
THE COSTA MESA PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

MAY 9, 2024
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Vice Chair Dorn Parker at 6:00pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Glabb.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
☒ Cristian Garcia Arcos	☒ Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
☒ Scott Glabb	☒ Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director
☒ Cassius Rutherford	☒ Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
☒ Terry Wall	☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
☒ Shyanne Wright	☒ Kathia Viteri, Office Specialist II
☐ Kelly Brown, Vice Chair	
☒ Elizabeth Dorn Parker, Chair	

PRESENTATION:

1. COSTA MESA 311 SMART PHONE APP

English and Spanish clip were shown on how to download the app.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Victor: Youth leader with *Chamoy* (Changing Hearts and Minds of Youth), discussed the organization's efforts and hopes it will lead to systemic changes to improve their city.

Araceli: Shared feedback regarding park improvement projects in District 4.

Jacob Sanchez: Costa Mesa resident invited the community to Love Costa Mesa Day.

Ben Strack: Costa Mesa resident and longtime youth baseball coach. Commended the City for the well-maintained fields at TeWinkle Park. Advocated for potential expansion and enhancement of facilities. Emphasized the importance of quality facilities for skill development, enjoyment, and pride among young athletes. Highlighted the need for improvements to drainage system for better field usability, especially during rainy seasons.

Eric Roberts: Chair of the Fairview Park Steering Committee, emphasized their focus on Fairview Park and their commitment to native species. Plans to regularly attend Parks and Community Services Commission meetings to provide updates and collaborate on park improvement initiatives. Shared the current priorities include the Master Plan update and enhancing transparency regarding capital improvement projects.

Dulce Saavedra: Resilience OC member inquired and encouraged for virtual input from the community if they cannot attend in-person community meeting. Suggested online surveys.

Itzia Olivera: Costa Mesa resident and member of *Chamoy*. Spoke about recent vandalism

incident within her neighborhood. Shared idea of beginning beautification projects with community members to create murals.

Leslie Salvador: Costa Mesa resident and *Chamoy* member addressed concern about graffiti in her community. She noted the recent increase in graffiti sightings near Pomona and 19th St. and expressed a desire to combat it by creating a mural or collage in the affected areas.

Orlando Mendez: Student from Bolsa Grande High School and *Chamoy* member. Discussed the need for advocating for youth-oriented resources, and supports the efforts to improve the parks. Advocated for a skate park to provide opportunities for fun and recreation for individuals in his age group and emphasized the importance of overall park improvements to benefit the community.

Tao: Resident of Costa Mesa expressed passion for greening the city. Highlighted participation and experience in an Arbor Day tree planting event and shared the benefits of planting trees. Advocated for a greener, more sustainable Costa Mesa and propose the creation of an Annual Greening Strategy (AGS) plan to track tree coverage improvement over time.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Wright: Emphasized the importance of timely public feedback for upcoming park projects and capital improvement plans. Suggested avenues such as QR code feedback systems and direct email communication to elected officials and highlighted ongoing initiatives, including lighting projects and the West Side Park expansion fund. Acknowledged requested for a skate park and alley beautification project, mentioning available budget allocations for these purposes. Invited the community to attend Love Costa Mesa Day and expressed gratitude for residents' dedication to improving the city.

Commissioner Wall: Discussed the Ketchum-Libolt Park outreach meeting and active engagement of both city staff and community with the architects designing park improvements. Encouraged participation in upcoming outreach meetings and suggested additional communication avenues to enhance outreach effectiveness.

Commissioner Rutherford: Expressed gratitude for the feedback and input shared during the meeting and emphasized the importance of community involvement in driving city initiatives. Encouraged continued engagement and feedback from residents to influence decisions at City Hall. Announced it would be his last meeting after serving for over five years on the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Glabb: Thanked Norma Hertzog Community Center staff and highlighted facility rental amenities it offers.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos: Expressed gratitude to Victor, public commenter, for their involvement and commends the youth for their inspiring involvement and encouraged them to persist in making a difference. Recommended the 311 app for graffiti removal but notes limitations in accessing back alleys for cleanup. Highlighted Shalimar Park community engagement and Love Costa Mesa Day events.

