



**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, April 26, 2006

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

**Staff Present**

Nancy Woods	Business Manager
Sarah Clayton	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Jill Zachary	Creeks Program Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Superintendent
Billy Goodnick	Landscape Architect
Scott Jorgensen	Golf Course Superintendent
Susan Jang-Bardick	Facilities & Registration Coordinator
Terry Brown	Youth Activities Coordinator
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA** – Ms. Woods advised that Item 4A, Street Tree Removal Request for 400 W. Pueblo Street, would not be addressed this evening because the address was not identified on the agenda. She further indicated that the Parks and Recreation Director would be making a decision on the matter as it does not require Commission approval.

Ms. Woods highlighted the time certain items.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – No one wished to speak.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

Chair Forsell reported on the activities of the Tennis Advisory Committee.

### **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

Intern Spracher provided this report. Ms. Spracher briefed that the Youth Council worked collaboratively with the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention (ADAP) Coalition to hold a Speak Out on April 13<sup>th</sup>. She said that the event was well-attended by about 200 people. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council is scheduling a second Speak Out on or about May 15<sup>th</sup>. She said the event will focus on self-image. Ms. Spracher advised that the Youth Council is having a rummage sale on May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Teen Center to raise money for the project. She further indicated that the Youth Council is working on determining a name for the Teen Center. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council is recruiting members for 3 vacancies and will be having interviews on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. She further stated that the Annual Youth Leadership Awards Banquet is scheduled for Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** There were no comments on the Council actions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**  
Special worksession of March 20, 2006, regular meeting of March 22, 2006, and special joint meeting of April 6, 2006.

**Commissioner Gonzalez moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner and passed 4/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the special worksession of March 20, 2006, regular meeting of March 22, 2006, and the special joint meeting of April 6, 2006.**

**Commissioner Longstreet abstained.**

### **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

3. **Volunteer Recognition – Tournament of Champions Track and Field Meet (For Action) (Attachment)**

The Commission recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to Jim Harvey, Donna Gemberling, the San Marcos High School Track and Field Team, and the Dos Pueblos High School for their hard work and commitment in providing event assistance at the Tournament of Champions Track and Field Meet.

4. **Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachments)**

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

A. Approve the following street tree removal requests:

- (1) 400 W. Pueblo Street – (2) Coast Live Oaks – Cottage Hospital

Ms. Woods advised that since the address for this item was not specifically listed on the agenda; the Commission will not be taking action on it. She further indicated that the Director will be making a decision on the matter and it will not be coming back to the Commission for action.

B. Approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 1029 – 1011 Arbolado – Quercus agrifolia

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that the oak tree would interfere with the proposed driveway. Recommended mitigation for oak removals is to plant (3) 24 inch box oak trees for each oak tree removed.

2. 404 Terrace Road – Shamel ash

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that this very large tree was too close to the house and foundation and would cause continuing structural problems for the structure.

3. 1487 Sycamore Canyon Road – Quercus agrifolia

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the Oak tree needed to be removed based on its location and the potential to impact the ability to see and react to oncoming southbound traffic on Sycamore Canyon Road. Recommended mitigation for oak removals is to plant (3) 24 inch box trees for each oak tree removed.

C. Deny the following setback tree removal request

1. 1823 Mira Vista – Calocedrus decurrens

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the tree was a healthy tree and proper pruning would improve its appearance. It does not appear to be a fire hazard given its distance from the house. The tree's vigor would be enhanced by the removal of the adjacent Victoria Box tree currently shading portions of the cedar.

**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 and/or deny the tree removal requests identified in items 4B (1-3) and C(1)**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **5. Report on Skateboard Park Pilot Program Trial Period**

Ms. Cook presented a report on the Skateboard Park Pilot Program trial period.

#### **Public Comment**

Mike Glick addressed the Commission requesting that the time for the pilot program be changed to later in the day, possibly noon – 2:00 p.m.

Andrew Cavanaugh addressed the Commission and thanked staff and the Commission for implementing the pilot program. He further thanked Jim Fitzpatrick and Powell Skateboards and other skaters who took part in the program. He requested that the Commission concur with the staff recommendation and continue the program for the next year.

