



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, October 26, 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:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor Susan Young
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Redevelopment Supervisor Marck Aguilar
Redevelopment Specialist Elizabeth Limon

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Rocky Jacobson
Commission Intern Michael Yi

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Community Recognition of Rotary Clubs - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Sunrise Rotary, Rotaract, and Bishop Diego Interact clubs and McConnell's Fine Ice Cream for the support of the 90-Plus ice cream social.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Jason Bryan, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Members of the Public: Matthew Chow, President Rotaract Club of Santa Barbara; Scott Burns, McConnell's Fine Ice Cream/Santa Barbara Sunrise Rotary

2. Community Recognition of Santa Barbara Country Dance Society - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society for donating a restored Baldwin Ellington baby grand piano.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Jason Bryan, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Members of the Public: Simon Keifer, Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: Kristina Rodriguez provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Casebeer reported that he attended the Cabrillo Bathhouse Focus Group meeting.

Commissioner Trentacosti reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Burns reported that he attended the Cabrillo Bathhouse Focus Group meeting. He further reported on the activities of the Park and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation. She further said she attended a Cabrillo Bathhouse Focus Group Meeting.

Commission Longstreet acknowledged of recently deceased former Commissioner Michael Magne's contributions on the Commission and to the community.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She reported that she attended the Lights on Afterschool celebration at Adams School and commended staff for the great partnerships they have formed. Ms. Wiscomb reported that she attended the Cabrillo Bathhouse Business Plan Community Meeting.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that staff will provide a report on the Beach Cleaning program in January 2012 unless larger items come forward. Ms. Rapp said staff is working closely with the PARC Foundation Manager on the Park Bus Tour, which is set for Sunday, November 6, from 2-5pm.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

3. Summary of Council Actions - For Information

Ms. Rapp highlighted these items.

4. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 28, 2011.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 28, 2011.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS:

5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

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 5A(1): Robert Stetson, Dennis Thompson

A. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 2007 Edgewater Way – Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine – Robert and Jane Stenson

Chair Wiscomb recused herself from acting on this item.

Commissioner Longstreet said she visited the site and spoke with the applicant and one of the neighbors. She said she hates to lose a tree, but expressed concern that the report stated the other two trees would benefit from the removal of the one tree. Ms. Longstreet said she believes the two other trees would end up being removed in the next couple years anyway. She further expressed concern over the size of the trees for their current location.

Commissioner Casebeer said he too visited the site; he is in favor of preserving trees, and these particular trees have been in place for 20 - 25 years. He said, however, there is the issue of not planting the right tree in the right location. Mr. Casebeer agreed the trees obstruct sunlight into the neighbor's yard; the property owner has agreed to replace the three trees with Jacarandas. Mr. Casebeer commented that if the Commission votes to remove the trees, he suggests the applicant consult with the City Arborist regarding the appropriate

trees to plant. He said he concurs with Commissioner Longstreet regarding the removal of the three trees.

Commissioner Trentacosti stated that he visited the site and agrees that the one tree closest to the driveway should be removed as it is crowded. He said the trees appear to be fairly stable and asked if there is any danger of the trees falling. Mr. Downey said staff looks at three things in determining whether a tree is a hazard: first, is something close enough to be hit if it falls, and the answer in this case is yes; second, is the tree large enough to cause damage to that object, and the answer in this case is again, yes. Mr. Downey said, however, that in order to make a determination that there is a hazard, you must also find that there is a visible defect on the tree that precludes it from standing. He said that staff has not observed any visible defects on these trees; therefore, cannot make a determination that the trees are an immediate hazard.

Commissioner Trentacosti commented that if these trees are replaced with Jacaranda trees, they might even provide more shade.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that behind the property, possibly on Mr. Thompsons property, there was a beautiful tree that looked like it would benefit from the removal of these trees.

Vice Chair Burns said he did look at the trees and agreed the first tree should be removed. He said he is ambivalent regarding removal of the other trees.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 3/1 to approve the removal of all three Canary Island Pine trees at 2007 Edgewater Way, to be replaced with trees determined with the assistance of the City Arborist.

B. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 70 Skyline Circle – Cedrus deodara, Deodar Cedar – Robert Henretig

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that staff recommends the Commission postpone hearing this item until after the new year. She said there is a need for staff to do greater consultation with City staff in the Community Development Department and to do additional research. Ms. Rapp stated that this request raises issues that have not come up before in terms of solar energy panels related to the removal of trees; therefore, staff needs to conduct some clarification related to City Ordinances and be able to provide the Commission with more information before asking them to make a decision.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to postpone hearing the setback tree removal request for 70 Skyline Circle until after the new year as recommended by City staff.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Proposal to Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a City Advisory Committee - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission approve the Proposal to Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a City Advisory Committee

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Susan Young, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor
- Members of the Public: Yvette Gill, Youth Council; Kristina Rodriguez, Youth Council

Commissioner Longstreet expressed concern about the appointment process. Ms. Young clarified the process.

Commissioner Casebeer commented that it is good that City Council has a heightened awareness of the quality of youth willing to serve on the Youth Council. He said it is a great proposal.

