



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

SPECIAL MEETING

March 14, 2012

David Gebhard Meeting Room, 630 Garden St.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Paul Bullock called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present:, Paul Bullock, Betsy Weber, Natasha Lohmus, LeeAnne French, Stephen Macintosh

Committee members absent: Lee Moldaver, Danielle De Smeth, Annie Marroquin

Liaison members present: Council Liaison Frank Hotchkiss

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Planner George Thomson, Assistant Parks & Recreation Manager Jill Zachary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

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

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

Mr. MacIntosh arrived 5:40

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Mason Street Bridge Replacement Project Liaison Report

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a report discuss the Mason Street Bridge Replacement Project.

Speakers:

LeeAnne French, Committee Liaison

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak.

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members requested a presentation from Planning Staff regarding the longterm goals of the area surrounding the bridge project to better understand the decisions being made regarding bridge size.

b. Andree Clark Bird Refuge Vegetation Maintenance and Restoration Project Funding

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the Parks Division's Andree Clark Bird Refuge Vegetation Maintenance and Restoration Project and provide a recommendation to City Council regarding whether Measure B is an appropriate source of funding for the project.

Speakers:

Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members discussed reasons why they felt the project did not fall under the Funding Guidelines for Measure B including: the project not qualifying as a "restoration" of the area, the project not improving water quality in the City, whether the project would be funded by any other municipality without a Measure B program as vector or flood control, this type of project has always been funded by the general fund in the past, that Measure B funds are not to be used for regulatory compliance to permitting agencies; and, that the planting portion of the project is required mitigation for the wetland plant removal.

Motion:

Committee members Weber/Lohmus to recommend to Council that the project is not an appropriate use of Measure B Funds.

c. Status Update – Mission Creek Fish Passage at the Caltrans Channels

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation on the status of the steelhead passage project on Mission Creek at the Caltrans Channels.

Speakers:

George Johnson, Creeks Supervisor

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding steelhead that were trapped in the lower areas of Mission Creek, the spawning season for steelhead, whether funds are set aside for the project or if it will fully rely on grants, how flow measurements will be taken at higher levels, how long it will take to complete the upper portion of the Channel; and, if there are any design changes that will be made in the lower channel portion of the project.

Mr Johnson reported that steelhead that were trapped below the channels in 2008 could not have made it above the channels due to low depth and high flow rates, that the spawning season is typically from December through April but can depend on variables such as rain, the Department of Fish & Game supplied a grant for a cable system to be installed that will enable high flow measurements to be taken in the channel, that the remaining 80 feet of the channel should take about a month to complete starting in May and includes an access road; and, that with the exception of using less materials, such as rebar, for cost savings, no significant design changes are anticipated.

Mr Benson reported that the project to date has been approximately 90% grant funded, however some Measure b funds have been set aside for matching funds for grant requirements; and, that the measurements taken will be used by the Department of Fish & Game to determine the usefulness of this design in other areas in the state.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Macintosh/Weber to adjourn.
Ms Weber adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager