



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara (departed at 5:20 p.m.)
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
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
Golf Course Manager Mark Reed
Airport Maintenance Superintendent Jeff McKee
Parks Supervisor Ken Brown
Neighborhood and Outreach Supervisor Susan Young

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Rocky Jacobson
Commission Intern Michael Yi

Liaisons Present

City Councilmember Grant House

1. Election of Vice Chair - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission elect a Vice Chair to serve as presiding officer for the period of March 23 through July 30, 2011.

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that Commissioner Scott Burns be elected to serve as Vice Chair for the period March 23 through July 30, 2011.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION: None.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the Trails Management Workshop that was held on Friday, March 4, 2011.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee. He said he attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mission Creek Restoration Project. Commissioner Casebeer also said that he attended a poster contest sponsored by the Youth Council in concert with Domestic Violence Solutions.

Chair Wiscomb provided Commissioner Jacobson's report which was submitted in writing due to her absence.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee, the Elings Park Tennis Facility grand opening, and the Golf Advisory Committee. Ms. Wiscomb said she also attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mission Creek Restoration Project. Ms. Wiscomb briefed that on the outcome of the City Council decision regarding the appeal of the Parks and Recreation Commission's decision to deny the removal of the tree removal request for 320 Cooper Road, saying that City Council upheld the Commissions decision and denied the removal of the tree.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission on Earth Day events which will be held April 16th and 17th in Alameda Park, the Theme of which is "Powered by the People".

Ms. Rapp talked about the 90+ Birthday Event, which will be an afternoon tea dance and ice cream social, for Thursday, May 19th, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., at the Carrillo Recreation Center.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Blanca Garcia, Youth Council Member, provided this report.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. Summary of Council Actions - For Information

3. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting (site visit) of February 22, 2011; and
- B. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 23, 2011.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the reading the special meeting of February 22, 2011, and regular meeting of February 23, 2011.

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: Regarding Item 4A1 - Jessica Kinnahan Foley

A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request.

- 1. 1533 San Miguel Ave. - Rauwolfia samarensis, Indian Snakeroot - Willie and Jennifer Brummett_

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to concur with the recommendation of staff that the tree at 1533 San Miguel Avenue be approved for removal and replaced with two 24-inch box designated street trees.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

- 1. 319 W. Valerio St. - Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine - Ashkan Namdaran_

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to concur with staff and the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the conditional removal of the tree without specifying what the replacement tree will be at 319 W. Valerio Street.

2. 1250 Ferrelo Rd. - Ulmus parvifolia, Chinese Elm - Ann Taves and Ray Paloutzian_

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to concur with the removal of the setback tree at 1250 Ferrelo Road to be replaced with trees of the applicant's choice.

- C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 200 E. Constance Ave. - Acacia decurrens, Green Wattle - William Faulding_

Mr. Downey reviewed the tree removal request for 200 E. Constance. He said that the applicant's request for removal states the reason for removal is that the tree is unstable and dangerous. Mr. Downey said that the tree in question lost a branch in the recent past, and there are some mushrooms at the base of the tree which indicates some decay within the tree; however, it does not indicate any destabilization of the tree. Mr. Downey briefed that the applicant proposes to remove the tree in question and keep the second tree to fill in the space. Mr. Downey stated that when the Street Tree Advisory Committee visited the site, it was determined that the tree the applicant wishes to preserve is actually leaning on this tree and is less stable. He said that it was further determined that through corrective pruning and thinning of the existing tree. and removal of the tree the applicant wants to preserve, there would be more light in the area and a small oak tree would have the opportunity to develop and keep the tree in an acceptable condition until the oak tree has the chance to grow. Mr. Downey said it would be appropriate to remove the tree at a later date. Mr. Downey stated that the recommendation of the Street Tree Advisory Committee is to deny the removal request.

Commissioner Longstreet asked Mr. Downey whether he was able to have a discussion with the homeowner regarding the recommendations. Mr. Downey said that he attempted to contact the homeowner, but has not received any return phone calls. Mr. Downey said, however, that the street tree report and the meeting agenda was mailed to the applicant so they do have the information regarding the recommendation.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether if the Commission denies the

removal, will the applicant have to submit a second request and pay an application fee to have the other tree removed, or because of its unsafe status, can he administratively issue a permit for removal. Mr. Downey said that the tree that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff are recommending be removed could be approved administratively because of the safety aspect.

