



**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, March 22, 2006

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Forsell at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present

Steve Forsell	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Arnoldo Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Daraka Larimore-Hall	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Laura Spracher	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

Commissioners Absent

Beebe Longstreet	Park & Recreation Commissioner
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Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Sarah Clayton	Recreation Programs Manager
Nancy Woods	Business Manager
Billy Goodnick	Landscape Architect
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Susan Young	Recreation Supervisor
Antonio Velasquez	Recreation Supervisor
Allyson Biskner	Associate Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one wished to speak.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS - Chair Forsell reported on the activities of the Golf Course Advisory Committee. He indicated that the Committee talked about golf course maintenance and the impending improvements, the fact that the number

of rounds are up from last year due to less rainfall, the fact that revenues are doing well, and the Home Clubs seem to be happy.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Spracher provided this report. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council received their pictures and t-shirts this past Monday. She said that the Youth Council is going to be helping out with two Youth Speak-Outs: the Speak-Out hosted by the Santa Barbara Youth Council scheduled for April 17th, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP) Speak-Out scheduled for April 13th. Ms. Spracher advised that a few new members were recently appointed to the board.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** There were no comments on the summary of Council actions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
Regular meeting of February 22, 2006.

Commissioner Larimore- Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2006.

Commissioner Conner abstained.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION - None

3. **Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachments)**

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 following street tree removal requests:

1. 1156 North Ontare Lane – (8) Quercus agrifolia, (1) Schinus molle

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that 2 of the oak trees are healthy specimens and should be preserved if possible in the street widening. Recommended mitigation for removal is 3 - 24 inch box oak tree for each oak tree removed.

Mr. Goodnick said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommended that 3 24-inch box trees be planted as replacements for items 3A(1) and 3B(2), but they did not stipulate that the trees be locally grown trees. Mr.

Goodnick stated that staff feel that it is important that the replacement trees be locally grown trees. He further said that if they are not available, staff recommends that smaller size trees be planted because planning a locally grown tree is a higher priority.

Chair Forsell indicated that he did go by the locations of these trees and clarified that the removal requests are not based on the condition of the trees, but the widening of the street. Mr. Goodnick said that Mr. Forsell is correct.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve the removal of the trees identified in items 3A(1) and 3B(2); that the replacement trees be locally grown trees and, further, if the 24-inch box size trees are not available locally, that smaller size trees may be used.

B. Approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 1276 Bel Air Drive – Tipuana tipu

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that the tree had outgrown the front yard area and it was conflicting with the adjacent street tree.

Mr. Neema, resident 1276 Bel Air Drive, addressed the Commission saying that the tree is growing to be too large and wild. He said that the roots of the tree are damaging the front yard and growing in to the pathways. He further asked whether there is a deadline with respect to when the tree should be removed and further what type of tree should be planted.

Mr. Fritz told Mr. Neema that it is up to him as to whether he replaces the tree or not. He further stated that there is no requirement that he replace the tree.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve the removal of the tree identified in item 3 B(1).

2. 1156 North Ontare Lane – 2 Quercus agrifolia - 1 Olea europea

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that 1 of the oak trees is healthy specimens and should be preserved if possible in the street

widening. Recommended mitigation for oak removals is 3 - 24 inch box oak trees for each oak tree removed.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve the removal of the trees identified in items 3A(1) and 3B(2); that the replacement trees be locally grown trees and, further, if the 24-inch box size trees are not available locally, that smaller size trees may be used.

3. 2216 De La Vina Street - Pinus radiata

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the tree had outgrown the small front yard and was conflicting with the adjacent street tree.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve the removal of the tree identified in item 3B (3).

4. 1731 Santa Barbara Street – Washington filifera

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the Washingtonia filifera was diseased and should be removed.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve the removal of the tree identified in item 3B (4).

C. Deny the following setback tree removal request

1. 1731 Santa Barbara Street – Phoenix canariensis

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the tree was healthy and proper pruning would improve its appearance.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and deny the removal of the unattractive tree identified in item 3C(1).

Intern Spracher departed at 4:45 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

- 4. Creeks Capital Program Update** – Ms. Zachary provided the Commission with a presentation on the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Division Capital Program.

