



**CITY OF COSTA MESA**  
**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**Agenda**

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**Thursday, November 14, 2024**

**6:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers**  
**77 Fair Drive**

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**PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 14, 2024 – 6:00 P.M.**

**ELIZABETH DORN PARKER**  
**District 6 - Chair**

**SCOTT GLABB**  
**District 1 - Commissioner**

**KELLY BROWN**  
**District 5 - Vice Chair**

**BRANDICE LEGER**  
**District 2 - Commissioner**

**CRISTIAN GARCIA ARCOS**  
**District 4 - Commissioner**

**TERRY WALL**  
**District 3 - Commissioner**

**SHAYANNE WRIGHT**  
**At-Large - Commissioner**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS – MATTERS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA**

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Comments are limited to three (3) minutes, or as otherwise directed.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless members of the Parks and Community Services Commission, staff, or the public request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion. The public can make this request via email at [PACSCComments@costamesaca.gov](mailto:PACSCComments@costamesaca.gov) and should include the item number to be addressed. Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be discussed and voted upon immediately following Parks and Community Services Commission action on the remainder of the Consent Calendar.

1. [MINUTES](#) [24-376](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the minutes of the September 12, 2024, Parks & Community Services Commission meeting.

**Attachments:** [09/12/24 PACS Draft Minutes](#)

2. [DEPARTMENT REPORT](#) [24-377](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Parks and Community Services Commission receive and file report.

**Attachments:** [Department Report September - October 2024](#)

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

1. PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. [DONATION OF TREE AND PLAQUE AT CANYON PARK](#) [24-372](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff requests that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of a memorial tree and plaque to be located in the "meadow area" of Canyon Park, in memory of Moses Wilbur Johnson.

**Attachments:** [Agenda Report](#)

[1. Resident Correspondence](#)

[2. City Council Policy 800-4](#)

[3. Proposed Planting Location](#)

**ADDITIONAL COMMISSION MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: tentatively Thursday, January 9, 2025**



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-376

**Meeting Date:** 11/14/2024

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**TITLE:**

**MINUTES**

**DEPARTMENT:** **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of the minutes of the September 12, 2024, Parks & Community Services Commission meeting.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024  
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** by Commissioner Leger.

**ROLL CALL**

= Present     = Absent

**Commissioners**

- Cristian Garcia Arcos
- Scott Glabb
- Brandine Ledger
- Terry Wall
- Shayanne Wright
- Kelly Brown, Vice Chair
- Elizabeth Dorn Parker, Chair

**City Staff**

- Brian Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director
- Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager
- Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
- Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Lynn Redman: Raised concerns about weed control, particularly black mustard, in Fairview Park. Also shared his experience from farming, noting that most herbicides are ineffective against black mustard and broad-spectrum herbicides could harm native plants. He and others have been manually removing the mustard, but the plant grows year-round and is difficult to control. Mr. Redman fears that delays in the approved weed control plans will result in a full year of lost mustard removal efforts, leading to further complications with other invasive plants like thistles and horehound.

Eric Jimenez: Co-founder of Bright Youth, a community-led organization, spoke about their mission to provide resources that inspire growth and hope for youth and has organized multiple events over the past three (3) years, with their largest being the "Back to School Fresh" event. They have donated over 500 backpacks, meals, haircuts, hygiene products, and more. Collaborating with local officials and the city of Costa Mesa, they unite nonprofits, businesses, and community leaders to support at-risk and gang-affiliated youth. Invited those interested in their mission to contact him for involvement.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

**Commissioner Wall:** Expressed appreciation for the LED lighting upgrades at Bark Park, noting how enhanced lighting improves safety. Also mentioned a beetle infestation at the park and were curious about its resolution. Another topic raised was the long waitlist for community gardens, with 162 people waiting between Del Mar and Hamilton gardens. The speaker suggested utilizing space at Fairview Developmental Center for a new community garden to accommodate the demand, particularly for non-homeowners or renters who lack gardening space. This idea was proposed as a potential solution to meet the growing interest in community gardening.

**Commissioner Ledger:** Noted mustard has health benefits and inquired if the mustard in Fairview is edible and opportunity for the community to harvest be a way to help control the overgrowth.

**Commissioner Glabb:** Invited commissioners and staff to attend the Costa Mesa High School football game against Savannah High School at 7 p.m. He offered to add them and a guest to the VIP list if they email him.

