



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Longstreet

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner Ada Conner
Commission Intern Diego Torres-Santos
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Program Manager Judith McCaffrey
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Golf Course Manager Mark Reed
Administrative Analyst II Nancy Woods
Community Development Director Paul Casey

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION:

1. Recognition of Craig Makela for His Support and Guidance in the Rehabilitation of the Olive Grove in Parma Park - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Mr. Craig Makela for his support and guidance in the rehabilitation of the 100-year old olive grove in Parma Park.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Kathy Frye, Associate Park Planner
- Members of the Public: Craig Makela

Mr. Makela was recognized for his support and contributions and presented with a certificate of appreciation by the Commission.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and the Santa Barbara Youth Council. He also reported on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation.

Commissioner Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and Golf Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Conner reported that she attended the SLOCAPRA Commissioners' Workshop that took place at Hearst Castle and the PARC Foundation fundraiser event.

Commissioner Casebeer reported that he attended the PARC Foundation fundraiser event. He also reported on the activities of the Lower Westside Center Advisory Committee.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: Intern Torres-Santos reported on the activities of the Youth Council.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. Summary of Council Actions - For Information
3. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the reading of the:

A. Regular meeting of March 24, 2010;

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 24, 2010.

B. Special meeting of March 26, 2010; and

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 26, 2010.

Commissioners Conner and Larimore-Hall abstained.

C. Special meeting of April 14, 2010.

Commissioner Wiscomb asked that the minutes of the April 14, 2010, special meeting be amended. Specifically, she asked that her third comment on page two of the minutes be changed to read as follows, "There is need for more neighborhood parks. The policies indicate this could be planned as part of sustainable neighborhood plans. ***And may have needs that are not articulated because they don't have organized neighborhood groups.***"

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 14, 2010, as amended.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS:

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Concerning Item 4B(1): David Leaser, Denise Leaser, Rick Barron, James Cronshaw, Jeanne Gaffy; Concerning Item 4D(1): Daniel Sanchez

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 1300 block of Chapala St. - Bob Cunningham, Arcadia Studio - (3)
Platanus acerifolia, London Plane

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 5/1 to concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff regarding item 4A(1)

Casebeer voted Nay.

- B. Approve or deny the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 2325 Santa Barbara St. - Denise Leaser - Chorisia speciosa, Silk-Floss Tree

Commissioner Burns recused himself during this item.

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/1 to concur with the staff recommendation and approve the removal of the tree located at 2325 Santa Barbara Street.

Casebeer voted Nay.

- C. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 2416 Selrose Ln. - Paul Muhl - (1) Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine, (1) Eucalyptus ficifolia, Red Flowering Gum
2. 817 Orange Ave. - Larry Satterfield, Satterfield Property Management - Melaleuca quinquenervia, Cajeput Tree
3. 3433 State St. - Richard Investments - Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palm

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation and approve the setback tree removal requested identified in items 4C(1), (2), and (3).

- D. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 1 Oak St. - Anita Balboa Sanchez - Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 6/0 to postpone action on this item until next month.

E. Approve the requests to designate the following species to the Street Tree Master Plan.

1. 1300 block of Crestline Dr. - Street Tree Advisory Committee

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/1 to approve the Coral Gum tree as the additional species for the 1300 block of Crestline Drive.

Larimore-Hall voted Nay.

2. 100 block of E. De La Guerra - Karen Christman, Arbor Services

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 6/0 to approve the Indian Hawthorn and Jerusalem Thorn as the designated tree species for the 100 block of E. De La Guerra.

3. 100 block of W. Victoria St. - Bob Cunningham, Arcadia Studio

Commissioner Casebeer clarified that the block is actually the 00-99 block of West Victoria Street.

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 5/0 to approve the Spectacular Cassia and Salmon Gum as additional designated tree species for the 00 - 99 block.

Larimore-Hall abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

5. Draft General Plan Update and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plan Santa Barbara - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission review, finalize, and approve comments on the Draft General Plan Update and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plan Santa Barbara.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
- Members of the Public:

Chair Longstreet asked that her comment regarding Housing needs section of the plan be changed to add, "identify needs for seniors with dementia and long-term care needs."

Chair Longstreet asked that the document identify a comment on the need to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked that under Support OP2, the comment be changed to include parkland and facility acquisition.

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 6/0 to Approve comments on the Draft General Plan Update and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Plan Santa Barbara, as amended.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. Presentation of Proposed Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2011 Budget - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Receive a presentation on the Proposed Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2011 budget;
- B. Consider scheduling an additional budget work session Tuesday, May 11, 2010, at 5:00 p.m.; and
- C. Schedule a special meeting for Wednesday, May 19, 2010, during which the Commission will formulate budget recommendations to City Council.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director, Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager, Judith McCaffrey, Recreation Programs Manager, Santos Escobar, Parks Manager, Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager, and Mark Reed, Golf Course Manager
- Members of the Public: Maddy McDermott, Nick Ferrara

Chair Longstreet expressed mixed feelings about the proposed new tree removal application fee. She asked if it is the same fee for a Street Tree and a Setback Tree, and if people will be given fair warning that the request could be denied. Ms. Longstreet said that many of the other fees have a working process where the applicant meets with the respective Commission until they get a project everyone likes.

