



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, July 22, 2009

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Intern Diego Torres-Santos

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner(s) & Staff Present

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Daniel Hochman
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey
Sr. Neighborhood & Outreach Services Supervisor Antonio Velasquez
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Recreation Supervisor Terry Brown
Recreation Coordinator Kimmie Coley
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Creeks Outreach Coordinator Liz Smith

Commissioner(s) & Staff Absent

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Gene Tyburn, Arborist, strongly opposed passing pruning standards that affect citizens. He stated that the public knows nothing about standards and have been ambushed by Mr. Downey. He disagrees with pruning ficus trees; one has already fallen on the car wash. He agrees with tree pruning being an art; there should be allowances for creativity. He urged citizens who love their trees to call and let their feelings be

known. He said he insists the public should be sent laws, regulations that govern trees on their private property and moratorium on citations.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION: None

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-jurisdictional Task Force. He said the next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2009

Chair Longstreet talked about public safety and urged everyone using the trails to stay on the trails to protect what's there and to take responsibility and be very careful if using trails affected by the fire. Ms. Longstreet said the Front Country Trails Multi-jurisdictional Task Force is now meeting quarterly and progress is being made.

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Arts & Crafts show Advisory Committee. He said the Committee has a vacancy for a member of the public. Ms. Rapp said that people interested in serving can contact Parks & Recreation at 564-5418.

Chair Longstreet reported on the activities of the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp advised that the regular August meeting is typically cancelled due to non-pressing items on the agenda and vacation plans; however, staff is recommending the August meeting be held as scheduled. She said there are several items on the agenda and street tree issues that are time sensitive and need to take place in month of August. Ms. Rapp advised that the Street Tree Advisory Committee has recommended expanding size of that committee, and two items originally on July agenda were pushed to next month, including the election of the chair and vice chair. She further said that Commissioner Burns brought forth the issue of youth sports organizations being able to access City parks for sports practices, and staff has met with AYSO and other organizations and were ready to bring a report to the Commission, but the recommendation conflicted with zoning regulations, so staff needs to work with City Attorney on options. Ms. Rapp said staff will also present Advisory Committee recommendations at that time. She said there will likely be budget matters on the agenda also.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Intern Torres-Santos advised that the Youth Council held interviews and filled the three vacant positions, all came from Dos Pueblos High. He said the Youth Council is planning for the August Teen Exchange — the theme is "How to become a better leader".

Chair Longstreet thanked Intern Torres-Santos for attending the Commission meetings during the summer break.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Summary of Council Actions: There were no comments on this item.
2. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 24, 2009.

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 24, 2009.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

3. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission: Deny the following Setback Tree removal requests.

- A. 1316 Alta Vista Road - David Vasquez - Quercus agrifolia, Coast Live Oak

Public Comment - Joy Marshall said she has lived in her home, which is close to this address, since 1957. She said there are many oaks on the street that make the street special. Ms. Marshall said that the tree is healthy and provides some shade on the front rental unit, and that approximately 85% of lot is concrete. She said there is no break of landscaping except for this tree. She further said that a few years ago, the only other tree was removed and not replaced. Ms. Marshall said that she did not see problems on sidewalk, and everyone has problems with sewer.

Commissioner Hochman asked when, if ever, does a cost of repair enter into their purview—"already cost \$12k for repairs"—is there some level of damage or destruction being done by a tree?

Mr. Downey said there is no specific cost determined. He said a tree is evaluated for the value it provides; everything submitted is taken into consideration. Mr. Downey said that ultimately, the decision is based on criteria, none of which includes cost to the applicant.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 3/0 to deny the removal request identified in item 3A.

Commissioner Hochman abstained.

- B. 1127 Harbor Hills Lane - Harold L. Votey Jr. - Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 4/0 that to uphold the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the tree identified in item 3B.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

4. Carrillo Recreation Center Seismic Renovation and Rehabilitation

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the status of the Carrillo Recreation Center seismic renovation and rehabilitation.

Chair Longstreet commented that she is excited to see the project moving forward.

Commissioner Burns asked where staff will be moving to. Mr. Bryan advised that Active Adults & Classes will be relocating to the Davis Center, Youth Programs will be moving to the Bath House, Ms. Hanna will be moving to the Cabrillo Pavilion (upstairs), and Teens will relocate to the Teen Center.

Commissioner Burns asked who Julia Morgan is. Mr. Bryan advised that Julia Morgan is 4th female architect in American history and California's first. He said she is the Architect of Hearst Castle. Mr. Bryan explained that after the large San Francisco earthquake, her buildings were some of the only ones left standing.