**Commissioner Garcia Arcos:** Shared his recent experience in the Sequoias, where he completed research and reconnected with nature, noting it helped him de-stress. He mentioned working with world-leading scientists and encouraged others to check out the nonprofit Ancient Forest Society. He also expressed appreciation for Eric Jimenez and his team's efforts supporting youth, emphasizing their shared background. Lastly, announced his new role as co-chair of Arbolero and discussed plans to promote tree safety education, highlighting the tragic fatalities in the tree industry, including two (2) local incidents.

**Vice Chair Brown:** Shared her experience attending a Fairview Park public input session as the commission's liaison. She praised the session's format, which allowed attendees to move between stations for recommendations and input. However, she noted that input recording varied between stations. As a mother of a teen, Brown highlighted the lack of resources for teenagers, despite the city's recent efforts to offer free activities and field trips for teens. She emphasized the need for greater youth engagement in public spaces like Fairview Park and suggested exploring ways to involve teens in civic processes, perhaps through public engagement or activities like those offered by ACMA, which provides curatorial experiences for older teens. Lastly, she voiced support for expanding community gardening plots, especially for residents in high-density housing.

**Chair Dorn Parker:** Praised staff for their responsiveness to community input regarding park planning, especially on issues like adding shade, drinking fountains, dog spaces, and gender-neutral restrooms. She emphasized the need for more resources, particularly in response to the growing popularity of pickleball and its impact on park planning. Chair Dorn Parker also highlighted the cooperation between Newport Mesa Unified School District and the City with Harper Park, balancing neighborhood and school use. She commended improvements at Kaiser for increasing bike and walkability, enhancing safety, especially for school children. Additionally, she mentioned progress on Brentwood Park and the Costa Mesa Tennis Center's efforts to integrate pickleball, appreciating the staff's community-driven approach and commitment to making changes based on feedback.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 1. Minutes – 08/08/2024 PACS Draft Minutes**
- 2. Department Report – August 2024**

**MOTION:** to approve Consent Calendar

**MOVED/SECOND:** Commissioner Wall/ Vice Chair Brown.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

**Ayes:** Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Glabb, Commissioner Ledger, Commissioner Wall, Vice Chair Brown, Chair Dorn Parker

**Nays:** none

**Absent:** Commissioner Wright



**Motion Carried: 6 – 0**

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

### **1. PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director presented.

#### Public Comment:

David Martinez: Planning Commission member, mentioned that the Planning Commission will review the Fairview Developmental Center's Open Space Plans during their study session. He invited feedback on the size and use of open space, with current concepts ranging from 8 to 18 acres, mostly for park areas and sports fields. He plans to raise the idea of community gardens. Mr. Martinez also emphasized the importance of access to the site and surrounding spaces like Fairview Park. He requested input from the Commission on oversubscription of facilities like soccer fields and basketball courts to prioritize them in the new space.

Commissioner Glabb inquired about the organization that provides mental health services at the Senior Center.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos invited others to visit Shalimar Park for an introduction, expressing appreciation for their work and the positive impact it has.

Vice Chair Brown reflected on her three-year experience with the commission, noting the significant increase in pickleball courts. She raised questions about the new teen center, specifically its opening timeline, opportunities for tours, and how teen input was gathered for its design. Additionally, she expressed concern about outreach strategies to engage a broader teen population beyond those who typically participate, suggesting that teens should help craft plans for outreach. Vice Chair Brown shared her experience of finding information in school communications, highlighting the need for better visibility in promoting teen center activities.

Commissioner Leger echoed support for teen involvement in volunteering at Fairview Park and reminded the public to pre-register for the free ARTventure awards event. She also shared her teen center experience, highlighting how the dances felt more like adult events, offering a more elevated experience for teens.

Chair Dorn Parker inquired about the expected attendance numbers for the newly opened teen center, emphasizing its role as a safe space for pre-teens and teens to engage with one another away from their phones and computers.

## **OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **1. REPLACEMENT OF THE EXERCISE EQUIPMENT AT WIMBLEDON PARK**

Mr. Rob Ryan, Public Works Maintenance Services Manager presented.

Vice Chair Brown asked for information regarding the number of people using the teen center and if there is any data available on its usage.

Chair Dorn Parker shared that friends living near a park with outdoor exercise equipment love it and frequently use it, describing it as a centerpiece for their community. He noted that while his observations are anecdotal, residents appreciate the outdoor gym, especially with the recent recognition of the need for ADA-compliant equipment to accommodate aging users and those with physical limitations. He expressed gratitude for this consideration in the park's development.

