



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Joint Meeting of
THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Corrected Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Forsell at 4:03 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present

Steve Forsell	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Beebe Longstreet	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Arnoldo Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Daraka Larimore-Hall	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Laura Spracher	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Sarah Clayton	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Nancy Woods	Business Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Superintendent
Scott Jorgensen	Golf Course Superintendent
Ken Brown	Crew Leader
Dave Gress	City Arborist
Antonio Velasquez	Recreation Supervisor
Karla Megill	Executive Secretary
Josh Morton	Police Officer

Liaisons Present

Das Williams	City Councilmember
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INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER - Ms. Rapp introduced Mr. Daraka Larimore-Hall, who was appointed to the Commission in December 2005. She indicated that staff met with Mr. Larimore-Hall and provided him with an overview of the Department. Ms. Rapp highlighted Mr. Larimore-Hall's background and education. She indicated that staff is pleased to have him serve on the Commission and look forward to having him serve on the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM _____

INTRODUCTION OF PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION INTERN – Ms. Rapp introduced Laura Spracher, newly appointed Youth Intern. Ms. Spracher was appointed by Council in December 2005. Ms. Rapp indicated that Ms. Spracher serves on the Santa Barbara Youth Council and will provide the Youth Council report at each Commission meeting. She briefly highlighted Ms. Spracher’s background and provided an overview of the criteria that must be met in order to be appointed as a Youth Intern.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Ms. Rapp indicated that she has already addressed item 6, Introduction of Laura Spracher, Park and Recreation Commission Youth Intern that the Commission. She also recommended that the Commission address items 7, Elings Park Foundation Annual Report and Financial Statement, and item 8, Santa Barbara Zoo Annual Maintenance Report, immediately following the Volunteer Recognition. The Commission concurred with these changes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Gonzalez reported on the activities of the Santa Barbara Youth Council. He said they getting organized and planning training on Roberts Rules of Orders. He further indicated that the Youth Council is working on their Bylaws. Mr. Gonzalez said that he had the opportunity to install a new member of the Franklin Center Advisory Committee, Ms. Araceli Villalpando.

Commissioner Conner reported on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Community Foundation (PARC) Foundation. She asked Nancy to inform the public about the award the Department was given from the Santa Barbara News-Press. Ms. Rapp said that the PARC Foundation was selected as one of the two non-profit organizations to be featured in the News-Press Holiday Fund, so throughout the holiday season, articles featuring the work that PARC does and various agencies are able to do with the assistance of PARC. She said that donations will go to the News-Press, but staff does not yet know what the final donations will be from the News-Press Holiday Fund, but the Department is very grateful and appreciative of the News-Press for sharing the 2005 Holiday Campaign with the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: - Intern Spracher provided this report. She said that the Youth Council received an award from the California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) for their community service. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council are working on raising funds for the Teen Center. Mr. Forsell asked approximately when the Teen Center will open, as he has a piano to donate. Ms. Spracher indicated that the youth are hopeful to open the center in August. Ms. Rapp interjected that staff will be providing the Commission with a more up-to-date report on the Teen Center. She said that the Department received grant funds from the State and the project will be going out to bid for construction soon.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** There were no comments.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. Regular meeting of November 16, 2005.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 2005.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. Recognition of Kiwanis Club

Ms. Clayton introduced Kimberly Coley, Adapted Recreation Programs, who presented Ms. Angela Bevin, Kiwanis Club with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their volunteer service and donation towards the Adapted Programs Thanksgiving Dinner on November 23, 2005.

4. Recognition of Unity Shoppe

Mr. Velasquez presented Mr. Thomas Reed, Executive Director of the Unity Shoppe, with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their generous donations of gifts for children at the Annual Community Services Gifts for Children and Holiday Dinner event held December 15, 2005. Mr. Velasquez also recognized the following individuals for volunteer participation in the Annual Community Services Gifts for Children and Holiday Dinner event held December 15, 2005.

Alicia Lara	Eric Parker Jr.	Kelly Palacios
Eriberto Torres	Ken Rivas	Theresa Pena
Mario Cervantes	Saul Rivera	Eliza Panzón
Rosalina Palacios	Josephine Torres	Raquel Mendoza
Gloria Franco	Patricia Herrera	Don Skipworth
Manuel Gardea	Blanca Gardea	Josephine Tapia
Keric Moore	Shane Moore	Payton More

5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachment)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve and or deny the tree removal requests as indicated below.

