

From: [Priscilla Rocco](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: Fairview Park Master Plan Update
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 9:43:21 AM

Dear City Council,

Last Thursday night, MIG, the consultants updating the Fairview Park Master Plan, led an "outreach" meeting and workshop for the public. I was one of a large group of Fairview Park advocates who attended.

MIG presented their goals:

- "To restore and preserve the park as an environmental resource, provide interpretive opportunities to educate users of the park's unique ecology, cultural history, and resources."
- "To manage the park as a passive recreational opportunity."
- "To engage stakeholders, users, and the community-at-large in developing a blueprint to manage the park, which accounts for passive-use recreation, environmental restoration and preservation, and funding considerations for years to come."

But when we tried to ask questions or discuss issues related to *these goals*, we were told to wait until the end.

Instead, we were assigned to groups to select random park furnishings and buildings from a list! We tried to discuss how Measure AA controls such capital improvements, and were told to focus on our list. MIG presented each group's choices, then abruptly ended the meeting.

Yes folks, It's deja vu all over again! The last time they tried to pave paradise, we put Measure AA on the ballot to protect Fairview Park. We were also responsible for Measure Y. When they came for Y, the useless outreach was residents selecting random building types from a list. But I digress.

MIG says the master plan update will be "comprehensive," yet there's no paleontological and archeological investigations, nor a full environmental impact report.

Nevertheless, MIG will be unveiling the first draft at our next and last meeting. The trick is *that's* our only chance to read, review, discuss, and give input.

So, it looks like the fix is in, and they're coming for Measure AA next.

But let's say for the sake of argument, this is just a misstep on the part of MIG.

I'm a retired consultant/technical writer and editor of system documentation. The following is the procedure I used to update documents:

- Meet and get input from the subject matter experts (SMEs), write the first draft, and send it to the experts for review and markup.
- Meet with the experts and discuss the markups, write the next draft, and send it to the experts for review and final corrections.
- Meet with the experts to finalize and sign off.

The real trick is to respect that the subject matter experts know more about the system than you do.

Priscilla Rocco

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From: [Jennifer Tanaka](#)
To: [CITY CLERK](#); [CITY COUNCIL](#)
Cc: [REYES, ALMA](#)
Subject: Public Comment re: New Business Item #1
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 10:58:31 AM
Attachments: [City Council Letter - Harper Park \(Sept 5 2023\).pdf](#)

Dear Members of the City Council -

Please find attached a letter relating to New Business Item #1 (additional park ranger at Harper Park and enhanced security at Westside school field sites). As noted in the letter, I strongly support the item and I hope you will approve it.

Best,
Jenn Tanaka
321 Broadway, Costa Mesa

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September 5, 2023

Via Email

Costa Mesa City Council
77 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
citycouncil@costamesaca.gov

Dear Members of the City Council:

I'm writing to follow up on my letter to you and other Harper Park stakeholders on July 9, 2023. I'm also writing in response to your consideration of New Business Item #1 at the City Council meeting today. I urge you to **approve** New Business Item #1.

The temporary fence still stands at Harper Park. While removing one section of the fence during joint-use hours has allowed residents to access the fields, it's not a long-term solution. **My prior letter's conclusion remains the same: residents don't want this fence in any form.** This sentiment has only grown stronger as the weeks drag on. I have spoken to many residents and they feel that the fence is undermining the park's appeal and causing long-term harm. I agree with them.

