



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Joint Meeting of
THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Forsell at 4:07 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present

Steve Forsell	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Beebe Longstreet	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Daraka Larimore-Hall	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Laura Spracher	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

Commissioners Absent

Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Arnoldo Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commissioner

Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Sarah Clayton	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Nancy Woods	Business Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Superintendent
Scott Jorgensen	Golf Course Superintendent
Dave Gress	City Arborist
Randy Fritz	Acting Street Tree Inspector
Billy Goodnick	Landscape Architect
Allyson Biskner	Associate Planner
Susan Young	Recreation Supervisor
Karla Megill	Executive Secretary
Elvia Hernandez	Lead Recreation Coordinator

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – Ms. Rapp noted regarding item # 11, Advisory Committee Appointments, that Magdalena Corvin has withdrawn her application for appointment to the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

AGENDA ITEM _____

PUBLIC COMMENT – Brigitte Forssell addressed the Commission regarding tree removal requests for restoring views. She indicated that she is a 30+ year resident of the Riviera, neighbor of Franceschi Park, and a member of the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee. Ms. Forssell said that over the years, several property owners adjacent of Franceschi Park have asked and receive permits to restore their views by thinning, trimming, and removing trees. She said that permit conditions, such as the removal of trimmed vegetation and tree trunks, and replanting of new trees were often not met by the property owners after their views were restored. Ms. Forssell stated that since removal requests for trees and setback trees are processed and evaluated by the Street Tree Advisory Committee, which includes the City Arborist, she asked that the Commission direct neighborhood requests for view restoration, such as the thinning, trimming, and removing of park trees to be evaluated by the Street Tree Advisory Committee. Ms. Forssell said that the request could then be approved, or denied, by the Commission. She further stated that she has discussed the matter with Mr. Gress, City Arborist, who indicated support for the procedure since it would be a more open and public process.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS - None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Spracher provided this report. She said that there was an adult/teen center meeting this week during which concern was expressed by the teens about having to fundraise for themselves. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council would be meeting again at a later date to try to work something out. She indicated that the news about Skater's Point regarding the Pilot Program was well-received by the teens. Ms. Spracher said that concerns were voiced about the way graffiti is cleaned off the ramps at the skate park. She said that the way the paint (graffiti) is blasted off makes the surface of the ramps very rough, and asked whether there is an alternative method that would preserve the smooth surface. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council has leadership training on March 4th. She further solicited applicants for the Youth Council.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that on February 14th, Council received the PHAER Zone report with the Commission's recommendations. She said that the report was very favorably received and that Council's action was that the PHAER Zone Model be adopted with all of its maps. Ms. Rapp said that staff is beginning to work with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee to incorporate all of the recommendations that were in the report into the City's IPM Strategy. Ms. Rapp further indicated that staff is currently working on completing the 2005 Annual IPM Report, and expect it to be before the Commission and Council within the next couple of months.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. Regular meeting of January 25, 2006.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2006, as amended.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. Recognition of Girl's Night Out Volunteers

The Commission recognized Lucy Slagado, Veronica Garcia, Adriana Maynez, Elaine Orosco and Jaqua Girls for their hard work and commitment in providing program assistance through volunteering. Each volunteer and the owner of Jaqua Girls were presented with certificates of appreciation by Chair Forsell.

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve and/or deny the tree removal requests as indicated below.

- A. Approve the street tree removal requests for 333 W. Pedregosa St. – Eucalyptus ficifolia

JUSTIFICATION: The Committee members and staff determined that the tree was hazardous because it had a history of dropping large limbs.

- B. Approve the following setback tree removal requests:

- (1) 3217 Calle Cedro – Washingtonia robusta

JUSTIFICATION: The Committee and staff determined that the tree was not compatible with the existing front yard and plans for re-landscaping.

- (2) 1310 Kowalski Ave. – Pinus pinea

JUSTIFICATION: The Committee and staff determined that the tree had outgrown its space in the front yard and was too close to the adjacent residence.

- (3) 2503 State Street – Pinus radiata –

JUSTIFICATION: The Committee and staff determined that the tree was in a state of decline and that the new landscaping would provide trees to replace this tree.

- C. Deny the following street tree removal requests.

- (1) 3305 Calle Noguera – Pinus halepensis

JUSTIFICATION: The committee and staff determined that the tree is healthy specimen of the species and provides a major skyline tree for the neighborhood.