- A. Approve the following street tree removal requests.
 - (1) 100 Block of East Anapamu St. – 4 Pyrus kawakami – Pubic Works Department
 - (2) 707 Juanita Avenue – Cupaniopsis anacardioides – Patrick MacMichael
 - (3) 430 E. Valerio Street – 4 Tupuana tipu – Michael O’Connel

- B. Approve the setback tree removal request for 3602 Tierra Bella – Erythrina caffra – Betty Hensel

Kathy Hurley addressed the Commission in support of maintaining the Erythrina caffra tree located at 3602 Tierra Bella. She provided the Commission with a photograph reflecting that there is not a great deal of sidewalk damage. She asked that the tree not be removed.

Mr. Gress responded stating that the tree was reviewed by the STAC. He said that the primary concern is the roots growing under the driveway. He said that the tree is weak and brittle and presents a hazard to pedestrians and motorists.. Mr. Gress further said that the owner wants to plant another tree that matches the second tree planted there.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve the removal of the Erythrina Caffra tree at 3602 Tierra Bella.

- C. Deny the following street tree removal requests.
(1) Calle Andelucia – Bauhinia variegata trees - Paul Miller et al.
(2) 1535 Clearview Road – Arbutus unedo – Christina Segal

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and approve and/or deny, respectively, the tree removals identified in item 5A & C.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

6. **Introduction of Laura Spracher, Park and Recreation Commission Youth Intern – For Information (Attachment)**

Ms. Rapp introduced Ms. Laura Spracher at the beginning of the meeting.

7. **Elings Park Foundation Annual Report and Financial Statement – For Information (Attachment)**

The Commission received the report.

Commissioner Conner asked whether the City requires Elings Park to submit their financial report. Ms. Woods said yes, it is required by agreement.

Commissioner Longstreet indicated she appreciated the Elings Park report.

8. Santa Barbara Zoo Annual Maintenance Report – For Information (Attachment)

The Commission received the report.

Intern Spracher departed at 5:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Proposed Pesticide Hazards And Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone Model for the City of Santa Barbara

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

- A. Receive a presentation on the Proposed Pesticide Hazard And Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone Model for the City of Santa Barbara, with a particular focus on proposed maps of City parks and issues specific to the Parks and Recreation Department;
- B. Provide comments and recommendations to City Council regarding the adoption of the proposed model and integration with the City's IPM Strategy; and
- C. Provide comments and recommendations on the preliminary funding plan which will be developed with the Fiscal Year 2007 budget.

Chair Forsell advised that Commissioner Longstreet and he attended the Special IPM Advisory Committee Work Session held on January 7, 2006. He thanked staff for arranging the work session because the knowledge and information gained there made it much easier to understand the issue.

Ms. Rapp indicated that staff is presenting the PHAER Zone Model Proposal to the Commission because the IPM Consultant, Phil Boise, was unable to attend the meeting. She said that Mr. Boise will be present at the City Council meeting when the item is presented during the February 14th meeting.

Ms. Rapp stated that the PHAER Zone Report is an extensive document with a lot of information that is very important to the community and very important to the future of the Parks Division and Santa Barbara City parks. She said that Santa Barbara, as a community, is committed to being a sustainable community, and the City Council has made that very clear. She acknowledged that the City's commitment to reducing the use of toxic pesticides is good for the earth and good for our community. Ms. Rapp said that staff is sincerely believe in making progress towards being a toxic-free community. Ms. Rapp provided a brief background regarding the IPM Program and IPM Strategy. She said that staff are very pleased that the report proposes that 39 parks of our 49 parks will be managed Green - more than twice the 19 parks currently designated pesticide free. Ms. Rapp said that staff is also presenting a plan for making all City parks "Green". She said that staff have worked collaboratively with the Citizen IPM Advisory Committee, the Staff IPM Advisory Committee, and representatives from the Creeks Advisory Committee, Park and Recreation Commission, and City Council to finalize this proposal.

