



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

SPECIAL MEETING

April 23, 2014

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street

CALL TO ORDER

Betsy Weber called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Betsy Weber, Natasha Lohmus, LeeAnne French, Danielle De Smeth, James Hawkins

Committee members absent: Paul Bullock, Lee Moldaver

Liaison members present: Council Member Gregg Hart, Planning Commissioner June Pujo

Liaison members absent: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Nick Ferrara

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Water Quality Research Coordinator Jill Murray

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee Members French/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 11, 2013.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0. (French abstained, Bullock and Moldaver absent)

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Motion:

Committee Members DeSmeth/Lohmus to nominate Mr. Hawkins as Vice Chair.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0 (Hawkins abstained, Bullock and Moldaver absent)

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Southern Coastal Santa Barbara Creeks Bioassessment Program and 2013 Report

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive a presentation and discuss the Southern Coastal Santa Barbara Creeks Bioassessment Program and 2013 Report.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2014
Power Point Presentation – April 2014

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Water Quality Research Coordinator, Jeff Brinkman, Ecology Consultants.

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding kinds of changes to the IBI for the Creeks, long term trends; and, how many years it should take to see increase in diversity in restoration areas.

Mr. Brinkman reported that the new IBI will include wide range of metrics as well as refining some details and possibly changing some locations, there is no noticeable decrease or increase in stream health but episodic stressors appear to have different affects over the years; and, that restoration results depend greatly on site characteristics.

b. Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommend approval of the proposed Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2015 Budget to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2014

Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Manager

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the number of grants available/applied for; and, type of grants applied for.

Mr. Benson reported that less grants were available that fit the planned capital projects, and described the cost effectiveness of using staff time for small grants;

and, that the Division is looking for ways to partner with other organizations to increase our grant opportunities.

Motion:

Committee Members French/Weber to recommend approval of the proposed Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2015 Budget to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

Vote:

Voice vote 5/0 (Bullock and Moldaver absent)

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. DeSmeth adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager