



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Longstreet called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Larimore-Hall

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Daniel Hochman
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chuck Rose, Santa Barbara Pony Baseball, invited the Commissioners to opening day set for March 14th, 9:00 a.m., at MacKenzie Park. He said that in spite of the economy, Pony Baseball participation is up five percent over last year. He said they are working with the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation, Police Activities League, and work in concert with the Elings Park Foundation, Goleta Valley South Little League and DP Little League.

Chair Longstreet commented that, especially in these difficult economic times, having partners like Pony Baseball enable these programs to be available to all children. She thanked Mr. Rose and Pony Baseball for everything they do to make sure the children in the community are taken care of.

Ms. Rapp interjected that Pony Baseball is probably the longest co-sponsorship partnership relationship the Department has had with a community organization. She said it has been a great relationship; every year they have invested their time and efforts in investing in capital improvements in the various facilities that they use, and that is the trade off for the access they have to the City fields. Ms. Rapp said that Mr. Escobar works very closely with Pony Baseball to identify park improvements that benefit the park and improve it as a baseball facility. She said she especially wants to acknowledge Pony Baseball because they have done a substantial job over the last couple years in expanding their participation and doing outreach into the neighborhoods and community and working with the Police Activities League. Ms. Rapp expressed that the Department is pleased to partner with Pony Baseball.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Youth Council. He advised that on March 17th, the 2nd Anniversary of the Teen Center will be celebrated. Mr. Burns said he anticipates the Commissioners will receive formal invitations as the Youth Council wants them to attend.

Chair Longstreet reported on the activities of the West Beach Art Subcommittee. She said that project is moving forward and going before the various other Commissions for approval.

Chair Longstreet reported the she and Ms. Rapp attended the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) Commissioners' Workshop at Hearst Castle this past weekend. She said the main topic was advocacy and the role of boards and commissions in advocating for parks and recreation facilities and programs within their communities. Ms. Longstreet commented that she thinks of advocating as asking for money, but in these times, it may be even broader than that. She said the Commission needs to generate community support for what they do and know is important in the community.

Ms. Rapp added that the California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) is the professional association for Parks and Recreation in the state of California. She said that one of the presenters at the workshop was the Executive Director of the organization. Ms. Rapp said that the Director shared with the group that the organization has recently taken on an extensive survey of how Californians value Parks and Recreation. She said this is the first such effort to take place in the country. Ms.

Rapp said that the information gleaned from the survey is being shared with other communities as well. Ms. Rapp said that the two things that came from the survey that was most impressive is that 98% of Californians visit parks, and 50% of Californians do or have participated in Recreation Programs. She said this is important information for the Department as we are facing challenging budgetary times. She said that if that is reflective of our own community, then we need to be making our priorities fit that statistic. Ms. Rapp said the discussion with the panel, which consisted of commissioners from the state and local level, City Council members, and a Parks and Recreation Director, focused on advocacy and how to be an effective advocate at those different levels of organization.

Ms. Rapp said the workshop was very informative, and in the future, if the opportunity exists, it would be worthwhile to have all the Commissioners attend.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Torres-Santos discussed the Anniversary of the Teen Center which will be held March 17th, 5:00 p.m. at the Teen Center.

Intern Torres-Santos stated that the Youth Council welcomed Commissioner Burns as the liaison from the Commission.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Summary of Council Actions

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked to which projects the money was redirected.

Ms. Rapp indicated that the funds were redirected to the additional projects at the Franklin Neighborhood Center, Ortega Welcome House, and a new roof for the Haley Street Youth Center.

2. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2008; and

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2008; and

Commissioner Conner Abstained.

- B. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2009.

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 28, 2009.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall abstained.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

3. **Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Deny the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 202 La Jolla Drive – Susan Belloni – Podocarpus gracilior, Fern Pine

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff and Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 3A(1).

- B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 517 Alameda Padre Serra – Scott Miners for Catherine Young – Quercus agrifolia, Coast Live Oak

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff and Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding items 3B 1 & 2.

2. 416 - 418 Montgomery Street - Dr. Dan Secord/Earthform Design - Yucca elephantipes, Giant Yucca
3. 920 Summit Road/Old Coast Highway - Randall Mudge - 17 various trees

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Daniel Hochman, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff and Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 3B(3).

