



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

Neighborhood Advisory Council
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 11, 2012 6:00 p.m.
Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Theresa Pena.

1. ROLL CALL

Members	Present	Absent
Aldana, Sebastian	x	
Byrne, Sharon	x	
Foxen, Sally	x	
Greene, Naomi	x	
Kingston, Sally	x	
Limon, Javier	x	
Molina, Beatriz	x	
Pena, Theresa	x	
Soto, Ana	x	
Trujillo, Cesar	x	
Vassallo, Tony	x	
Walters, Holly	x	

STAFF PRESENT: Mark M. Alvarado, Susan Young, Derrick Bailey, Pat Kelly, Sarah Hanna

LIAISONS: City Councilmembers Cathy Murillo, Bendy White
Commissioners Beebe Longstreet
Community Development & Human Services Committee Liaison
Brenda Collins-Powell

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular meeting of March 14, 2012- Molina motioned and Byrne seconded to table the minutes until the May meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

3. AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS - none

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Member Trujillo announced the College Day at UCSB on April 21st. Students are invited to attend.
- Commissioner Longstreet announced the Park and Recreation Community Foundation (PARC) 2nd annual sunset cruise fundraiser will take place on May 4th, 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The fundraiser will support the NOS Culinary Arts program and summer camp scholarships.
- Staff member Alvarado announced the Culinary Arts graduation ceremony on April 17th 5:30 pm at the Westside Center.
- Member Limon announced the Looking Good Santa Barbara Community clean-up day at Ortega Park and the Boys & Girls Club on June 2nd.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

6. STAFF REPORTS

- Staff member Alvarado provided information regarding order and decorum when debating or discussing controversial items. He requested that we honor the public process, keep issues at the core of the discussion and that personalities or politics should be kept aside. Alvarado shared a list of rules of debate and decorum for review. Member Limon commented that respect goes both ways and staff needs to be respectful of the committee by providing documents that were requested. Commissioner Longstreet commented that not all studies are available and studies are developed at the direction of City Council.
- Staff member Alvarado requested that the Outreach and Events Sub-Committee develop and propose an annual calendar for approved neighborhood related events and activities for Fiscal Year 2013.

7. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Youth – Member Trujillo reported that he attended the Community Action Summit for south coast Latinos on immigration, and deportation on April 9th. He wants to host a teen BBQ with SB Youth Council. The sub-committee has talked about an NAC Facebook page to get information out about teen activities.
- Neighborhood Health and Safety – Member Aldana reported that the sub-committee met on April 2nd to form recommendations on Milpas Pedestrian Safety, which he will share during the item.
- Outreach and Events – Member Byrne reported that they will put together an annual calendar to be presented to the NAC. NAC members should send information to Sally Foxen. The sub-committee would like to put together a “tool kit” for events including banner, brochure, foam board display, etc. Staff member Young said the T-shirts should be ready by the end of the month. Easter Egg Hunt at Parque de los Niños, and Cesar Chavez march were both a success.

Member Byrne recused herself from the NAC from the meeting and the next agenda item.

8. OLD BUSINESS

- Milpas Pedestrian Safety

Member Aldana presented the sub-committees recommendations:

1. Recommends signal lights at the intersection of Milpas and Ortega Streets.
2. Recommends the design and implementation of a “Road Diet” north of Cota Street to Canon Perdido Street.
3. Recommends signal lights at the intersection of Milpas and Yanonali Streets.
4. Recommends to direct staff and the Planning Commission to develop and implement a comprehensive long term plan and strategy for improving traffic, pedestrian safety and beautification for the entire Milpas corridor from Anapamu Street to Cabrillo Boulevard.

He requested to see the final diagram and specifics of the “road diet” prior to making a decision on number 2.

Public Comment:

- Ivette Gil, Santa Barbara Youth Council Chair, presented their recommendations supporting Option #3D, and a traffic light at Milpas/Yanonali. If the Milpas/Yanonali traffic light is not possible, then SBYC supports Option #7, the overhead pedestrian activated flashers.
- Sonya Harris, resident, was hit by a car at the Milpas/Ortega intersection in the crosswalk breaking her ankle. She received a citation from Police, and is fighting it.
- Guadalupe Romero, mother of Sergio Romero, spoke about the length of time it has taken to get the intersection changed. She wants a change before someone else is struck. She asked “how do we help the City Engineers to make the crosswalk safe, especially at night?” She supports the traffic light at that intersection.
- Eva Inbar, representing COAST, stated they have read the recommendations and agree with the TCC recommendations on the road diet and changes to Milpas. She thanked Staff for their caring and hard work. She stated that COAST is working on other areas to improve safety and asked for NAC’s help.