Commissioner Hochman asked for clarification of the pie chart of project costs. Mr. Bryan said the chart in the report is from John Schoof, who created it a while ago as a part of a Council Agenda Report. He said the budget has changed since that report was created. He further said it is Included as backup material because it goes into justification and rationale. Mr. Bryan said the numbers do not match because project has changed slightly in scope.

Commissioner Hochman asked if the 3 discretionary components, are included. Mr. Bryan said they are part of the packet. He said staff believes they can fit in to original budgeted amount, but may consider dropping them if numbers come back high.

Commissioner Hochman asked if the \$2.2 includes revisions. Mr. Bryan said yes.

Commissioner Conner asked about the boiler room. Mr. Bryan said it will become primary storage space. He said there were three boilers, one has been decommissioned; the two serving ballroom will be dismantled and the asbestos will be removed.

Intern Torres-Santos asked if the dance studio is under construction. Mr. Bryan said they are getting a third dance studio where Youth Activities offices are now. He said the walls will be moved and new floors put in. He said the downstairs dance floor will be

replaced. Mr. Bryan said the upstairs studio has oak floor that will be refinished. He stated that they are trying to use as much of the existing building as possible.

Commissioner Hochman asked for clarification on the budget. Mr. Bryan said the original budget was \$5 million, then \$1.5 million was backed out for other projects; original budget numbers came in, looking at needing an additional \$2.2 million. He said the original \$6.7, from that time to now when bid package ready, budget has expanded.

Commissioner Hochman asked where extra \$300k came from. Ms. Rapp said that the extra \$300k comes from RDA; they have a capital discretionary fund for situations like this when you have a project that has come in slightly over budget.

Chair Longstreet said she is excited about the LEED certification, but is sad we'll never play basketball on roof of the gym. She said it will be a beautiful facility well into the future. Mr. Bryan said the Department was very fortunate; there are a lot of old buildings, but the Carrillo Recreation Center was moved toward top of list due to use.

Chair Longstreet said she is very pleased and thanked staff for their efforts.

Ms. Rapp emphasized budget related points that will be discussed when developing the FY 2011 budget. She said the adopted FY 2010 did take into consideration that the Recreation Center was closing and revenue would be down. Ms. Rapp said that as we look to FY 11, we can move programs back in; it is a tremendous activity center, and it does pose opportunities for increasing revenue next year to help with budget challenges. She said that the sprung wood floor is the only floor of its kind on the west coast.

5. Recreation Staff Training and Program Safety

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on hourly staff hiring, training, and certification requirements that are essential to the delivery of safe and quality programs for our community.

Commissioner Hochman commented that it is important that we pay attention to how we train our staff and that comprehensive training is so important. He further commented that it appears that we do it comprehensively. He asked what an optimal retention rate would be. Ms. Hanna said the target retention rate would be about 95%. It is cyclical; living in the community with UCSB and SBCC, the Department typically retains employees from 3-4 years.

Commissioner Hochman asked if there are ways to increase retention. Ms. Coley said that in Youth Activities, over past few years, they have been offering loyalty retention bonus. Each year it's been slightly modified, and there is a list of criteria, for example, the employee may only miss certain number of days, must attend trainings. She said that in the first year we did bonuses, and had about 95% retention; however, with the current budget situation, she is unsure of future of bonus program.

Commissioner Hochman asked if the City does exit interviews so we know why they're not coming back. Ms. Hanna said yes, the City conducts exit interviews. She said that usually staff leave due to moving out of town. Ms. Hanna said that the Department does benefit from a lot of returning staff, and new staff can go to returning staff.

Commissioner Hochman said he is impressed with amount of training provided and said he values training, but it seems like a heavy load. He encouraged staff to continue to work on ways to keep high standards up, dovetail to spend less separate time training. Ms. Coley said that due to having to cut back on training hours, staff has already started planning more on site training; staff come in a 1/2 hour early, or stay 1/2 hour late. She said that may reduce the amounts of training.

Ms. Rapp said that maintaining high quality programs has always been a priority; if we can't do it safely, we won't do it. She said that investing in training is important.

Chair Longstreet commented on the different camps and said there is a breadth of different things going on. She said it is complicated, but the bottom line is how many kids served. She said the quality of instructors and camps are top notch.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Parks and Recreation Budget

Recommendation: That the Commission set a date for a budget work session to address additional Fiscal Year 2010 budget reductions.

Ms. Rapp advised that this item and Neighborhood and Outreach Services will be on agenda each month, so we can talk about each item as we move forward during the year.