So I am very happy to see the City bringing forth a proposal to remove the temporary fence. While I have a few questions about the Staff Report, I'm thrilled that this proposal could both restore Harper Park and address conditions from Newport-Mesa Unified School District (NMUSD) regarding joint use of school fields on the Westside. *This episode has underscored the immense value that residents place on unstructured green space, and allowing our Westside neighbors to enjoy similar assets would be a huge win.*

Regarding the Staff Report, I have the following questions:

- Will the six-month pilot program begin when a Park Ranger is assigned to Harper Park? If so, can we assign a Park Ranger now by replacing hours at other parks? Waiting to hire a qualified candidate in this competitive job market may significantly delay NMUSD removing the fence.
- Do we have assurances from NMUSD that it will keep the fence down for the entire six-month pilot period?
- Is there any concern that this arrangement might conflict with NMUSD's contract with the ISSAC Charter School?
- What will be the rules for dogs in the reunited park? Orange County Ordinance bans dogs on school property at all times, regardless of leash use. In contrast, leashed dogs are allowed in Costa Mesa city parks. Which rules will apply, and how will residents know where they can take their leashed dogs?

- Has NMUSD communicated the success criteria for the pilot program? For example, are they looking for no tickets issued in a certain number of months, no visible dog feces, no encounters with off-leash dogs, etc.? If not, can we request NMUSD to share these criteria so residents are informed and can strive to meet them? It would be disappointing to reach the end of the pilot program only to see the fence go back up.

Looking beyond this Agenda Report, there is more to do in Harper Park and in the other green spaces that may be subject to joint use arrangements. Fortunately or unfortunately this situation has opened up a can of worms, and the City would do well to address these issues as quickly as possible given the available resources.

Harper Park's appeal, use, and value have suffered a significant blow. Whether intentional or not, residents have seen the temporary fence as a personal affront, and many have stopped visiting the park altogether. **Therefore, I urge the City Council to direct that Harper Park be included in the Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal year 2024-2025.** The project could focus on redesigning the layout and modestly updating amenities to make policing joint-use more efficient. The playground, with its aging equipment and lack of ADA compliance, is a known issue. Additionally, the presence of a large off-leash dog community has both benefits and ongoing tensions that may require infrastructure updates in the long run. Even a small amount of positive attention would go a long way in terms of resident goodwill.

Further, off-leash dogs are likely to pose challenges at other potential joint-use sites too, as dog owners tend to prefer large, fenced open spaces like school fields. While policing can help, the City has multiple law enforcement priorities and, frankly, many of them are more important than constant dog minding. Therefore, we will need policies and infrastructure changes to supplement costly enforcement.

To address this efficiently, the City Council could form a temporary resident committee to study how other cities have managed joint-use facilities, especially regarding off-leash dogs and other conflicting uses. This committee would have one task: to prepare a report to the City Council with its findings and include specific infrastructure and policy recommendations. After this task is complete, it could be disbanded to minimize the burden on City Staff. This report could have long term value as a guide for potential capital improvements and citywide policies.

Thank you again for your consideration of New Business #1 and I urge you to approve it. Then we can move on to making our green spaces work for everyone, both at Harper Park and beyond.

Best,

Jenn Tanaka
321 Broadway
Costa Mesa, CA 92627

From: cmcdonald.home@gmail.com
To: [GREEN, BRENDA](#); [CITY CLERK](#)
Subject: FW: Costa Mesa City Council 09/5/23 - New Business Item 3 (Request For City Council Direction Regarding the Research for and Potential Development Of Amendments to the City's Cannabis Ordinances)
Date: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:57:49 AM

Hi,

For your information, attached is an email sent to the Mayor and City Council members this morning. Thank you.

Cynthia McDonald

From: cmcdonald.home@gmail.com <cmcdonald.home@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 11:06 AM
To: 'STEPHENS, JOHN' <JOHN.STEPHENS@costamesaca.gov>; 'REYNOLDS, ARLIS' <ARLIS.REYNOLDS@costamesaca.gov>; andrea.marr@costamesaca.gov; Jeffrey.Harlan@costamesaca.gov; Loren.Gameros@costamesaca.gov; Manuel.Chavez@costamesaca.gov; Don.Harper@costamesaca.gov
Subject: Costa Mesa City Council 09/5/23 - New Business Item 3 (Request For City Council Direction Regarding the Research for and Potential Development Of Amendments to the City's Cannabis Ordinances)