Chair Dorn Parker: Attended the State of the City event and expressed appreciation for the work done to beautify the city and enhance resources. Plans to tour parks on their bike to engage with residents and gather feedback. Expressed personal sadness at the departure of Commissioner Rutherford and encouraged the public to become engaged with the Commission. Encouraged participation in greening efforts and shared that all outreach flyers are available online. Highlighted upcoming events, including input sessions for improving the skate park. Expressed concern about the cost of graffiti cleanup in alleyways and sought clarification on the matter.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes – 03/14/2024 PACS Draft Minutes

MOTION: Approve the amended minutes of March 14, 2024 Commission meeting.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Wall/Commissioner Rutherford.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Glabb, Commissioner Rutherford, Commissioner Wall, Commissioner Wright, Chair Dorn Parker

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Brown

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 AND THE FIVE-YEAR CIP BUDGET THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2028-29

Mr. Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager presented.

Public Comment:

Ralph Taboada: Costa Mesa resident and Financial and Pension Advisory Committee member. Voiced areas where the capital review and approval process could be improved. Pointed out that priorities changed but believed changes in the budget and expenditures should be addressed and communicated to make informed decisions. I'm just talking about the process. Believes the Commission should be aware what's in the CIP and the budget process.

Terry Lee: Costa Mesa resident and expressed support for the improvements at TeWinkle Sports Complex. Glad to see proposed project to address drainage issues.

James Lee: Baseball athlete at Newport Harbor High School. Regular player at TeWinkle Sports Complex and loves the facility. Believes adjustments of a regular bullpen can be improved by adding a Homeplate to signify a distance between the mound of home plate and warm up area. Suggested batting cages as an additional feature.

Victor: Expressed full support for proposed projects, emphasizing the need for attention to Shalimar Park. Additionally, urged for attention to other parks citing the disparity in equipment quality compared to neighboring cities and advocating for thoughtful consideration in proposed plans.

Stephen: Represented Costa Mesa Pony and drew concerns for smaller bases at TeWinkle Sports Complex and Luke Davis Field. Noted that placing a metal outline can allow younger ages to also play. Expressed drainage being an on-going issue and expressed that batting cages would be helpful to the growth of the players.

Tao: Happy of the upgrade plans for Costa Mesa facilities. Would like to see more lighting and exercise equipment for all the parks, in particular, Paularino Park.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos shared Shalimar and Ketchum-Libolt outreach meeting successes and inquired about the Young Tree Care Program. Questioned the budget allocated for program and care for trees.

Commissioner Rutherford commended Public Works presentation and appreciation for the draft CIP status report and emphasized its importance for transparency and project tracking. Suggested the total amperage savings from LED lighting upgrades to be utilized for the extra public EV charging stations. Inquired about the selection of a vendor for the Lions Park Cafe project and proposed potentially partnering with academic institutions to conduct studies regarding tree canopy. Questioned the high cost of the Fairview Park master plan and advocated for allocating funds toward project execution or collaborating with academic institutions to reduce planning expenses.

Commissioner Wall inquired if NFL usage at Jack Hamett would impact user groups. Would like to see CIP chart comparison from previous year, along with priority shifts to better understand priority changes.

Commissioner Wright recommended prioritizing neighborhood park projects that were previously pushed off, suggesting creative ways to elevate their importance. Proposed the inclusion of footnotes explaining changes made from previously approved plans and advocates for the addition of community gardens to the CIP plan due to high demand and their success as revenue-generating programs.

Vice Chair Dorn Parker highlighted the significance of good field drainage for play fields and suggests collaboration opportunities for procurement and cooling centers with other agencies and facilities. Proposed having a study session to thoroughly understand the budgeting process and project funding sources, aiming for improved transparency and informed decision-making.

Commissioner Rutherford emphasized the critical nature of addressing environmental concerns and suggests integrating EV charging infrastructure into existing projects as a cost-effective solution.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. PARK RANGER REPORT – MARCH AND APRIL 2024

Mr. Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director presented.

Public Comment: None.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MARCH AND APRIL 2024

Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director presented.

Public Comment: None.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

Vice Chair Dorn Parker thanked Commissioner Rutherford for his involvement and impact on the Commission.

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Dorn Parker at 8:32 P.M.

DRAFT