Ms. Zachary explained that the fee was considered because a significant amount of staff time is expended processing the request and this is an opportunity to recover some of the costs and put it back into the program. She said staff evaluated the feasibility of the applicant only paying a fee if the tree removal was approved, but that does not address the staff resources that are used to process the application. Ms. Zachary expressed staff's hope that people will be more inclined to talk to staff before they submit an application. She said that as part of staff efforts to increase public education and outreach about City rules related to regulated trees, this would be a part of that process. Ms. Zachary said the fee brings the Department in line with what other departments do whether or not an applicant received an approval for moving forward with a project or a process, and it does not mean staff would not be available to discuss tree issues with property owners.

Commissioner Conner asked if other cities charge tree removal application fees. Ms. Zachary said she cannot recall, but it was discussed when the tree preservation ordinance was discussed. She said that some of the tree ordinance responsibility was transferred to the Historic Landmarks Commission and Architecture Board of Review and there is a fee associated with processing tree permits. She said part of the proposed fee is being equitable across the board.

Commissioner Wiscomb said that, as the Commission's liaison to the Street Tree Advisory Committee, she has noticed the Committee does get applications that probably would not be submitted had there been a \$50 fee. She said she thinks it is an excellent idea: it will make the applicant think about why they really want the tree removed, the fee will increase the awareness of the municipal code with regards to both street trees and setback trees.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he believes the fee may well increase the number of people who do not apply, but go ahead and remove a tree. He said that has always been his concern about the maintenance of the urban forest in general; the Department does not have the staffing levels to police people's behavior. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he thinks the fee makes sense for the reasons outlined, but he would like to see it coupled with stronger consequences for violating the rules.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented regarding transferring the Teen Center to the Police Activities League that he shares the concerns of the public and would like to see a written plan for governance of the Teen Center before it goes as a concrete proposal to City Council. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he interested to see what the structure is going to be: what role are teen users going to have in programming, policy, etc., and if that remains unchanged, or is improved or enhanced, he said that he has no problems with it. He further said he has no reason to believe that the Police Activities League would be any less responsive than the City in terms of empowering youth, but both for selling it to the Youth Council and for him to be in favor of it, he would like to see the plan in writing.

Ms. Rapp said that when she met with the Youth Council regarding this matter, she indicated that she would be scheduling a meeting with the Police Activities League, Parks and Recreation Department staff, and the Youth Council to discuss what it means, how it would work, what it would look like. Ms. Rapp said it has always been staff's intent to do that and it is important that what staff creates is workable. Ms. Rapp said that staff will bring the plan back to the Commission.

Commissioner Casebeer asked if the Police Activities League representative could come to a Commission meeting so it is more public so the kids understand that the Commission is concerned that there be a smooth transition and that the Teen Center is not going to go away? Ms. Rapp said that she would like to have the Police Activities make a presentation on their programming and what they do at the May 19th special Commission meeting.

Chair Longstreet commented that with the Teen Center Coordinator position eliminated, if the Teen Center is kept in the Department, it will be staffed by hourly staff, which she does not believe is a good structure. She further talked about the Franklin Center Teen Center, saying the possibility exists to expand the teen services, and there are a number of different ways to look at it and they all mesh together. Ms. Longstreet said the potential exists for a very good system.

Commissioner Burns commented that he hopes the pertinent representatives will come together to talk about the Teen Center so that it can be put in the proper perspective. He asked that the Commission be notified when the item is on the Youth Council agenda.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that there is no bloat in the Department--no fat is being cut; everything being proposed is something that shouldn't be cut in order for the Department staff to do their jobs. He acknowledged the concessions made by employees. He said the changes

are very sobering. Mr. Larimore-Hall said there are no good policy reasons or public interest reasons to make a single one of the major cuts that are proposed; the only reason the cuts are being made are because of the crisis we are in.

Commissioner Burns commented on the weekday closure of Hilda Ray Park. He suggested possibly implementing an Adopt-a-Park program or encouraging more volunteerism. He further asked if there are any buildings that can be closed or leased to someone else. He suggested the Department talk to the Waterfront Department to see if someone else can maintain their areas.

Chair Longstreet commented that Parks and Recreation staff work hard and do public safety work. She said what the Department presented is workable.

Commissioner Burns wants more information on the Police Activities League and the Teen Center.

The Commission agreed that it does not need to have a special meeting on May 11th, but confirmed its special meeting of May 19th.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS:

7. Neighborhood and Outreach Services - For Discussion

Speakers:

- Staff: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:35 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 6/0 to adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director