum Libolt. Wanted to see an outreach.

As far as other Balearic projects, Vice Chair McNabb thought that was approved from last year's budget.

Commissioner Rutherford - Wanted to echo Vice Chair McNabb's comment regarding Ketchum Libolt and grant funding. He is very supportive and believes it is SB535 Disadvantage Community Zone and has opportunity for grant/state funding. Has there been any consideration Luke Davis Field available for public use? Mr. Sethuramen mentioned the open space at the Lions Park Event Lawn.

Ms. Aguilar confirmed the Lions Park Event Lawn is open. As for the Luke Davis Field, there's a couple details to go over, since it is traditionally closed due to being a part of the Field Allocation Policies. It has been discussed and it is something staff will consider, but it is not being brought up at the moment for use.

Commissioner Frager echoed Rutherford and Vice Chair McNabb regarding their creative thinking for grants or possible funders, corporations, or partnerships that would want to invest in our outdoor spaces as we begin to transition.

Mr. Sethuramen said there is eligibility for grant possibilities.

Commissioner DeCicco - Thanked Mr. Sethuramen for the presentation. It's nice to see the projects that have been approved in the past. Asked if the City is looking to reduce maintenance cost through use of native plants?

Mr. Sethuramen noted the City has landscape architects and use their experience to incorporate their designs into our plans. We are mindful of the cost of maintenance. The City tries to use as much drought tolerant plants that are easy to maintain and look appealing.

Commissioner DeCicco asked if it is possible to not have plants and have art vs. plants? He felt this would fit more with our City motto, City of the Arts.

Mr. Sethuramen welcomed any suggestions regarding those ideas and staff would welcome suggestions.

Commissioner DeCicco questioned the funding for CIP projects and the 5-year plan.

Mr. Sethuramen said the CIP from previous years will be reviewed and these timelines are projections that we hope to complete within the 5-year time frame.

Commissioner DeCicco did not see the approved budget from City Council for the \$615,000 on the spreadsheet for the field renovations.

Mr. Sethuramen mentioned that the amount that was approved is nowhere close to where the budget we have for that particular renovation and may need to be delayed another two years.

Commissioner DeCicco asked about the timeline for the Jack Hammett projects.

Mr. Sethuramen mentioned we received bids that came in significantly higher than normal prior to COVID-19.

Commissioner DeCicco asked if staff considered reaching out to private sports companies such as, Vans rather than engineers for the TeWinkle Skate Park expansion project and they may also be willing to partnership with the expansion.

Mr. Sethuramen mentioned that staff has worked with a private company who designs skate parks and reached out to skate users for input on the expansion.

Commissioner DeCicco asked about the status of turf fields, and what are the plans to get turf in Costa Mesa.

Mr. Sethuramen noted the only turf project is for Kaiser, but with our funds being decreased, this could be a deferred.

Commissioner DeCicco requested a column be placed on the spreadsheet for showing money that has been allocated for projects by City Council.

Chair Erickson closed and moved forward with a motion to forward these recommendations to City Council, seconded by Vice Chair McNabb.

**MOTION/SECOND:** Chair Erickson moved to forward these recommendations to City Council/Seconded by Vice Chair McNabb. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:  
Ayes: Chair Erickson, Vice Chair McNabb, Commissioner Ashendorf, Commissioner Fahy, Commissioner Frager, Commissioner Rutherford  
Nays: Commissioner, DeCicco  
Absent: None  
Motion Carried: 6-0-1

**10. Parks and Community Services Director’s Update**

Ms. Yvette Aguilar presents.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Erickson at 7:55 p.m.

**The Next Regular Meeting of the Parks, Arts & Community Services Commission  
To be announced**

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Prepared by Sylvia Chalmers  
PACS Commission Secretary

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Submitted by Jason Minter  
Parks and Community Services Director