

Megill, Karla

From: Zachary, Jill
Sent: Friday, October 04, 2013 4:35 PM
To: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos
Subject: FW: Skofield Park

From: Mary Lou Sodomka [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, October 04, 2013 12:06 PM
To: Zachary, Jill
Subject: Skofield Park

Dear Ms Zachary,

Our family has enjoyed Skofield Park for many years. We were sorry when the caretaker, Steve, retired as he had seemed to take a personal and caring interest in the park. We have learned that the city is planning to rent out the caretaker's house to a member of the public. Our concerns are that the park will not have someone to watch over it in terms of safety and possible harm to the park. As you know, Skofield is very near Rattlesnake Creek and the areas of the city prone to fire danger. Without someone to watch over fires at the park, there is a real hazard. Also the park is home to lots of wonderful trees and open space that need someone to take a protective interest. I know that the park is used in the summer for the city's Nature Camp and other youth groups as well as some camping groups. There needs to be someone to make sure that safety measures are followed and that the park remains a place where people can go to feel safe and happy in a beautiful setting. We truly hope that the city will find a way to hire a live-in caretaker for this gem of a park.

Thank you,
Mary Lou Sodomka

Megill, Karla

From: Frank, Jeff [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 07, 2013 8:36 AM
To: Schneider, Helene; House, Grant; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.; Hotchkiss, Frank; Rowse, Randy; Francisco, Dale; Murillo, Cathy; Armstrong, Jim; Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos; Zachary, Jill
Subject: Caretaker at Skofield Park

Dear members of the Santa Barbara Government,

I am a home owner residing at 1656 Las Canoas Road in Santa Barbara. Skofield Park is a short walk from my home. I and most of my neighbors are very concerned about changes at Skofield park since the retirement of the former resident caretaker. Since that time it appears the Park has received very limited attention by the city other than someone coming to open and close the gates in the mornings and evenings and other very basic services. This is in sharp contrast to the care and attention that the former care taker gave this beautiful park.

Over recent months we have observed a marked increase in the foot traffic of non-local individuals bearing camping gear. Our neighbor closest to the park, Jan Vanderford, has observed some of these folks camping in the park and even starting camp fires. We can only imagine that as word spreads that the park is mostly unsupervised these and other unsafe activities will increase. Further, several local community members have taken it upon themselves to clear deadwood and brush that would otherwise increase risk of wildfire.

We now learn that the City is contemplating renting out the caretakers house to the public. Once done this will be very difficult to un-do. We have been hopeful that the City would eventually replace the caretaker and maintain Skofield Park in a way that provides the Santa Barbara community a safe, fun, and beautiful resource that it has historically been. We ask that the decision makers in this plan communicate with our community to fully understand the effects and impacts it is likely to have before any decisions are made.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Jeff Frank
[REDACTED]

Notice to recipient: This email is meant for only the intended recipient of the transmission, and may be a communication privileged by law, subject to export control restrictions or that otherwise contains proprietary information. If you receive this email by mistake, please notify us immediately by replying to this message and then destroy it and do not review, disclose, copy or distribute it. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Megill, Karla

From: Jan Vanderford [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 11:09 PM
To: Zachary, Jill; 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; jeff.frank [REDACTED]
Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos
Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

10/8/13

Hello Jill –

Thank you for your timely response. But several concerns remain.

Our foremost concern is night time security, that is, unapproved activities in the park after closing. There are recent signs again of an overnight fire at the fire pit in the ground in Area B. On July 31, 2013 someone (not me) posted this very concern to the community news website EdHat with a photo of this same fire pit. How many other night time fires go undetected? Just one problem with one of these fires could too easily burn the canyon and everything in it. This concern is addressed with a resident caretaker.

I raised my concern with Santos Escobar about the lack of a caretaker in January, and his response did not indicate that the house would be rented to the public.

I have been watching the City Council incase any change in the resident caretaker practice was being contemplated. I have been unable to locate any council agenda items that address this reduction in service. This issue should be discussed in a public forum before this change. People that I have spoken to about this issue are, first, surprised that this change is contemplated and then they are, without exception, against it. How can I provoke a public discussion on this issue? I am confident that we can present a strong case with broad support for continuing the resident caretaker program. It has worked for well over 30 years; it should not be stopped now.

With respect to caretaker responsibilities, in February 2012 the City Council approved the Caretaker Rental Agreement for Skofield Park. This approval was requested by you, the Parks Department. In your request said, in part -

The Department recommends approval of a one-year rental agreement with Steven Spencer, effective February 29, 2012, through February 28, 2013, for caretaker services at Skofield Park.

The proposed caretaker agreement is consistent with the provisions of the side letter agreement between the Santa Barbara City Employees Association, Local 620 Service Employees International Union, American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organization, and the City of Santa Barbara regarding compensation of resident parks caretakers. The side letter specifies the compensation and working terms for resident caretakers. The proposed caretaker agreement specifies the rental terms for the caretaker residence consistent with provisions of California Wage Order 4-2001 and the side letter agreement, which limit the amount of rent that the City may charge for the caretaker residences (currently \$381.20 per month).

The caretaker agreement and side letter agreement provide that the value of services performed by the Caretaker for the City by virtue of his presence at Skofield Park will serve as the in lieu payment of rent (\$381.20 per month) for the premises. Services identified in the side letter include:

- Opening and closing the park gates, custodial services in the park restrooms, park monitoring, and special event monitoring;

- Responding to security violations by observing and reporting incidents of fire, accidents, vandalism, illegal dumping, unauthorized camping, or other illegal or unauthorized activity;
- Protecting park property from damage and receiving comments and complaints from park users; and
- Maintaining a log of all time spent on caretaker services.

You have delineated the very services that you have withheld for the last 9 months and threaten to withhold forever.