Bill Villa spoke saying that this tree presents a hazard. He said that the tree is out of proportion for the location and that they are concerned that the trunk might split its double trunk during high winds. Mr. Villa said that another hazard presented by the

tree is that the size of the trunk presents a visibility problem for vehicles attempting to negotiate from Calle Noguera to or across San Roque Road. He said that more and more cars are using the surface streets as alternatives to the busy State Street traffic. Mr. Villa said that there is a stop sign on the corner of Calle Noguera and San Roque, but cars are not able to have an unrestricted view of traffic coming up San Roque Road because of the size of the trunk of this Pine tree, which marks their view. He further said that he has trouble seeing oncoming traffic when he is exiting his driveway. Mr. Villa said that the tree has overgrown its location. He said that the City has trimmed the tree from growing out of control, but has not done so for a few years. Mr. Villa said that he is not opposed to a tree at this location, but expressed a replacement tree without the hazards associated with the current tree would better serve the area. He asked the Commission to approve the removal of the tree.

Chair Forsell commented that Mr. Villa's letter indicated that when he last requested that the tree be removed, it was trimmed by the City. Mr. Forsell asked when that was. Mr. Villa said that it was approximately a year before Mr. Condon left the City.

Mr. Gress responded stating that the Street Tree Advisory Committee found the tree to be healthy and that it presents a positive impact on the neighborhood being the major tree there. He further said that the Committee was in favor of preserving the tree as much as possible and suggested the City prune the tree to eliminate issues with the tree's size. Mr. Gress said that generally, the pruning would eliminate any potential hazard of the tree.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed concern about the safety issue and asked for clarification that pruning the tree will make it possible to see around the corner. Mr. Gress said that the trunk's size is an issue, but the safety concern is related to the upper portion of the tree.

Chair Forsell asked whether Mr. Gress was on the Street Tree Advisory Committee at the time of the first request for removal. Mr. Gress said that he was. Mr. Forsell asked Mr. Gress whether the tree has gotten to be an appreciably bigger problem for vision and being able to see over the last three to four years. Mr. Gress said that the tree is fairly similar to what it was then, other than the fact that the top portion has grown appreciably more and does require pruning.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendation of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff to deny the removal of the tree identified in item 5C (1) and further that staff look into pruning the tree.

(2) 522 Garden Street – Brachychiton discolor

JUSTIFICATION: The Committee and staff determined that it was an outstanding specimen of the species and that the driveway should be redesigned to accommodate the tree.

(3) 20 Lorinda Pl. – Washingtonia robusta

JUSTIFICATION: The Committee and staff determined that the palm is not prone to dropping sap and that regular pruning should mitigate the problem.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve and/or deny, respectively, the tree removals identified in item 5A, B, & C(2 & 3).

(4) 2929 Paseo Del Refugio - Acacia melanoxylon

JUSTIFICATION: The Committee and staff determined that the tree was one of the younger and healthier Black Acacias on the street and should be preserved at the present time.

Ms. Anita Williams addressed the Commission. She said that the tree has caused a lot of frustration for her. Ms. Williams said that the tree was last trimmed in 2001. She indicated that she has to call the City each time to request that they come out and trim the tree. Ms. Williams said that she would like to see the tree topped, but it has not been done. Ms. Williams said that on July 15, 1989, a tree on Luga del Consuelo fell down and blocked the entire road and filled her front yard and even hit her house causing damage. She said that her mother filed a claim against the City for that damage. She said the tree was a Black Acacia that looked as though it was blooming at the time it fell. Ms. Williams commented that just because the tree may look healthy, it does not necessarily mean that it does not present a hazard.

Chair Forsell asked Ms. Williams whether she is requesting that the tree be topped and pruned, or removed. Ms. Williams said she would prefer the tree to be removed. She said a replacement is fine, but asked that the tree be removed.

Robert Newman addressed the Commission. He said that the tree is one of the most spectacular trees on a residential street downtown. He said he realizes the tree is not on his property, but said there needs to be something done to preserve the tree.

Milla Watts addressed the Commission. She said that the tree is hazardous and shallow in roots and the possibility of the tree falling and hitting Ms. Williams' property is valid.

Richard Boon addressed the Commission. He said that there is every indication that the tree is healthy and full-grown. He spoke in favor of not removing the tree.