Mr. Escobar reviewed the Proposed Pesticide Hazards And Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone Model, reviewed maps of City parks and issues specific to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Rapp reviewed the draft preliminary funding plan for PHAER Zone Implementation and also briefly discussed Green Team staffing. She then highlighted the Staff and Advisory Committee recommendations. Those recommendations are as follows:

1. Adopt the proposed PHAER Zone Model for the City of Santa Barbara, and direct the Staff IPM Committee and IPM Advisory Committee to incorporate it into the City's IPM Strategy, and change terminology from "Pesticide Free" to "Green".
2. Approve the changes in IPM Strategy related to Approved Materials List, Signage and Posting, and Reporting as discussed in Chapter V of the report, "How PHAER Model Works with City IPM Strategy."
3. Accept the proposed PHAER Zone maps and recommendations for Green, Yellow and Special Circumstance zones for City parks and properties.
4. Direct staff and the IPM Advisory Committee to work together in developing a strategy to transition the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden in Mission Historic Park to Green given the high public exposure of that area.
5. With the development of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget
 - Approve a multi-year plan to fund Sustainability Improvements in Parks and transition Yellow Zones to Green
 - Increase Parks Division staffing for the Green Team (1 regular GMW, hourly staff up to 1 FTE)
 - Develop a .5 FTE IPM Coordinator position within one of the participating departments.
6. In future years as funding allows, increase annual funding for Vegetative Fuels Management Program in City open space parks by \$50,000.

Ms. Rapp said that staff will include as a recommendation for consideration by Council that all future projects that go forward need to have a sustainable landscape design.

Ms. Rapp commented that staff has received some criticism from some for not doing enough with respect to IPM, but staff have put in a tremendous amount of work and effort into the IPM Program. She said that the reality is that the City of Santa Barbara is increasingly being seen as the model. Ms. Rapp said that Phil Boise, IPM Consultant, has indicated that Santa Barbara is probably in the top five in the whole Western part of the country. She said that recently staff was asked by the Association of Applied IPM Ecologists (AAIE) is having their state-wide conference in Oxnard in February, and they have asked whether they can offer, as

a part of their conference, a site visit to our program to meet with our staff and learn more about what we are doing. Ms. Rapp said that the Department has also been asked to submit a presentation to present at the California League of Cities Conference, and staff is in the process of submitting a proposal to present at the California Park and Recreation Society Conference (CPRS) and also the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). Ms. Rapp stressed that what the City is doing is significant. She further said that when you are a model City, it is important to do it right.

Chair Forsell asked Ms. Rapp to reconcile the last two budget attachments. Ms. Rapp indicated that the document attached to the staff report is the budget that is going forward.

Brenton Kelly, IPM Advisory Committee, said that the program is working, and staff and Phil have put in a lot of hours on the program. He praised the PHAER Zone and said it provides a tool enabling various constituents to sit down and talk about real issues. Mr. Kelly said that kind of tangible decision making is very rare in the world of IPM. He said the PHAER Zone is wonderful. Mr. Kelly discussed the 10 percent increase in labor, saying the issue comes down to is the City going to pay for staff or are the going to pay for chemicals. He said that the "Green Team" idea is terrific. He further acknowledged that pulling weeds and haul wood chips may be the place for the Volunteer Program to pitch in. Mr. Kelly talked about the importance of installing sustainable landscapes and concrete mow strips. Finally, Mr. Kelly praised the efforts to begin a Volunteer Program.

Ms. Rapp acknowledged Gregg Chittick's presence.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Longstreet commended and acknowledged staff and the IPM Advisory Committee's efforts. She agreed that more personnel are needed to support the program. She expressed concern over vegetative fuels management from a safety point of view and stated that Council needs to look at funding that, politically. Ms. Longstreet expressed that we are always going to have vegetative fuels management; it is a cornerstone of our safety. Ms. Longstreet said she appreciated the four-hour Special IPM Advisory Committee work session and said she can support all aspects of the proposed program. She said that every one of our parks have neighbors, and if the parks are full of weeds, the neighbors are going to use chemicals, so it is incremental.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether there is a strategy for prioritizing sustainable improvements versus moving parks from yellow to green; is one more important than the other, if a decision has to be made by staff as that process goes along, or is there advice for the consulting bodies. Ms. Rapp responded that the process would be part of two processes: first it is going to be part of the budget process in a gross macro level in terms of appropriating funding. She said that in terms of an individual level, the decisions will be reviewed each year, and the priorities discussed. Ms. Rapp said that she anticipates that the plan is flexible, because staff cannot say how much money there will be each year for capital