- Opening and closing the park gates, custodial services in the park restrooms, park monitoring, and special event monitoring;

See the separate discussion about park hours. Park monitoring is minimal at best. Most days when a park visitor with a reservation is given the lower gate key, the gate is left open for most the day. A monitor would close the lower gate whenever they found it open. The open gate allows ad hoc car traffic into the lower park. These cars park wherever they choose and drive the pathways at whatever speed they choose. This is a safety issue as the walking public, including children and dogs, populate those same pathways and is a direct consequence of having no monitor present.

- Responding to security violations by observing and reporting incidents of fire, accidents, vandalism, illegal dumping, unauthorized camping, or other illegal or unauthorized activity;

This is the most painful of the withheld services. Without a resident caretaker, there is no one to perform this function. A grounds keeper may visit for an hour or two a day. There is no coverage for the other 22 or 23 hours. This stated caretaker responsibility doesn't have hours of operation. The responsibility doesn't end when the park is closed. The resident caretaker would watch over the park. He was sensitive to any activity, smoke or noise and would act on it. At the end of the day, he would routinely tour the park, empty the trash from all sites, and check for fire risks and latent visitors. (He had to empty the trash soon after the visitors left because Flash, the neighbor trash dog, would attack the garbage cans with tasty remains.) Most devious deeds were mitigated by the caretaker's very presence. But it seems that in the summer there is always someone trying to camp in Vans meadow or set up at a campsite. Some don't know the rules; most are transients. We need someone watching over the park who cares, who has the responsibility to execute this caretaker function. It is not adequate to argue that a member of the public renting the caretaker's house would meet this need. They may be inclined to help or they may not. It's their option. With a resident caretaker, it is his responsibility. The renter may present other problems, such as leaving the street gate open, or making loud noise. There is a ban on amplified sound in Skofield Park. Is the renter banned from playing his stereo?

- Protecting park property from damage and receiving comments and complaints from park users; and

This function ties in with the park oversight and the lack of monitors points already mentioned. It should be noted that there is no one around to address the visiting public's questions. For overnight campouts, there is no one around to address their concerns. The resident caretaker performed these functions for a very long time. Now there will be no one.

A lesser issue with me is park hours. After checking, I've found three signs posted with park hours. See attached photos. One, as Jill said, indicates the park is open from 8am to sunset. Another says closed from ½ hour after sunset to sunrise. The third says it is closed from ½ hour after sunset to 6am. This third sign references the Santa Barbara Municipal Code section 15.16.260. That section of the Muni Code says "Skofield Park - closed one half hour after sunset to sunrise the following day." To tidy up this issue of hours, change the signs and change the law.

With respect to the park closing procedure. Jill said -

"As part of their regular park premise checks, Park Rangers walk and drive through the park, complete fire safety checks, interact with park users to ensure compliance with park rules, and coordinate with on-site park monitors during any park rentals. Prior to closing the park at sunset, Park Rangers drive through the park to ensure the park is empty and there are no un-extinguished BBQs."

Yesterday, 10/7/13, the park ranger arrived at 6:33pm and left at 6:40pm. He did not unlock the lower gate and drive into the park. He drove into the caretaker's driveway. He, no doubt, checked the caretaker's house and looked into the park. But, seven minutes is an insufficient amount of time to walk to even the Area B fire pit, much less examine them all. He could not have known if there was someone beyond Area A.

In fact, a surveillance camera shows that –

- Monday, 10/7/13 ranger arrived at 6:33pm and left at 6:40pm. Did not unlock the lower gate or enter the lower park. Drove into caretaker's driveway, and then left 7 minutes later.
- Sunday, 10/6/13, no one did the check
- Saturday, 10/5/13, an older woman (a monitor perhaps?) locked the lower gate at 6:05
- Friday, 10/4/13, ranger arrived at 5:33pm, unlocked the lower gate and drove into the park; 5:39 he drove out of the lower park and locked the gate. This is the only time this week that a ranger drove the lower park at closing.
- Thursday, 10/3/13, no one did the check.
- Wednesday, 10/2/13, ranger walked out from caretaker's driveway at 3:52pm.
- Tuesday, 10/1/13, no one did the check
- Monday 9/30/13, no one did the check.

"No one did the check" means that no city people or vehicles were seen and the lower gate was not unlocked. But the camera sees nothing after dark. So perhaps the missing checks were performed after dark. Clearly there is a disconnect between plan and execution. And this plan, even if executed, will not address the issue of overnight visitors in the park.

With respect to the prior resident caretaker's number of days worked in the park, the caretaker did, in days past, work 5 days a week in Skofield. Then in Mr. Cope's tenure this was reduced to 4 days, then 3 days, then 2 days a week in Skofield. Now the park gets 1 day a week from the parks department. Even when he was working only Saturday and Sunday in the park, he was present to detect and act on problems.

There has been a significant withholding of service at Skofield Park this year. This lapse in previously accepted responsibility is dangerous and leaves you, the park visitors and neighbors exposed to increased risk. We need to restore the resident caretaker to reduce this risk level to the level we had last year. So, what are our chances to get a groundskeeper into the caretaker's house and restore the critical safety functions performed by the resident caretaker?

Thanks for the dialog. I am hopeful that we can resolve this issue.

Jan Vanderford


From: Zachary, Jill [mailto:JZachary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 11:39 AM
To: 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; 'Jan Vanderford'; 'jeff.fran
Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos
Subject: Skofield Park House

Ms. Sodomka, Mr. Vanderford and Mr. Frank,

Thank you for your emails regarding Skofield Park. We appreciate your concerns regarding park safety. The purpose of this email is to address the concerns that you raise and provide you with information about park management.