Ms. Rapp briefed that the Department has implemented the FY 2010 budget. She said many staff are concerned about changes to their workload, impacts of having less staff to work with, and we are all in the process of trying to figure out how we do what we do with what we have.

Ms. Rapp said that when Council adopted the budget, they acknowledged that revenue projections were already \$1.5 million shy of projection. That \$1.5 million has now increased to about \$2.5 million. She said the State budget is proposed to be adopted on Friday, and the best we can tell is the proposed budget will have impacts on City. Ms. Rapp indicated that City Admin suggested a loss of \$6 million in RDA funds for the City, and \$1.5 million in gas tax revenues - part of our utility users tax (UUT), for P&R funds street tree maintenance and street maintenance for PW. She said she does not know if it's a one-year impact or ongoing, that will need to be determined as we learn more about state budget. She further said there is a possible loss of \$2.4 million in property taxes, depending on what happens with Prop 1A whether it's a loss or a loan. Ms. Rapp said City Dept Heads and City Admin will meet tomorrow and will be informed of what further reductions will need to be made to the current year budget. She said staff hopes to make recommendations to Council soon, possibly within three weeks.

Ms. Rapp said the City is expecting the number for next year to be worse than what was originally expected. She said staff wants the Commission to prioritize services. She said staff recommends the Commission schedule a budget work session, the first week of August, possibly August 5th, 3:30 p.m. at the Carrillo Recreation Center.

Ms. Rapp advised that the turnaround time for staff recommendations to Council will be very short. She said staff will develop some scenarios, and will want to make decisions that are implemented this year and carried into FY 11.

Commissioner Burns said that when the Commission first looked at the budget, there was a contingency list, but it sounds like we're beyond that. Ms. Rapp said yes, there was a contingency list, and some of those items may be looked at in addition to other things. She said the significance of impact is 25-30% reduction in services. Ms. Rapp said that everything is back on the table, and we need to think seriously about different programs and services, facilities, think out of the box. She said we will also be looking at program revenue.

Chair Longstreet commented that we are no longer just reducing, but cutting programs. She encouraged the other Commissioner to reflect on the budget and mission statement as they set priorities. She said they need to keep in mind how to best stay in shape for the future when there is growth, making sure we have a strong base to build from.

Commissioner Hochman said that as difficult as this is, it is important to look at this as a great opportunity to look at priorities, mission, and to re-envision what we are.

Chair Longstreet expressed concern for the employees who serve community, and said they are valuable people who are integral to what makes Santa Barbara a wonderful community.

Ms. Rapp encouraged the Commission to email her any ideas they might have saying every idea is a good idea. She said staff will really look at each one.

7. Neighborhood and Outreach Services

Ms. Rapp said that moving Neighborhood and Outreach Services forward is important; there is a lot of community interest in where this is going. She talked about the subcommittee that will be meeting to move closer to develop a model for the neighborhood voice. She said that the subcommittee will consist of two Commissioners and two members of each of the three community center advisory committees. Commissioners Longstreet and Larimore-Hall will represent with Commission with Commissioner Longstreet Chairing the subcommittee. Ms. Rapp said that two members from other advisory committee have also been appointed thus far. She said that staff was looking at August 5, 2009, for that meeting, but budget takes priority, so that meeting will be scheduled for another date. Ms. Rapp said that if further reductions are as deep as anticipated it will impact what we're able to do with this model, but there are pieces of model are not driven by budget, like neighborhood voice and structures.

She said staff will move forward with getting committee together and beginning the process, talking about priorities.

Mr. Velasquez stated that this new development is a positive step forward regardless of how the budget situation works out; it is a positive move for the community. He said they want to improve outreach to the under-served youth and teens, improve outcomes for families, enhance neighborhoods and preservation, and improve neighborhood pride and cohesion, and create a stronger and healthier community. Mr. Velasquez said that specifically this quarter they are trying to bring this change together.

Mr. Velasquez said he is proud to say they've maximized volunteer efforts available in the community, bringing together collaborative resources into the facilities we have. He highlighted things taking place, including youth, teen services and said there is a program in place to continue services through August 21st and complete summer activities. He said it is not as originally planned, but they do have a full program. Mr. Velasquez stated that the advisory Committee has been excited about the changes and plans to have an active part in the process.