Commissioner Conner asked Ms. Zachary how she procures the grants she obtains. Ms. Zachary said that the grants are procured in a variety of ways, but most of the grants are competitive. She said that when the Creeks Program first began, they were lucky enough to receive money through Proposition 12. Ms. Zachary said that a certain amount of funds used for the Arroyo Burro Estuary project were essentially provided to the City without any competition. She said that only a work plan had to be approved before the funds could be spent. Ms. Zachary stated that most of the grants are competitive and staff learns about them through various sources. She further said that some of the funds are from Bond Acts. Commissioner Conner commented that most of the grant applications are written by staff and she does not charge the staff time to procure the funds. Ms. Zachary said that she is the main grant writer, but some other Creeks staff have written grant applications also. She said that the task is part of the Creeks staff workload.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked how left-over or carry-over funds are dealt with. Ms. Zachary said that one of the advantages of having a special program like the Creeks program is if all of the budgeted funds are not spent in any one year, they get put into a reserve account. Ms. Zachary indicated that occasionally money is taken from the reserve fund to offset a shortfall for a project. She said that for the capital program, once money is appropriated there, it stays there from year to year until the money is spent.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that Ms. Zachary mentioned several of the facilities are trapping or collecting sediment. He said that he thought some of the problems with what has been done to the creeks over the years is that not enough sediment is making it to the beaches and that is how the beach sand is replenished. Ms. Zachary said that as part of the Watershed Existing Conditions Study, staff identified which areas of the creeks either produce sediment or lose sediment, and are trying to determine how much of that is natural and how much is a result of urban development. She said that sediment is considered a pollutant in certain circumstances for aquatic ecosystems, there are urban sources of sediment that get into the creeks, and the goal is to reduce that. Ms. Zachary said that not only do pollutions bind sediment, but bacteria does as well.

Chair Forsell commented that he has not always been a vocal advocate of the progress the Creeks Division has made. He praised Ms. Zachary's and her staffs' efforts in the Creeks Program, saying that this presentation has enabled him to see the big picture. Mr. Forsell said he is very impressed with the number of capital projects Creeks is facilitating, particularly the projects at the Golf Course. Mr. Forsell asked regarding the Westside storm drains, whether there is a plan to

expand that to other areas of the City. Ms. Zachary said yes, there is a plan to expand. She said that it was determined that the Lower Westside would be a good pilot location because of the amount of trash and debris that ends up in the Harbor, and it was a location with street sweeping. Ms. Zachary said that staff is considering expanding the debris screens to the Westside area, which includes the Westside storm drain, because in that area there is no way to capture leaves and debris that get into the storm drain. She said that depending on what it takes to install and maintain them, staff will be looking at other areas of the City.

Chair Forsell commented that the capital project revenue and grant program ratios bear repeating. He said that Measure B funds are used mostly for design and implementation, while grants are primarily the source for the actual physical digging and work. He said it is close to a 50:50 ratio. Mr. Forsell identified some of the agencies who provide the grants: California Coastal Conservancy, California Department of Parks and Recreation, Resource Agency, California Wildlife Conservation, US Department of Fish and Game, etc. He commented that staff has done extensive outreach to have been able to procure funds from the different groups. Mr. Forsell praised staff for their efforts.

Chair Forsell asked whether since the Veronica Meadows Project has not been approved, and the project, if approved and annexed to the City, would have provided some of the funds for the restoration of the creek area there, is there a plan to come up with a design for that particular area. Ms. Zachary said that based on the ultimate outcome of future development of that site, staff will be looking to work with whatever development will occur, and will be planning to move forward with the project as deemed appropriate. Ms. Zachary called the Commissioners' attention to a work plan that was developed about 18 months ago, in which there was a key focus from both the Park and Recreation Commission and the Creeks Advisory Committee to look at that area for water quality improvement because it is so close to Arroyo Burro Beach. Ms. Zachary said that staff has been involved in evaluating what has been proposed for restoration, so regardless of what happens regarding the development of the land, the City is still moving forward.