With the retirement of the City parks staff member that lived in the house, the Department transferred the same duties to other City parks staff. For clarification, the former staff member was assigned to work in the park two days a week.

The remainder of his work duties were performed in other City parks. Although the staff member lived in the house, he was not on duty during non-work hours and did not work full time in the park. The service level at the park, including regular park maintenance, safety checks and vegetation management has not changed.

The park is currently open from 8 am until sunset. Parks staff and Park Rangers are assigned to open and close the park gate. We work closely with the Fire Department to meet the defensible space standards through tree trimming and vegetation management. As part of their regular park premise checks, Park Rangers walk and drive through the park, complete fire safety checks, interact with park users to ensure compliance with park rules, and coordinate with on-site park monitors during any park rentals. Prior to closing the park at sunset, Park Rangers drive through the park to ensure the park is empty and there are no un-extinguished BBQs. In addition to Parks staff, Public Works staff are in the park once a day to inspect and monitor a sewer lift station. A Park Monitor as well as a Park Ranger are assigned to provide further park oversight when there is a facility rental or permitted overnight camping.

The house has been vacant for a number of months while the Department has completed renovations in preparation for its rental. During that time, a City Public Works staff member left a bicycle in the garage. Recently, the home was entered by an individual for one night. The individual was found Monday morning by Parks staff that were servicing the park. There was no damage to the home.

Rental of the house provides the opportunity for the Department to support park maintenance operations as well as hire a third Park Ranger. The addition of a third Park Ranger will contribute to increased park safety and enjoyable park user experiences. The recruitment for this position is almost complete. The City Council approved the rental of the house with the FY 2014 budget.

The terms of the rental are a one-year lease with the option to terminate the agreement with 30 days notice. The lease agreement requires the tenant to abide by all park rules and operating hours. Although the tenant is not functioning as a City employee, as with any area resident, the City anticipates that any observed safety concerns will be reported to the Police or Parks and Recreation. We investigate these issues seriously and solicit the assistance of the Police Department when necessary. With the exception of the individual that entered the house, we have not experienced nor had any reports of significant safety concerns.

As with all of its parks and recreation facilities, the Department is committed to operating Skofield Park safely. Please let me know if you have any questions. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Jill Zachary

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
City of Santa Barbara
620 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101
805-564-5437
www.sbparcsandrecreation.org

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2014.0.4142 / Virus Database: 3604/6701 - Release Date: 09/26/13

Megill, Karla

From: Zachary, Jill
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 3:58 PM
To: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos
Subject: FW: Skofield Park

From: Mary Lou Sodomka [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Wednesday, October 09, 2013 12:55 PM
To: Zachary, Jill
Subject: Skofield Park

Hello Ms Zachary,

I appreciate your reasonable sounding response. However, I am so very impressed by the thoroughness of Jan Vanderford's letter to you. Since he lives so close to the park, he is superbly aware and able to present a complete and well reasoned argument for a resident ranger. I sincerely hope that the parks department will pay attention to his letter and act accordingly. So many potential problems could be prevented by the presence of a caring resident ranger or caretaker.

Please encourage your committee to carefully consider the points Mr Vanderford presents.

Thank you,

Mary Lou Sodomka

Megill, Karla

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 7:56 AM
To: Jan Vanderford; Zachary, Jill; 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; jeff.frank [REDACTED]
Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos; Armstrong, Jim
Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

Hello all,

As a frequent user, and devoted admirer, of our beautiful Santa Barbara gem, Skofield Park, I would like to echo Mr. Vanderford's well-expressed opinion about re-gaining a resident caretaker there. I believe the potential damage to the facility and/or the liability resulting from its neglect will cost far more than the minor amount of income the City can realize from renting the little house there to a private party. It may be difficult to find an exact replacement for Steve, who loved the park thoroughly and who, I believe, knew its every tree. Nonetheless the Park needs a resident figure of loving authority there not simply to monitor use and abuse by humans, but also to assess the needs of the flora in a way that can only be done by someone who gains an intimacy with the environment. The current Park personnel are great, but there time spent is limited, and many of the old trails, for example, have even now disappeared in the overgrowth.

It's misleading to assert that Steve spent limited time tending to the Park. Indeed, the schedule had changed within the past several years so that he had rotating service at other parks, also. But, he never let up on his care for Skofield, probably tending to its needs far beyond anything for which he was compensated. As I say, his devotion is sorely missed and, while it may not be replaceable exactly, renting the house to a private party is a guarantee that this marvelous facility will suffer ongoing decline.

If revenues are needed, I recommend instead a campaign to increase the number of rental events held at the Park--weddings, and the like.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further. Best regards, Shelley Bookspan

Shelley Bookspan, Ph.D.
 Historical Consulting

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Skofield Park House
From: "Jan Vanderford" <[REDACTED]>
Date: Mon, October 14, 2013 7:40 pm
To: "Zachary, Jill" <JZachary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, "Mary Lou Sodomka" <[REDACTED]>, "jeff.frank" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: "Rapp, Nancy" <NRapp@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, "Escobar, Santos" <SEscobar@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, <jarmstrong@santabarbaraca.gov>

Several more security violations have occurred at Skofield Park recently.

1. There is evidence of an after-hours party last night. Signs of a fire in the Area B pit.

2. Someone has been driving into and out of the park when the gates are locked. See the attached photos, They drive between the telephone pole and the tree next to the street gate,
3. There is new graffiti in the men's bathroom and on the telephone pole near the trail entrance. Don't know if it is related to the new graffiti on Las Canoas Road, Mountain Drive and El Celito,
4. And I know that you are aware that a camper and long time park pest was evicted by the police on Friday,

None of these things would happen if we had a resident caretaker.

