
THE COSTA MESA PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

JUNE 27, 2024
6:00 P.M. – OFFICIAL MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Garcia Arcos.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE for Commissioner Leger.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners	City Staff
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cristian Garcia Arcos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Glabb	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandice Leger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Wall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant
<input type="checkbox"/> Shyanne Wright	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kathia Viteri, Office Specialist II
<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Brown, Vice Chair	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Dorn Parker, Chair	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Hendricks: With Fairview Park Alliance brought forward organization calendars of Fairview Park and child booklets.

Juana Trejo: Promoter for health and well-being in Orange County and District 3 resident. Concerned with the safety issues in Costa Mesa and gang and drug activity. Would like to see more program geared towards youth to help build a healthy community.

Evan Carey: Spoke about Moon Park and need for updating equipment/lighting and review of amenities to help provide more recreational options to the community.

Sergio Tellez: With Coastal Corridor Alliance and gave insight to the organization's new mission along with highlight of organization events. Encouraged the community to sign up for their newsletter or follow their social media for more information on their events.

Terri Fuqua: Encouraged the public to go to Fairview Park. Has recently seen sighting of swallows.

Hank Castignetti: Highlighted the Orange County Model Engineer Trains and activities happening at the Train Lot.

Araceli Rodriguez: Appreciates the tree planting that occurred on Wallace and Shalimar. Would like to see implementation of more activities and programs for the youth.

Lynn Redman: Spoke about previous public comments made at Council meeting and concerns of transient activity at Fairview Park.

Cynthia McDonald: Resident concerned for recent Del Mar gang-related tagging and would like to see Paularino Park install restrooms again and access to school playgrounds.

Eric Roberts: Congratulated Ms. Leger on her appointment to the Commission. Encouraged the Commission to attend the next Fairview Park Steering Committee scheduled for Wednesday, July 10.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Wall: Thank first responders for their action to the Fairview Park fire that happened on June 23. Spoke about aggressive dogs off leash discussions happening on Facebook page, *Costa Mesa Buzz*. Spoke about Mr. Carey's concern for Moon Park lighting and equipment updates.

Commissioner Leger: Thank everyone for the opportunity to be here and the warm reception received.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos: Thanked all the public speakers for coming out today. Spoke about safety concerns for recent violent activity. Highlighted Love Costa Mesa Day successful community day. Spoke about community opportunities for preservation with Ancient Forest Society and Boleros, organization that helps with safety and education for Spanish speaking individuals.

Commissioner Glabb: Echoed Commissioner Wall's comments and thanked Mr. Carey for sharing his concerns and issues with Moon Park.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. PROPOSED DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS FOR KETCHUM-LIBOLT PARK

Mr. Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director, and Mr. Tony Dodero, Public Information Officer and consultant presented.

10-minute break occurred to help resolve technical issues.

Public Comment:

Cynthia McDonough: Stressed the need for non-gender restroom with a changing table for the park improvements.

Erik Roberts: Would like to know the definition of whimsical and law enforcement theme selection as more whimsical votes were reflected in the report. Would like to see alternate view of the park renderings rather than just an ariel.

Ralph Taboada: Resident highlighted the city for their public outreach for this project. Would like to see restrooms added to the design to make park more useful and beneficial to the community.

Terri Fuqua: Stressed the need for a drinking fountain.

Commissioner Glabb inquired about restrooms installation and cost.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos inquired about pine tree concerns.

Commissioner Wall inquired if there was a standard park size for restroom installation.

Chair Dorn Parker inquired about park design considerations highlighting shade structures position layout, restroom feasibility and attraction of unwanted activity concerns, tree species selection and grass space perimeter fencing to help prevent dog walker use.

MOTION: Approve staff recommendations for Ketchum Libolt Park.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Glabb/Commissioner Leger.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Glabb, Commissioner Leger, Commissioner Wall, Chair Dorn Parker

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Brown and Commissioner Wright

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

2. PROPOSED DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS FOR SHALIMAR PARK

Mr. Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director, and Mr. Tony Doderro, Public Information Officer and consultant, community works design group, presented.

Public Comment:

Ralph Toboada: Resident spoke about the need for restrooms regarding size of park. Encouraged review of restroom installation cost to help create more utilitarian of the park.

Juana Trejo: Lived in the Shalimar community for 10 years and due to criminal activity left to show her kids living conditions with no criminal activity. Would like to see a safer park for the Shalimar community. Highlighted the need for a restroom.

Cynthia McDonald: Resident spoke about the need for restrooms for all park in the community.

Araceli Rodriguez: Resident from District 4. Recommended more lighting to the backside of the park, no artificial grass or turf, hopes to see speed bumps installed on the streetway to slow cars down, bag receptacles for pet pick-up, and a larger tree to help with shading area. Also, recommended the play area be moved to the front of the park, leave the tree in the center and not open the street along Shalimar.