Ms. Rapp said she appreciates the comment Chair Forsell made regarding being able to see visible progress with the Creeks Program. She said that this presentation significantly demonstrates exactly where we are, and capital projects take a great deal of time to complete. Ms. Rapp further said that it is even more difficult at this time when projects are coming in over bid and having to do substantial re-work on scopes to get the projects in where they need to be. Ms. Rapp advised that very shortly, they will see the outcome of the Watershed Planning. She said that it too, will demonstrate significant work being done by the Creeks Program to improve our water quality.

5. **Fiscal Year 2007 Budget** – Ms. Woods reviewed the dates for the budget process. She said that April 18th the proposed Fiscal Year 2007 budget will be filed with the City Clerk. She said that the Department will present the proposed budget to the

Commission at the regular meeting of April 26th. Ms. Woods said that the Department will be making presentations to the Finance Committee and City Council during early May. She said that the budget is scheduled to be adopted on June 20th. Mr. Forsell commented that the Commission had a two-hour budget worksession this past Monday that provided a lot of preliminary information.

6. Teen Center Update

Ms. Rapp stated that it took longer than anticipated to get to this point on this project. She indicated that the Teen Center project is fully funded through a Proposition 40 grant from the state in the amount of \$240,000.

Mr. Goodnick provided information regarding the construction aspect of the Teen Center project.

Ms. Young provided a presentation on the status of the Teen Center project fundraising efforts.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked what it will cost to implement the Teen Center. Ms. Young indicated that the Teen Center will be operated under the same budget and staffing levels. She said that only increase may be with monitor costs. Commissioner Gonzalez asked what the hours of operations will be. Ms. Yong said currently the hours of operation are expected to be Monday through Friday, 2:30 – 8:00 pm, and Saturday 11:00 am – 6:00 p.m. She said that on some Friday nights, the center might be closed because of events held at the Carrillo Recreation Center, because the Teen Center is not big enough to house some of the larger events Teen Programs sponsors. Ms. Young stated that on the Friday nights when there are no events at the Carrillo Recreation Center, the Teen Center will be open until 11:00 p.m. Commissioner Gonzalez clarified that the occupancy of the Teen Center is 49, and asked how staff will monitor the number of people in the facility. Ms. Young responded saying that staff will use a counter. She further said that staff will cut off the number of people allowed in the facility at 45 or so to make sure there are enough monitors. Ms. Young indicated that the reason more than two monitors will be needed is because there are so many rooms, and so in order to make sure that staff are monitoring each room, until a video surveillance camera can be obtained.

Commissioner Conner asked Ms. Young whether her office would be moving to the Teen Center. Ms. Young indicated she would likely stay at the Carrillo building, while other staff would move to the Teen Center building.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed concern over the cap on the number of people who can be in the facility at once. Specifically, he asked how staff would ask people to leave, who would be asked to leave, etc. Ms. Young said that staff has been in communication with staff from other Teen Centers and have been told that in the beginning, attendance at the centers started off high, but the average attendance does not exceed 40. She said that staff is confident that on average attendance would

be about 40. Ms. Young said that another idea is to split up junior high and high school students, allowing junior high students to use the facility during the earlier hours and high school students during the later hours. encouraged the Commission to provide her with suggestions on how to handle this matter.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that there is a window on the lifespan of technological equipment, for example, computer, recording equipment, etc. He asked whether staff is thinking about long-term fundraising efforts to keep up with the technological times. Ms. Young said agreed and aid that staff is continually thinking about ways to fundraise. She further said that throughout the process, staff will continue to look for grant opportunities. Commissioner Larimore-Hall indicated that he has ideas about how staff can procure recording equipment at a less expensive cost and that he would talk to staff about that at a later time.

Chair Forsell commented that the facility can only really accommodate 49 people. He said expressed concern about the way people are identified to leave if the facility reaches capacity. Chair Forsell thanked staff for their efforts and said he looks forward to the opening of the Teen Center.

Ms. Rapp said that not having enough money is definitely a challenge. She said that staff has done their best to have an architect provide a cost estimate before the design is finished, and staff is hopeful that a construction bid will come in that is within the budget. She said that some of our projects have been coming in 40 to 70% over what was anticipated, so we won't know how far the \$240,000 will go until we go out to bid.

7. Louise Lowry Davis Center Re-Opening

Ms. Rapp acknowledge the Award of Excellence the Community Gardens received from the California Parks and Recreation Society.

