

OCTOBER 30, 2025  
6:00 P.M. – OFFICIAL MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER** by Chair Brown at 6:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Commissioner Leger.

**ROLL CALL**

☒ = Present    ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Cristian Garcia Arcos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
<input type="checkbox"/> Jake Husen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Monique Villaseñor, Recreation Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Komala	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandine Leger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Dalton, Fairview Park Administrator
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Dorn Parker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shyanne Wright, Vice Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathia Viteri, Recreation Specialist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Brown, Chair	

**SPECIAL BUSINESS ITEM:**

1. **DRAFT FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE: DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Parks and Community Services Director, Brian Gruner, Fairview Park Administrator, Kelly Dalton, and Travis Brooks from Land IQ presented.

Chair Brown thanked attendees and those who submitted comments, emphasized the importance of public engagement, and explained the meeting structure to prioritize public input. She highlighted Fairview Park’s significance as the city’s largest park, the need for PACS Commission involvement, and encouraged using the Commission’s values document to guide recommendations to City Council.

Commissioner Leger asked whether community outreach efforts informed residents about the tribal cultural areas in Fairview Park, recalling personal memories of learning about the site’s archaeology.

Vice Chair Wright thanked staff and requested clarification on Measure AA and its possible implications for the plan, questioned the omission of “Concerts in the Park” from the draft Master Plan Update, and emphasized the event’s significance to community identity and park use.

Chair Brown asked about community engagement with groups on the east side regarding the proposed fly field relocation, requested clarification of the term “passive use” in the plan, and inquired about potential city benefits—financial and otherwise—if Fairview Park were managed more as a preserve than a park.

[Correspondence received.](#)

Public Comment:

Josh Guesman: Orange County Model Engineers (OCME) president thanked the Commission, expressed OCME's support for most of the draft Master Plan Update, and requested that the organization be formally included in future decisions affecting the east side of Fairview Park.

Nick: Opposed the draft Master Plan, stating it unfairly displaced the model flyers and raised concerns about Measure AA and accessibility for youth.

Marcus: Opposed the draft Master Plan Update, saying Harbor Soaring Society (HSS) provided valuable engineering and educational experiences that should not be taken away.

Hank Castignetti: OCME Treasurer and Fairview Park Steering Committee liaison supported inclusion of OCME in future discussions, noting the group's long stewardship of the east side and prior outreach to HSS about relocation.

Dan Vizanalik: HSS Member opposes the draft Master Plan Update, cited potential Measure AA restrictions, unsuitable conditions on the east side, and the long-standing coexistence of HSS with the park's natural habitat.

Michael August OCME Vice President of Facilities supported the draft Master Plan Update and emphasized OCME's role as volunteer docents who educate thousands of visitors about Fairview Park's wildlife and environment.

Carrie: Opposed the draft Master Plan Update, arguing that residents need spaces for active recreation and educational activities alongside natural areas.

Jay Humphrey: Submitted written comments and recommended renaming Fairview Park to reflect its natural preservation goals, while questioning the logic of retaining the fly field in a sensitive habitat area.

Daiquiri Shear: Supported HSS and advocated for environmental education rather than increased fencing, emphasizing that teaching youth respect for nature better protects Fairview Park.

Dr. Adam Ereth: Explained that Measure AA allows glider flying and that relocating the fly field could be considered new construction requiring voter approval, cautioning against triggering Measure AA.

Jake Underwood: Supported keeping glider flying at Fairview Park, calling it a quiet, low-impact hobby and urging balance between recreation and preservation.

Angely Andrade Vallerta: Supported designating Fairview Park as a nature preserve, citing environmental and cultural significance, federal compliance needs, and the value of long-term ecological stewardship.

Mike Costello: Opposed eliminating glider flying, referencing expert advice that limited flying schedules were sufficient to protect wildlife without banning the activity.

Cynthia McDonald: Urged relocating the fly field outside Fairview Park to comply with environmental laws and strengthen habitat protections while maintaining balanced public access.

Andy Campbell: Supported the draft Master Plan Update and regulatory recommendations, cited erosion damage from glider use, and suggested refining the park history, adding a staircase, and emphasizing preservation.

David Martinez: Recommended allowing bicycles on Fairview Park's primary trails for consistency with other city parks and aligning with Costa Mesa's circulation plan.

Henry Smith: Defended HSS, noting no grading had occurred for over a decade and minimal mowing, arguing wildlife had adapted to glider activity.

Sarah Rodelo: Spoke as an educator in support of preserving Fairview Park's natural areas for students' outdoor learning, mental health, and environmental education.

Andrew Ineguez: Supported maintaining Fairview Park's accessibility for families and encouraged balance between natural preservation and community use.