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to approve the proposal to formally establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council as a City Advisory Committee and recommend the proposal to City Council

NEW BUSINESS

7. Plaza de la Guerra Infrastructure Improvement Project - Concept Review - For Discussion

Recommendation: That the Commission review and comment on the 2011 Plaza De la Guerra Infrastructure Improvement project.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Marck Aguilar, Redevelopment Supervisor; Elizabeth Limon, Redevelopment Specialist
- Members of the Public: Kellum DeForest; Dennis Richard

Commissioner Longstreet stated that she agrees De la Guerra Plaza is an important historic site, but historic sites need to be maintained and this site needs to be maintained. She commented that this site looks like a parking lot with a lawn, and would like to see less parking in the area. Ms. Longstreet said she is concerned about the lawn side spaces, and agrees they close off the park. She said by losing the interior parking, the park becomes safer and there will be more space for the pepper tree.

Ms. Longstreet said she would like to see it become an area where there are events, not just Old Spanish Days events, but family events. She said it appeals to her to have it be a level area. Ms. Longstreet expressed that it is important to upgrade all the utilities to make it useful for all residents. She said that as far as the palm trees, the re-planting needs to happen; she trusts the arborist, but wants to be sure that what is put in matches, and should represent the building in the way it was supposed to be. Ms. Longstreet commented that the new paving proposals are a little shocking; she is not comfortable with it yet. She said she is used to seeing it as a complete lawn area, but it may make it more useful to the community. She said it needs to be appropriately lit at night. Ms. Longstreet commented that the project is important to draw people back into the area.

Commissioner Burns commented that he likes the thought of removing the three parking spaces to get a better view of Storke Placita. He said he likes a wider sidewalk for the restaurants so they could have outdoor patrons, which may bring in more outdoor activity and remove the undesirable people. He concurred that it makes sense to upgrade the electrical. Mr. Burns said regarding the curb, if it were removed, it would drain into the grassy area, which might be good. He suggested having City employees park in Lot 10 and make some of the City Hall parking lot 90-minute parking. He said he is in favor of the general direction of the project.

Commissioner Casebeer asked if the curb is concrete or hand-cut sand stone. Ms. Limon said staff believes it is concrete, not historic stone.

Commissioner Trentacosti asked regarding the concrete, whether other than opening the area up more, is there any additional functionality that would be gained by removing the curb. Ms. Limon said that that they worked with Creeks Division staff and did percolation tests and a hydrology study to determine if the revised project, which includes a drainage swale, would meet the storm water requirements. She said they found the project would meet the storm water capture requirement for the 100-year and 24-hour events. She said that is an important benefit of lowering the lawn and removing the curb.

Ms. Rapp said that staff has looked at the renovation of De la Guerra Plaza, and aside from making the area a more pleasant area for the more casual park visitor, it is important to consider what the changes or improvements would do for the events that are held there. She said that currently the events in De la Guerra Plaza are restricted to twice per month; generally they are large scale events like Cinco de Mayo and Fiesta. Ms. Rapp said that when there are a large number of people in a small space, particularly when there are vendor booths set up around the perimeter, leveling the turf to the street surface, minimizes the risk of people in a crowded area stepping off and getting injured. Ms. Rapp said staff is not advocating for increased use about what historically has been done, although there has been some community interest in small events that are less formal. She said that care must be taken; staff works closely with the Downtown Organization to balance both the needs of businesses with community needs. Ms. Rapp said the curb is an issue for staff as a way of improving the facility for those types of events.

Commissioner Trentacosti agreed that the parking lot might be able to be used more efficiently. Mr. Aguilar commented that the existing lawn area only is zoned PR Zone.

The parking area is outside the PR Zone. Commissioner Trentacosti asked if there will be any changes to the bicycle parking area. Ms. Limon said there is not; the bicycle parking will remain where it is; they may add additional bicycle parking.

Chair Wiscomb commented that she loves the idea of widening the sidewalk; if it is a more active space, it becomes a better used space and probably discourages undesirable activity. She said she loves the idea of removing the agapanthus. Chair Wiscomb said she likes the clustering of the new trees. She said she would probably be in favor of more shade, but understands the reasons they are not doing it that way and thinks the clustering of the trees satisfies the need for more shade in the space. Ms. Wiscomb said she likes the concept plan from its openness standpoint. She concurred with Commissioner Burns regarding eliminating parking spaces to create more openness and being able to see through the plaza and likes the idea of moving City parking to Lot 10. She agreed with Commissioner Longstreet saying she is not comfortable with the pavers, and does not understand the purpose of them.

Ms. Limon said that she believes the Architect was addressing the current pedestrian activity crossing from City Hall over to the other side of the Plaza to De la Guerra Street and then over to State Street. Ms. Limon said the Architect thought that incorporating permeable pavers there would formalize that path of travel that currently exists. Ms. Wiscomb asked if there is currently a worn path in the lawn area. Ms. Rapp said that the path of travel has been discussed by staff, and there is a great deal of pedestrian travel in that area; most people avoid the grass because it is normally wet. Ms. Rapp said staff believes there would be more traversing across the Plaza if there were hardscape that people could walk on.

Ms. Wiscomb said regarding the curb that she understand the history of the curb, but also thinks staff should consider how the Plaza is used, and eliminating the curb expands the breadth of the plaza and makes it feel more open. She said she is in favor of taking the curb out on the internal part.

Commissioner Longstreet added that eliminating the curb makes the plaza ADA accessible and opens it up to a whole new group of people.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the permeable pavers are also ADA accessible.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

8. Tree Preservation Ordinance Enforcement Summary Report - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the tree preservation enforcement cases, procedures, and status.

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

9. **Fiscal Year 2011 Annual P3 Performance Measurement Reports - For Information**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2011 Performance Measurement Program (P3) year-end reports.

Documents:

- Staff Report

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 5/0 to adjourn in memory of Michael Magne.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director