



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Neighborhood Advisory Council
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street
6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 6 p.m. by Chairperson Teresa Pena.

1. ROLL CALL

Members	Present	Absent
Aldana, Sebastian	X	
Byrne, Sharon	X	
Foxen, Sally	X	
Greene, Naomi		Excused
Kingston, Sally	X	
Limon, Javier	X	
Vela-Mendoza, Raquel	X	
Molina, Beatriz	X	
Pena, Theresa	X	
Soto, Ana	X	
Trujillo, Cesar	X	
Vassallo, Tony	X	
Walters, Holly	X	

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Hanna, Susan Young, Browning Allen Sue Gray, Larry Cassidy, Jessica Grant, Deirdre Randolph
LIAISONS: Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, Youth Council Blanca Garcia, Brenda Collins-Powell, CDHS Comm.
GUESTS: Jett Black, Jon Peterson, Jarrod Schwartz

- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – It was moved and seconded, respectively, by Members Byrne and Walters, to approve the minutes of September 14, 2011 with corrections. Motion carried.
- AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS** – There were no agenda adjustments.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Youth Council Member Blanca Garcia announced that the Youth Council, along with Future Leaders of America and the PAL Youth Leadership Council would be hosting a Candidates' Forum on Monday, October 17th, and invited all members to attend.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** - Veronica Flores commented that there is a need for more street lights on the east side of town. She also reported the need for stop signs near Punta Gorda and Canada.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Staff report included the following:

- Three Advisory Council members appointments expiring – Kingston, Molina and Pena. Need to reapply by October 17th deadline.

7. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Youth Subcommittee – Committee Chair Trujillo reported the Youth Sub-committee meeting is scheduled for the 4th Monday of the month. They would be meet and report at the next regular meeting.
- b. Neighborhood Health and Safety – Committee Chair Aldana stated the sub-committee met and they are working on their recommendations for the Community Development Block Grant.
- c. Outreach and Events Subcommittee – Committee Chair Byrne reported that two of the members met informally due to scheduling conflicts and that the sub-committee was working on an introductory flyer. She also reported the sub-committee would be attending the Fall Festival scheduled for October 27th at the Children's Park in the Lower Westside neighborhood.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Standing Sub-committees Purpose – It was moved and seconded by Advisory Board Members Foxen and Aldana, respectively, to table this item until the next regular meeting. Motion carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. NITF CDBG Project Proposals for FY 2012 – Sue Gray and Deirdre Randolph spoke about the guidelines and process for Community Development Block Grant. The representatives explained the program goals including the guideline for the funds to support low to moderate individuals, slum or blight or urgent local need. It was explained that the City receives lots of grant proposals mostly for Human Services funds. The review process and the function of a citizen advisory review were also explained. Applications will be due mid-December with Community Development Human Services Committee recommendations to the City Council by March. It was explained that there has been a 17% decrease in funding and that once awarded, grant applications and subsequent reporting is available to the public. NAC members expressed concern that agencies were not performing as indicated in their grant proposals. It was suggested that concerned individuals could submit comments to the CDHS committee via letter or speak under public comment with information.

Browning Allen and staff spoke about the Neighborhood Improvement Task Force and how projects are prioritize. Some of the listed projects included access ramps, bus shelters and lighting. Members expressed concerns regarding traffic signals and the concerns of neighborhood parents about traffic signals especially on Milpas Street. Other concerns were West Downtown lighting, bus shelters on San Pascual; and quick solutions for street lights on telephone poles. After much discussion, it was suggested that City staff come back with more information on traffic signals on Milpas.

- b. Habitat for Humanity “Brush with Kindness” – Jett Black and Jon Petersen with Habitat for Humanity presented information on their “Brush with Kindness” project which partners with low-income homeowners and offers funding for external improvements such as painting, landscaping and minor fence repairs. Homeowners must meet income criteria and in some cases, repay Habitat for the cost of materials to complete the work. Homeowners must also be a legal resident. Printed information and applications were provided.
 - c. Thrive Westside – Jarrod Schwartz with Just Communities gave a presentation on the work of Thrive Westside. Mr. Schwartz explained this was a project that works to improve the quality of life for the entire family by working with children from cradle to career. The idea is to create stronger neighborhoods. Thrive Westside is currently organizing meetings with community members on the west side to discuss school improvements, gang/youth violence, community pride and other subjects. Information packets were handed out.
10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Advisory Members Trujillo and Foxen requested having more information on traffic lights and signs. After some discussion it was requested that a special meeting be held on November 2nd with Public Works Traffic Engineering staff. Advisory Member Foxen also requested information on how to go about having a NAC fundraiser. Her request was referred to the Outreach and Events sub-committee.

Advisory Board Member Byrne made a general announcement and stated that all members should treat each other with respect during the meetings and at other events.

11. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.