Scott Smith: Model flyer and opposed the draft Master Plan Update in regards to the fly field.

Mat Garcia: President of HSS and read a US Fish and Wildlife letter from 2014.

Kim Hendricks: shared a PowerPoint showing Fairview Park wildlife, sunset views, and encouraging nature education.

Kohl Crecelius: Chair of the Fairview Park Steering Committee and would like to see recreation, preservation, and conservation within the park. Commends the different passions the public expresses for the park use.

Don Wittenberg: HSS member and the value the fly field brings regarding aviation education.

Rick Huffman: Plan has been a long-time coming and tells a great story of a nature preserve and accessible for all types of community. Would like to see the relocation of the fly field as it impacts sensitive species/habitat.

Jon Rittenhouse: 50-year resident and HSS member and explain why the park location is best for the hobby.

Terri Fuqua: Expressed concern of gliders landing into park habitat.

Priscilla Rocco: Spoke about Council decision concerns based on community input rather than scientific expert recommendation. Advocated for restoration and relocation of the fly field and assign additional Park Ranger at the park.

Ben B: Spoke in favor of the draft Master Plan Update. Hopes for stronger policy and e-bikes restrictions.

Rob: Does not support the draft Master Plan Update. Wants to see a balance of diverse groups within the park.

Patrick Flynn: Would like to see clear access to trails without taking away amenities/events.

James Robertson: Not in support of moving the fly field.

Jim Erickson: Cited Measure AA definitions to argue relocating the fly field conflicts with its intent, emphasized gliders' lack of noise, and urged a balanced interpretation of park uses.

Jennifer Tanaka: Echoed concerns about Measure AA compliance and bicycle access, questioned use of park impact fees for a plan reducing active recreation, and urged caution over potential legal risks.

Andreas A.: Supported keeping Fairview Park as a balanced, family-friendly space where children can explore nature safely without losing recreational access.

Brief recess occurred from 8:07 PM to 8:13 PM.

Commissioner Dorn Parker spoke about Back Bay's evolution to argue Fairview Park was too unique and fragile to continue "as is," supported stronger restoration, education, signage, fencing and public safety, and urged exploring relocation of the fly field to another park while moving forward quickly with a flexible master plan.

Commissioner Komala emphasized that "balance" between resource protection and public access had to guide the plan, treated the master plan as a first step rather than final word, and asked detailed questions about funding for rangers, handling contaminated fill and archaeology, and designing interpretive and play features to remain passive and Measure AA-compliant.

Commissioner Leger reflected on growing up playing in Fairview Park, acknowledged any decision would upset some users, raised safety and regulatory concerns about the current fly field, and asked whether relocation would change flying limits, generate revenue, affect vernal pools, and how concerts in the park and a potential name change to a preserve would be handled.

Vice Chair Wright supported investments in trails, fencing, ADA access, nature play and robust interpretive signage, backed CMABS' bicycle trail recommendations, and argued that HSS was being unfairly singled out compared to other high-impact uses, stating support for keeping the fly field under the current limited, permitted operation unless the park were fully redefined as a strict nature preserve with all high-impact uses reconsidered.

Chair Brown asked staff to spell out the regulatory, financial and legal consequences of keeping or ignoring directives about the fly field, sought clarity on bike restrictions and tribal engagement, and then stressed Fairview Park's unique sensitive habitat, expressed concern about long-term regulatory risk of keeping HSS in place, signaled openness to relocating the club outside the park, and framed her position around scientific expertise, species protection, and a nuanced concept of ecological and social balance.

Commissioner Dorn Parker urged City Council to consider a future ballot measure to update Measure AA so the city could add interpretive facilities, shade, and other protective/educational features at Fairview Park, framing it as a necessary long-term step to truly protect and responsibly enjoy the open space.

Commissioner Leger stated that she supported the draft master plan as presented and did not find any issues with it.

Chair Brown praised the educational value and public engagement of the process but noted she felt rushed, and recommended earlier involvement of PACS and the Fairview Park Steering Committee, better tools like matrices, and simple summary "cheat sheets" to help more community members understand and participate.

Commissioner reviewed the recommendation and drafted commission comments. (Attachment 1)

**MOTION:** To accept the draft values as written with additional edits as discussed.

**MOVED/SECOND:** Commissioner Leger / Commissioner Dorn Parker

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Dorn Parker, Commissioner Komala, Commissioner Leger, Vice Chair Wright, Chair Brown

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** Commissioner Husen, Commissioner Garcia Arcos

**Motion Carried:** 5 – 0

**ADJOURNMENT** by Chair Brown at 10:06PM.