projects. Ms. Rapp said that review process would be through the Annual IPM Report, which would reflect changes in any of the zones and the goals for the coming year. Ms. Rapp clarified that the Annual IPM Report is a compilation of staff information, work with the IPM Advisory Committee, and review by the Park and Recreation Commission and City Council.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether Elings Park and the Santa Barbara Zoo are participating in the process, given their importance to the community, their size, and the number of people that use them. Ms. Rapp said that it is clear that the IPM Strategy applies to all City properties, which does include Elings Park and the Zoo. She said that this is an area where there have been discussions, but staff could not identify exactly what those agencies do with respect to IPM.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked in terms of prioritizing the Rose Garden, is there agreement between the Advisory Committee and staff as to what prioritizing will really mean. He asked whether that is a consensus between the Committee and staff. Ms. Rapp said that the Rose Garden was a significant discussion item at the IPM Advisory Committee work session held on January 7th. Ms. Rapp said that the Rose Garden is within the Mission Historic Park; the Mission Historic Park cannot be Green until an alternative material is developed that allows staff to preserve our historic resources and not damage them. Ms. Rapp said that staff has a lot of concerns about managing the Rose Garden as Green, but agree with the IPM Advisory Committee that this is the highest priority. She said that of all of the areas zoned Yellow, the Rose Garden has high public visiting, people are leaning over to smell the roses, touch the roses, etc., so it is staff's highest priority. Ms. Rapp stated that staff is committed, but there are some challenges that need to be addressed. Ms. Rapp further stated that Dan Bifano, President of the Rose Society, who oversees the Rose Garden Volunteer Program supports making the Rose Garden Green.

Commissioner Conner asked whether the Park Volunteer Program is an expansion of the Friends of the Park. Ms. Rapp said that the Park Volunteer Program will be simply taking the best of what is currently being done and formalizing it. She said that ideally, a contract person will oversee the program; it will not be something that is absorbed by Parks staff. Ms. Rapp said the Park Volunteer Program will be a formal program, and the Pesticides Awareness and Alternatives Coalition has expressed an interest in providing resources and helping to write grants to support the program, and will participate in the community education component. She said that the Department is really looking at it as a broad-based community program.

Chair Forsell said that he was pleased to hear Phil Boise say that the City is ahead of the curve in their commitment to reducing pesticide use. He said that some have said the City is moving too slowly, but he has always advocated for a well-thought out program that is implemented incrementally, which he believes has been accomplished. Mr. Forsell expressed that the City now has a well thought-out transition for a large multi-faceted set of parks and other facilities that is working well; an improved funding situation, which will allow the program to be implemented properly; and we need to do it right so as not to lose the **public** confidence. Mr. Forsell commented that if we do the project and start to have parks that are Green,

and they start to look bad, and we lose the faith of the public, we will be right back where we started. He commended staff and the IPM Advisory Committee for their hard work and efforts. Mr. Forsell stated that he is fully in support of the six recommendations.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission accept the recommendations and forward them to City Council, adding a recommendation that all future projects be of a sustainable design and that Council consider making that a requirement for private projects as well.

10. Status Report on Requested Operational Changes at Skater's Point

Ms. Cook provided a report on the status of the implementation of a pilot program to change the drop-in policy at Skater's Point. She provided a brief history regarding what led to the proposal; highlighted the recommendation of the Commission regarding the Pilot Program; and reviewed the proposed modified pilot program, which could be implemented as early as February 4, 2006. Ms. Cook indicated that since the November 2005 meeting, staff has received some comments from the public on the proposed operational change. She said that based on some of the comments and recommendations received from department staff, staff proposes the pilot program be modified to Saturday mornings only, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Ms. Cook said that this process has revealed the need to re-engage the skate community. She said that staff met with Jim Fitzpatrick and several other adult skaters who have been involved with the park for many years.

Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, VP of USA Skateboarding, which has become the nationally governing body for the sport of skateboarding, addressed the Commission. He said that the skateboarding community looks toward the possibility of the inclusion of skateboarding as an Olympic sport. Mr. Fitzpatrick highlighted his background in skateboarding, saying this spring will be his 50th anniversary as a skate boarder. He stated that Skater's Point is a skateboard park that is nationally and internationally renowned. He asked the Commission to keep in mind that whatever decision they reach will filter out into the national skateboard community, because the problems that exist at Skater's Point are resident at many of the other skateboard parks through out the country. Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed his believe that there is not anyone in the elderly skateboard community who wants to eliminate beginning skateboarders or limit their access or opportunity to skate. He said that the chief concern is that the unrestricted use by young people, might be the least productive way for them to learn to skateboard safely and efficiently in a park. Mr. Fitzpatrick suggested that clinics be conducted on a regular basis on Saturday or Sunday mornings. He said he and staff discussed the possibility of having sponsored clinics by different companies, manufacturers, local businesses, national businesses, etc. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that whether clinics can be part of the solution or whether or not accomplished local skateboarders could spontaneously assume roles as mentors to younger skateboarders, which was something else discussed, it is important to acknowledge that theses solutions are short-term. He further stated that Santa Barbara really needs another skateboard park. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that

he would provide staff with the names and contact information of other instructors who are ready to visit Santa Barbara.

Chair Forsell thanked Mr. Fitzpatrick for getting involved in the process. He asked Mr. Fitzpatrick whether he is recommending the instructional clinics in lieu of simply setting aside a time for them to skate. Mr. Fitzpatrick responded saying that part of the concern is that if the park is just opened to younger skaters without instruction or orientation, it creates an opportunity to create anxiety and frustration on the part of older accomplished skateboarders.

Public Comment

Gary Goggia - suggested the City build a mini Skater's Point in the same location which could be primarily used for children under the age of 12.

Andrew Cavanaugh spoke on behalf of the Montesano's and parents of other children. He stated expressed his appreciation of the fact that the more advanced skaters need to have time to skate, but he said that their primary concern is that a reasonable, narrowly tailored pilot program children under the age of 12 to skate without fear of being injured by older more experienced skaters. He said that a lot of the children under the age of 12 are unable to skate on Saturday mornings, due to soccer, baseball, or other sports and prefer Sunday mornings. Mr. Cavanaugh said that the program is a 3-month pilot program and he would hate to see the time allotment go from the 6 hours he and his clients have requested to only 2 hours per week. He stated that he does not think it is reasonable to allow only 2 hours a week for these children, and asked the Commission to stick with the originally requested 6 hours.

Sasha Paskel declined to speak, saying others have expressed her views already. Ms. Rapp thanked Ms. Paskel for her letter and indicated that she did make it available to the Commission.

Jennifer Taylor expressed that the park should be opened up at all times to all ages of people.

Mike Click expressed that he believes the program is incomplete. He said that he has frequented the park recently and said the most dangerous skaters are the beginners. Mr. Click said he is opposed to the pilot program.

Russ Click spoke in opposition to the pilot program.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Longstreet stated she has been on the Commission for 10 years and was involved in the whole design and construction phases of Skater's Point. She said that the skate community needs to be involved in the policing of the skate park. Ms. Longstreet said that individuals present at the meeting are responsible skaters, but there are some who are not. She indicated that the Department cannot keep a monitor, so the skate community needs to police themselves. Ms. Longstreet said

that she would like the Department to engage in a better dialog with the skate community. She said that the amount of time is not that important, but what is important is that the City staff and the skate community work together to solve the problem, in general. Ms. Longstreet said that what the City needs is small neighborhood parks where children ages 8 through 12 can go to start to learn to skate. She said that this is not an easy problem to solve. Ms. Longstreet suggested more clinics, skateboard camps, etc., and said that we need to have the help of the skate community. Ms. Longstreet agreed it is a hardship for those people who cannot skate because of the camps, but camps are a necessity.

