



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**Wednesday, August 28, 2013**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Wiscomb

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners & Staff Present**

Commissioner Megan Alley  
Commissioner Chris Casebeer  
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara  
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb  
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp  
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna  
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.  
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey  
Administrative Assistant Terri Yamada  
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Sr. Supervisor Mark Alvarado  
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Recreation Specialist Mark Sherman

**Commissioners Absent:**

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:**

None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Speaker: Mr. Gene Tyburn

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

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

Commissioner Ferrara reported that the Creeks Advisory Committee conducted a site visit to various parking lots where permeable pavers have been installed.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee. He said the Santa Barbara Youth Council did not meet.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She said she attended the Children's Fiesta Parade with Commissioner Alley, which was a great event. Ms. Wiscomb said she attended the Youth Council meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> to go over Bohnett Park survey information. She briefed that she attended the Skate Park Outreach Event held on August 14<sup>th</sup>; she said it was a well-organized event, with a large turn-out, a great event.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Rapp reminded the Commission and the public that there are two vacancies on the Commission with a potential for an additional two vacancies, as there are two members who are running for City Council. She said the City is in the recruitment process, and encouraged interested members to talk to sitting Commissioners or call her office for more information. Ms. Rapp expressed the importance of getting back to a full Commission of seven members.

Commissioner Casebeer asked Ms. Rapp to review the residency requirements. Ms. Rapp stated that applicants must be City residents.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. Summary of Council Actions – For Information

The Commission received the Summary of Council Actions. Chair Wiscomb called the Commissioner's attention to item 5, which is an appeal of a decision of the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding a tree removal request at 2610 Hacienda Court. She said the appeal is scheduled to be heard by City Council on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, with a site visit on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 24, 2013.

**Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Alley, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 24, 2013.**

**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
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal requests, with conditions.
  1. 2946 De La Vina St. – (1) Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine, (1) Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine, (3) Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pines – Foothill Pacific, LLC

Mr. Downey highlighted this tree removal request. He stated that 2924 De la Vina Street is off of Archers Alley—a named alley; the trees in the planters between the parking lot and the alley are considered front setback trees because it is a named alley. Mr. Downey reported that the applicant is requesting to remove three Canary Island Pine trees, two of which are in the front setback. He said they are also requesting the removal of one Aleppo Pine tree and one Italian Stone Pine stating they are causing damage to the parking lot and to the alley. Mr. Downey briefed that the applicant is concerned that the tree closest to the building will cause damage to the foundation and that the trees drop sap when they are pruned and sometimes when there are insects.

Mr. Downey indicated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed the removal request and determined that the Canary Island Pine tree closest to the building has developed a nice canopy and they would like to see that tree preserved, if possible. He said the Street Tree Advisory Committee's recommendation is to approve the removal of the Aleppo Pine tree, Italian Stone Pine tree, and the one smaller Canary Island Pine tree, on the condition they are replaced with a tree that can achieve 30-feet in height, and that is suitable for the size of the planters. Mr. Downey said the Street Tree Advisory Committee further recommends that if at the time of construction, the necessary root pruning would destabilize the fourth tree, they recommend that tree also be replaced with a like replacement tree. He clarified that the recommendation is to approve the removal of three trees and deny the removal on one tree.

**Public Comment:** Speaker: Ms. Courtney Keele on behalf of applicant.

Commissioner Alley asked Mr. Downey how the parking lots loss of integrity would affect any new trees that might be brought in, for example, if the parking lot is already letting water through because it is crumpling in areas, will that lend itself to continued damage even with a new tree being planted.

Mr. Downey said when sunlight hits pavement or asphalt, a layer of condensation develops underneath the hardscape – it is a prime area for tree roots to develop, and this is how trees explore the area to lift the hardscapes. He expressed his willingness to work with the applicant to develop an irrigation schedule that will develop more favorable areas for the roots to grow, which would discourage further damage, but not completely eliminate it.

Commissioner Ferrara asked Mr. Downey the health of the trees in question, taking the parking lot out of the equation, and how would the future health of the trees be if they remained in the current location.

Mr. Downey reported that Aleppo Pine and Italian Stone Pine trees are infants compared to what they can become; the smaller of the two trees is the same kind of trees that are on East Anapamu that have become Historic Trees. He said the space in which the trees are currently planted is already being disrupted by the trees, and it can only get much worse as they develop. Mr. Downey reported that the trees are in good health.