Mr. Velasquez provided a presentation on the Louise Lowry Davis Center Renovation project. He invited the Commission to attend the Grand Re-Opening Ceremony scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2006, at 10:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Advisory Committee Liaisons (*Deferred from February 22, 2006 meeting*)

Recommendation: That the Commission discuss current advisory committee liaison assignments and consider who will fill vacant advisory committee liaison positions.

The Commissioners discussed advisory committee liaison appointments. Below is the updated list.

Advisory Committee	Liaison
Adapted Recreation Programs	Ada Conner
Aquatics	Ada Conner
Arts and Crafts Show	Arnoldo Gonzalez
Creeks Restoration & Water Quality Improvement Program Citizen	Beebe Longstreet
De La Guerra Subcommittee	Ada Conner
Douglas Family Preserve Technical	Beebe Longstreet
Franceschi Park	Beebe Longstreet
Franklin Center	Arnoldo Gonzalez
Golf Course	Steve Forsell
Integrated Pest Management	Daraka Larimore-Hall
Lower Mission Creek Design Subcommittee	Steve Forsell
Lower Westside Center	Daraka Larimore-Hall
Park & Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation	Steve Forsell
Senior Recreation Services	Ada Conner
Skater's Point Advisory Committee	Daraka Larimore-Hall
Street Tree	Daraka Larimore-Hall
Tennis	Steve Forsell
Westside Center	Beebe Longstreet
Youth Council	Arnoldo Gonzalez

9. Advisory Committee Appointments

- A. Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee - Ms. Rapp advised that Albert Hannon, representing the community at-large, is applying for appointment to the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee.

Mr. Hannon was present and was interviewed. He highlighted his background and interest in serving on the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee. Mr. Hannon said he is an artist.

Commissioner Conner asked Mr. Hannon whether he would be able to attend the meetings at the times they are scheduled. Mr. Hannon said that he would.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission appoint Albert Hannon, representing the community at large, to the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee for a term ending March 31, 2007.

Golf Course Advisory Committee - Ms. Rapp advised that incumbent applicant Vic Giglio, representing the community at-large, is applying for reappointment to the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Street Tree Advisory Committee - Ms. Rapp advised that incumbent applicant Bruce Van Dyke, representing the community at-large, are applying for reappointment to the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/0 that the Commission re-appoint Vic Giglio, representing the community at large to the Golf Course Advisory Committee, and Bruce Van Dyke, representing the community at large, to the Street Tree Advisory Committee, for terms ending December 31, 2007.

10. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Re-appoint At-Large member Eric Cardenas to fill the Environmental Defense Center (EDC) position on the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee; and
- B. Begin recruitment for the At-Large member position.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/0 that the Commission appoint Eric Cardenas to fill the Environmental Defense Center position on the IPM Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007, and direct staff to begin recruitment for the at-large member position.

Ms. Rapp encouraged the public to contact the Parks and Recreation Department if they are interested in serving on the IPM Advisory Committee. She further indicated that staff would notice the vacancy and interviews would be conducted at a later Commission meeting.

11. Front Country Trails

Ms. Rapp reminded the Commission they will be participating in a joint meeting with the County Parks Commission on April 6, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at the David Gebhard Meeting Room, regarding front country trails. She said that Ms. Biskner would provide them with some background information tonight to prepare them for the April 6th joint meeting.

Ms. Biskner provided background information on the management and multi-use issues of the front country trails and information on a proposal developed by the Front Country Trails Working Group that will be presented April 6, 2006, at a Special Joint

Meeting of the City Park and Recreation Commission and County Parks Commission for consideration. Ms. Biskner said that the intent of the meeting is to hear a presentation on the Front Country Trails Working Group proposal and receive public comment.

Ms. Rapp said that staff is putting together one information package for the Commissions. She further said staff is receiving significant public comments and will provide the information to the Commissions.

Ms. Biskner indicated that most of the document that will be included in the information packet is now posted on the Forest Service Website.

Ms. Rapp said that after the April 6th meeting, the Commission will have this item on their April 26th agenda for further consideration and comment.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:30 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Forsell, and passed 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director