



SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025 - MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER – The Special Closed Session meeting was called to order by Mayor Stephens at 4:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Buley, Council Member Gameros, Council Member Harper, Council Member Marr, Council Member Reynolds, Mayor Pro Tem, and Mayor Stephens.

Absent: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION ITEMS:

1. THREAT TO SECURITY

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957(a)

Consultation with: Costa Mesa Director of Emergency Services/City Manager, Police Chief.

2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATION OF LITIGATION - ONE CASE

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2), Potential Litigation.

City Council recessed at 4:03 p.m. for Closed Session.

Closed Session recessed to open session at 5:00 p.m.

Closed Session resumed at 9:28 p.m. after open session.

Closed Session adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER - The Special City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Stephens at 5:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Member Buley, Council Member Gameros, Council Member Harper, Council Member Marr, Council Member Reynolds, Mayor Pro Tem, and Mayor Stephens.

Absent: None.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

1. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROHIBITION

Presentation by Ms. Hall Barlow, City Attorney.

Public Comments:

Flo Martin, Costa Mesa, spoke on keeping the moratorium.

Speaker, spoke on keeping the moratorium.

Speaker, spoke on keeping the moratorium.

Speaker, spoke on keeping the moratorium.

Speaker, spoke on what other cities are doing and options available.

Gay Royer, Costa Mesa, spoke on helping each other.

Glen Frank spoke on keeping the moratorium.

Becca Ayala, Better Neighbors LA, spoke on keeping the moratorium, or if suspended to limit it to verified zip codes of those effected by the fires, spoke on limiting the suspension to 90 days, verifying eligibility, and reporting to the City.

Cynthia McDonald, Costa Mesa, spoke on the impacts for Costa Mesa residents' long term, and spoke on keeping the moratorium.

MOVED/SECOND: Mayor Stephens/Mayor Pro Tem Chavez

MOTION: Lift the moratorium for 90 days, only for fire victims, and require the operators to do a zip code verification and report to City staff.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION/SECOND: Council Member Reynolds/Council Member Marr

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Receive and file the report.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Council Member Buley, Council Member Gameros, Council Member Marr, Council Member Reynolds, and Mayor Pro Tem Chavez.

Nays: Council Member Pettis and Mayor Stephens.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion carried: 5-2

ACTION:

City Council received and filed the report.

2. FAIRVIEW PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE DISCUSSION - PART ONE

Presentation by Mr. Gruner, Parks and Community Services Director and the following consultants:

Jenni Zell, Project Manager, Landscape Architect (MIG), Travis Brooks, Restoration Ecologist (Land IQ), Robb Hamilton, Biologist (Hamilton Biological).

The City Council posed questions to the staff and consultants. (01:17:13)

City Council recessed into a break at 7:24 p.m.

City Council reconvened at 7:38 p.m.

Public Comments:

Flo Martin, Costa Mesa, spoke on including language in the Master Plan that excludes motorized e-bikes from the park.

Josh Guesman, President of the Orange County Model Engineers, requested to keep trains in the park and is willing to participate in restoration.

Gay Royer, Costa Mesa, spoke on utilizing the knowledge of people who have been in the City for 50 years and their experiences.

Debby Koken spoke on reviewing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife requirements for protecting the park.

Speaker, spoke in support of keeping Harbor Soaring Society in the park.

Terry Koken spoke on stewarding Fairview Park.

Speaker, spoke in support of keeping Harbor Soaring Society in the park.

Chase Dupris, member of the Orange County Model Engineers, spoke in support of the Master Plan.

Speaker, spoke in support of keeping Harbor Soaring Society in the park.

Hank Castignetti spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers and in support of the restoration of Fairview Park.

Speaker, spoke in support of keeping Harbor Soaring Society in the park.

Speaker, spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers and on the Fairview Park Master Plan.

Lynn Redman spoke on maintenance at Fairview Park and on his son's restoration efforts.

Kim Hendricks, spoke against Harbor Soaring Society at Fairview Park.

Mike Jimenez spoke in support of keeping Harbor Soaring Society in the park.

Speaker, spoke in support of the Fairview Park Master Plan and protecting the park.

Cristian Garcia Arcos, Co-Chair of the Spanish Committee with the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture, spoke on community engagement, protecting the environment, pesticides, protecting local wildlife and ecosystems, and encouraged non-toxic substances.

Priscilla Rocco spoke on preserving Fairview Park and in opposition of Harbor Soaring Society flying in Fairview Park.

Speaker, spoke on preserving Fairview Park.

Speaker, spoke in support of keeping Harbor Soaring Society and spoke on preserving Fairview Park.

Jacob Sanchez spoke on the importance of teaching people at the park to protect sensitive areas.

Speaker, spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers and supports the Master Plan.

Speaker, spoke on protecting Fairview Park.

Speaker, spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers and supports the Master Plan.

Betsy Densmore spoke in support of a Master Plan.

Steve Collier, spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers and the Fairview Park Master plan to preserve Fairview Park.

Terry Fuqua, spoke against electric bikes that are destroying the habitat, spoke in support of the Master Plan, and in support of the Orange County Model Engineers.

Zach Jones spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers and the Master Plan.

Kohl Crecelius, member Fairview Park Steering Committee, spoke on education and preservation of Fairview Park.

Chris Cuthill, Costa Mesa, spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers and the Master Plan, also spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society, and hopes everyone can come to a happy medium.

Mat Garcia, Harbor Soaring Society President, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society at the current location.

Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa, spoke on preservation and making the right decision, spoke on funding projects, Measure AA requirements, and clarified statements in the agenda report.

Scott Smith, member of Harbor Soaring Society, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society at the current location.

Speaker, spoke in support of the Orange County Model Engineers, spoke on preservation of the park and would like to find a way for everybody to enjoy Fairview Park.

Dean Peyton, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society.

Greg Stone, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society at the current location.

Jeff Peyton, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society and everyone working together.

John Rittenhouse, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society.

Jim Erickson, Costa Mesa, spoke on all the park users working together to steward the park.

Speaker, spoke on the clubs bringing people to the park, that the groups need to co-exist and all working together to preserve nature.

James Robertson, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society and being included in the Fairview Park Master Plan.

Kevin Coch, Costa Mesa, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society.

Caleb Hong, Costa Mesa, spoke in support of Harbor Soaring Society.

Speaker, spoke on the species that can only survive in Fairview Park, other options available to Harbor Soaring Society, and that everyone needs to keep an open mind.

Speaker, spoke on the sensitive habitat and that the Harbor Soaring Society does not fly during the wet season.

Angely Vallarta, Costa Mesa, stated the Harbor Soaring Society flying is in conflict with the preservation of Fairview Park.

Cynthia McDonald, Costa Mesa, spoke against Harbor Soaring Society as they impact the preservation of sensitive areas.

Speaker, spoke in support of the Harbor Soaring Society and they are good stewards of the park.

City Council discussed the staff presentation on the status of the Fairview Park Master Plan Update and provided feedback to staff. (04:13:48)

ADJOURNMENT – Mayor Stephens adjourned the open meeting at 9:28 p.m. and City Council recessed to Closed Session.

Minutes adopted on this 18th day of February, 2025.

John Stephens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Green, City Clerk

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