

APRIL 13, 2023
6:00 P.M. – UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER by Chair Rutherford at 6:01p.m.

ROLL CALL

☒ = Present ☐ = Absent

Commissioners

☐ Kelly Brown
☒ Cristian Garcia Arcos
☒ Scott Glabb
☒ Terry Wall
☒ Shyanne Wright
☒ Elizabeth Dorn Parker, Vice Chair
☒ Cassius Rutherford, Chair

City Staff

☒ Jason Minter, Parks & Community Services Director
☒ Monique Villasenor, Recreation Manager,
☒ Raja Sethuraman, Public Works Director
☒ Robert Ryan, Maintenance Services Manager
☒ Laura Fautua, Executive Assistant

New Business *Community Outreach* was moved to next meeting's agenda.

MOTION/SECOND: Chair Rutherford made a motion to amend the agenda and pull item to next regularly scheduled meeting/Seconded by Commissioner Wall.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Commissioner Brown

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Commissioner Dorn Parker.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Karina: Would like to see compost bins at the community gardens.

Mat Garcia: Requested the Commission place input on the Fairview Park fly field.

Cynthia D'Agosta (Zoom): Shared with the Commission the Fairview Park Steering Committee's recommendation to Council regarding the fly field at Fairview Park. Invited the public to a volunteer at the next restoration event to remove invasive plants out at Fairview Park.

Councilmember Reynolds: Introduced a group of middle school and high school students around City Hall.

Christian: Costa Mesa High School student and would like to see more entertainment areas like arcades, public pools, and more open space to be around. Also believed there should be more skate parks and soccer fields available.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Commissioner Glabb: Asked staff regarding the status of the Lions Park field reopening.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos: Would like to see more programs and activities be available for the youth as well as open space for the community.

Commissioner Wall: Happy to see the younger generations getting involved and stepping out and offer community input. Would like to see a City acronym definition/glossary sheet available on the City's website. Would like to see more information on the fly field.

Commissioner Wright: Reflected on department accomplishments from the last month. Requested clarification of what the desired role of the PACS commission is, such as, was is the Commission role fit with the CIP projects? Wished Vice Chair Dorn Parker a Happy Birthday.

Vice Chair Dorn Parker: Looks forward to community engagement for input on what the community wishes to see. Spoke about a dog and child incident at Harper Park and the ongoing problem of dogs off-leash in public parks. Suggested temporarily fencing off a section so both can co-exist separately and more educational resources be available to the community. Thinking of touring Fairview Park with Commissioner Brown to really appreciate what the park has to offer.

Chair Rutherford: Thanked staff on the success of Springfest. Rode the trains at Fairview Park for the first time in March and encourage the public to try the free train on the third Saturday of the month from 10am to 3pm. Met with Mr. Minter and Mr. Dalton, and other stakeholders in Fairview Park to talk about the fly field issue. Would like the Commission's input regarding the fly field at PACs. Echoed Vice Chair Dorn Parker's comment regarding the Harper Park dog incident. Encouraged staff to consider fencing off run areas, so there is a designated area for dogs to be off leash, where they are not mixing with young kids in order to prevent future incidents like the one at Harper Park. Announced there is a large number of animals treated at the Wetlands and Care Center and asked whether staff is taking in feedback to possibly have an agreement. Looks forward to the community engagement with the many upcoming department projects to be executed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Minutes – 030923 Draft Minutes

MOTION/SECOND: Commissioner Wall made a motion to approve the minutes/Seconded by Chair Rutherford.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

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

Nays: none

Absent: Commissioner Brown

Motion Carried: 6 – 0

NEW BUSINESS:

1. APPROPRIATION OF GRANT FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PARK PROJECTS

Mr. Sethuraman presented.

Public Comment:

Sonia Triana: Would like to see small parks such as, Moon Park, receive updates and be recognized for renovations.

Ralph Taboada: Thanked staff for their report. Would like the Commission to provide focus on the yearly budget along with the past five year forecast to ensure projects are not missed.

Andy Campbell (Zoom): Current Fairview Park Steering Committee chair. Request clarification on what is committee and commission purposes in reviewing capital improvement projects. Would like the ability to see projects prior to the execution for community input.

Commissioner Wright shared supplemental material regarding the CIP's and community input.

Vice Chair Dorn Parker asked staff questions regarding the funding of the café, service, and the avenues of the expense. Would like to see how the engagement will take place. Would like to see more investments on educational aspects to help the community identify the resources Fairview Park has to offer. Would also like more resources be placed in Shalimar Park for the long-term investment. Looks forward to the upcoming CIP report.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos advocates the importance of involving the community and receiving input.

Chair Rutherford would like to see the café at Lions Park possibly be an incentive to help invest in the area and thing of the long-term goal.

Vice Chair Dorn Parker mentioned her travel to Italy where she saw concepts of a dual space be utilized differently, where in the morning it was a coffee/lunch shop and in the evening a bar. Would like to see the community utilizing the same space for multiple layers.

Commissioner Wright inquired what the next steps in the process are from this report.

Chair Rutherford questioned the condition of batting cages and encouraged pickleball be considered with tennis park plan. Asked what strategies are in place to align with community outreach.