Jan Vanderford
[REDACTED]

From: Zachary, Jill [mailto:JZachary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 11:39 AM
To: 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; 'Jan Vanderford'; 'jeff.frank [REDACTED]'
Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos
Subject: Skofield Park House

Ms. Sodomka, Mr. Vanderford and Mr. Frank,

Thank you for your emails regarding Skofield Park. We appreciate your concerns regarding park safety. The purpose of this email is to address the concerns that you raise and provide you with information about park management.

With the retirement of the City parks staff member that lived in the house, the Department transferred the same duties to other City parks staff. For clarification, the former staff member was assigned to work in the park two days a week. The remainder of his work duties were performed in other City parks. Although the staff member lived in the house, he was not on duty during non-work hours and did not work full time in the park. The service level at the park, including regular park maintenance, safety checks and vegetation management has not changed.

The park is currently open from 8 am until sunset. Parks staff and Park Rangers are assigned to open and close the park gate. We work closely with the Fire Department to meet the defensible space standards through tree trimming and vegetation management. As part of their regular park premise checks, Park Rangers walk and drive through the park, complete fire safety checks, interact with park users to ensure compliance with park rules, and coordinate with on-site park monitors during any park rentals. Prior to closing the park at sunset, Park Rangers drive through the park to ensure the park is empty and there are no un-extinguished BBQs. In addition to Parks staff, Public Works staff are in the park once a day to inspect and monitor a sewer lift station. A Park Monitor as well as a Park Ranger are assigned to provide further park oversight when there is a facility rental or permitted overnight camping.

The house has been vacant for a number of months while the Department has completed renovations in preparation for its rental. During that time, a City Public Works staff member left a bicycle in the garage. Recently, the home was entered by an individual for one night. The individual was found Monday morning by Parks staff that were servicing the park. There was no damage to the home.

Rental of the house provides the opportunity for the Department to support park maintenance operations as well as hire a third Park Ranger. The addition of a third Park Ranger will contribute to increased park safety and enjoyable park user experiences. The recruitment for this position is almost complete. The City Council approved the rental of the house with the FY 2014 budget.

The terms of the rental are a one-year lease with the option to terminate the agreement with 30 days notice. The lease agreement requires the tenant to abide by all park rules and operating hours. Although the tenant is not functioning as a City employee, as with any area resident, the City anticipates that any observed safety

concerns will be reported to the Police or Parks and Recreation. We investigate these issues seriously and solicit the assistance of the Police Department when necessary. With the exception of the individual that entered the house, we have not experienced nor had any reports of significant safety concerns.

As with all of its parks and recreation facilities, the Department is committed to operating Skofield Park safely. Please let me know if you have any questions. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Jill Zachary

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
City of Santa Barbara
620 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101
805-564-5437
www.sbparksandrecreation.org

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2014.0.4142 / Virus Database: 3604/6701 - Release Date: 09/26/13

Megill, Karla

From: Rapp, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 9:34 AM
To: [REDACTED]; 'Jan Vanderford'; Zachary, Jill; 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; 'jeff.fran [REDACTED]'
Cc: Escobar, Santos; Armstrong, Jim; Zachary, Jill; Casey, Paul
Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

Hello, everyone,

I want to thank you for your emails about the Skofield Park caretaker residence. I have asked Parks Manager Santos Escobar to set up a meeting for us to address your concerns and talk about our decision to rent the caretaker residence in order to fund an additional Park Ranger. Santos will be including Susan Jang Bardick who oversees all of our park permitting for Skofield, and representatives from the Police and Fire departments. We look forward to meeting and talking with all of you.

Although we will covering these issues in more depth when we meet I wanted to highlight a few points.

- **With limited park resources, Parks and Recreation must allocate resources to address the greatest needs in all of our parks.** You may not be aware that over the last few years Parks and Recreation lost about a third of our General Fund support, and reduced our workforce by 25%. Across the department there have been many reductions in services and programs. Park maintenance, which is primarily funded by the City's General Fund, was reduced throughout our park system. Every day is a careful balance of general park maintenance needs, addressing safety issues, removing homeless encampments, repairing vandalism, etc. With 43 City parks, 11 sports facilities, and 15 recreation/community facilities, our limited resources are stretched pretty thin these days.
- **It is important to note the concerns you mention in your emails are far more prevalent at other park facilities than at Skofield.** This doesn't make incidents at Skofield less important, it just comes into play when we are allocating our limited resources and prioritizing the higher community demand. Unfortunately, illegal camping, unpermitted after hours use, other illegal activities, risk of fires, etc., are issues that we routinely address on a weekly if not daily, basis in most of our parks and beaches and many of our sports and recreation facilities. Oak Park, Stevens Park, Franceschi Park, Parma Park, Pershing Park, Chase Palm Park, and Douglas Family Preserve are far more heavily used by the community than Skofield, and we struggle with keeping our parks safe for park users.
- **As Jill Zachary mentioned in her email, the Parks Division will generate almost \$30,000 in new revenue from renting out the Skofield Park residence.** This funding will pay nearly half of the cost to add another Park Ranger. Given our limited resources, we believe that this decision allows us to better address the safety issues in our entire City park system. Even with 3 Park Rangers, our park safety needs will continue to be a challenge given the great number of parks and facilities, but it will help. We are currently recruiting for this position.
- **I want to re-emphasize earlier points made by Ms. Zachary that this change in the caretaker residence does not reduce service to Skofield Park.** The previous tenant was a parks employee (Steve Spencer) who worked at Skofield as well as other City Parks. He was not on duty when he was at his home. For contrast, Steve averaged 71 hours per month working at Skofield for the five months before he retired. For the past 9 months since his

retirement, Parks Division staff has averaged 73.5 hours per month in Skofield Park. These hours do not include Supervision, Park Rangers, Park Monitor or tree contracting work performed in the park.