Commissioner Leger expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming pickleball lessons, as he feels left out of the sport. He also noted his appreciation for the exercise equipment, highlighting its 16-year lifespan as a sign of good value, considering the longevity it provided.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos inquired about the presence of shade and whether there are plans to plant trees that could provide shade in the future, as he was uncertain about the surrounding environment.

Item received and filed.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT** by Chair Dorn Parker at 7:08 P.M.



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

## Agenda Report

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

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**File #:** 24-377

**Meeting Date:** 10/10/2024

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**TITLE:**

**DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**DEPARTMENT:**                      **PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Parks and Community Services Commission receive and file report.



# **PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION REPORT**

MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 14, 2024

ITEM NUMBER: CC 2

**SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT REPORT SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2024**

**DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

**FROM: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: BRIAN GRUNER, PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR, (714) 754 - 5009**

## ❖ Adaptive Programming

- **A Wicked Dance**

- Access Costa Mesa was proud to host the second annual Wicked Dance at the Costa Mesa Senior Center on Friday, October 18. Our all abilities friendly dance featured spooky beats spun by DJ Noah and photos captured at the phantasmic photo booth. Dancers lined up early and in costume ready to dance the night away in a safe and welcoming environment. With over 100 attendees, we made new friends, reacquainted with old ones, ate our weight in candy, and most importantly, had a wicked good time.

## ❖ Adult Sports

- **Adult Sports**

- Softball League – Operated by Major League Softball
  - Fall 2024 begins September 14 – December 15
- Senior Softball League – Operated by City Staff
  - Fall 2024 begins September 14 – December 15

**Adult Basketball League - Operated by City Staff**

Season YYYY	Duration	Mon. Teams	Wed. Teams	Participant Total
Fall 2024	Sept. 30 – Dec. 16	7	5	114
Summer 2024	July 15 – Sept. 23	5	4	98
Spring 2024	April 15 – June 26	6	6	139

- **Fields**

Field Usage	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
# of Organizations	47	51	51	51	51	51	51
Hours	30,035	32,934	14,586	12,688	16,821	37,518	45,604

❖ **Community Gardens**

Garden Location	Parcel Quantity	Parcels Rented	Waitlisted
Del Mar	57	57	135
Hamilton	42	42	39

❖ **Contract Classes**

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Youth & Adult Totals:	328	426	317	329	369	291	319	381

❖ **Costa Mesa Senior Center**

- The October 2024 monthly newsletter was mailed to 4,041 members. This is an increase of 53 members since September 2024.
- Seniors had a spooktacular good time at the annual Halloween Bash. Seniors enjoyed lunch from Pizza D’ Oro, dancing, and a costume contest.
- The LEAP program visited the Senior Center dressed in their Halloween costumes for the annual LEAP Trick or Treat. This year’s theme was Nightmare Before Christmas, so doors throughout the center were decorated by the center’s creative staff. Senior volunteers distributed candy to the happy trick or treaters.

Senior Programs	March	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Meals on Wheels OC - Meals	3,885	4,416	3,576	1,582	4,216	1,627	1,268
Meals on Wheels OC - Seniors	2,002	2,400	1,929	1,493	2,202	1,519	1,154
Second Harvest Grocery Boxes	184	623	501	405	430	422	379
Wellness Calls	1,752	2,146	1,950	2,118	1,692	2,111	1,790
Transportation Program Trips	1,656	2,445	1,773	2,413	2,147	2,517	1,829

❖ **Downtown Aquatic Center**

Aquatics Programs	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Drop-In Participants	85	47	54	186	174	265	124	141
Total Drop-In Visits	234	128	146	641	678	961	549	534
Instructional Class Participants	N/A	N/A	N/A	292	516	782	429	238
Instructional Class Attendance	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,105	1,705	1,697	1,192	502

❖ **Downtown Recreation Center**

Gym Programs	September		October	
	Participants	Total Visits	Participants	Total Visits
Pickleball	159	652	163	691
Youth Open Gym	37	100	30	85
Basketball	36	77	18	62
Volleyball	128	244	93	161

❖ **Facility Rentals**

	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Number of Rentals	48	47	59	38	41	45	31	42

❖ **Fairview Park**

- The City hosted its Second Saturday restoration days on October 12th, in partnership with Fairview Park Alliance, focusing on non-native vegetation removal in the vernal pool 5/6/7 buffer area. The next Second Saturday restoration day is scheduled for Saturday, November 9th.
- The City hosted a Teens Give Back event at Fairview Park on October 19th. The teens installed about 50 native coastal sage scrub plants and then removed a large patch of invasive mustard plants.