Mr. Velasquez said the priority with youth is to provide employment, job readiness skills, and they are doing better than last year. He said that there are currently 20 young people working in the central library, some are working with neighborhood services, wastewater, and youth activities. Mr. Velasquez said that 38 young people are working under a stipend program, not a consistent everyday activity. He said that not all of them want a full- or part-time job throughout the summer. Mr. Velasquez talked about a special program at the airport where 12 young people are meeting with professional staff at learning about airport operations. He said that during the second phase these young people will go through ground flight school training, get to understand flight element, and possibly at end of program they'll get to go on a flight. Mr. Velasquez said that one student is teamed up with a TSA professional. He said these are example of stipend programs.

Chair Longstreet said she is glad to hear there are still so many youth employment activities.

Commissioner Burns asked where the Youth Council fits in. Mr. Velasquez said that two Youth Council members will be in on the discussion on how to move forward, and staff is hoping we'll begin to get an idea of how they'll be involved.

Commissioner Conner volunteered to take a couple youth up in a plane.

Chair Longstreet said she looks forward to moving program forward and meeting with subcommittee.

8. Six Month Report on New Commercial Activities Fee and Permit Policy for City Parks and Beaches

Recommendation: That the Commission receives a report on the implementation of the new Commercial Activities Fee and Permit Policy for City parks and beaches.

Commissioner Hochman said he thinks the meeting where the fee schedule was brought to the Commission was a meeting he attended before he was on the Commission. He said that he recalls that a great deal of thought went into groups wondering if fees were acceptable, if businesses could stay in business. Commissioner Hochman asked whether the feedback staff is getting from the groups who are getting permits, indicate that fees are at the appropriate level, and is there any room to recommend a change.

Ms. Jang-Bardick responded saying that Issue has not been raised because all businesses present at that meeting have received permits. She said, however, that the Department has been approached by two businesses wanting to conduct mobile boot camps. Ms. Jang-Bardick said the commercial activities want to stay fresh and want to provide something new and different for their clientele, so two businesses have asked about moving camps from park to park. She said staff still needs to fully understand concept and discuss the challenge of greater impacts to parks. Ms. Jang-Bardick said staff intends to include businesses in the discussion, and perhaps at that time talk about changes in fees, but she does not think that's been an issue.

Commissioner Hochman clarified that there has not been any talk of any push back on the fees, so we know that at this time they are not too high.

Ms. Jang-Bardick said Commissioner Hochman is correct.

Commissioner Burns commented that the income for FY 2009 was \$9,500, and for FY 2009, it was \$16k, but, realistically the change didn't happen until January 1st, so most of that increase is in the last 6 months. He stated that since the increase was only for 6 months, not entire year, next year we are looking at \$34k next year.

Ms. Jang-Bardick said Commissioner Burns is correct. She said that when the commercial activities realized that they needed permits, they obtained permits, so some of \$9500 is accounted for.

Chair Longstreet said she likes spreading people out; it is positive to parks to have these activities in them, permitted yes, but the more people doing positive, organized things, the safer the parks are. She said it benefits us in many ways, and she appreciates how that's played out.

Commissioner Burns asked for the people saying "we're just friends", has there been any thought of what should be done? He asked how much effort do we want to put out, what is the cost benefit?

Ms. Rapp said that she and Ms. Jang-Bardick has had discussions about that issue. She said the issue is challenged more by those purchasing permits, they see abusers, so yes we do need to approach it, and find a resolution. She said staff will be working with City Attorney. She said that Ms. Jang-Bardick has been doing a lot of work to connect people in park with what is found online, people promoting their programs. Ms. Rapp said yes, staff definitely will be looking at how to manage this part of this mobile

fitness program. She further said that in today's economy, we want to be careful that we are achieving the right balance between helping small businesses be successful. Ms. Rapp said the outcome of having people active in parks is great, but there needs to be a balance with using public property for private gain. She said it has been successful thus far, and we have done a lot more than other communities. Ms. Rapp said the new revenue is going toward buying down some of the Department's budget reductions, so doesn't necessarily provide additional resources for implementing the program, which becomes a challenge. She said it has become an increased workload for Ms. Jang-Bardick, who has been working closely with park rangers and park monitors on monitoring.

Commissioner Hochman asked what the consequences are for a group discovered conducting business without permit. Ms. Rapp said that the Municipal Code states that you cannot conduct private business in a City property for private gain; if a business does not have a permit, they can receive a citation from a police officer or park ranger.

Commissioner Hochman asked if there are fines or possible court involvement. Ms. Rapp said yes.

Commissioner Conner asked whether if people are conducting exercise in an area not delineated, and if it's not on list of waterfront, has that been specified as an area. She said that she walks at 6:30 a.m. on Shoreline, and sees a group of people meeting by BBQs, on the west side of Leadbetter in grassy area. She asked if that group is not mentioned, does that mean they're not paying.