- **Parks and Recreation relies on our neighbors and park users to contact Police, Fire or Parks and Recreation when activities taking place in the park are of concern.** We cannot be present 24 hours, 7 days a week in each of our parks. When you observe any illegal or unpermitted activities, please call the Police or Fire immediately. Please contact the Parks Division as well so we can follow up.

I want to assure that we will continue to consider the unique aspects of Skofield Park and how we can be a good neighbor. We look forward to talking with you.

Sincerely,
Nancy Rapp

Nancy L. Rapp
PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR
 City of Santa Barbara
 P.O. Box 1990-1999
 620 Laguna Street
 Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1999
 (805) 564-5431
nrapp@santabarbaraca.gov

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 7:56 AM
To: Jan Vanderford; Zachary, Jill; 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; jeff.fran [REDACTED]
Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos; Armstrong, Jim
Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

Hello all,

As a frequent user, and devoted admirer, of our beautiful Santa Barbara gem, Skofield Park, I would like to echo Mr. Vanderford's well-expressed opinion about re-gaining a resident caretaker there. I believe the potential damage to the facility and/or the liability resulting from its neglect will cost far more than the minor amount of income the City can realize from renting the little house there to a private party. It may be difficult to find an exact replacement for Steve, who loved the park thoroughly and who, I believe, knew its every tree, Nonetheless the Park needs a resident figure of loving authority there not simply to monitor use and abuse by humans, but also to assess the needs of the flora in a way that can only be done by someone who gains an intimacy with the environment. The current Park personnel are great, but there time spent is limited, and many of the old trails, for example, have even now disappeared in the overgrowth.

It's misleading to assert that Steve spent limited time tending to the Park. Indeed, the schedule had changed within the past several years so that he had rotating service at other parks, also. But, he never let up on his care for Skofield, probably tending to its needs far beyond anything for which he was compensated. As I say, his devotion is sorely missed and, while it may not be replaceable exactly, renting the house to a private party is a guarantee that this marvelous facility will suffer ongoing decline.

If revenues are needed, I recommend instead a campaign to increase the number of rental events held at the Park--weddings, and the like.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further. Best regards, Shelley Bookspan

Shelley Bookspan, Ph.D.



----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

From: "Jan Vanderford" [REDACTED]

Date: Mon, October 14, 2013 7:40 pm

To: "Zachary, Jill" <JZachary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, "Mary Lou Sodomka" [REDACTED] <jeff.fran [REDACTED]>

Cc: "Rapp, Nancy" <NRapp@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, "Escobar, Santos" <SEscobar@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, <jarmstrong@santabarbaraca.gov>

Several more security violations have occurred at Skofield Park recently.

1. There is evidence of an after-hours party last night. Signs of a fire in the Area B pit.
2. Someone has been driving into and out of the park when the gates are locked. See the attached photos, They drive between the telephone pole and the tree next to the street gate,
3. There is new graffiti in the men's bathroom and on the telephone pole near the trail entrance. Don't know if it is related to the new graffiti on Las Canoas Road, Mountain Drive and El Celito,
4. And I know that you are aware that a camper and long time park pest was evicted by the police on Friday,

None of these things would happen if we had a resident caretaker.

Jan Vanderford
[REDACTED]

From: Zachary, Jill [mailto:JZachary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 11:39 AM

To: 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; 'Jan Vanderford'; 'jeff.fran [REDACTED]'

Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos

Subject: Skofield Park House

Ms. Sodomka, Mr. Vanderford and Mr. Frank,

Thank you for your emails regarding Skofield Park. We appreciate your concerns regarding park safety. The purpose of this email is to address the concerns that you raise and provide you with information about park management.

With the retirement of the City parks staff member that lived in the house, the Department transferred the same duties to other City parks staff. For clarification, the former staff member was assigned to work in the park two days a week. The remainder of his work duties were performed in other City parks. Although the staff member lived in the house, he was not on duty during non-work hours and did not work full time in the park. The service level at the park, including regular park maintenance, safety checks and vegetation management has not changed.

The park is currently open from 8 am until sunset. Parks staff and Park Rangers are assigned to open and close the park gate. We work closely with the Fire Department to meet the defensible space standards through tree trimming and vegetation management. As part of their regular park premise checks, Park Rangers walk and drive through the park, complete fire safety checks, interact with park users to ensure compliance with park rules, and coordinate with on-site park monitors during any park rentals. Prior to closing the park at sunset, Park Rangers drive through the park to ensure the park is empty and there are no un-extinguished BBQs. In addition to Parks staff, Public Works staff are in the park once a day to inspect and monitor a sewer lift station. A Park Monitor as well as a Park Ranger are assigned to provide further park oversight when there is a facility rental or permitted overnight camping.

The house has been vacant for a number of months while the Department has completed renovations in preparation for its rental. During that time, a City Public Works staff member left a bicycle in the garage. Recently, the home was entered by an individual for one night. The individual was found Monday morning by Parks staff that were servicing the park. There was no damage to the home.

Rental of the house provides the opportunity for the Department to support park maintenance operations as well as hire a third Park Ranger. The addition of a third Park Ranger will contribute to increased park safety and enjoyable park user experiences. The recruitment for this position is almost complete. The City Council approved the rental of the house with the FY 2014 budget.

The terms of the rental are a one-year lease with the option to terminate the agreement with 30 days notice. The lease agreement requires the tenant to abide by all park rules and operating hours. Although the tenant is not functioning as a City employee, as with any area resident, the City anticipates that any observed safety concerns will be reported to the Police or Parks and Recreation. We investigate these issues seriously and solicit the assistance of the Police Department when necessary. With the exception of the individual that entered the house, we have not experienced nor had any reports of significant safety concerns.