Mr. Gress said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff feel that the tree is one of, if not the, healthiest Black Acacia tree in the neighborhood. He said that pruning will eliminate any potential hazards. Mr. Gress said that there have been some losses in that neighborhood with some of the older trees, but this particular tree is one of the younger ones, and there is no indication that it poses a hazard.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the

Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and deny the removal of the tree identified in item 5C(4).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Projects Status Report

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the status of Parks and Recreation Department Projects.

Mr. Goodnick provided updates on the following projects.

- Leadbetter Park Renovation
- Ortega Park Improvements – Completion expected mid-March
Chair Forsell commended staff for their efforts with this project.
- MacKenzie Park Playground
- Carrillo Recreation Center Restoration – Estimated completion - 2009.
- Louise Lowry Davis Center – Estimated completion – March 2006
- Teen Center – Estimated completion – beginning of the next school year.
- Golf Course Safety Improvement Master Plan – Chair Forsell asked whether this is just one in several projects that will be completed in the future. Ms. Rapp said he plan is to start with the smallest amount of renovations to address the problems and evaluate how successful they are at addressing the problems, and if they do not solve the problems, staff will look at doing something more extensive. Ms. Rapp said that staff is trying to avoid high costs and causing any unnecessary impact to the golf course.

Chair Forsell requested a bus tour to the Louise Lowry Davis Center, Sheffield Reservoir, Teen Center, etc. during the later part of the summer. Commissioner Longstreet suggested late May for the tour and that City Council be invited also. Ms. Rapp said that staff will identify projects that might be of the most interest. She further suggested the Bohnett Park Expansion Project be visited, because construction will be getting ready to begin around that time.

Ms. Longstreet asked whether the Oak Park Bridge Replacement project will be completed before she goes off the Commission. Mr. Goodnick said the project should be finished approximately November 1st. Mr. Goodnick said that the bridge company has agreed to hold off construction on the bridge for one year, to hold their price firm for that year, and to ship it exactly when we need it.

Ms. Longstreet asked to see the report on the health of the Moreton Bay Fig tree when the Department receives it.

Ms. Rapp stated that Jill Zachary would provide a comprehensive report on the Creeks Capital Projects in March.

Ms. Rapp said that the Sheffield Reservoir project is wrapping up, and staff will provide a report on the project within the next two months once staff knows how

the transferring of responsibilities from the Public Works Department to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Rapp talked about the budget for the Teen Center. She said that initially the budget for the Teen Center was \$200,000 (Proposition 40 funds). She said that generally, the City has been experiencing bids anywhere from 25% to 70% above cost estimates. Ms. Rapp indicated that staff is very concerned about the Teen Center project, so staff did a design and had an independent cost estimate done. She said that the estimate for the project as it was designed was about \$400,000; way over budget, so staff worked with the architect and the teens to bring the project back into line with available funding, while still addressing all of the key elements. Ms. Rapp said that staff is hopeful that the bids received on the project will be within budget. She said that the project should go out to bid within the next four to six weeks. Ms. Rapp said that once the bids come in and more information is available regarding the project, staff will provide the Commission with a report.

Chair Forsell asked how much money has been raised by the Pearl Chase Society (PCS) for the restoration of Franceschi House. Ms. Rapp said she believes the PCS has reached the half way mark with respect to their fundraising. Ms. Rapp said that the Department has received a request from the public to have the PCS provide a presentation to the Commission or to Council regarding this matter. She said that staff will coordinate with them to do that. Ms. Rapp said that the PCS are very encouraged with their campaign to raise the funds and to move forward. She said that the City is still holding \$150,000 towards that project, but the PCS has to raise 50% of their funds before the City money will be able to be used. Ms. Rapp stated that the PCS has indicated they do not plan to ask for the \$150,000 until all of their fundraising has been completed. Chair Forsell expressed concern that the PCS might be discouraged because they have not raised the funds as of yet. He further said that a report from the PCS on the status would be good.

6. Multi-Jurisdictional Public Meeting on Front Country Trails

Recommendation: That the Commission receive information on an April Special Meeting for Front Country Trails

Ms. Biskner advised the Commission that on April 6, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at the David Gehbard Public Meeting Room, there will be a joint meeting with the County Park Commission and the Santa Barbara County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee. Ms. Biskner said that there are some multi-jurisdictional issues regarding the Front Country Trails that concern use, public safety, natural and cultural resources, and enforcement or a lack of. She further said that staff will provide a more detailed report on the matter at the March 22nd meeting so that the Commission is well-informed for the April 6th joint meeting.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the meeting will be an informational meeting or will the Commission be required to take action. Ms. Biskner said that the March meeting will be informational.

