



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: July 17, 2008
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Judith C. McCaffrey, Recreation Programs Manager
SUBJECT: SKATER'S POINT ANNUAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR FY 08

At the January 25, 2006, meeting, the Commission approved the creation of a new advisory committee for Skaters Point with the goal of re-engaging the skateboard community in the operation of the Skaters Point facility. The Committee was recruited and met for the first time on September 19, 2006.

Committee Members

The Commission appointed the following six voting members and the Park and Recreation Liaison to the committee as follows:

"Adult Skater" Position

Open

"Parent of Skater" Position

Mike Glick, Santa Barbara

"Youth Skater (13-17 years of age)" Position (2)

Open

Sasha Paskal, Santa Barbara

"Affiliated With A Local Skate Shop" Position

Carlos Alejandro Juarez, Santa Barbara

"Community At-Large" Position

Jim Fitzpatrick, Santa Barbara

Park and Recreation Commissioner, Daraka Larimore-Hall

Four committee members - Youth Skater (2), Parent, and Adult Skater were appointed to one year terms and the Community, At-Large and Skate Shop Representative were appointed to two-year terms in order to stagger the terms.

In addition, the Commission established eight non-voting liaisons for the Committee. Liaisons include representation from the Park and Recreation Commission, Youth Council, Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee, Santa Barbara Police Department, Park Ranger, Sports Supervisor, and Recreation Programs Manager. These members were also active at meetings.

Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule

Committee members were appointed by the Park and Recreation Commission at their April and May Commission meetings. Meetings were held on the Tuesday of each month from 6:00-8:00pm at Casa Las Palmas.

Committee Projects/Activities

The goals of the Committee this year was to gather community input on the current operation of Skaters Point, identify issues and concerns that should be addressed in the future, and develop recommendations for consideration by the Park and Recreation Commission.

Committee members worked with staff to develop a survey that was distributed at the skate park on a number of days and distributed via email to all Parks and Recreation Department program participants. The survey addressed the current skate park, programs offered by the Department and interest in a new park. A great number of responses were received. Giveaways were donated by a local skate shop to hand to survey participants.

The Committee reviewed and evaluated the Youth Only Hours at Skater's Point on Saturdays, determined it was a success, modified the hours to 10-12noon, and then recommended the hours become permanent. This recommendation was approved by the Park and Recreation Commission and implemented at the skate park.

Committee members agree that monitoring at Skater's Point is not effective and should be discontinued.

Challenges/Concerns

While the Committee had an active first year, its last meeting was in September 2007. Each subsequent meeting was cancelled at the last minute because a member or two couldn't attend leaving the group without a quorum. The meeting schedule was distributed months in advance to all Committee members. In the last 3 months, staff has been recruiting for new committee members to fill open spots. When applications are received, staff will schedule the applicants for interview and appointment at the next Commission meeting.

Recommendations

With the difficulty of having a quorum present for the meetings and not having the amount of business required for a monthly meeting, staff recommend that this Advisory Committee be allowed to meet on a quarterly basis with additional meetings scheduled as necessary. Staff believes this would improve meeting attendance and reenergize this group.