Commissioner Ferrara clarified that the issue is basically the effect they are having on the surrounding parking lot area. Mr. Downey said, yes.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the item was very well discussed. She said the with respect to the tree closest to the building, yes, there is some parking lot damage. She said that at some point, Ms. Keele indicated that there is no plan to replace the parking lot, but the Street Tree Advisory Committee's opinion was that if that area was repaired, and some root pruning was done on the tree closest to the building, and it did compromise the tree, at that point an administrative decision to remove it could be made. Ms. Wiscomb said she supports the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to allow the removal of the three trees with replacements that will achieve a minimum height of 30 feet, suitable for the size of the planters, and denial of the removal of the fourth tree for the time being, unless an administrative approval is necessary in the future.

**Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to approve the removal of the three designated trees, conditioned that the applicant provide three replacement trees capable of reaching a minimum height of 30 feet and be an appropriate size for planters, and leaving one Canary Island Pine tree in place for further review at 2946 De La Vina Street.**

2. 3714-3744 State St. – (1) Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda, (1) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm – Ken Marshall, Dudek

Mr. Downey provided an overview of this removal request. He said this site is currently the Sandman Inn. Mr. Downey said there was a previous project proposed for this site, for which the Commission reviewed setback tree removal requests; however, the project has been changed. Mr. Downey briefed that the project now proposes to preserve many of the trees within the project, but the current design necessitates the removal of two trees.

Mr. Downey reported that the Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed the removal request, the Jacaranda tree and the Mexican Fan Palm tree, and made their recommendations. Mr. Downey stated that since the Street Tree Advisory Committee meeting, staff has determined that there are two setbacks for this property: one setback is 20 feet and one is 10 feet. He said the only way the 20-foot setback would come into play is if there are existing two-story buildings fronting State Street, or there are proposed two-story buildings fronting State Street. Mr. Downey indicated that neither of these factors is true; therefore, the setback is 10 feet. He said the Jacaranda tree is outside of that 10-foot setback and not under the jurisdiction of the Commission; therefore, it is no longer under consideration. Mr. Downey stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed the Mexican Fan Palm tree and recommends approval of that removal request.

Mr. Downey said the Street Tree Advisory Committee had some comments on other trees within the project. He said they commented that they would like to see the Jacaranda tree preserved by redesigning the driveway, but reiterated that the tree is not within the Commission's jurisdiction. Mr. Downey said the Committee commented on impacts to the Atlas cedar and expressed concern that the construction around that tree would have significant impacts on the health of that tree. Mr. Downey indicated that the project has provided a response to that concern, which has been provided to the Commission. He said the report does not

describe the construction of the patio and whether or not the construction methods can be altered to preserve the tree roots. He said he will be working with the applicant to provide information in that area. Mr. Downey stated that the Committee expressed that this tree is very important to the area and wanted to see all possible measures taken to preserve it in place. He said the Committee's recommendation is to approve the removal of the Mexican Fan Palm.

Commissioner Ferrara asked whether there will be a replacement tree for the Mexican Fan Palm tree. Mr. Downey indicated that a specific tree has not been identified, but there are many trees being planted as part of this project. He said the applicant also proposes to plant street trees, for which he will work with them regarding species and locations.

**Public Comment:** Speaker: Gregg Parker

Chair Wiscomb ask Mr. Parker what is their process moving forward, because of the concern for the Atlas cedar. Mr. Parker said they will resubmit to DART responding to comments received; go to the Architectural Board of Review; and back to the Planning Commission. He said it is a modification of an existing project, and they will probably reapply within 30 days depending upon the engineers work.

Commissioner Casebeer asked if there is any change of relocating the Mexican Fan Palm trees. Mr. Downey said the tree was slated for relocation during the first review; however, since that time there is concern that its health has declined. He said that whenever you relocate large trees such as this, they should be in optimum health. Mr. Downey said that with the extreme expense it would take to relocate the tree and the chance of its survival, the Committee's opinion was that removal was warranted.

Chair Wiscomb commented that according to the proposed plan, there is a significant increase in the number of trees that are to be planted or relocated on the property (143 existing/258 proposed).

**Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Alley, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee to approve the removal of the Washington robusta, Mexican Fan Palm at 3713 – 3744 State Street.**

Chair Wiscomb commented regarding her concern for the Atlas cedar, that she thinks the Street Tree Advisory Committee will take that topic up again and try to obtain Specimen Tree status for the tree to make sure it is protected. She said the Committee was very concerned about the proximity of the tree to the patio, and wants to make sure the root system of the tree is not compromised during construction. Ms. Wiscomb expressed that she hopes the applicant makes every effort to make sure that happens, moving forward.