Mr. Minter encouraged commissioners to engage with community and stakeholders during events.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos advocates for Spanish speakers or translators be available for community outreach.

2. TREE REMOVAL REQUEST - 2722 SANDPIPER DRIVE

Mr. Ryan presented.

Public Comment:

Resident: Provided details relating the presence of the pine tree in comparison to that of his neighbors. Stressed that the tree creates much debris and requires a lot of maintenance to upkeep.

Commissioners asked staff questions regarding the maintenance of the tree to review all possible outcomes.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos provided input that tree may fall down if roots are disturbed with installment of turf.

Chair Rutherford reminds public that the commission reviews and approves denial on the basis that the tree is not healthy.

Vice Chair Dorn Parker expresses concern of removing a healthy tree.

Commissioner Wright requested clarification regarding removal categories 2 and 3. Stated the role of the commission is to uphold the tree removal policy regardless of personal beliefs of trees and resolve grievances public and staff.

MOTION/SECOND: Vice Chair Dorn Parker made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to deny the tree denial and have a six-month update from staff regarding tree trimming/Seconded by Chair Rutherford.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Wall, Vice Chair Dorn Parker, Chair Rutherford

Nays: Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Glabb, Commissioner Wright

Absent: Commissioner Brown

Motion Carried: 3 – 3

Vice Chair Dorn Parker reclarified the motion is to vote to approve the staff recommendation to deny the removal of the tree with the request that the staff comes back within six months to clarify the tree trim, and working with the resident during that time. Provided clarification that this would allow the resident to come back in a year to request to request the tree removal if not happy.

MOTION/SECOND: Vice Chair Dorn made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to deny the tree denial and have a six-month update from staff regarding tree trimming/Seconded by Chair Rutherford.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Ayes: Commissioner Garcia Arcos, Commissioner Wall, , Vice Chair Dorn Parker, Chair Rutherford

Nays: Commissioner Glabb, Commissioner Wright

Absent: Commissioner Brown

Motion Carried: 4 – 2

3. COMMUNITY GARDENS UPDATE

Ms. Thomas presented.

Public Comments:

Sonia Triana: Introduced herself as a previous Del Mar gardener and requests that staff look into composting options and systems to be onsite. Believes separate bins for compost to regenerate into plots would be a good option for gardeners. All the community gardeners at each parcel would truly benefit from this request as it would allow for more accessibility and serve as a natural resource.

Gene: Introduced herself as a resident since 1994 and Hamilton gardener. Shared input for raised beds interfere with the ability to have a successful organic garden. Provided details of how raised beds brick walls, and heavy shaded areas interfere with successful gardens.

Karina: Would like to see compost options. Shared details of service for homeowners in Costa Mesa to ship their waste and make it into renewable energy but the service is unavailable to residents in apartments and complexes. Provided suggestion of working with an organization to create a compost system in the community gardens. Believes composting plan may be unsuccessful due to 1 part-time employee having to oversee 2 gardens. Advocated to remove that grass along outer fencing and potentially put native plants to restore that area and decrease the use of water.

Patty Huntley: Introduced herself as Hamilton Gardener. Does not agree with a wind screen. Shared that parking is limited and suggested a renovation of the space be reviewed for more potential spaces. Would like to see a third garden location be implemented to help cut-down the wait-list. Recommends that staff is converted to a full-time person managing the gardens.

Margaret Clem: 20+ year gardener at Del Mar gardens. Does not favor the green screen to be added. Believed raised beds and planters are successful options. Expressed concerns with the aisle access for members and supports a third garden.

Kenton (Zoom): Thanked the Commission for its support of the community gardens program. Finds program to be supportive of renters who have no place to plant fruits and vegetables. Would like to support composting suggestions to aid in growing food and having more nutritional security in community. Advocated the need for accessibility and parking at both garden locations.

Charlene Ashendorf (Zoom): Asked for clarification on the windscreen. Would like to see artistic aspects to the windscreen if it were to be implemented. In reference to the Del Mar Garden and increasing space, she does not believe tree removal should be an option due to their shade and the shade they provide. Suggests sculpting or trimming of those trees and/or moving the shared seating back on closer to the trees.

Commissioner Wall questioned wait list status and possibilities of an additional garden location. Asked what the process would look like to find an additional location.

Chair Rutherford requested an update regarding Gisler Park space.

Ms. Thomas provided details regarding composting options and abilities within the gardens.

Commissioner Garcia Arcos provided resources for gardeners.

4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Item moved to next month's agenda.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. PARK RANGER REPORT – March 2023

Mr. Minter presented.

Commissioner Wright: Asked whether there has been new statistics of violations or incidents at newly remodeled or renovated parks.

Mr. Minter shared that with newly remodeled parks you may see a rise of attendance but that may not have a correlation nor be perceived to a rise in crimes or negative behavior.

Vice Chair Dorn Parker shared that there has been a rise in attendance at Jordan Park and it may be due to updated equipment and ADA accessibility. With improvements in the park you are improving the community the parks surround. Believes it is important to understand data versus perception.

2. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – March 2023

Mr. Minter and Ms. Villasenor presented.

ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT by Chair Rutherford at 10:35pm

NEXT REGULAR ARTS COMMISSION MEETING: THURSDAY, May 11, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.