❖ **Permits**

September - Park Rental Permits			
Park Location	Permits Issued	Park Location	Permits Issued
Brentwood	1	Shiffer	5
Del Mesa	7	Smallwood	2
Estancia	5	TeWinkle	27
Heller	3	Vista	3
Jordan	1	Wakeham	14
Pinkley	1		

October - Park Rental Permits			
Park Location	Permits Issued	Park Location	Permits Issued
Brentwood	2	Shiffer	5
Canyon	1	Smallwood	4
Del Mesa	7	Tanager	1
Estancia	3	TeWinkle	18
Heller	1	Vista	6
Jordan	3	Wakeham	9

Film Permits		
	Sept.	Oct.
Permits Issued	1	3
Permits at City Facilities	1	1
Permits at Private Commercial Property	0	2
Pending Permits on TESSA	0	2
Total Permits Issued for 2024	8	12

Special Event Permits		
	Sept.	Oct.
Permits Issued for October	5	5
Permits at City Facilities	4	3
Permits at Private Commercial Property	1	2
Pending Permits on TESSA	1	5
Total Permits Issued for 2024	43	46

❖ **Youth Programs**

- **L.E.A.P. Program**

- August 19, 2024 – May 23, 2025
- Held at Balearic Community Center in 2 classrooms of 20
- Operates Monday – Friday for all ages

Age (Days)	Capacity	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
3-5 year old	40	29	30	

- **R.O.C.K.S Afterschool Program**

- August 19, 2024 – June 6, 2025
- Registration open now for nine (9) NMUSD school sites

School Site	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Adams	32	32	
California	132	136	
College Park	69	69	
Davis	194	199	
Killybrooke	61	66	
Paularino	25	26	
Sonora	41	44	
Victoria	50	51	
Whittier	40	39	

- **Mobile Recreation**

- Free drop-in program providing recreation to elementary-age children at neighborhood parks with limited access to summer programs
- Registration is not required
- Attends City events to provide interactive games and crafts to the public

Day of the Week	Location	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Monday	Paularino Park	32	21	
Tuesday	Shalimar Park	11	26	
Wednesday	Ketchum-Libolt Park	6	5	
Thursday	Wilson Park	8	2	
Weekends	City Events	2,500	315	

- **Youth Sports**

- **BeFIT Pickleball**

- Inaugural season
- Free program teaching fundamentals of Pickleball in a six-week session
- Split into three (3) divisions, with practices held at Downtown Recreation Center Gym
- Season: August 27 – October 5, 2024

Divisions / Grade level	Capacity	Enrolled
A. 6th - 8th Grade	20	19
B. 4th - 5th Grade	20	18
C. 1st - 3rd Grade	20	20

- **Teen Program**

- Free afterschool care for 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grades from August 19, 2024 – June 5, 2025
- Teen Centers at TeWinkle Middle School and Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)
- Offers shuttle transportation from Ensign Inter./Newport Harbor High School to the DRC Teen Center and Save Our Youth (SOY)

Program Location	Sept.	Oct.
Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)	197	342
TeWinkle Middle School	261	332
Excursions	51	21
Shuttle Service	Sept.	Oct.
Downtown Recreation Center (DRC)	216	203
Save Our Youth (SOY)	106	140

Upcoming Events	Dates	Location
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Snoopy House	December 13 – 20	City Hall
Senior Thanksgiving Lunch	Thursday, November 21	Costa Mesa Senior Center
Costa Mesa Historical Society Scarecrow Soiree	Saturday, October 6	Norma Hertzog Community Center
Scarecrow Festival	Saturday, October 12	Lions Park Event Lawn
Teens Spooktacular Pumpkin Palooza and Movie Night	Friday, October 18	Downtown Recreation Center
Access Costa Mesa, <i>A Wicked Dance</i>	Friday, October 18	Costa Mesa Senior Center
Teen Program Gives Back with Restoration Saturday	Saturday, October 19	Fairview Park



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

## Agenda Report

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**File #:** 24-372

**Meeting Date:** 10/10/2024

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**TITLE:**

**DONATION OF TREE AND PLAQUE AT CANYON PARK**

**DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES**  
**DIVISION**

**PRESENTED BY: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER**

**CONTACT INFORMATION: ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER, (714)  
327-7499**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of a memorial tree and plaque to be located in the "meadow area" of Canyon Park, in memory of Moses Wilbur Johnson.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City is in receipt of a request from Eleanor M. Egan requesting permission from this Commission to donate a tree and a memorial plaque at Canyon Park, in memory of her colleague who passed away June 19, 2024 (Attachment 1). The request includes the following plaque language: "In Memory of Moses Wilbur Johnson".