4. 1021 San Andres Street – Mrs. Conrad/Action Tree – Podocarpus gracilior, Fern Pine

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff and Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 3B(4).

C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 617 Bradbury Avenue - Fae Perry/Leed Santa Barbara, LLC - Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palm

Mr. Downey reported that the reason for the request was that this tree was a danger to public safety, and it is not compatible with other trees or the scale of the proposed project. Mr. Downey indicated that the tree is approximately 80 feet tall. He said that given the extraordinary size, the tree is a rare specimen and should be preserved, although the tree has not been given that designation by City Council.

Mr. Downey advised that the Architectural Board of Review on February 23, 2009, conducted a 2nd concept review on the project. He said that one of the Board Members stated he could not support this project with the removal of the palm; another member stated that she is in favor of preserving large trees but this tree doesn't make or break the project in her mind, but she would lean toward what ever is right for the project. Mr. Downey indicated that the Motion included in part "a majority of the Board believes the project can move forward no matter what the decision is for the palm".

Mr. Downey stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined the hazard could be mitigated through trimming. He further said that the Committee and staff determined the tree is a skyline tree and therefore an asset to the community.

Mr. Downey advised that the Committee and staff recommend the removal request be denied.

Speakers:

Robert Livernois spoke in favor of retaining the tree.

Fae Perry said that in 2007 after she purchased the lot, she contacted Mr. Downey who said she needed to apply for a permit to remove the tree. She said she was told the tree was not on City property, so she proceeded to obtain the services of a contractor to remove the tree. Ms. Perry said when the contractor was there to remove the tree, a neighbor contacted Mr. Downey and the contractor was issue a stop work order because the area is going to be re-

zoned. Ms. Perry said the tree is a danger to the public and would be a financial burden for her to maintain it. She said she has plans to develop the area, and the tree will take up the majority of the living space. Ms. Perry said they plan to plant a Japanese Maple.

Mr. Downey responded to the zoning issue. He said the property is currently zoned C2, but Community Development Planning Division, in reviewing the project, wants to treat it R3, R4 because of neighboring properties and the uses of those properties, which provides for a ten-foot setback.

Chair Longstreet said she watched the Architectural Board of Review meeting today and said the tree can remain in the project and can go forward. She said there were some feelings amongst members of ABR that the tree needs to be saved. Ms. Longstreet stated that she tried to pay attention to the auxiliary issues around the tree trying to figure out the zoning issue. She further indicated that she did a site visit to the tree and said it is a gorgeous tree; not when you are standing next to it, but that is not the only way trees are viewed in the community.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked for clarification about the zoning issue. He asked whether if the area was treated as a C2 zone, then the Commission would not have jurisdiction over the setback because the setback area is shorter on commercial than on residential areas.

Mr. Downey responded saying that zoning C2 is a zero setback.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked what body within the City is the recommendation of treating this as R3, R4 coming from.

Mr. Downey said Community Development Planning Division is recommending the area be treated as R3, R4.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he is always happy to save a tree in a setback and he wishes the setback for commercial properties was higher than zero.

Chair Longstreet commented that the zoning issues have to do with the way the project is proposed. She said the project is proposed as mixed use; if it would have gone forward as a commercial project, it would not be before the Commission, but it does have a residential component, thereby allowing Community Development to do what they are doing.

Mr. Downey added that the only building currently on the property is a residential building.

Commissioner Burns said he went to the site yesterday, and went back again this afternoon. He commented that the front of the building is basically the back of

two commercial structures; it is a residential area, but it is also a commercial area. Mr. Burns said that the tree is huge and is out of place. He said that if the resident is planning to put another tree in its place that would be of similar size as some of the other trees on the street, he would be in favor of that.

Commissioner Hochman asked how the removal was stopped if there was no plan in progress and the property was then zoned C2 and was being treated as C2.

Mr. Downey said that there is an ordinance on the books that states when you are going to develop a property, you need to indicate any trees on the plan. He said that when he went out to the site, he urged them to stop the removal, he did not demand that they stop.

Commissioner Hochman asked whether there was a plan to develop at that time.

Mr. Downey said he was not aware of a plan.

