



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

**Parks Division
Integrated Pest Management
IPM ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, January 21, 2014
Parks Breakroom
402 E. Ortega St.
9:00 a.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Chittick at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL:

Voting Members:

Present: Greg Chittick, Kristen LaBonte, Larry Saltzman

Commission Liaison:

Present: Nick Ferrera

Staff:

Present: Santos Escobar, Tim Downey, Ken Brown, Chris Toth, Public Works, Kevin Thompson, Public Works, Terri Yamada

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Escobar announced the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden Volunteer Work Day On January 11.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made and seconded (LaBonte/Saltzman) to approve the minutes of September 16, 2013. The motion passed (3/0).

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Public Works Exemption Requests

- Wastewater Division:

Chris Toth, Public Works Wastewater Division, was present to request a pilot project for use of herbicides in the City wastewater system to help maintain the sewer system. The herbicide would be sprayed into the pipes to kill root mass that migrates into the pipes

through cracks and voids where sewer laterals connect to the sewer pipes. This process of using herbicides would last approximately two years.

Mr. Ferrera inquired where this type of work had been performed in the past, whether there are side effects and if it might affect above ground trees. Mr. Toth responded that there are no known effects to above ground trees. Mr. Saltzman asked about the persistence of the herbicides and any effects on the environment. Mr. Toth responded that the chemical Vaporooter has no impact on the wastewater biological process. Razorooter could have some negative impact on the wastewater biological process. Mr. Chittick noted that the City of Sacramento research showed that Vaporooter has higher toxicity to fish and the marine environment and asked about the pilot program and how it would be revisited. Mr. Toth responded that, yes, this is a pilot project, and a return to mechanical methods would occur and testing would be done at the plant. Tim Downey, City Urban Forest Superintendent was present and expressed some concern with unknowns, noting the 1973 Sacramento research showing some effects on trees, and with the City currently in a drought cycle, trees are already stressed. He expressed concern for impacts on all trees, both street trees and private property trees.

Mr. Ferrera asked if this request could be approved on a trial system. Mr. Saltzman added that the work stay away from Historic Specimen trees. Ms. LaBonte volunteered to do further research for the Committee to review during the trial period. A motion was made and seconded (Chittick/LaBonte) that Public Works staff and contractor work with Mr. Downey to complete a test on limited application areas to see if there is effect on trees, with an additional request of Public Works staff for more studies/literature and that future requests of this nature fully spell out the name of chemicals. The motion passed unanimously (3/0). Mr. Downey felt that any effects on trees would likely be seen in a couple of months.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.