Commissioner Conner concurred with the comments of Commissioner Longstreet. She added that when Mr. Fitzpatrick first came to the Department talking about the concept of the skateboard park, the Commission discussed dropping a bowl in the other parks so that younger children to learn to skate without fear. Ms. Conner said that is a good thing to keep on the table. She also agreed that the City of Santa Barbara is being watched, are being watched as a community that has a wonderful, lovely, and creative skateboard park, and Mr. Fitzpatrick is the connection. Ms. Conner said that what the City does, others will do, so for the City to set a good example is a very good idea.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred with what has been said and that there is a slew of larger issues that need to be resolved. He said he is inclined to vote in favor of the proposal because it is temporary, it will have monitoring, and it can be revisited. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that he would not vote for any proposal that he thought would over-program the skateboard park or significantly limit access for experienced skaters. He expressed that staff is trying to make the best of use of the resources the City has right now. He indicated that he is concerned that maybe too little time is being put aside for the younger people for it to be successful, but just enough to make other people upset. Mr. Larimore-Hall further said that more monitors need to be hired and he encouraged people in the audience and watching on television to apply for the monitor positions. He encouraged engaging the community and having a more seamless communication between people who use the park and those trying to set policy for the park, and said that this might be a step forward. Finally, Mr. Larimore-Hall said that whatever decision is made tonight, it should not be the end of the discussion; but very much the beginning of it. He expressed that he hopes it does end in another skateboard park or a longer-term set of solutions to these issues.

Commissioner Gonzalez said that going back to the original recommendation of providing the opportunity for younger children to learn to skate should be provided. He encouraged clinics for the children.

Chair Forsell said he is in favor of having a time set aside for children under the age of 12 to skate, but finds the constraint of only 2 hours on Saturday morning to be too restrictive. Mr. Forsell suggested open skating on one of the days from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. or so, and the other day, we offer a clinic. He said he realizes it comes down to funding, but if Mr. Fitzpatrick and his group could organize the clinics, it would not be too costly. Mr. Forsell said this would provide some opportunity on

both Saturday and Sunday for the younger children to skate. He emphasized that this is a 2-month pilot program, and it will be revisited.

Ms. Rapp said staff is thrilled with the idea of offering clinics and working with Mr. Fitzpatrick. She said that staff was also very encouraged by the adult skaters who were present in the meeting, because they talked about their interest in working with other adult skaters to have instructional opportunities. Ms. Rapp said staff believes this will result in some additional types of structured programs and clinics that would focus on skills development of younger skaters. Ms. Rapp said that staff will be avidly, aggressively pursuing that. Ms. Rapp discussed the free-skate period, saying staff could hold that isolated time for children under the age of 12 at any time of the day, but it is important to understand that the limitation for staff is the difficulty in clearing the park of skaters. She said it often takes a park ranger and police office to do that. Ms. Rapp said that if the skaters can be re-engaged in having a better facility for everyone to use, and we can improve the relationships and skate monitors who are able to effectively do the job can be hired, there will be more flexibility. Ms. Rapp said that the time selected for 12 and younger skaters is flexible, but it is easier to clear the park early in the morning, because there are not as many users.

Ms. Rapp said that the only reason we were able to build a skate park and the only reason we have one today is the legislation requiring skaters to wear safety gear. She said that if the skaters would abide by the rules, and wear their safety gear, it would be easier to hire and keep skate park monitors. Ms. Rapp stated that there is a risk of having the legislation change at some time, which is not what we want, because no one wants to lose the skateboard park. She said that part of the challenges staff has in monitoring the skateboard park is related to the skaters and their animosity towards wearing the safety gear. Ms. Rapp said that the only way that can be overcome, is if the skaters engage with staff to make it a better park for everyone in the community.

Commissioner Longstreet asked staff what action the Commission needs to take tonight. Ms. Rapp stated that staff has a proposal on the table and are asking the Commission to take action on the pilot program. Ms. Rapp said staff will bring back a report regarding how the pilot program went in a few months.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed that she wants to attend the meetings with the skate community. She said that she will be visiting Skater's Point in the future. She said it is time for the Commission to get informed and involved. She asked staff to explore a way to form a problem solving body that includes representatives of different groups.

Chair Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet that the Commission accept the staff recommendation to start the pilot program for skating on Saturday mornings from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. for skaters 12 years of age and under by February 4, 2006, and in addition, that staff proceed as quickly as possible to evaluate and arrange for clinics for children 12 and under, or whatever is deemed to be the appropriate age, to be held on the

alternate weekend day (Sunday) within the same time frame, and that those clinics be within 1 to 2 hours in length.