Moses Wilbur Johnson was born December 12, 1957, in Downey, California, the youngest child of three children. He attended Western High School, where he ran track and field for the Pioneers and was team captain in his senior year. Moses married his wife Genny in 1980 and have two children, a son, Perry, and daughter, Isabel. Moses attended law school and graduated from the University of San Diego in 1983.

Moses began his law career in Guam where after two years as a law clerk in the Superior Court of Guam, he was admitted to the Guam Bar. Moses and Genny moved back to Southern California, and he was admitted to the California Bar in 1985. In 1994, as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Anaheim, Ms. Egan had a role in hiring Moses as Deputy City Attorney for that city. According to Ms. Egan, it was one of the best decisions she made in her professional life. Moses was an excellent lawyer and an engaging personality whom all his colleagues respected and enjoyed working with. Years after Ms. Egan retired, Moses was promoted to Assistant City Attorney in 2007 and excelled in that position until retiring in 2023, after 29 years of dedicated public service.

Moses died on June 19, 2024, and is survived by his wife, Genny Johnson, and his son, Perry, and daughter, Isabel, and daughters-in-law, Liz Johnson and Elena Jaramillo and grandson, Theo Roth

Johnson and numerous other loving family members.

Ms. Egan has lived in Costa Mesa since 1986 and served 8 years as Assistant City Attorney and two (2) terms as a Planning Commissioner. She would like to have a memorial tree near her home where she and others may enjoy it and gather to remember and honor a fine lawyer and a good man.

**ANALYSIS:**

The submitted request is in accordance with the requirements as set forth by City Council Policy 800-4 (Attachment 2). Staff has reviewed the suggested location in Canyon Park and determined that the location is suitable for the memorial tree and plaque (Attachment 3). There is an existing memorial tree and plaque approximately 170 feet northwest of the proposed location. Staff and the requestor agreed on planting a native Coast Live Oak, which matches the existing memorial tree and fits in with the existing mix of oaks and sycamores. If approved by the Parks and Community Services Commission, staff will work with the donor to schedule the installation.

The Applicant has been notified of the Parks and Community Services Commission meeting and has been sent a copy of this staff report.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Commission may deny the request for the donation of a tree and memorial plaque at Canyon Park or may suggest an alternate location.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

Upon approval by this Commission, the installation of the plaque will have minimal fiscal impact on the City. The donor will incur the cost of the tree and memorial plaque

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is required for this item.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff requests that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of the tree and plaque for installation at Canyon Park in memory of Mr. Moses Wilbur Johnson.



# CITY OF COSTA MESA

77 Fair Drive  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

## Agenda Report

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**File #:** 24-372

**Meeting Date:** 10/10/2024

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**TITLE:**

**DONATION OF TREE AND PLAQUE AT CANYON PARK**

**DEPARTMENT:** PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT/MAINTENANCE SERVICES  
**DIVISION**

**PRESENTED BY:** ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** ROBERT RYAN, MAINTENANCE SERVICES MANAGER, (714)  
327-7499

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff requests that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of a memorial tree and plaque to be located in the “meadow area” of Canyon Park, in memory of Moses Wilbur Johnson.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City is in receipt of a request from Eleanor M. Egan requesting permission from this Commission to donate a tree and a memorial plaque at Canyon Park, in memory of her colleague who passed away June 19, 2024 (Attachment 1). The request includes the following plaque language: “In Memory of Moses Wilbur Johnson”.

Moses Wilbur Johnson was born December 12, 1957, in Downey, California, the youngest child of three children. He attended Western High School, where he ran track and field for the Pioneers and was team captain in his senior year. Moses married his wife Genny in 1980 and have two children, a son, Perry, and daughter, Isabel. Moses attended law school and graduated from the University of San Diego in 1983.

Moses began his law career in Guam where after two years as a law clerk in the Superior Court of Guam, he was admitted to the Guam Bar. Moses and Genny moved back to Southern California, and he was admitted to the California Bar in 1985. In 1994, as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Anaheim, Ms. Egan had a role in hiring Moses as Deputy City Attorney for that city. According to Ms. Egan, it was one of the best decisions she made in her professional life. Moses was an excellent lawyer and an engaging personality whom all his colleagues respected and enjoyed working with. Years after Ms. Egan retired, Moses was promoted to Assistant City Attorney in 2007 and excelled in that position until retiring in 2023, after 29 years of dedicated public service.