NEW BUSINESS

7. West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation from The Conceptual Motion Company and staff and provide comments regarding the proposal.

Mr. Lou Lazerine, Redevelopment Agency provided an overview of the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project. He said that staff is seeking comments regarding the proposal.

Steve Yates, Conceptual Motion Company provided a presentation regarding this project.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed that she is in favor in the pedestrian amenities, but has a concern about the narrowing of the street in these areas if we do not give bikes a better bikeway. She said there are recreational bikers mixed with the quads and pedestrians, so it will be better once the pedestrians are off. Ms. Longstreet said that the serious bikers will not use the bike path because it is too narrow and too dangerous. Ms. Longstreet said the project cannot be done piecemeal. She indicated her preference to do shorter sections addressing all concerns, rather than only addressing the pedestrian issues. Ms. Longstreet expressed concern about the grass being added and the long-term maintenance of grass and sand. She said that the project should use materials that can be maintained longer-term with respect to Integrated Pest Management (IPM), maintenance budget, etc. Ms. Longstreet said she likes the idea of the viewing areas, but she does not like the idea of cross-traffic on the bikeway due to safety concerns. Ms. Longstreet said regarding Sea Landing, that every time she has been there, it has been with a bus load of children, and the buses pick them up on Cabrillo Boulevard. She said that a loading area is needed, and further, that area should be planned around what happens there.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred with the need to be able to cross the Boulevard in a safer manner and a more intuitive design so there is a clearer way to walk around the town. He said that he too is concerned about the landscaping of the strip of sand between the bike path and the sea wall and the sidewalk, both from a long-term maintenance perspective and the fact that we are trying to turn our attentions to more sustainable practices. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that he is interested in hearing about the potential environmental impacts of that landscaping. He agreed that pedestrians should be kept from crossing the bike path as much as possible and that the reviewing areas need to be re-thought.

Chair Forsell echoed the sentiments regarding the landscaping. He further noted that where the bike path has been extended, it now goes by the Tennis Courts and the Pershing Park softball/baseball fields. He expressed concerns about the bike path going along the walking area in this area saying that foul balls frequently fly over from the softball or hardball field. Mr. Forsell asked Mr. Yates to address the landscaping issue.

Mr. Yates said that staff has shared with him the same concerns regarding turf. He said that there have been lengthy discussions about the potential of a much more natural approach in terms of landscaping and plant material. Mr. Yates indicated they fully intend to explore that, saying they will take the Commission's comments as direction and move forward.

Mr. Yates stated regarding the viewing plazas and the crossing of the multi-modal beach way, there were many conversations with the Transportation Division about the issue. He said that they have some natural physical conflicts. Mr. Yates said that the contention is that people will want to get as close to the beach and water environment as they possibly can. He said they are going to do that whether the amenities are provided or not, so the ability to provide a more intuitive environment and a clear understanding that there is a crossover use is an important part in contributing to safety. Mr. Yates said that the goal would be a continuous bicycle beach way, pedestrians cannot be allowed to cross at any point. He said that to provide the appropriate environment for pedestrians to cross where they normally do cross would make the multi-users of the space are well aware of the other users so that the safety issues can be mitigated as much as possible.

Ms. Rapp interjected that there have been conversations about West Beach broad expansive beach, and one suggestion, which the Department is agreeable to, is exploring the option of perhaps bringing in a vendor to provide beach umbrellas and the like to encourage more public use and also enhance the beach experience. She said this would add more activity in the West Beach area closest to the Waterfront parking lot. Ms. Rapp further said that staff has discussed the fact that there are volleyball courts located there and how they are used. Ms. Rapp said that the conceptual design that the Commission has seen leaves the volleyball courts intact.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that the volleyball courts are important. She said that East Beach is for the heavy hitters and a lot of people will not go there. She said that Each Beach is where the tourists and more eclectic groups play there for fun. Ms. Longstreet said she would like them to stay there. She further said that we need to watch for the bikes, the serious bikers in that area.

8. Recommendation Regarding Skate Park Advisory Committee

Ms. Cook provided a report from staff regarding the proposed creation of a Skaters Point Advisory Committee.