Commissioner Burns expressed concern that the homeowner asked for one thing, we are recommending another thing; he commented that the applicant may not be in town and suggested the matter be postponed for a month.

Commissioner Ferrara concurred with Commissioner Burns.

Commissioner Longstreet said it would address her concerns as well.

Mr. Downey highlighted the Street Tree Application and Removal Notification process for the Commission.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether if the Commission postponed action on this item would it be a benefit or would the denial handle it in the same way in that staff could handle the removal of the second tree administratively.

Ms. Rapp said that the Commission could, in fact, take the action to deny the removal of the tree removal request and add the condition that would allow the applicant to work with the City Arborist for an administrative approval of the other tree that is leaning. Ms. Rapp said that if the Commission's recommendation for removal is not going to change, she would encourage them to move forward with their action, but allow the opportunity to do the second removal if they so chose to, administratively.

Chair Wiscomb asked how soon after the March 3rd meeting was the applicant notified of staff's recommendation. Mr. Downey said he called the applicant the very next week with no response. He said that once the agenda for the Parks and Recreation Commission is established, he sent written notification to the applicant.

Chair Wiscomb asked whether if the Commission votes to deny the removal of the tree and Mr. Downey is in a position to administratively approve the other tree, does the applicant have to apply and pay the fee, or does the Commission have the right to waive the fee for the second application, in this case.

Ms. Rapp said the question is valid, and yes, it is all part of this one action and would be appropriate.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and have staff work with the applicant to complete the recommendations in the Street Tree Advisory Committee comments, with no additional cost to the owner with regard to 200 E. Constance Avenue

2. 210 Balboa Dr. - Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine - Pete Tenoso Jr. _

Mr. Downey highlighted the removal request for 210 Balboa Drive. He said that the applicant's request for removal indicates the reason for removal is damage to the sidewalk and street pavement. Mr. Downey said that the applicant received a notice some time back to make repairs to the sidewalk as a result of damage caused by his private tree. He said that as opposed to the tree located on West Valerio, this tree is located much farther away from the sidewalk, and through alternative construction techniques varying the sidewalk away from the tree, they can even allow more room away from the tree, and root pruning can occur in a much safer manner. He said there is some concern that the required root pruning may destabilize the tree, but that is a construction time decision that he can make administratively. Mr. Downey advised that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommends the application be denied and asks that the applicant work with staff to evaluate the tree once the construction site is opened.

Commissioner Ferrara asked when the City denies a tree removal request and damage subsequently occurs as a result of the tree, who pays for the damages.

Mr. Downey indicated that the property owner is responsible for any damages caused by tree, as would they be damages caused by any other part of their property. He said that the fact that the Commission denies the removal does not preclude a property owner from providing future maintenance or reparation of damage should damage occur.

Ms. Rapp added that the question is a good one, and it was the heart of the discussion at City Council when they were considering the appeal of 320 Cooper Road. She said the broader picture is that many years ago, the City adopted a tree ordinance to protect setback trees with the overriding intention to protect and manage to some degree the canopy and health of the Urban Forest, and wanting to see discretion in how setback trees were planted and maintained, which is why the Parks and Recreation Commission addresses setback trees that are on private property. Ms. Rapp said what is being discussed allot is that the trees are on private property and the owner is responsible for what happens on their property, but the ordinances adopted by City Council were with that goal and objective in mind. Ms. Rapp said she thinks it is appropriate to have

some consideration of the private property owner's concerns and issues, but the bigger picture and the reason the ordinance was put in place was for the betterment of the entire community.

Chair Wiscomb said it is worthy to note that the notice to repair is dated November 2, 2005.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 4/1 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the removal of the setback tree at 210 Balboa Drive.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

5. Integrated Pest Management 2010 Annual Report - For Action _

Recommendation: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management 2010 Annual Report and recommend that the report be forwarded to City Council.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager; Jeff McKee, Airport Maintenance Superintendent; Mark Reed, Golf Manager
- Members of the Public: None

Commissioner Burns commented that the Airport is using Green materials at the Goleta Slue and in the Runway area so they do not get in contact with the general public, and these areas aren't areas where the general public is. He asked if it is possible to classify the Airport at Yellow instead of Green, as he believes that would save money.

Mr. McKee said they did do that when they originally mapped the airport; much of the area inside the chain link fence and barbed wire where the public does not typically walk is classified as Yellow, and they use a combination of Yellow and Green materials as well as Red materials on the airfield to control rodents and mosquitoes.