Moses died on June 19, 2024, and is survived by his wife, Genny Johnson, and his son, Perry, and daughter, Isabel, and daughters-in-law, Liz Johnson and Elena Jaramillo and grandson, Theo Roth

Johnson and numerous other loving family members.

Ms. Egan has lived in Costa Mesa since 1986 and served 8 years as Assistant City Attorney and two (2) terms as a Planning Commissioner. She would like to have a memorial tree near her home where she and others may enjoy it and gather to remember and honor a fine lawyer and a good man.

**ANALYSIS:**

The submitted request is in accordance with the requirements as set forth by City Council Policy 800-4 (Attachment 2). Staff has reviewed the suggested location in Canyon Park and determined that the location is suitable for the memorial tree and plaque (Attachment 3). There is an existing memorial tree and plaque approximately 170 feet northwest of the proposed location. Staff and the requestor agreed on planting a native Coast Live Oak, which matches the existing memorial tree and fits in with the existing mix of oaks and sycamores. If approved by the Parks and Community Services Commission, staff will work with the donor to schedule the installation.

The Applicant has been notified of the Parks and Community Services Commission meeting and has been sent a copy of this staff report.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Commission may deny the request for the donation of a tree and memorial plaque at Canyon Park or may suggest an alternate location.

**FISCAL REVIEW:**

Upon approval by this Commission, the installation of the plaque will have minimal fiscal impact on the City. The donor will incur the cost of the tree and memorial plaque

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

No legal review is required for this item.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff requests that the Parks and Community Services Commission provide direction regarding the donation of the tree and plaque for installation at Canyon Park in memory of Mr. Moses Wilbur Johnson.

August 8, 2024

City of Costa Mesa  
Public Works Department  
77 Fair Drive  
P.O. Box 1200  
Costa Mesa, CA 92627  
Attention: Rob Ryan

Re: Request to donate tree and plaque

Dear Mr. Ryan:

I am writing to request the opportunity to donate a coastal live oak tree and memorial plaque in memory of my late colleague, Moses Wilbur Johnson, at a location in Canyon Park. If possible, I would like the tree to be planted in the meadow, where it could provide shade to the picnic table and bench there.

Moses Wilbur Johnson was born December 12, 1957 in Downey, California, the youngest child of George and Mary Joyce Johnson. Moses attended Western High School, where he ran track and field for the Pioneers and was team captain in his senior year. Moses Johnson and Genny Sabian were married in 1980. They have two children, a son, Perry, and a daughter, Isabel. Moses attended law school and graduated from the University of San Diego in 1983.

Moses began his law career in Guam, Genny's family's home. After two years as a law clerk in the Superior Court of Guam, Moses was admitted to the Guam Bar. Moses and Genny moved back to Southern California, and Moses was admitted to the California Bar in 1985 and worked in private practice for several years.

In 1994, as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Anaheim, I had a role in hiring Moses as Deputy City Attorney, one of the best decisions I have made in my professional life. Moses was an excellent lawyer and an engaging personality whom all his colleagues respected and enjoyed working with. Years after I retired, Moses was promoted to Assistant City Attorney in 2007. He excelled in that position until retiring in 2023, after 29 years of dedicated public service.

Moses died on June 19, 2024 and is survived by his wife, Genny Johnson, and his son, Perry, and daughter, Isabel, and daughters-in-law, Liz Johnson and Elena Jaramillo and grandson, Theo Roth Johnson and numerous other loving family members.

I have lived in Costa Mesa since 1986 and have served 8 years as Assistant City Attorney and two terms as a Planning Commissioner. I would like to have a memorial tree near to my home and where others may enjoy it, to honor a fine lawyer and a good man.

Sincerely yours,

Eleanor M. Egan

## CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA

## COUNCIL POLICY

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ACCEPTANCE AND RECOGNITION OF DONATION TO CITY PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES AND CIRCLE OF SERVICE RECOGNITION	800-4	6-17-02 12/5/02 Rev. 07/13/04	1 of 4

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Costa Mesa has, over a period of many years, received donations of time, money, materials, and park furniture/equipment, as well as requests for the placement of memorial plaques at City parks and public facilities. No formal process has existed for the acceptance of same, which has led to a disjointed, confusing practice. Due to the lack of a consistently applied policy, there are few records available to substantiate the basis upon which donations and/or the placement of memorial plaques were accepted.

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent procedure for the acceptance and recognition of donations to City parks and public facilities and requests for memorial plaques and Circle of Service recognition.

