



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, September 24, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb (Chair)
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Carolyn Brown
Commissioner Nichol Clark
Commissioner Jim Heaton
Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez
Parks and Recreation Director Nancy L. Rapp
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Manager Judith McCaffrey
Recreation Manager Rich Hanna
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Sr. Supervisor Mark M. Alvarado
Interim City Administrator Paul Casey
Water System Manager Kathy Taylor
Principal Engineer Linda Sumansky
Project Engineer II Philip Maldonado

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Olivia Uribe

Liaisons Present

Councilmember Murillo

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Ms. Rapp recommended that Item 3, Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation, and Item 4, Alameda Park Well Relocation Project, be addressed concurrently. Ms. Rapp further suggested that the Item 5, Haley Street Youth Center Presentation, be addressed prior to Items 3 and 4. The Commission concurred.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

The Commission received the Media Release dated 9/24/2014, Subject: Barbecues Shut Down at Selected City Parks.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Youth Intern Rodriguez provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

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

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation. She said that PARC is starting to plan for the 90+ Birthday party, which will be held on October 23, 2014. Ms. Longstreet reported that she attended the Neighborhood Advisory Council Retreat. She further said she attended the Cabrillo Bathhouse public meeting.

Commissioner Brown reported on the activities of the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Chair Wiscomb reported that she too attended the Cabrillo Bathhouse public meeting, which was very well-attended and garnered some insightful public comment.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: Ms, Rapp introduced Rich Hanna, Recreation Manager. She highlighted his background and strengths and reviewed the duties he will assume. Commissioners congratulated Mr. Hanna on his promotion.

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 August 27, 2014.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 27, 2014.

Absent: Casebeer/Uribe

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

Any action of the Parks and Recreation Commission made pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 15.24, Preservation of Trees, may be appealed to the City Council within ten days.

3. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated September 24, 2014
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Conditionally approve the following Park Tree removal request:

1. Alameda Park – (2) *Strelitzia Nicolai*, Giant Bird of Paradise, (1) *Butia capitata*, Pindo Palm, (1) *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, King Palm and (1) *Cordyline australis*, Dracaena – City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to approve the removal of the trees contingent upon the approval of the Alameda Well Relocation Project, and replacements as stated.

Absent: Casebeer/Uribe

NEW BUSINESS

4. Alameda Park Well Relocation Project – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated August 27, 2014
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Project Engineer Philip Maldonado, PE

Recommendation: That the Commission

A. Recommend to City Council that the design proposed for the Alameda Park Well Relocation Project is compatible with the use and character of Alameda Park;

B. Make the following findings pursuant to SBMC section 28.37.025 to approve the relocation of the existing groundwater well:

- i. That the proposed park and recreation improvements are appropriate or necessary for the benefit of the community and visitors;
- ii. That the proposed park and recreation facilities including lighting, play areas, parking facilities and associated landscaping, will be compatible with the character of the neighborhood;
- iii. That the total area of the site and the setbacks of all facilities from the property lines and street are sufficient, in view of the physical character of the land, proposed development and neighborhood, to avoid significant negative effects on surrounding properties;
- iv. That the intensity of park use is appropriate and compatible with the character of the neighborhood;
- v. That the proposed park and recreation facilities are compatible with the scenic character of the City; and
- vi. That any proposed structures or buildings are compatible with the neighborhood in terms of size, bulk and scale of location; and

C. Make the following findings pursuant to City Charter section 520:

- i. The well relocation is compatible with and accessory to the purposes to which the property is devoted because : A) a portion of the water supply

developed by the well will be devoted to park irrigation and maintenance, thus rendering the well accessory to the park use; B) the findings made above pursuant to SBMC section 28.37.025 demonstrate that the well location is compatible with park uses; C) use of the well will be by agreement between the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Departments, and fully regulated by the City; and D) permission for the well will be contingent upon the Parks and Recreation and Public Works Department reaching agreement to the satisfaction of the City Administrator on all relevant construction and use issues, including appropriate compensation for the use of the parkland.

The Commission received a detailed presentation on the project and their questions were answered.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and passed 5/0 concur with the recommendations outlined in Item 4A, B i. – vi.; and Ci. (A-D), and make those findings pursuant to SBMC section 28.37.025 and Section 520 of the City Charter.