Commissioner Burns asked whether it would be that big a difference in price if they just went to all Yellow materials in that area. Mr. McKee said that he doesn't have specifics with respect to costs. He said, however, that the green material is much cheaper by the pound, but the cost is in the labor costs and in having to go

out and treat repeatedly, whereas the labor costs are much lower with the long-lasting Yellow material.

Commissioner Ferrara commented that he assumed that the Red, Yellow, and Green materials are systemic. Mr. Escobar said that assumption is not correct. He said that the Green materials are food grade materials that can be eaten; Yellow material may be systemic and some may not be.

Commissioner Ferrara said his concern, if staff is using systemic materials, is that they are not only protecting humans, but sensitive habitat. Mr. McKee said that the Yellow material they use specifically targets the mosquito larva from changing to the adult stage. He said the slue area is a critical habitat area, so they are mindful of what they use in that area.

Chair Wiscomb asked if staff has ideas on modifications to the IPM Program that could be considered to reduce labor, but not have major ramifications on the intent of the IPM Program, or do reduce expectation of what the parks, open spaces, parkways, and civic spaces look like. She expressed that these are valid questions for the budget discussion. Ms. Wiscomb ask if we could allow the use of more effective, labor-saving pesticides in certain parks areas. She said she thinks it is worthy of discussion, and if City Council is agreeable to ease certain measures within the program, does it get revisited on an annual basis as the economy improves and the ability to hire workers becomes a reality.

Chair Wiscomb asked whether staff has any ideas to the IPM Program that possibly could be discussed during the upcoming budget talks. Mr. Escobar said staff will review the program and provide some information when they have the budget work session.

Commissioner Longstreet said they are important questions that affect more than the Parks Department. She said that it is also a question for which community input is needed. Ms. Longstreet encouraged caution and said they have to look wider than the service standards to long-range affects and, make sure they are not working at cross-purposes with the Creeks Advisory Committee. She stated that she would rather employ more people; it solves a number of other issues. Ms. Longstreet commented that in the past, what they heard is that standards could go down, but she does not know if that is across the board community-side; the hospitality industry may not be willing to accept that.

Chair Wiscomb agreed and said she is not implying sweeping changes. She said that with all the rain there has been, there is going to be more mosquitoes, more weeds, etc., it would be nice to re-evaluate at this point in time.

Commissioner Burns agreed that a community discussion is appropriate and suggested a volunteer program would be good at this time.

Chair Wiscomb agreed and said maybe changes in aesthetics versus reliance on more traditional pesticides or perhaps increasing volunteers to do it is a good point.

Commissioner Longstreet encouraged the Commission to be realistic with respect to volunteers. She said the program has been in place quite a number of years with a volunteer component, and she does not think they should rely on that, because it just is not working. Ms. Longstreet said it is interesting to look at what the options are and get input from the IPM Committee and the public.

Ms. Zachary said the Commission has framed some of the issues that would be part of a discussion, and staff can bring back that framework along with the different considerations—the pros, the cons, the benefits, the challenges, etc. She said one of the things staff would propose in a discussion about the park system, is where we are going in the next ten years. She said the park system has evolved dramatically since it was established, and the goals and objectives, depending on the location of the park have changed as well. Ms. Zachary said there are many layers of the discussion that could take far longer than a few budget meetings, and certainly staff would pursue the discussion with the Commission and with other interested parties, the IPM Advisory Committee, etc. She said, however, at the same time, staff is sensitive to the Commission's desire to see the parks look as good as they can, given the resources the Department has.

Chair Wiscomb said it is not the Commission's intent to overburden staff; she thinks it is a worthy discussion, maybe not as a part of the budget discussion.

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 4/0 to accept the Integrated Pest Management 2010 Annual Report and forward the report with the Commission's comments to City Council, and express the Commission's appreciation for all the staff input and hard work for every staff member that implements the program.

6. Formation of Sub-committee to Draft a Proposal Which Would Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council - For Action _

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Establish a sub-committee that includes two Parks and Recreation Commissioners, two Youth Council members, and two Department staff to draft a proposal which would formally establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council; and
- B. Appoint two Commissioners to serve on the sub-committee.

Ms. Rapp advised that staff would like to postpone item 6, Formation of Subcommittee to Draft a Proposal Which Would Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council until the April 27th meeting.

The Commission concurred.

7. Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Budget Review Process - For Discussion

Recommendation: That the Commission receive information on the Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 budget review process for the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Rapp reviewed the upcoming budget meeting schedule.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:40 p.m. the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director