As with all of its parks and recreation facilities, the Department is committed to operating Skofield Park safely. Please let me know if you have any questions. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Jill Zachary

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
City of Santa Barbara
620 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101
805-564-5437
www.sbparksandrecreation.org

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4142 / Virus Database: 3604/6701 - Release Date: 09/26/13

Megill, Karla

From: Ann Dwelley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 10:31 AM
To: Jan Vanderford; Zachary, Jill; 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; jeff.frank [REDACTED]
Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos; Armstrong, Jim
Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

I would like to point out that parks policy and what actually happens at Skofield Park are two different things.

My husband and I walk there nearly every evening. All summer we noted that the person locking the gates came as early as 4:30pm (well before sunset in July and August), got out of the Parks Department truck long enough to lock the gate to Las Canoas Road, got back into the truck and disappeared. No attempt was made most days to check anything inside the park. The inner gate (is that the official term?) between the parking lot and the park facilities was occasionally left open overnight, and there was definitely no checking of anything inside the park.

Please do not discount the neighborhood concern with fire. We evacuated twice for the Tea and Jesusita fires. A number of neighbors lost their homes. The lot next door to us is still awaiting rebuilding. An official on site to keep out vagrants and control unauthorized access by others is important. I don't think parking a department pickup in the driveway of the house is an effective deterrent.

With concern,
 Ann Dwelley
 [REDACTED]

At 07:40 PM 10/14/2013, Jan Vanderford wrote:

Several more security violations have occurred at Skofield Park recently.

1. There is evidence of an after-hours party last night. Signs of a fire in the Area B pit.
2. Someone has been driving into and out of the park when the gates are locked. See the attached photos, They drive between the telephone pole and the tree next to the street gate,
3. There is new graffiti in the men's bathroom and on the telephone pole near the trail entrance. Don't know if it is related to the new graffiti on Las Canoas Road, Mountain Drive and El Celito,
4. And I know that you are aware that a camper and long time park pest was evicted by the police on Friday,

None of these things would happen if we had a resident caretaker.

Jan Vanderford
 [REDACTED]

From: Zachary, Jill [mailto:JZachary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 08, 2013 11:39 AM
To: 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; 'Jan Vanderford'; 'jeff.frank [REDACTED]'
Cc: Rapp, Nancy; Escobar, Santos
Subject: Skofield Park House

Ms. Sodomka, Mr. Vanderford and Mr. Frank,

Thank you for your emails regarding Skofield Park. We appreciate your concerns regarding park safety. The purpose of this email is to address the concerns that you raise and provide you with information about park management.

With the retirement of the City parks staff member that lived in the house, the Department transferred the same duties to other City parks staff. For clarification, the former staff member was assigned to work in the park two days a week. The remainder of his work duties were performed in other City parks. Although the staff member lived in the house, he was not on duty during non-work hours and did not work full time in the park. The service level at the park, including regular park maintenance, safety checks and vegetation management has not changed.

The park is currently open from 8 am until sunset. Parks staff and Park Rangers are assigned to open and close the park gate. We work closely with the Fire Department to meet the defensible space standards through tree trimming and vegetation management. As part of their regular park premise checks, Park Rangers walk and drive through the park, complete fire safety checks, interact with park users to ensure compliance with park rules, and coordinate with on-site park monitors during any park rentals. Prior to closing the park at sunset, Park Rangers drive through the park to ensure the park is empty and there are no un-extinguished BBQs. In addition to Parks staff, Public Works staff are in the park once a day to inspect and monitor a sewer lift station. A Park Monitor as well as a Park Ranger are assigned to provide further park oversight when there is a facility rental or permitted overnight camping.

The house has been vacant for a number of months while the Department has completed renovations in preparation for its rental. During that time, a City Public Works staff member left a bicycle in the garage. Recently, the home was entered by an individual for one night. The individual was found Monday morning by Parks staff that were servicing the park. There was no damage to the home.

Rental of the house provides the opportunity for the Department to support park maintenance operations as well as hire a third Park Ranger. The addition of a third Park Ranger will contribute to increased park safety and enjoyable park user experiences. The recruitment for this position is almost complete. The City Council approved the rental of the house with the FY 2014 budget.

The terms of the rental are a one-year lease with the option to terminate the agreement with 30 days notice. The lease agreement requires the tenant to abide by all park rules and operating hours. Although the tenant is not functioning as a City employee, as with any area resident, the City anticipates that any observed safety concerns will be reported to the Police or Parks and Recreation. We investigate these issues seriously and solicit the assistance of the Police Department when necessary. With the exception of the individual that entered the house, we have not experienced nor had any reports of significant safety concerns.

As with all of its parks and recreation facilities, the Department is committed to operating Skofield Park safely. Please let me know if you have any questions. We would be happy to meet with you to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

Jill Zachary

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
City of Santa Barbara
620 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101
805-564-5437
www.sbparksandrecreation.org

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 2014.0.4142 / Virus Database: 3604/6701 - Release Date: 09/26/13

Megill, Karla

From: Escobar, Santos
Sent: Wednesday, October 16, 2013 5:17 PM
To: [REDACTED]; 'Jan Vanderford'; 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; 'jeff.frank [REDACTED]'
Cc: Armstrong, Jim; Casey, Paul; Rapp, Nancy; Zachary, Jill
Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

Dear Neighbors of Skofield Park,

On October 22, 2013 at 4:30 pm at 620 Laguna Streets (Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office) we will be hosting a meeting for us to address your concerns and talk about our decision to rent the caretaker residence in order to fund an additional Park Ranger.

We look forward to meeting and talking with all of you.