Commissioner Hochman asked had they continued with the removal at that point, would it have been a problem.

Mr. Downey said they would have had to indicate any trees on the property for the prior two years when they put in the proposal, and had they not done that there would have been an issue, but other than that, no, there would not have been a problem.

Commissioner Hochman commented that the applicant could have removed the tree, submitted plans that indicated there use to be a tree there, and put a different tree in a future plan, and the Commission would not be discussing the removal of a tree that had already been removed legally.

Mr. Downey said Commissioner Hochman is correct.

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/2 to deny the setback tree removal of the Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palm located at 617 Bradbury Avenue as recommended by the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated that he wants to be on the record saying that as we move towards more mixed use developments, there are going to be more of these kinds of zoning issues. He said he wants to be on the record passing on to the powers that be that clear guidelines, as well as public education to property owners that are planning to develop in that way, about all of the implications that will be for land use, for trees, etc., would be helpful and make the Commissioners' jobs allot easier.

D. Consider the following changes to the Master Plan.

1. Species change - 2400 block of Calle Galicia

Mr. Downey reported that the existing trees in the 2400 block of Calle Galicia are a mixture of Melaleuca trees and Brazilian Pepper Trees. He said this block of Calle Galicia does not have a designated tree. Mr. Downey advised that based on the size of the parkways and the existing species the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined it would be appropriate to choose two trees for this section and recommend the Prickly Leaf Paperbark and Cajeput tree be adopted as the designated street tree for the 2400 block of Calle Galicia.

Chair Longstreet asked how tall a Cajeput tree gets.

Mr. Downey responded saying that a Cajeput tree can get up to be 45 - 50 feet tall.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked how flammable the proposed trees are.

Mr. Downey said neither of the trees is listed on the high-fire danger trees list.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding the designation of street trees as amended to the Street Tree Master Plan for the 2400 block of Calle Galicia.

2. Species change - 200 block Adair Drive

Mr. Downey reported that the current designated species is Purple Leaf Plum, and the existing profile is 2 purple plums, 2 Queen Palms, and 1 Jacaranda. He said that the parkways are small and would only support a small tree. Mr. Downey further said that the street is a cul-de-sac of San Remo and this section of San Remo is designated Purple Leaf Plum. He advised that Purple Leaf Plums in this area are suffering from Fire Blight once they age and growth slows. Mr. Downey said that the requesting party recently lost two Plums in front of his property due to Fire Blight.

Mr. Downey advised that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend Forest Pansy Redbud be approved as the designated street tree for the 200 block of Adair Drive, due to its similar look to the Plum and its is immune to Fire Blight.

Commissioner Burns asked whether there are other trees in the City that have the same potential Fire Blight, and are we doing anything proactive about it.

Mr. Downey said Fire Blight is an opportunistic disease that is not very treatable. He said the disease spreads by insects, and if it is raining when the plant is blooming, the disease is transmitted to the new flowers, and causes dieback of the tree. Mr. Downey said there is some research that shows some affect of antibiotic sprays, but since Santa Barbara is a sustainable community, we try to refrain from those types of treatments whenever possible. He further said that given the questionable effectiveness, it is unadvisable.

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff and Street Tree Advisory Committee regarding a change to the Species designation change to the 200 block Adair Drive.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

4. Parma Park Report

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a status report regarding actions to mitigate damage associated with the Tea Fire and plans for the restoration of Parma Park.

Ms. Zachary and Mr. Escobar provided this report.

Commissioner Burns asked when the Park might be opened to the public. Ms. Zachary said staff hopes it will be open within the next month to six weeks.

Commissioner Hochman commended all efforts related to the Tea Fire. He asked regarding the funds in the Parma Park maintenance account, how often funds are provided, and whether it is annually.

