



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

Minutes

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL: Chair Wiscomb introduced and welcomed newly appointed Parks and Recreation Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti.

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Rocky Jacobson
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti
Commission Intern Michael Yi
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
Neighborhood and Outreach Coordinator II Ricardo Venegas
Recreation Specialist Anita Ho
Park Planner Jan Hubbell

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION:

1. Community Recognition of Whole Foods Market - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Whole Foods Market for their support of the Healthy Options for Teens, Culinary Arts Program.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Anita Ho, Recreation Specialist
- Members of the Public: Rae van Seenus , Marketing Supervisor, Whole Foods Markets

2. Community Recognition of Santa Barbara Moose Lodge - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognizes the Santa Barbara Moose Lodge for its ongoing support of Neighborhood and Outreach Services

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Ricardo Venegas, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Coordinator
- Members of the Public: Richard DeSalis, Moose Lodge

3. Community Recognition of Mr. Gustavo Dabos, Owner of Santa Barbara Painting, Inc. - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Mr. Gustavo Dabos, Owner of Santa Barbara Painting, Inc. for his support and financial contribution to the Santa Barbara Arts Alliances' recent Seascape Mural Project

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Ricardo Venegas, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Coordinator
- Members of the Public: Alexandra Real; Mr. Ray Moncilla, and Carlos Cuellar

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: Youth Intern Yi provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council. Ms. Longstreet said she attended Antonio Velasquez's retirement party and acknowledged his contributions.

Commissioner Burns encouraged members of the public to attend the Concerts in the Park. He also talked about the Fiesta Children's Parade and encouraged participation.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the 90+ Birthday party saying it was well-attended and a great deal of fun. She thanked McConnell's Ice Cream for supplying the ice cream. Ms. Wiscomb also reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee and the Subcommittee on formally establishing the Youth Council.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp advised that staff recommends the August meeting be cancelled due to a lack of agenda items. She said a work session on Street Tree Ordinance will be held in September.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. **Summary of Council Actions - For Information**

Ms. Rapp highlighted these items for the Commission.

5. **Approval of Minutes - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 22, 2011.

Chair Wiscomb identified a change to the minutes of the June 22, 2011, meeting, asking that the words "and passed 2/2" be removed from the second line of the first bolded, underlined paragraph on page six of those minutes.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 7/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 22, 2011, as amended by Chair Wiscomb.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

6. **Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action**

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; and Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 6D(1) - Courtney Cochran

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request.**

1. 720 W. Pedregosa St., *Corymbia ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum – David A Chavez

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 7/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to conditionally approve the removal of the Red Flowering Gun tree at 720 W. Pedregosa Street.

B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 2215 Alameda Padre Serra – *Corymbia citriodora*, Lemon-Scented Gum – Barbara and Jim Allen

Commissioner Rocky Jacobson moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 7/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to approve the Lemon-Scented Gum tree located at 2215 Alameda Padre Serra.

C. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 740 Flora Vista Dr. – (2) *Cupressus arizonica*, Arizona Cypress – Jeremiah and Julie Weiss

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 7/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to allow the removal of the tree closest to the driveway and to preserve the tree furthest from the driveway at 740 Flora Vista Drive.

2. 3892 State St. – (1) *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, Cajeput Tree; (1) *Cedrus deodara*, Deodar Cedar

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 7/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding the 3892 State Street.

D. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 820 E. Canon Perdido St. - (2) *Pinus canariensis*, Canary Island Pine - Danielle Holzer

Mr. Downey highlighted this removal request. He said the owner wants to spruce up the area and as part of that process is requesting the removal of these two Canary Island Pine trees and install a new landscape. Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee determined that the

removal of these trees would have a significant impact on the immediate neighborhood, and would like to see them incorporated into the new landscaping. He said the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommends the removal request be denied.

Mr. Burns stated that he works near the building and it has been upgraded significantly over the last few months. He further commented that he thought there were three or four trees there and that one had been removed, and asked Mr. Downey if that is the case. Mr. Downey said that during two site visits, he has not seen any evidence of any other trees.

Commissioner Ferrara asked whether the owner has a plan for the area, and asked why the trees do not fit into the plan. He further asked why the tree materially affects the neighborhood.

Mr. Downey said the trees have an impact due to their size.

Ms. Courtney Cochrane said she prepared the landscape plan and is speaking on behalf of Danielle Holzer. Ms. Cochrane said her plan is to replace the Canary Island Pine trees with Arbutus trees which will not tear up the sidewalk, which the Pine trees have. She further said the Pine trees interfere with the power lines and are extremely messy. Ms. Cochrane further described the proposed landscape plan.

Chair Wiscomb asked Ms. Cochrane to address the question of whether she tried to incorporate the trees into the landscape plan.