**POLICY**

It is the policy of the City of Costa Mesa to encourage donations by individuals, civic groups, and businesses for the purpose of improving City parks and public facilities. Such donations, including the placement of memorial plaques and volunteer efforts for clean-up projects, shall be accomplished in a consistent fashion in accordance with this policy. Any donation of equipment, park furniture, or plantings that include a request for a donor or memorial plaque shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration or approval before installation. Circle of Service nominations will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission and approved by the City Council. Financial donations or payments for donated items can be made to the City of Costa Mesa or the Costa Mesa Community Foundation. The Foundation Chair will acknowledge the donation in writing for those donations received by the Costa Mesa Community Foundation.

**PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES****TREE DONATIONS AND THE PLACEMENT OF DONOR OR MEMORIAL PLAQUES**

1. All donations of trees or other planting shall be in accordance with the Parks and Open Space Master Plan and/or comply with the approved park-planting palette. Donated trees shall be a minimum 15-gallon size.
2. All requests for placement of plaques memorializing individuals shall be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Commission for approval before installation. Memorial plaques for

**CITY OF COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA**

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pets are not allowed within City Parks. However, trees and/or park furniture may be donated in memory of a pet without a plaque.

3. Donor and memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include “Donated By”, “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of”. Donors are responsible for the acquisition and cost of the plaque. The City will incur the cost of installation.
4. All donor and memorial plaques for tree donations shall be located in areas specifically designated for this purpose at each park. In the event an area has not been designated for this purpose, plaques may be installed on concrete pads at the base of donated trees. Plaques will be installed flush with the ground for ease of maintenance and liability purposes.

**ADOPT-A-BENCH PROGRAM AND DONATION OF PARK FURNITURE**

1. Donated park benches or picnic tables shall be of the type specified in the approved Streetscape and Median Development Standards.
2. The donated park benches or picnic tables will be used to replace old benches and picnic tables at existing locations or placed at new locations that are already Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. The Maintenance Services Manager will give the donor the choice of existing locations with approval of the ultimate location by the Maintenance Services Manager.
3. Donor is responsible for the cost of the bench or picnic table. Upon receipt of payment, City staff will acquire the furniture and install it.
4. Donor or Memorial plaques shall be circular, bronze with a maximum size of six (6) inches in diameter. Plaques will be imbedded flush in the concrete pad near the park bench and/or picnic table and are not allowed to be attached to the bench. All plaques shall have standard wording to include, “Donated By”, “In Memory Of”, or “In Honor Of”.

**ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM**

1. The Adopt-A-Park Program is open to interested individuals, businesses, or groups for the clean up and beautification of the City’s parks. Adopt-A-Park events are limited to half or one-half day events for litter pick-up, painting and planting projects.



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2. The participating individual or group is responsible for providing gloves and tools, such as paintbrushes, trowels, shovels, etc.
3. The City will provide paint, planting materials, trash bags, the removal of filled trash bags, and a staff person for supervision at the event.
4. All participants will be required to complete and sign a Registration and Waiver and Release of Liability form as provided in the application package. Applications are subject to review by the Maintenance Services Manager and approval by the Public Services Director.

**CIRCLE OF SERVICE**

1. The Circle of Service has been established in Lions Park to commemorate citizens who have provided significant service to the City; made an extraordinary contribution to the City; or contributed to the history of Costa Mesa.
2. The nominee must have been deceased a minimum of one (1) year prior to being nominated and considered by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
3. The nominee must have been a resident of Costa Mesa for a minimum of ten (10) years.
4. The nominee must have been involved in community service for a minimum of seven (7) consecutive years or have given their life in the service of the nation or community.
5. The application shall be completed by a family member, a member of the community, a member of a non-profit organization, or someone from the business community. If service to an organization is identified, corresponding written support from the organization served by the applicant is required.
6. The applicant is responsible for the cost of the plaque and payment must be submitted with the application.
7. Circle Of Service plaques shall be circular, bronze and be twelve (12) inches in diameter. All plaques shall have standard wording to include "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of".
8. Plaques shall be installed at Lions Park for candidates approved by City Council once a year in July.