Absent: Casebeer/Uribe

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Haley Street Youth Center Presentation – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation from staff of the Channel Islands YMCA regarding the vision, progress, and future plans for leasing the Haley Street Youth Center.

Documents:

- Staff Report dated September 24, 2014
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Channel Islands YMCA Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Neighborhood and Outreach Services Sr. Supervisor Mark M. Alvarado
- Members of the Public: Associate Executive Director Vince Luculano, Channel Islands YMCA

The Commission unanimously received the report and their questions were answered.

6. Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Projects and Six-Year Capital Improvement Program – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a status report on General Fund Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015 capital projects and discuss key considerations in the development of the FY 2016 – 2021 General Fund Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Documents:

- Staff Report dated September 24, 2014
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Rapp; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Jill Zachary

Commissioner Longstreet commented on the density in the downtown corridor, and said she sees a need in that area. She said it would be helpful for a map that shows the density and the parks to be placed in Council Chambers for the Planning Commission, and in the Gebhard Room for the Architectural Board of Review and Historic Landmarks Commission so that when these projects come through they can better see the relationship. Ms. Longstreet stated there is a strong need for more open space; she said they are so excited about the Bath/Ortega Street pocket park for 2-5 year olds. Ms. Longstreet expressed the need to somehow tie open space to development. She said the City needs to get a dog park in the downtown area and on the northside. Ms. Longstreet asked what it takes to put a fence up and start a dog park on a trial basis. She said there is definitely a need for a master plan. Ms. Longstreet commented the City has had such good luck on the playground replacment program, she would like to have a park infrastructure program that matches it. She said she realizes some years staff does not get to everything, but it would be stated in the plan and City Council would know what is not done. Ms. Longstreet commented that trash cans, park tables, water fountains, fences, etc., are just as important as turf, trees, and plants, etc.

Ms. Longstreet commented that she appreciates seeing so many projects starting to move forward and the ability to have more staff to move them forward.

Ms. Zachary addressed the comment regarding the dog park saying that staff is in the process of doing a feasibilty study of the potential to locate places for dogs off-leash in existing parks, whether in an exclosed area or an open space area. Ms. Zachary reported that staff is looking location by location, at current uses, at the potential to repurpose, and will be coming up with a matrix of the pros and cons in an effort to come to some solutions. She said she anticipates staff will have that information to share with the Commission in March 2015 for their discussion and for public comment as well. Ms. Zachary said the opportunity to get new parkland for that purpose can be added to the mix, but is a little more hypothetical, so for now staff is looking at existing park areas. She said it will not be timely enough to be incorporated into the capital program, but it can be incorporated in as a concept or the need to look at recreation trends over time including taking into consideration that community desire as well.

Commissioner Heaton concurred the master plan is a good idea and the way to incorporate such future planning as the dog park. He said he would like to see discussion or the inclusion of energy efficiency in some of the retrofits, e.g., lighting—adding solar lighting where it makes sense, replacing fixtures when renovating facilities to be more energy efficient.

Commissioner Brown commented that she attended the Cabrillo Bathhouse community meeting and said she likes the plan and all of the proposed upgrades. She asked whether the East Beach Playground was part of that project.

Ms. Zachary said the playground is included in the project description, but subsequently it was determined when beginning the development/review process that it could be taken on a separate permitting process and would not need to wait for the renovation of the facility. She said it will be removed from the project description.

Commissioner Brown asked regarding the Tennis Court lighting whether there are a lot of requests for nighttime tennis; is there a high demand for that? Ms. Zachary said yes, there is. She said the Department has been very fortunate that its been a priority of the

City to convert a lot of the light fixtures to energy efficient lighting. She said the Department has worked with the Public Works Facilities Division where they have prioritized areas in the City and Parks and Recreation Department facilities, in particular, whether it is lighting, a heating element, a pump at Los Baños, to swap things out and replace it with more energy efficient fixtures.