Ms. Zachary said the Parma Park Trust provides funding generally on an annual basis. She said each year staff develops a work plan which has a cost estimate for implementation. She said that generally speaking, the Department gets about that amount of money in order to implement the work plan. Ms. Zachary said that as with other projects and programs there is often money left over at the end of the year. She said the Parma Park Fund is housed in a special grant fund within the general fund and rolls over from year to year. Ms. Zachary said that on an annual basis, depending on the type of work staff is doing, \$50,000 - \$85,000 may be spent at the park. She said that most of the money is spent on vegetative fuels management, removing dangerous trees, trail maintenance. Ms. Zachary said staff has been working on some special projects related to exotics removal, signage, etc., which adds a certain amount of expense on an annual basis. She said the Parma Park Trust recently provided \$85,000 in December, and part of the disbursement depends on what the trust needs to do. Ms. Zachary said that money will be placed in a special account and will only be spent once staff determines with the Trustee what it will be spent on.

Commissioner Hochman asked whether the efforts going on over the next 18 months probably replacing anything that had been on the plans before the Tea Fire, and is the \$212,000 in addition to the \$190,000 already in the maintenance account.

Ms. Zachary responded saying that when the budget was developed, the total cost for the work to be done or has been done, with includes the immediate emergency money and rehabilitation totaled \$416,000. She said staff determined that a good portion of that cost could be carried by FEMA. She said staff provided the trustee the total cost, including the FEMA estimate, so the Trustee could determine whether the funding currently in the account could be used towards it. Ms. Zachary said that has conceptually been agreed upon, and staff has spend a great deal of time over the last week coming up with more details, which were provided to the Trustee last week.

Ms. Zachary advised the Commission that staff, in consultation with the Parma Park Trustee, has determined that the Parma Stanwood Entrance capital project needs to be delayed for a couple of years. She said that they determined it would wise to put it off because it is not clear how the area of the park will change if there are significant storms. Ms. Zachary said that staff can evaluate the area in the next 12 - 18 months and then reschedule the project. She said the funding for the project is provided by the Parma Park Trust and kept in a separate account for that project and will remain there until the project is started. Ms. Zachary very briefly highlighted that project for the benefit of the new Commissioners.

Chair Longstreet asked for clarification regarding the usage of Parma Park, specifically, is it open space, equestrian, hiking, no wheeled vehicles. Ms. Zachary said that bicycles are allowed in the park, but only on the fire roads.

Chair Longstreet asked whether as staff moves forward, this is an area where we may be doing trail building in collaboration with some of the usage groups. Ms. Zachary said that it could be a great place for the user groups to come together and do some sustainable trail building, primarily because it is not going to change. She said the agreement with the Trust provides that the City will not allow bicycles on the trail, so it give a neutral territory to try out some sustainable trail building techniques where there is not significant ownership over any given trail.

Ms. Rapp said there has been a tremendous amount of community response to all of the people affected by the Tea Fire. She said it was very heartwarming to have people in the community, particularly those for whom Parma Park is their backyard, who contacted the Department and said they want to be part of the replanting and helping to bring their neighborhood park back. Ms. Rapp said the Department looks forward to involving the neighbors and the community in projects that help to restore the park.

5. Shoreline Park Update

Ms. Zachary provided this report.

Intern Torres-Santos asked whether the steps will be repaired or removed.

Ms. Zachary said the steps at the park are fine. Mr. Escobar interjected that the steps are fairly new. He said they are a beautiful set of steps and encouraged the Commission to go down and take a look at them.

Ms. Rapp stated that initially, the steps were closed because staff was more concerned about landslides or debris in an adjacent area, and also people going down onto the beach where there was the potential for debris falling. She said the steps were never a safety concern.

Ms. Rapp also stated that there were news media reports that the restroom was cracking and might be closed, but those reports are not accurate. She said the restroom is not showing any signs of cracking. Ms. Rapp indicated that staff will continue to monitor the restroom, as the survey showed that there is potential concern for more land movement in that area, but there is no current danger.

Commissioner Burns commented that at the community meeting there was a question about watering. He asked Mr. Escobar to talk about the City's watering practices. Mr. Escobar did so.

6. Advisory Committee Interview and Appointment

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Interview Dominic Namnath and appoint him to the Golf Advisory Committee; and

The Commission interviewed Mr. Namnath for appointment to the Golf Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to appoint Dominic Namnath, representing the Santa Barbara Men's Club, to the Golf Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2010.

- B. Consider the application of Bob Grebil and reappoint him to the Tennis Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/0 to reappoint Bob Grebil, representing the community at large, to the Tennis Advisory Committee for a term ending, December 31, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 5/0 to adjourn the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director