Ms. Cochrane stated that the owner wants to remove the trees, so she took the alternative of replacing them with smaller trees that do not interfere with sidewalks and are more colorful and a better scale for the property. Ms. Cochrane said the root system would be somewhat difficult to plant around, but she could try to work with it if the trees must remain.

Commissioner Casebeer commented that anytime a property owner is willing to invest in a comprehensive landscape plan, it will be a great contribution to the neighborhood, and could be an initiator for other property owners. He said he wants to preserve as much as the urban forest as possible. Mr. Casebeer asked whether Ms. Cochrane is replanting any other trees. Ms. Cochrane said she would like to replant the Arbutus unido, which reach about 20 feet. She said she could find another option, if the Commission would like something taller. Ms. Cochrane stated that the owner doesn't want to plant something that will tear up the sidewalk and also wants a tree that will stay away from the power lines. She said she would also like to plant some trees further back on the property.

Commissioner Trentacosti commented that one of the trees is very close

to the power lines. He asked what the Street Tree Advisory Committee's take on that was. Mr. Downey said that Southern California Edison is responsible for the maintenance of trees around their power lines. He said they will continue to maintain those trees for the safety of the lines. Mr. Downey said the Committee determined that if the trees were removed it would be a significant loss all at once in that area. He said the trees can be pruned to accommodate the lines.

Commissioner Jacobson commented that the trees look great and it would be nice if the trees were preserved and some sort of drought tolerant landscaping installed underneath.

Commissioner Ferrara commented that one tree is full, but the other seems to be 70% trunk. He said he would like to determine what trees could be put in place of them and maybe add more trees so that in five to ten years there are some really beautiful trees in that area instead of just the two trees, in order to really beautify that area.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed that the buildings would benefit from the enhanced landscaping in the front; a 20-foot tree is not going to take the place of these trees at all. She said she thinks the architecture is not stellar, and the trees soften some of the starkness of the buildings. Ms. Longstreet said she would like to see the landscaping go in; the trees need to be revisited in five years when there is growth and height from other trees. She said that at this point, to take out the only things in that area with height and replace them with things with no height is not a good idea. She encouraged that the applicant continue with their plan to look at some trees that will be able to grow up next to those, and then go in for removal, but not to clear cut it, as it will make a difference to the streetscape and the skyline aspects of the area.

Chair Wiscomb concurred. She said she looked at the power lines and said the trees are growing nicely. Ms. Wiscomb commended the applicant and landscape designer on the plan, but said in the end, the Commission must go back to the Municipal Code. She agreed with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and said the removal of the trees will materially affect the neighborhood. Ms. Wiscomb said the trees' stature is important to the street and expressed the hope that the applicant and landscape designer work around the trees and do a nice landscape incorporating them.

Commissioner Yi asked Mr. Downey to comment on the damage the roots have caused to the sidewalk. Mr. Downey explained the City Program. He said the City prunes roots and put sidewalks back down, and said it is something that could occur in this location and still preserve the trees. Mr. Downey said it is the Public Works Department's decision as to whether they are going to make those repairs at this site, unless the owner takes out permits to do it themselves.

Commissioner Rocky Jacobson moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/1 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny removal of the Canary Island Pine trees at 820 E. Canon Perdido Street.

Commissioner Ferrera was opposed; Commissioner Casebeer abstained.

E. Consider the following changes to the street tree master plan

1. 2300 - 2400 blocks of Santa Barbara Street

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 7/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee to add the Red Flowering Gum and Camphor Tree as co-designated species for the 2300 - 2400 blocks of Santa Barbara Street.

2. 800 block of East Carrillo Street

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 7/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee to add the Eucalyptus torquata, Coral Gum, as the co-designated species for the 800 block of East Carrillo Street.

7. Street Tree Master Plan Change for the 3100 - 3900 Blocks of State Street - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission receives a report and approves the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) recommendations to change the street tree designation in the 3100 - 3900 blocks of State Street

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; and Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Bill Spiewak

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 7/0 to approve the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to change the street tree designation in the 3100 - 3900 blocks of State Street to the eleven trees identified, with the comment to also look at the Chinese elm).

OLD BUSINESS

8. Mesa Lane Steps Repair/Reconstruction Project - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive an update on the Mesa Lane Steps Repair/Reconstruction Project

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director'; Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; and Jan Hubbell, Park Planner

NEW BUSINESS

9. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve as presiding officer for the period of August 1, 2011, through July 30, 2012.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 7/0 to elect Commissioner Wiscomb as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the period of August 1, 2011, through July 30, 2012.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 7/0 to elect Commissioner Burns as Vice Chair elect as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission for the period of August 1, 2011, through July 30, 2012.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

10. Playground Program Report - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report about the Parks and Recreation Department's playground program.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Santos Escobar, Parks

Manager; and Ken Brown, Parks Supervisor

11. Annual Advisory Committee Reports - For Information

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

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:40 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 7/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director