Respectfully,

Santos

Santos Escobar
Parks Manager
City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department
(805) 564-5464

Megill, Karla

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 3:13 PM
To: Escobar, Santos; 'Jan Vanderford'; 'Mary Lou Sodomka'; 'jeff.fran [REDACTED]
Cc: Armstrong, Jim; Casey, Paul; Rapp, Nancy; Zachary, Jill; denny bacon; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

Santos, my work obligations are preventing my attendance at this afternoon's meeting. I'm sorry I won't get to converse directly with you and your colleagues. Here are the points I would like to make:

- 1) The decision to rent the Skofield house to a private party is important and cannot be made without the appropriate input from residents.
- 2) Renting the house to a private party means the City will lose control over the park in its off-hours. The City cannot prevent a private party from off-hour uses, from having parties, from having fires, from leaving the gate to the parking lot which must be traversed to access the house open.
- 3) The remote, foothill location of a mixed refined and unrefined park distinguishes Skofield from other Santa Barbara parks. Skofield is particularly vulnerable to vandalism, overnight transient use, and fire. It needs careful monitoring.
- 4) The funds the City stands to gain from the rental are small, and when the expenses and liabilities are factored in, I suspect there could be no gain at all.

I believe this matter really needs reconsideration. Thank you, Shelley

Shelley Bookspan, Ph.D.

[REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Skofield Park House

From: "Escobar, Santos" <SEscobar@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>

Date: Wed, October 16, 2013 5:16 pm

To: [REDACTED] "Jan Vanderford"; [REDACTED] 'Mary Lou Sodomka'

[REDACTED] >, "jeff.fran [REDACTED]"

Cc: "Armstrong, Jim" <JArmstrong@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, "Casey, Paul" <PCasey@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, "Rapp, Nancy" <NRapp@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>, "Zachary, Jill" <JZachary@SantaBarbaraCA.gov>

Dear Neighbors of Skofield Park,

On October 22, 2013 at 4:30 pm at 620 Laguna Streets (Parks and Recreation Department Administration Office) we will be hosting a meeting for us to address your concerns and talk about our decision to rent the caretaker residence in order to fund an additional Park Ranger.

We look forward to meeting and talking with all of you.

Respectfully,

Santos

Santos Escobar
Parks Manager
City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department
(805) 564-5464

Megill, Karla

From: Leslie Gutierrez-jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 5:59 PM
To: Rapp, Nancy; Casey, Paul
Subject: Skofield Park caretaker

October 22, 2013

Dear Ms Rapp and Mr. Casey,

I am a city resident (563 Mountain) residing near the old Sheffield Reservoir, and am writing to express my dismay at hearing that the resident caretaker position at Skofield Park has apparently been eliminated.

My husband and I moved to the neighborhood in 1996, and have greatly enjoyed the outdoor activities available in the area, first with our two young daughters and more recently with our big dog, the "third child." I am 53, and rely heavily on walking outdoors for health, exercise, and stress relief. Over the years, the areas in which I have felt safe and relaxed to go walking alone have been shrinking, partly as I feel less athletic and agile but also as the area has become more densely populated both with human traffic and with coyote incursions.

I've given up using Parma Park after some scary encounters with both species, and more recently even the tiny new park at the reservoir has had multiple coyote attacks on smaller dogs. In response, I've shifted my routine (and paid significant canine dues!) in order to make use of the privately funded Elings Park a few times per week, but it has been discouraging to have to drive so far in order to vary my options for going for a walk! On the other 3-4 days/week when I don't drive over to Elings, I've been glad to have Skofield close by, and very appreciative of the fact that it's the ONLY open space in the area where I have yet to encounter coyotes, or even hear reports of other park users doing so. It's always felt like a very safe, well-run location, and the resident caretaker has absolutely made that sense of security possible; even the resident dog has been known to emerge into his yard to (politely!) greet and inspect arrivals. That sort of "in place" awareness (human AND canine!) of activity is precious, and it would be a shame to sacrifice it in the name of short-term budgeting.

I would add that, in addition to protection against criminal activity (personal safety, automotive break-in risk, etc), the caretaker monitors and enforces safe driving in the parking lot, and...

ESPECIALLY important to those of us who have been displaced by frightening fires TWICE in recent years (Tea Fire and Jesusita)...the caretaker's presence both discourages wandering trouble-makers and ensures that any fire dangers will be quickly identified and remedied.

Such on-site protection is incredibly valuable to ALL the neighbors, both when visiting the park and when tucked into our own homes at night.

Skofield Park is a rare and unusual type of open space, one very much deserving of protection. Please please please reconsider eliminating the feature that adds so much to its user-friendly nature. Please save this dedicated park user from having to drive out of my own neighborhood to walk the dog securely.

Sincerely,
Leslie Gutierrez-Jones
[REDACTED]

Megill, Karla

From: Susan Chiavelli [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:44 PM
To: Rapp, Nancy
Subject: Re: Skofield Park Caretaker

Nancy Rapp, Parks Supervisor:

We have recently become aware that we have lost the Skofield Park caretaker and that there are plans underway to rent the caretaker's house. While we understand the difficulty of budget cuts and doing less with more, we are very concerned with the increase in illegal camping and other safety issues in the park. All illegal campfires are not created equal and do not pose the same risks. An illegal campfire in our high fire hazard area is potentially more dangerous than an illegal campfire on the beach.

I walk frequently on Las Canoas Rd and have watched with great alarm the accumulation of dry brush and dead trees left untouched from the Jesusita Fire. With the exception of the goat clearing project several years ago, we have not seen any clearing along the road during the last several years.

It is difficult to understand how the city can require private residences to spend money clearing their property, pay extra taxes toward annual chipping, (which we support and comply with), or face fines, while leaving city park property uncleared. Skofield Park could, and should, serve as a community example for fire clearance, instead it is turning into a potential hazard.