- Rose Aldana, resident, stated she submitted a petition to City Council with over 500 signatures on November 20, 2011 requesting support to improve public safety, traffic signals, and improved driving patterns. She stated that the “Area District Manager” supports signal lights and has federal funds to pay for them. She recommends opening the school’s entrance at Ortega and the speed limit be reduced to 25 mph.
- Olivia Uribe, Democratic Committee member, supports lights at both intersections. She stated that the committee did a survey of residents with the following results; 74% want a traffic signal, 50% used the intersection crosswalks daily, 34% feel unsafe crossing.

Chair Pena opened the floor to NAC member comments.

Member Vassallo stated he was on the sub-committee, and feels staff did a good job and the TCC was an effective body. He disagrees with the Milpas/Ortega signal light. He agrees with their recommendation to look at the entire Milpas corridor. He supports raise your cell phone and shine LED lights to improve pedestrian safety.

Member Kingston stated she thought the process was taking too long, it was a safety issue and the response should have been timelier. Long term education is needed. Pedestrian laws are not well known. NAC should focus on safety and public awareness.

Member Sebastian agrees with the sub-committee recommendations but wants the road diet to start at Gutierrez, 2 blocks longer. Of the two new lights on Cabrillo, there have been no accidents at Ambassador crossing, and only 1 at the crossing near Castillo/Los Baños.

Member Foxen stated that the NAC is the voice of the community, they want signal lights and she agrees with them.

Member Molina stated that Milpas long term beautification and improvements are critically important to the health of the community. She advocates for education. When considering warrants, rear end collisions vs. fatalities, a fatality is a bigger liability, the impact lasting for a very long time.

Member Limon stated that common sense tells us that a signal light would have kept the boy alive. We should look at the entire Milpas corridor, it is very heavily traveled.

Vice Chair Soto stated Milpas/Ortega signal light is needed, she agrees that the road diet should start sooner, Milpas/Yanonali signal light is needed, and all of Milpas needs improvement. She agrees with the sub-committee recommendation.

Chair Pena stated that there are many walking families in this area. She agrees with the Milpas/Ortega, and Milpas/Yanonali signal lights, the road diet, and the need for future Milpas improvements.

Member Greene stated she was impressed by the TCC deliberations but confused by their decision. She supports signals at both intersections and the need for a long term plan.

Member Trujillo stated he supports both signal lights and if the signal at Ortega is not approved, then he supports option #7, overhead lights with pedestrian activated flashers. He feels the pedestrian numbers should be reevaluated after the signals have been in place 6 months.

Member Walters supports signal lights at both intersections. She feels there should be more consistent law enforcement and education. She likes the road diet extension.

Councilmember Murillo says the issue will be coming to Council soon, and she will weigh in then. She has attended almost all meetings to listen to the public. She respects the expertise of City staff, and was happy they solicited comments from business community.

Councilmember White stated that it is unfortunate that a planning issue was forced by the unfortunate death. The Master Plan that included State Street should include Milpas. This will likely happen when funds are available.

Member Greene moved, seconded by Member Walters, to take the recommendations sequentially. Motion passed. 12 for/1 recused

Member Limon moved, seconded by Member Greene, to recommend a traffic signal at the Milpas and Ortega intersection.

Member Molina moved, seconded by Member Limon to recommend a traffic signal at Milpas and Yanonali intersection. Motion passed. 11 for/1 recused

Member Aldana moved, seconded by Member Walter to recommend the road diet from Cota to Canon Perdido. Motion passed 10 for/1 opposed/1 recused

Member Kingston moved, seconded by Member Limon to recommend to direct staff and the Planning Commission to develop and implement a comprehensive long term plan and strategy for improving traffic, pedestrian safety, and beautification for the entire Milpas corridor from Anapamu Street to Cabrillo Boulevard in an expeditious manner. Motion passed. 11 for/1 recused

9. NEW BUSINESS

- Member Kingston moved, seconded by Member Limon to re-elect Chair Pena and Vice Chair Soto. Motion passed. 11 for/1 absent
- Staff member Alvarado announced upcoming the recruitment and application process to fill two Neighborhood Advisory Council member vacancies, one member at large and one representative from the following neighborhoods: West Downtown, Eastside, Lower Eastside, Westside, Lower Westside and Laguna. Applications must be received in the City Clerk's Office by 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 7, 2012.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – the following topics were proposed by NAC members:

- Presentation by Dr. David Cash on Restorative Justice and Drug-sniffing dogs
- Review of the decorum list
- Planning a retreat
- Logo items for marketing purposes
- Discussion on sub-committees
- Ordinances

11. ADJOURNMENT – the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Hanna
Recreation Programs Manager