Honorable Mayor and City Council members:

Given the public's concern about the number of cannabis businesses that are either operating or are in the process of obtaining permits from the City, the concerns of certain City Council members, and also the reluctance of the Planning Commission to approve permits, I request that you impose a moratorium on accepting any further applications until City Staff comes back to the City Council with its research and development of amendments to the ordinance. It takes a long time (years sometimes) for Staff to bring forth changes to the City's ordinances, for example, the inclusionary housing ordinance, and it would be best for the City and its residents to stop the processing of any new applications until satisfactory revisions can be made.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia McDonald

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From: Ashley Anderson <aanderson@nmusd.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 4:21 PM
To: CITY COUNCIL; CITY CLERK
Cc: Leah Ersoylu; Michelle Murphy
Subject: NMUSD Resolution Urging the City of Costa Mesa to limit the number of storefront cannabis dispensaries
Attachments: Resolution 04-08-23.pdf

Hello City Council members,

On August 22, during our regularly scheduled board meeting, the Newport-Mesa Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution to urge the City of Costa Mesa to limit the number of storefront cannabis dispensaries. Since this matter has come up in recent planning commission and city council meetings, our board felt it timely to communicate our concerns about the current no-cap policy, and in making a bipartisan, 7-0 decision, we would like to offer a few ideas that we think could be beneficial to our local school community.

As stated in the resolution, we would like to recommend that this council:

- a) institute a clear, restrictive cap on the maximum number of storefront dispensaries in the City of Costa Mesa,
- b) create policy limiting the overconcentration of dispensaries in Costa Mesa communities,
- c) strengthen the current policy to include that dispensaries cannot be within 1,000 ft of youth centers and/or youth serving organizations, and
- d) commit to investing a proportion of the tax revenue from the cannabis sales into youth services and/or programming.

We respectfully ask that as you discuss and give direction on this matter tonight, please take these recommendations into consideration and direct staff to explore options to update the ordinance to address these critical community concerns and implement a moratorium on new applications in the meantime.

Attached is a copy of our resolution.

Thank you for all that you do to serve our community. We are thankful for your partnership.

Best,

Ashley Anderson
President, Board of Education
[Newport-Mesa Unified School District](#)



Resolution No. 04-08-23 Urging the City of Costa Mesa to Limit the Number of Storefront Cannabis Dispensaries

WHEREAS, NMUSD is concerned for the safety, health and wellness of our students;

WHEREAS, NMUSD realizes that the environment in which our children commute to and from school and activities impacts that wellbeing;

WHEREAS, NMUSD has seen an increase in student risk-taking behaviors including cannabis use in recent years;

WHEREAS, NMUSD is concerned with the seemingly unhindered rate of cannabis storefront approvals permitted in recent years;

WHEREAS, NMUSD understands that Costa Mesa is one of only three cities in Orange County that allow storefront sales in the community and is reconsidering strengthening their current policy;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NMUSD Board of Education urges the City of Costa Mesa to take action as referenced below;


- a) institute a clear, restrictive cap on the maximum number of storefront dispensaries in the City of Costa Mesa,
- b) create policy limiting the overconcentration of dispensaries in Costa Mesa communities,
- c) strengthen the current policy to include that dispensaries cannot be within 1,000 ft of youth centers and/or youth serving organizations and
- d) commit to investing a proportion of the tax revenue from the cannabis sales into youth services and/or programming.

APPROVED, PASSED, AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of the Newport-Mesa Unified School District, this 22nd day of August, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:	<u>7</u>
NOES:	<u>0</u>
ABSTAIN:	<u>—</u>
ABSENT:	<u>—</u>

I, Ashley Anderson, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution that was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by the Governing Board at its regular Board Meeting held on August 22, 2023.

NEWPORT-MESA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: 
Ashley Anderson
Board President