Ms. Cook indicated that staff proposes that the Advisory Committee be composed of five voting members, four non-voting liaisons, and three Department staff. She further recommended that Advisory Committee members be appointed by the Park and Recreation Commission. Committee membership will consist of as follows:

Voting Members:

- One representative that is an adult skater
- One representative that is a parent of a skater
- One representative that is a youth skater (13-17 years of age)
- One representative that is affiliated with a local skate shop
- One Community At-Large member

Liaison (non-voting):

- One Park and Recreation Commissioner
- One Youth Council Liaison
- One Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee liaison
- SBPD Liaison
- Park Ranger
- Sports Supervisor
- Recreation Programs Manager

Ms. Cook said that staff recommends the Commission designate three of the Voting Members (Youth Skater, Parent, Adult Skater) as one-year terms and two of the Voting Members (Community At-Large, Skate Shop Representative) as two-year terms in order to begin to stagger the terms and provide continuity to the committee. She further stated that staff recommends subsequent terms be two years for all members.

Chair Forsell expressed the plan is a good one. He recommended that Commission Larimore-Hall be the Commission representative and that Commission Longstreet be the alternate.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed concern that having one youth skater representative and a parent might be an uneven balance since there is only one adult skater representative. He suggested it might be fairer to have two adult skaters, who he understands to be of the majority of who uses the park. Commissioner Longstreet disagreed saying that the people who have approached her about the park have been parents of 10 and 11 year old children, and they did not like the segregated time. She said there are a number of opinions out there. Chair Forsell commented that there should not be an even number of voting members; we want an odd number. He said that the opportunity for adult skaters to be representatives would be either as an at-large member or the representative affiliated with a local skate shop.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that many of the parents are skaters also.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that many of his concerns can be addressed when we reach the interview and appointment stage of the matter.

Ms. Cook provided a brief status report on the pilot program saying that it has been quite successful and there have been no problems.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the staff recommendation regarding the establishment of the Skaters Point Advisory Committee.

9. Fiscal Year 2007 Proposed Budget – Worksession Dates

Ms. Rapp discussed the Commission review of the budget and asked for feedback regarding budget worksessions. She asked the Commission whether they feel the need to have the City Administrator and Finance Director to provide a presentation. Chair Forsell said no. Commissioner Longstreet concurred.

Ms. Rapp suggested April 19th for the budget worksession with another presentation on April 26th at the regular meeting. Chair Forsell suggested coordinating by email, since two members are not present.

Ms. Rapp further suggested that the regular meeting of May be moved to May 17th. The Commissioners present concurred with the suggestion.

10. Advisory Committee Liaisons

Ms. Longstreet expressed that she would give up the Lower Westside Adv. Committee.

This item was deferred to the March meeting because two members were absent.

11. Advisory Committee Appointments

A. Aquatics Advisory Committee - Ms. Rapp advised that incumbent applicants Jane Cairns, representing the SB Swim Club Masters, and Aaron Goldschmidt, representing the community at-large, are applying for reappointment to the Aquatics Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission re-appoint Jane Cairns, representing the SB Swim Club Masters, and Aaron Goldschmidt, representing the community at large to the Aquatics Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007.

B. Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee - Ms. Rapp advised that Mr. Albert Hannon, applying for appointment to the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee, was not present to be interviewed. This item is deferred to the March 2006 meeting.

C. Franceschi Park Advisory Committee -

(1) Sharon Sumrall was present and said that she has served on the Advisory Committee for almost 5 years and is seeking re-appointment. She highlighted her contributions while serving on the Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission re-appoint Ms. Sharon Sumrall, representing the community at large, for a term ending December 31, 2008.

- (2) Welmoet Glover was present. Chair Forsell asked Ms. Glover whether she is interested in serving as a neighbor representative. She said that was fine. Ms. Glover said she is interested in participating and helping on the committee.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 3/0 that the Commission appoint Ms. Glover, representing the neighbors, for a term ending December 31, 2008.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp provided an overview of the 90+ Birthday Party. She thanked the sponsors who made the event possible.

Ms. Rapp announced the Steelhead Community Forum, 7:00 p.m. at the Faulkner Gallery tonight.

Ms. Rapp announced the retirement of Dave Gress, City Arborist. She indicated that his last day of work is Friday, March 17, 2006. Ms. Rapp said that staff will have a BBQ at the Parks yard on Friday, March 10th at noon.

Mr. Gress expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as City Arborist. He reminisced about some of his accomplishments.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:22 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Longstreet moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director