Mr. Hanna briefed that there is a great deal of demand for nighttime tennis in this community. He said that since the Department went through the transition with the Las Positas Tennis Facility to Elings Park, which was lighted, the Department has seen an increased demand in the tennis time in the evenings. Mr. Hanna said as he travels around to the various courts, he sees an early morning presence, a quiet time in the middle of the morning, it builds momentum in the afternoon, and there is a lot more increase play in the evening hours.

Commissioner Brown asked whether there are opportunities for construction companies in the City to come together and donate their time to alleviate some of the cost. Ms. Zachary said it is feasible, but there have not been a lot of companies coming forward to do so. She said there would be legal and liability issues that would need to be addressed, before that could occur.

Commissioner Clark said she likes the idea of incorporating the concept of dog parks in the master plan, but asked what that would look like. Ms. Zachary said she has not yet formulated that yet, but suggested there could be a capital project, for example, "Develop a new dog park off-leash area in any one of City park locations". Ms. Zachary said it would be better if the Department were specific about where and how it would be done; however, rather than do that, the Department would put it as part of the discussion of the master plan, the community needs, and how it would be incorporated as a part of the master plan process. Ms. Zachary said that would not prevent the Department from, separate from the capital program and the master plan, continuing on the feasibility study. She said there may be recommendations that come out of that study which result in the Department amending the capital program making it a higher priority.

Commissioner Clark commented that some teens are not satisfied with the Skatepark – she asked if an additional skatepark be considered in a master plan? She further asked if bikers could be considered.

Ms. Zachary said Commissioner Clark's points are valid. She said part of the purpose of a master plan is to vet trends and community needs, and spend the time looking at where where things would be done. She said the master plan would be the guiding document; that is not to say they couldn't say it is a priority and they want to develop a bike park, for example. Ms. Zachary said the broad diversity of recreation needs in the community, and the fact that there are only 18.2 square miles, and the City has only so many public acres, needs to be taken into consideration. She said part of what is Commissioner Clark is asking is part of the discussion that would take place during the development of the master plan.

Ms. Rapp commented that the City has very developed parks that have a lot of historical relevance and significance in the community, which does not leave the Department with a lot of opportunities to look at reimagining the parks. She said staff gets excited about the opportunity if the City would be able to acquire the Army Reserve Property at State Street and Las Positas Road. She said it is in the City's General Plan to add that space to serve Parks and Recreation needs. Ms. Rapp said the Department would want to

scrape the park and redesign it; that is the kind of opportunity where you can look at in in a big picture view, and it would help to have a master plan to guide those discussions.

Chair Wiscomb concurred that there is a great need for a Parks and Facilities Master Plan. She said she would like to see something similar to what we have for park restroom renovation, playground replacement program, park infrastructure safety program, for landscape maintenance because that is what everyone sees in the City, whether they are a community member, a visitor, etc. She said it would be great to allocate funds and prioritize the areas that could be improved. Ms. Wiscomb said she would like to see the Department pursue artificial turf projects, particularly at Bohnett Park. She stated she would like a dog park and is pleased a feasibility study will be done. Ms. Wiscomb expressed the hope that possibly a temporary dog park can be set up as a test case to see how it works out. She commented about the Carrillo Ballroom air conditioning—this facility provides the Department revenue, and air conditioning should be a priority to make it a more comfortable space. Ms. Wiscomb commented that things like that can help generate revenue and are important. She said the play area at Municipal Tennis is a small project; small projects excite the community and go a long way, and she would like to see that pursued. Ms. Wiscomb said regarding the Cabrillo Pavilion Bathhouse renovation and Cabrillo Pavilion landscape renovation projects, that economy of scale could possibly meld those two projects together. Ms. Wiscomb said she is pleased the Cabrillo Ballfield project is on the list; it is a very important project for that part of the community and has been a long time coming. Finally, Chair Wiscomb expressed that the master plan could be helpful, because unlike several years ago, staff and the Commission can be more visionary and optimistic and dream bigger. She said the master plan will provide the structure to carry the vision through if there are priorities.

7. Fiscal Year 2014 Year-End Performance Measures Summary Report – For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission receives the Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2014 Year-End Performance Measures Summary Report.

Documents:

- Staff Report dated September 24, 2014

The Commission received the written report.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:10 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks & Recreation Director