Ms. Jang-Bardick said not necessarily; she said there is a have a mom's fitness class, area they're in the Shoreline west location. Ms. Jang-Bardick said it sounds as if what Commissioner Conner is referring to is an unpermitted activity, and she would follow-up on it.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Annual Advisory Committee Reports

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the Annual Advisory Committee Reports.

Ms. Rapp advised that staff has been developing recommendations for advisory committees being dissolved or suspended, and will bring a those recommendations to the Commission in August. She said that in reviewing the Annual Advisory Committee reports, it is apparent which ones are not working effectively now, or don't need to be in format any longer. Ms. Rapp said staff is recommending action be taken on the following advisory committees: Active Adults, Adapted, Aquatics, Douglas Family Preserve Technical, Franceschi Park, Skaters Point, and Tennis. She said that the Understand three community center advisory committees and youth council, will be discussed as part of Neighborhood and Outreach Services in a separate process. She said the intent to see whether it is possible to reduce the number of Brown Act committees, reduce workload, but retain ability to have community input.

Chair Longstreet commented that the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee discussed dissolving that committee. She said it is complicated for the advisory groups to look at it, but they bring up good points. Ms. Longstreet said she thinks the Commission needs to keep a dialogue open with the groups. She further encouraged the Commission liaisons to meet with groups to hear what they think about it.

Commissioner Burns commented that he wasn't aware the Skaters Point Advisory Committee existed. He further said he felt the Youth Council had more active part in it than he thought. He asked what direction that committee might they be taking.

Ms. McCaffrey said that the Skaters Point Advisory Committee was established in 2006, when concerns regarding youth safely using the skate park were raised. She provided a brief background on why the Committee was established and said that the committee met for about a year. Ms. McCaffrey advised that since the City was not going to build a new skate park, there was no work to hold the Committee's interest, and she had a difficult time maintaining a quorum for the meetings. Ms. McCaffrey said that staff recommends the Committee be converted to ad hoc committee and reformed when there is a project they can work on.

Ms. Rapp said the skate park facility is operating in a way it was designed to—it was never designed to be a supervised facility. She said it is not feasible to be supervised without requiring three to four staff to effectively contain the environment, and that is not financially feasible. Ms. Rapp said the skate park has some issues, and the next step will be to come back to the Commission to tackle. Ms. Rapp said that the goal of the advisory committee was to have youth, adult skaters, skate shop rep, get together to talk about addressing use issues; however, the Committee couldn't be sustained. She said the Youth council was involved in fundraising and design, but has not been involved in operation.

Commissioner Burns stated that he is the liaison to the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and they have indicated that at times the skater park causes problems.

Ms. Rapp said there are also safety issues, and staff gets a lot of information and videos from arts & crafts vendors and others. She said that part of it is design, part of it is location – there are many contributing factors. Ms. Rapp said the park is designed to be unsupervised, drop-in facility, but some people in the community want a controlled facility, only allowing activities on signage.

Chair Longstreet commented that the area the skate park is currently located was not the first choice; there were conflicting interests in the area, at the time it was built. She said that once you start monitoring the facility, you accept liability. Ms. Longstreet stated that the skate park is a “use at your own risk” facility, made for a certain level of skater.

Ms. Rapp stated that the greatest challenge aside from location is how its designed. She said that last wee she met with Parks and Recreation staff from other communities, and other skate parks are ones that are designed to be contained and controlled. Ms.

Rapp said that Skaters Point can't be managed without significant staff, and the City is not required by law to provide that.

Chair Longstreet said she does not think it was ever supposed to be monitored by the Youth Council. She urged the Commission to keep in mind as they look at the advisory committees, the buck stops with the Commission, but ultimately at Council. She said the committees have wonderful ideas, but during these difficult times, if there's a problem, it comes to this Commission, which is a place for the public to voice concerns.

Ms. Rapp commented that Commissioner Burns had a question regarding Franceschi Park and the fact that there is no funding for projects, and who is looking for funding. Ms. Rapp said that the Parks and Recreation Department would look for funding. She said that Franceschi Park is unusual in its historic nature and historical aspects of park. She further said that if the Department learns of grant opportunities that are a nice fit, we will submit a grant application.

Commissioner Burns asked whether if we do not need technical advisory committees, would they turn into fundraising committees. Ms. Rapp responded saying that is a great discussion point for when the Commission looks at the advisory committees.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:20 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 4/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director