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**PROCEDURE TO NOMINATE CIRCLE OF SERVICE HONOREES**

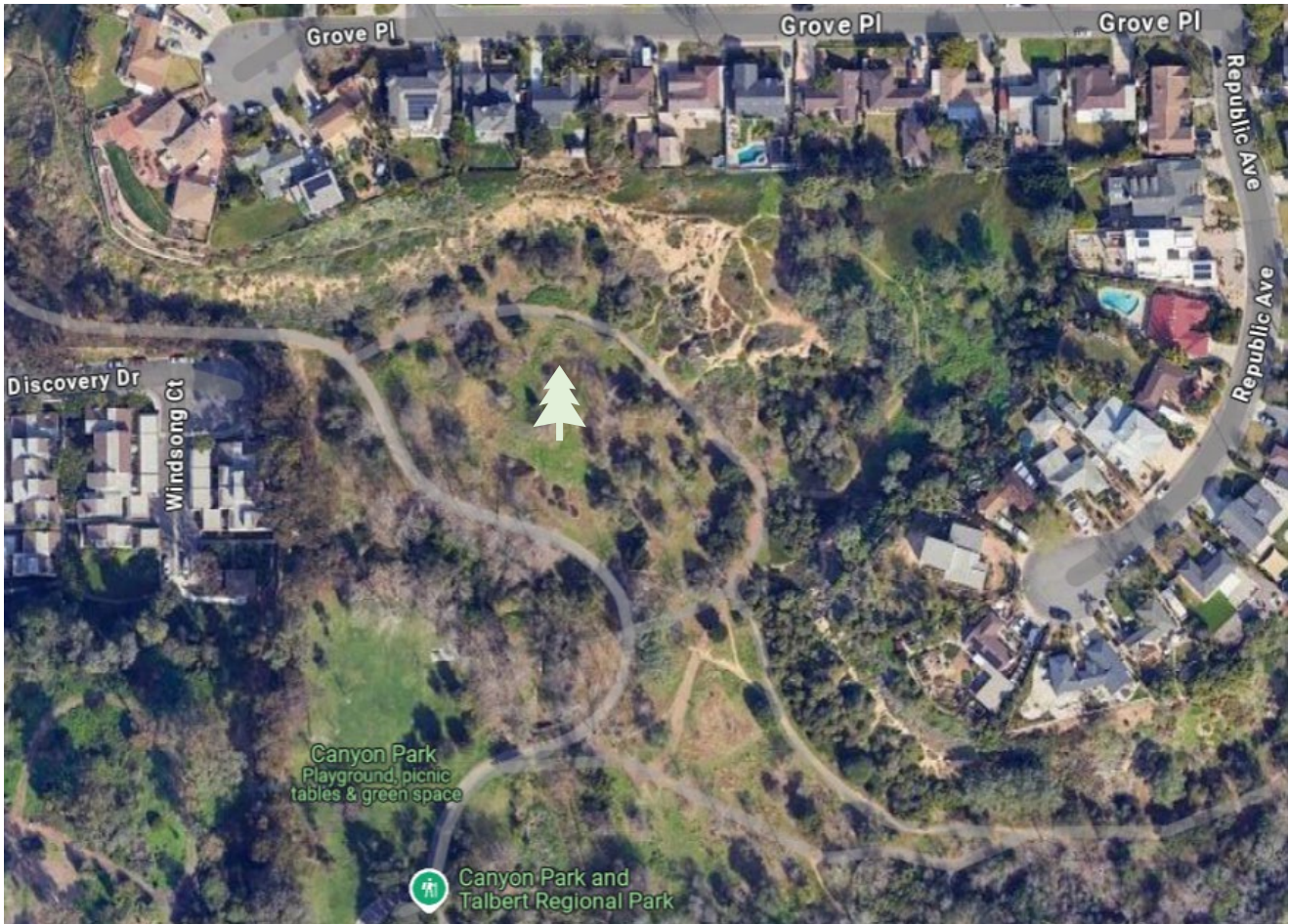
1. Application forms are available at the Recreation Division Counter. Submit the completed application to the Recreation Division, City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor for review by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council to deny or approve an application. Commission meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Agenda items require three weeks to prepare and mail for each meeting. Therefore, information must be received during the first week of the month in order to be placed on the agenda for that month.
2. If the City Council approves the request, the plaque will be purchased by the requesting party and installed by City staff. Staff will also arrange for a dedication ceremony for Circle of Service inductees and notification of all interested parties.
3. The City assumes no liability for the replacement or repair of plaques, but will assume responsibility for normal maintenance.

**PROCEDURE TO ACCEPT FINANCIAL DONATIONS**

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2. Donors may specify that the money be used for a specific project or for purchase of a specific item.
3. If the donor does not identify the donation for a specific project, it shall be used as deemed appropriate by the City Council or the Foundation Board.
4. The Foundation Chair shall acknowledge all donations to the Foundation in writing.

# Canyon Park Memorial Tree Donation

## Proposed Planting Location



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# Canyon Park Memorial Tree Donation

## Proposed Planting Location