Sergio: Representing District 4 shared his experiences at Shalimar Park. Supports installation of a restroom, citing its necessity during community events. Also mentioned that the lack of restrooms forces attendees to rely on nearby residents,

creating an inconvenience and discouraging visitors from staying longer. Expressed frustration with the difficulties of coordinating events in Shalimar, particularly the challenges posed by the city's protocols and permit requirements. Request flexibility from the City when issuing permits for community-focused events.

Paul Wagner: Resident expressed strong support for the proposed park overhaul in Shalimar and emphasized the importance of including a restroom in the plans. Advocated for the use of native or edible plants in park landscaping, rather than ornamental plants due to broader ecosystem concerns. Also stressed to steer away use of plastic materials in civic areas and parks. Expressed growing evidence of plastic degradation under sun exposure, which releases harmful particles into the air and water, posing serious health risks to humans and wildlife.

Ashley Rodriguez Romo: Would like to see the fences, restrooms, and cameras to help with activity at the park.

Rick Hoffman: Resident expressed the need for improvement and suggested the City to review surrounding property for purchase to enhance the area and keep it maintained.

Eric Roberts: Supported Mr. Wagner's comments regarding native plant species in parks. Emphasized the need for proper park orientation in design plans, shading distinction, and restroom inclusion.

Commissioner Leger inquired about park duration hours.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos inquired on bathroom installation costs and gave sticker survey feedback to consultant.

Commissioner Glabb inquired about crime data at our parks and drew concerns of a restroom bringing the wrong element to the park.

Chair Dorn Parker asked for staff clarification regarding a “mini pitch”, lighting placement, shading placement, grass material, restroom being a bigger need City wide and the Commission can ask the City Council to move forward with staff recommendation and really look for grant opportunity to really look at all our parks, all the restrooms, drinking fountains, so many of our parks. So many parks don't have shade structure. They don't have a lot of things.

MOTION: Approve Plan B, with a request for counsel to review for restroom option and navigate that in those comments during a council meeting.

MOVED/SECOND: Commissioner Garcia Arcos/Commissioner Wall.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Glabb, Commissioner Leger, Commissioner Wall, Chair Dorn Parker

Nays: none

Absent: Vice Chair Brown and Commissioner Wright

Motion Carried: 5 – 0

3. FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Kelly Dalton, Fairview Park Administrator, and MIG consultant presented.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos inquired about firework noise concerns with wildlife and mulching designated areas at Fairview Park.

Chair Dorn Parker asked for map key clarification.

Public Comment:

Lynn Redman: Christian Redmond's father. Highlighted the ongoing challenges of black mustard and concerns of maintenance.

Kim Hendricks: highlighted concerns about ongoing concerts at Fairview Park. Advocated for the proposed museum to be located on the grassy area on the east side of the park, suggesting it would be an ideal spot for a growing space. Expressed concern about the glider planes. urged the city to listen to experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, city staff, committees, and the community to ensure the protection and proper management of Fairview Park.

Paul Wagner: Resident and part of Coastal Corridor Alliance expressed support for the restoration and protection of the natural landscapes at Fairview Park. Also in favor of establishing a native plant nursery at the park and search for other venues for concert events to help with wildlife impacts.

Jennifer Thomas: Resident and Fairview Park Steering Committee member encouraged all commissioners to attend the next committee meeting. Urged the Commission to prioritize the removal of fill material from Fairview Park and advocating this also to City Council.

Kohl Crecelius: Vice Chair of the Fairview Park Steering Committee and a 15-year resident of Costa Mesa, emphasized the unique value of Fairview Park. Voiced that more community workshops and meetings are planned, providing additional opportunities for public input. Also, stressed the importance of balancing recreation and conservation, particularly for younger generations. As a father of two young boys, he believes that children need direct experiences in nature to understand its importance. He looks forward to seeing future plans that will better delineate the park's uses and preservation efforts, ensuring it remains a valuable resource for decades to come and thanked everyone involved in the park's stewardship.

Cynthia McDonald: Enjoyed staff presentation, would like to see more information in future staff reports. Recommended removing the gliders from Fairview Park and urged the restoration and preservation of Fairview Park.

Eric Roberts: Would like to see slides provided prior to the night of the meeting. Supported the restoration efforts and invited the Commission to attend Fairview Park Steering Committee meetings and restoration days at the park.

Hank Castignetti: Orange County Model Engineer and liaison to the Fairview Park

Steering Committee. Supported the restoration efforts for Fairview Park

Henry Smith (Zoom): Harbor Soaring Society member spoke about the glider flying at Fairview Park and youth wanting to learn about aviation when out there gliding.

Mike (Zoom): Former Harbor Soaring Society president, spoke about the benefits of flying glider within the youth and encouraged the continuation of gliders at Fairview Park.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos How do you think or how have you seen the harbor source Soaring Society affect the habitat around Fairview?

Item was received and filed.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Dorn Parker at 8:53 PM