- B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.
  - 1. 802 W. Pedregosa St. – Quercus agrifolia, Coast Live Oak – Brian Wingate

**Chair Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation and approve the setback tree removal request at 802 W. Pedregosa Street.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORT:**

4. Urban Forest Management Plan Project – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

- A. Receive a status report on the Urban Forest Management Plan project; and
- B. Review and provide comments on the draft Goals, Objectives and Key Actions.

**Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Ferrara commented that the City has a vibrant, wonderful, beautiful, and diverse canopy of trees that you do not find in too many other places. He expressed the need to factor in climate change into the plan, saying it is going to play a big part in what the City does in the future with its trees. Mr. Ferrara said that as a whole, he sees the document as the beginning of a great plan for the future of trees in Santa Barbara. He said he would like to see the public get involved, he wants to see how the City can work with private property owners who have trees on their property so there is no contention. Mr. Ferrara said trees are more important than what any one individual has to say about them. He said the community needs to be looked at as a whole, all of the trees, and consider what is best for many years to come.

Commissioner Casebeer echoed Commissioner Ferrara's comments. He said staff did great work; plan is very comprehensive and one with which the City can move forward. He expressed he was happy to see emphasis placed on the importance of young tree care, saying a great deal of money is invested by the City and its partners like Santa Barbara Beautiful to plant new trees, and those trees are vulnerable to vandalism. Mr. Casebeer stressed the importance of maintaining these new trees.

Commissioner Alley commented that she attended the Council presentation regarding this topic, and there was a large member of the Real Estate community in attendance at that meeting. She stated that it shows the collaboration and how valuable the urban canopy really is. Ms. Alley said she is excited to look forward to objectives 13 – 15; really focusing on community involvement; getting some of the 7,000 empty tree wells filled with trees; finding young people to engage; and finding the arborists of tomorrow and getting them to explore their love of the environment and getting involved in the City in that way. She said the Commission and staff can do a good job with outreach to let the community members know they want to work with them and are inspired by their desire to do so. Ms. Alley concurred with Commissioner Ferrara that climate change is a very important aspect that needs addressed in the action plan, and the tree master plan is key as well.

Chair Wiscomb noted that the Technical Advisory Committee has a representative from Southern California Edison, which has been very helpful in going through the process. She said that is a key area where there is sometimes community outrage. She expressed appreciation for the way the plan is laid out. Ms. Wiscomb said she likes the idea of a urban forest task team in the City—it is very important, land development is sometimes not well-coordinated when it comes to trees and plantings, and a much more coordinated effort and awareness is needs to be an earlier part of the process.

Chair Wiscomb said, regarding the City Organization and Policy, Objective 10, Action 4, Integrate Tree Resource Management Objectives into Future Updates of Parks and Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan, that it is extremely important. She said she likes the objective about the technical assistant program to support planning and care of trees on private property—it is important to encourage property owners to do that. She said that is an important key in the educational process; the educational component of the urban forest and the values of the urban forest has been a big emphasis of the Technical Advisory Committee. Ms. Wiscomb said she would like to see a little more emphasis on the health of the residents as a result of trees; there have been a lot of studies that conclude residents in areas with trees are healthier. She said, regarding Objective 15, Expanding Public/Private Partnerships, she did not see anything under Action 1, about non-profits, but Santa Barbara Beautiful is a big supporter of the Street Tree Program and care of the City's trees. She suggested making sure the importance of non-profits is made clear.

Chair Wiscomb commented Regarding Goal 4, Foster Awareness and Appreciation for Trees, that she would like to see something about the value of trees, for example, "Fostering Awareness of the Value and Appreciation of Trees".

Chair Wiscomb commended Ms. Zachary and staff for the organizational effort that has gone into putting this plan together and getting it down into something that is very logical and understandable.

5. Neighborhood and Outreach Services' Community Kitchen and Culinary Programs – For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Westside Community Kitchen, Culinary Programs, and proposed Food Production Academy.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint
- Speakers:
- Staff: Mark M. Alvarado, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Sr. Supervisor; Mark Sherman, Recreation Specialist

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

**OLD BUSINESS – None**

**NEW BUSINESS - None**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:55 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks & Recreation Director