We do not support giving up the park caretaker's house. However, if this plan is approved, we feel any rental profits should be used primarily for fire clearance in Skofield Park and other parks in the Extreme Fire Risk Zones.

Sincerely,

Susan & Dennis Chiavelli
[REDACTED]

Santos

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

11.1.2013

PARKS & RECREATION
BUD BOTTOMS

October 23, 2013

BUD
bottoms
sculptor



Regarding SB Parks Commission Hearing, Skofield Park Caretaker, 10/23/13

I am writing in support of a hired Caretaker for Skofield Park. I recall Hobart Skofield telling me over 50 years ago that the City had accepted his offer of that property as a park. He was estatic because he wanted to see that the property would remain natural and protected, and that is the way it should be.

I also have a very personal connection to Skofield Park. For several years in the 1960s, my family lived in the old Skofield house which my son, Timothy, eventually bought. We also built a house across the street and lived there for several years after that. In fact, I sculpted the first dolphin for the Santa Barbara fountain in Tim's garage. I have many fond memories of Rattlesnake Canyon, especially Skofield Park. Historically it has been a serene and safe place for youth groups, weddings, church gatherings, family picnics, starting place for The Rancheros Visitadores Ride, and more.

Perhaps there is no other city that has been granted so many beautiful park sites. They are our heritage and must be protected as promised by the city. Skofield deserves to have a twenty-four hour caretaker. His or her residence is already there.

Hobart Skofield loved Santa Barbara and left us with a unique and beautiful place. Just as Franchesci, Pearl Chase, Alice Keck Park, Dwight Murphy, and others had done before. We must find a way to keep a caretaker there full-time and not rent it out. Mr. Skofield gave us that gem and we are obligated to fulfill his last wishes.

Sincerely, Bud Bottoms

Bud Bottoms

1030 San Diego Road • Santa Barbara • CA • 93103
Phone • (805) 962-3113
email: budbottoms@aol.com • budbottoms.com

Megill, Karla

From: Michael Gray [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 6:48 PM
To: Schneider, Helene; House, Grant; Armstrong, Jim; Rapp, Nancy; Rowse, Randy; White, Harwood "Bendy" A.; Escobar, Santos
Subject: Scofield Park

I find it offensive that as a 30 year resident of santa Barbara and a 23 year resident of Mission Canynon that you are even considering renting the house at Scofield Park and not having it manned by a Ranger. In the months since Steve retired, I have found a Squirrel shot with a gun and the park looking in disrepair. If you think a once a day sweep is the same, you are dillusional. You will discuss changing the position of a State Street bench or a Blue Line for global warming but the true character of SB you ignore. This is not leadership. Get your priorities in order and figure it out. That is what we pay you to do.

Megill, Karla

From: Rapp, Nancy
Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 3:26 PM
To: 'Jan Vanderford'
Subject: RE: SKOFIELD PARK RESIDENCE - PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Jan,

This will be quick as I am getting ready to leave for vacation. See below:

From: Jan Vanderford [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 1:13 PM
To: Rapp, Nancy
Subject: RE: SKOFIELD PARK RESIDENCE - PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Hello Nancy –

Thanks for scheduling the meeting with the Parks Commission. I look forward to an opportunity to argue our case.

Please include me as interested in both the reservations and the off-leash topics. WILL DO

To whom should emails about graffiti be sent? I tried Steve Bidell but I must spelled his name wrong and those messages bounced. sescobar@santabarbaraca.gov and sbiddle@santabarbaraca.gov

Please consider including my email messages to Santos in January, April and May and his email messages to me on 1/18, 4/12 and 5/4/2013 in the staff report to the commissioners.

Please forward those emails to me to make sure I have what you want included.

Could I receive a copy of the last Caretaker Rental Agreement for Skofield Park? I will have to check into this after vacation, sorry.

Thank you for your patience and assistance.

Jan Vanderford

From: Rapp, Nancy [mailto:NRapp@SantaBarbaraCA.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 12, 2013 1:51 PM
To: Rapp, Nancy
Cc: Escobar, Santos; Zachary, Jill; Jang-Bardick, Susan
Subject: SKOFIELD PARK RESIDENCE - PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Recently the Parks and Recreation Department met with several Skofield Park neighbors to discuss their concerns about the department's plan to lease the caretaker residence in the park, park safety fire concerns and park maintenance. The group expressed interest in having the Parks and Recreation Commission hear their concerns. You have been included in this email because you participated in that meeting or recently communicated to the City on this issue.

A special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on this issue on **Wednesday, December 4, 5:30pm, in City Council chambers, second floor of City Hall.** We welcome you to attend and express your concerns to the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Any correspondence previously communicated to the department on this issue will be included with the staff report to the Commission. ATTACHMENT 1

OVERNIGHT AND DAY USE PERMITS IN SKOFIELD

A number of issues were mentioned related to overnight and day use permitting of events in Skofield Park. We are interested in working through these issues to see whether Parks and Recreation should consider changes to how such use is permitted and managed. Some of the issues mentioned included vehicle access to the lower driveway, gate locking procedures, park monitor presence during events, etc. If you would like to take part in the discussion, please let me know.

DOGS OFF LEASH - SKOFIELD PARK AND SHEFFIELD OPEN SPACE

Parks and Recreation recently received a petition asking that hours be designated for off-leash dogs in Skofield Park and Sheffield Open Space. We anticipate holding a public meeting on this request some time after the new year. If you would like to receive notification on this topic please let me know.

Thank you,
Nancy Rapp

Nancy L. Rapp
PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR
City of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 1990-1999
620 Laguna Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1999
(805) 564-5431
nrapp@santabarbaraca.gov

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2014.0.4158 / Virus Database: 3629/6820 - Release Date: 11/08/13