Commissioner Longstreet asked that staff be given more leeway in the clinic scheduling, as an afternoon time might work out better and Mr. Fitzpatrick may have some constraints as to when people can come. She suggested that weekdays after school might be a better time.

Commissioner Conner said that she is in favor of the Saturday/Sunday idea. She said that the clinics could be on Saturday and the children could come and practice on Sunday. Ms. Conner said that she is not closed to the idea of having the clinic during an afternoon. She said she wants to make sure that everyone gets to skate.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he wants to see if setting aside a time for less experienced younger skaters works, specifically, whether people come, whether it is safer, etc. He further said that he would like to do that before both free skate time and clinics are scheduled, because either one of these options will displace other skaters. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he is all for the clinics, and it may be that the clinic route would better accomplish the goals. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he would support the reframed motion, but would only want to set aside one block of time that is restrictive on the weekend. He said that if, in addition to that, as a separate pilot program, a clinic or several clinics are launched, is a separate question.

Chair Forsell stated that he would agree with Commissioner Larimore-Hall if the program was in any way semi-permanent, but it is only a 3-month pilot program. Mr. Forsell said that he is concerned that we've gone from 6 hours to 2 hours for the children, and he was trying to find a middle ground.

Ms. Rapp suggested the Commission give consideration to the comments that Commissioner Longstreet made and asked that the Commission give staff direction to pursue a particular program and leave the logistics of how to work it in the pilot program to staff. She further said that if a sponsor is going to pay for a program latitude needs to be provided. Ms. Rapp also stated that if a pilot program is going to be started with set hours, those hours can't change, otherwise there may be a problem with respect to educating the users.

Chair Forsell re-framed his motion as follows:

Chair Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the staff recommendation to create the Saturday morning program from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. for skaters 12 years of age and under and that the program begin by February 4, 2006, and direct staff to implement as soon as possible, a clinic at a time they determine to be appropriate also geared towards skaters 12 years of age and under for instruction, working with Mr. Fitzpatrick and outside sources for a 3-month trial period.

Commission Longstreet said she supports the motion and that the Department has found its own limitations as far as being able to hire people to be able to come and do this.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that he is in general agreement, but thought that Sunday mornings would work better than Saturday mornings for the younger children because of conflicts with other sports. Mr. Forsell said one or two people did say that, but a survey has not been conducted. Ms. Longstreet interjected that the Department has a limitation with respect to monitors.

Ms. Rapp suggested that perhaps it is time for a Skate Park Advisory Committee and that the Commission might want to direct staff to begin pursuing.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Conner, and passed 5/0 that staff pursue the establishment of a Skate Park Advisory Committee.

11. Advisory Committee Appointments – For Action (Attachments)

Recommendation: That the Commission consider incumbent applicants and make appointments to the following Advisory Committees:

A. Adapted Advisory Committee

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission re-appoint Ali S. Roen, representing the UCSB Community Affairs Board, to the Adapted Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007.

B. Aquatics Advisory Committee

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission re-appoint Greg Christman, representing the Santa Barbara Swim Club Age Group, to the Aquatics Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007.

C. Golf Advisory Committee

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission re-appoint Carolyn Fryer, representing the Executive Women's Club, to the Golf Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007.

D. Active Adults and Classes (formerly Senior Recreation Services) Advisory Committee

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Forsell, and passed 5/0 that the Commission re-appoint Carol M. Smith, representing the Community At Large, to the Active Adults and Classes Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007.

E. Tennis Advisory Committee

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the Commission re-appoint Jack Sanford and Cam Parsons, both representing the Community At Large, to the Tennis Advisory Committee for terms ending December 31, 2007.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission re-appoint Cam Parsons, both representing the Community At Large, to the Tennis Advisory Committee for terms ending December 31, 2007.

Ms. Rapp encouraged citizens who have an interest in any of the advisory committees to contact the Department for more information.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp highlighted the 90+ Birthday Party Event, Tuesday, February 21, 2006, Fess Parker's Doubletree Hotel

Ms. Rapp highlighted four retirements occurring over the last few months: Floyd Hague, Art Vasquez, Arnold Avila, and Anita Ho.

Ms. Rapp reviewed the CPRS District VIII Awards department projects, groups, and staff have been awarded.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:16 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Longstreet moved seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director