



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**February 15, 2012**

**Council Chambers, 735 Anacapa St.**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Betsy Weber called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Committee members present:, Danielle De Smeth, Lee Moldaver, Betsy Weber, Natasha Lohmus, LeeAnne French, Annie Marroquin

Committee members absent: Stephen Macintosh, Paul Bullock

Liaison members present: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Planner George Thomson

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 18, 2012.

Vote:

Voice vote 5/0

**AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one wished to speak.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

**7. 2012 SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Bullock, Mr. Moldaver, and Ms. Weber were reappointed to the Budget Subcommittee.

Ms. De Smeth and Ms. Lohmus were reappointed to the Watershed Subcommittee.

**8. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**a. Mason Street Bridge Replacement Project Update**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation, discuss the Mason Street Bridge Replacement Project and provide comments regarding the proposed project design.

Speakers:

John Ewasiuk, Principal Engineer

Public Comment:

Eddie Harris, President of SB Urban Creeks Council, expressed concerns regarding the size of the project and impact on aquatic habitats.

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding habitat for the endangered Tidewater Goby within the project area, the size of the replacement Sycamore trees and other mitigation trees, the width and alignment of Kimberly Avenue including potential for sidewalk removal, the use of vertical concrete walls along the creek, the width of the proposed bridge, replacing vertical walls on the upstream side of near Kimberly avenue with sloped banks, seeking an exemption to state or federal requirements in order to reduce width of the bridge; and, whether or not the proposed bridge reflects the character of the neighborhood.

Motion:

Committee member Moldaver/Lohmus to submit letter to Historic Landmarks Committee on behalf of Committee outlining recommendations for bridge design.

Vote: 5/0

**b. Laguna Channel & Mission Lagoon Restoration Project Preliminary Design**

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the Laguna Channel and Mission Lagoon Restoration Project and recommend that Council award a contract to conduct the necessary technical studies and design work.

Speakers:

George Thomson, Creeks Planner

Public Comment:

Eddie Harris, President of SB Urban Creeks Council, spoke in support of the project and it's positive influence on both the creeks and our economy.

Mr. Benson noted that Brian Trautwein of the Environmental Defense Center could not attend but provided a letter in support of the project and noted it's potential to improve water quality, as well as increase awareness and pollution prevention.

Mr. Benson also noted that Paul Bullock, as a member of the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging and Restaurant Association, also provided a letter expressing concerns regarding expanding of the lagoon and support of restoration in the area.

**Committee Questions/Discussion:**

Committee members asked questions regarding the status on the restoration behind the wastewater treatment plant, where in the budget funding for this project located, how the project will address algae and nutrients in the lagoon; and, recommended meetings with permitting agencies during design.

Mr. Thomson reported that Council recently approved the Wastewater Dept's request for a Environmental Consultant for a restoration of the portion of the channel behind the wastewater treatment plant and efforts will be coordinated with this project; and, that consultants have been asked to develop a plan to address issues relating to water quality both in the lagoon and other areas included in the project.

Mr. Benson reported that the project has been part of the Division's Capital Improvement Program with funds being allocated over the last two years, that the Division is actively researching grants to supplement Measure B funding; And, that the Division has and will continue to reach out to permitting agencies however regulatory staff is rarely available as a resource during the early design phase of a project.

**Motion:**

Committee members Moldaver/Lohmus to recommend Council enter into a contract

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:**

Committee members Moldaver/DeSmeth to adjourn.  
Ms Weber adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cameron Benson  
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager