



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 16, 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 Longstreet

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners & Staff Present**

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  
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.  
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey  
Executive Assistant Karla Megill  
Golf Accounting Assistant Charles Judd  
Library Director Irene Macias  
Redevelopment Specialist Peggy Burbank  
Redevelopment Supervisor Marck Aguilar

**Commissioners & Staff Absent**

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb  
Commissioner Chris Casebeer  
Commissioner W. Scott Burns

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Memorandum dated November 16, 2011, to the Parks and Recreation Commission from Karla Megill, Executive Assistant, Subject: Telephone Message for Parks and Recreation Commission Regarding De La Guerra Concept Plan.

Memorandum dated November 16, 2011, to the Parks and Recreation Commission from Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Subject: Public Comment - Library Plaza Concept Plan Project.

The Commissioner acknowledged these documents.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one wished to speak.

**YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:** Intern Yi provided this report.

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

Commissioner Jacobson reported on the activities of the Youth Council.

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

Commissioner Ferrara reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council. She further reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission Bus Tour which was also attended by the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation Board.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Rapp briefed on the success of the program whereby Youth serve on other City Boards and Commissions and encouraged local youth to contact the Youth Council or Neighborhood and Outreach Services staff to find out how they can serve.

Ms. Rapp reported that Commissioner Jacobson attended the Department's Charitable Giving Campaign special Bingo Event today where almost \$800 was raised for the United Way in support of programs serving at-risk youth.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2011.

**Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 3/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2011.**

**Commissioner Jacobson abstained.**

**STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS**

3. **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

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request.
1. 113 W. Yanonali St. – (1) Schefflera, (1) Ginkgo biloba, Maidenhair tree – Heather Ridennour

**Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to conditionally approve the removal of the trees at 113 W. Yanonali Street.**

- B. Consider the following changes to the Street Tree Master Plan.

1. 200 Block of Nogales Ave. – Carol Bornstein

**Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Rocky Jacobson, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and co-designated the Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda tree as an additionally designated species for the 200 block of Nogales Avenue.**

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**4. Draft Concept Design for the Library Plaza Improvement Project - For Discussion**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the report and attachments, and provide guidance for the Library Plaza Improvement Project.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Irene Macias, Library Director; and Peggy Burbank, Redevelopment Specialist
- Members of the Public: Robert Burke, Eric Friedman, Kellem deForest

**Commission Comments:**

Commissioner Jacobson commented that it would be a shame to remove the Scented Lemon Gum Trees. She said the Hawthorne Trees are beautiful and it would be a shame to remove them also. She asked if they are going to be moved. Ms. Burbank said the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) indicated they would like to see them reused or moved somewhere else within the City.

Commissioner Jacobson asked if the grassy area will be less grassy. Ms. Burbank said yes, it will be cemented and be the activity space. Ms. Jacobson said she loves that idea.

Commissioner Ferrara expressed that the project is a great idea; many people sleep in the grassy area and it would eliminate that. He further commented that it could eliminate smokers and loitering in the area. Mr. Ferrara said the area is an area that should be used for family and children events and that leveling the area will allow the authorities to keep an eye on the area. He said a change is needed; the design is nice. Mr. Ferrara asked how the hardscape is going to be designed; what type of material will be used. Ms. Burbank said that has not yet been determined.

Mr. Ferrara said that the grassy area beneath the Oak Trees needs to be protected. He also said he likes the idea of getting rid of the Ivy. Mr. Ferrara indicated that he approves of the plan altogether; however, he does not want the Eucalyptus trees removed, unless they are a hazard or are damaged. Mr. Ferrara asked if the Commission could receive a virtual presentation of how the project might look. He expressed that the Hawthorne trees need to be removed.

Commissioner Trentacosti asked whether the fountain or fountain area is going to be changed. Ms. Burbank said the existing fountain, walls, and hedges would be removed. She said there is a proposal to replace it with a new fountain. Commissioner Trentacosti said that if permeable pavers are being considered for the area, it is a good idea. He said he agrees the Lemon Scented Gum trees are beautiful, and if they end up being removed, he hopes they can be used elsewhere.

Chair Longstreet commented that the area is very overgrown with vegetation in comparison to the Courthouse. She said the project will provide much open space and use, and that is exciting. Ms. Longstreet expressed appreciation for the workshops staff held to obtain public input and how that input was factored into the design. She said she would like to see participation from the Museum of Art; it should be a shared type of space because they will benefit from it. Ms. Longstreet asked that planners, as they go through the design phase, to be mindful so that it does not become another skateboard park. She indicated that if there is a way to make the paseo accessible to maintenance trucks without blocking pedestrian access that is preferable. Ms. Longstreet stressed that the paseo is really important; she is glad to see it better lit, but opened up. She said designing it to be more open and accessible helps with the flow. Ms. Longstreet said regarding the Oak trees, that if they look at the protection of Oak trees as a way to define the activity space so that whatever is done to protect the Oak trees, also keeps children in the activity space, it is an opportunity rather than a problem.

Chair Longstreet commented that a project with this many tree removals it is going to be emotional and tough; however, things change, and they need to look to the future for another 50 years of usefulness. She said when the Commission makes those painful decisions they bring benefits in the end, and that needs to be weighed out. Ms. Longstreet stated that Eucalyptus trees are beautiful, but they are skyline trees. She said the Commission needs to weigh out activity versus skyline trees. Ms. Longstreet expressed her desire that the Art Museum will step up for placement of art; it is a great place for a rotating sculpture. She said a reflecting pool aspect is exciting; historic entrance is exciting and will be quite wonderful. She said that less lawn is good.

Commissioner Jacobson agreed the front door is beautiful, agrees with Chair Longstreet. She suggested a pop-up water feature be installed.

The meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 5:38 p.m.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **5. Golf Division Fiscal Year 2012, First Quarter Report - For Information**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the Golf Division Fiscal Year 2012, First Quarter Report.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

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

Ms. Rapp introduced Charles Judd, Golf Accounting Assistant, who recently joined the Golf Division.

Intern Yi left at 5:46 p.m.

### **6. Annual Contributions Report - Fiscal Year 2011 - For Information**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the donations and grants received by the Parks and Recreation Department during Fiscal Year 2011.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:15 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

**Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 4/0 to adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director