Commissioner Longstreet indicated that they are not taking action this evening. She asked if the program will continue informally until an action item is on the agenda. Ms. Woods said yes, that is correct. Commissioner Longstreet expressed concern and stated that children under the age of 7 should not be skating at the park. She further suggested the possibility of setting a size. Ms. Longstreet expressed concern that parents are dropping their children off at the park without safety equipment. She stated that she looks forward to the work that comes out of the Advisory Committee. She said they will not make everyone happy, but their charge will be to make it the best it can be. She encouraged them to look at the broad-based public need and make the best decision possible. Commissioner Longstreet commented on the need for monitors and said that anyone who refuses to comply with the rules should be cited.

Commissioner Conner concurred with Commissioner Longstreet. She further said she agrees the younger children should not be at the park, but the advisory committee will need to address that issue.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he would like to know how many people are using the park who would not normally use the park. He said he would like to know how many people use the park on Sunday. Ms. Cook suggested that staff could survey the patrons on Saturday morning. The Commission concurred. Mr. Larimore-Hall said it is a question of physics, not only a question of skill. He said that the safety issues are not totally mitigated by that.

Commissioner Gonzalez suggested staff look at expanding the hours of the skateboard park by adding lighting.

Chair Forsell commented that a year is too long for the pilot program and suggested the Advisory Committee consider the matter and bring back a recommendation in four to six months.

Commissioner Conner asked how we keep people out of Skaters Point in the summer during summer camps. Ms. Cook replied saying that staff utilizes the entire park from 9:00 – 11:30 Monday through Friday. She further said there are a number of staff in the park during that time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **6. Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Budget**

Ms. Woods provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2007 General Fund Budget.

Ms. Zachary provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2007 Creeks Budget. She also briefly discussed the Creeks Advisory Committee comments.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed appreciation to Ms. Zachary for her efforts in leveraging grants.

Ms. Woods provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2007 Golf Budget.

Regarding special event fee changes, Chair Forsell said he was surprised not many members of the public were present to talk about the fee changes. He said that would indicate to him that there are either a lot of people who are not aware of the changes, or there are not a lot of people who actually utilize the facilities that often to bring them out in protest. Ms. Woods indicated that staff sent out letters to people affiliated with public events who have had permits with us in the past outlining these changes. She further said that the Department has done a lot of research comparing rates against other major providers and found that our rates are pretty low. Ms. Woods said that the proposed fees will not bring us up to compete directly with any of those other agencies; our fees will still be lower.

Commissioner Longstreet said that private gatherings and weddings seem to cost a lot more than public events. Ms. Bardick responded saying that private gatherings are wedding receptions, corporate picnics, corporate parties, and fundraiser events. She said these events actually spend eight hours or more in our City parks, and they bring in food and alcohol, etc. Ms. Bardick stated that the fees may seem very high, but with the private gatherings, the current range is from \$139 to \$525. She said that the proposal is to increase the fees from \$250 to \$600. Ms. Bardick said that amount sounds high, but it is actually very reasonable.

Commissioner Longstreet clarified her comment by saying that the cost for the public events seemed very low considering the amount of time they are in the parks. Ms. Bardick said that most of the sporting events are the walks and runs put on by

non-profit organizations, and they actually do not spend a lot of time in the parks. She said they are in and out in an average of six hours. Ms. Bardick said that staff is not proposing changing all of the sporting event categories, just the lower ones, because they are not proportional in comparison to the fees on the top end. She further said that public events, i.e. the festivals, spend eight or more hours in the park and have a larger impact to the parkland than a sporting event.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he supports the recommendations for the private gatherings because we are looking at direct competition with the private facilities. He further said that the fact that our fees are so much under-market is under-valuing public land and public goods, which is a mistake in terms of usage. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated that it makes sense to him that there is a significant increase there. He asked in terms of sporting events, whether it would make sense to have a different fee schedule for events that take less time, given that for a lot of other categories of events there is an hourly rate. He said that it seems strange that the long events and shorter events are charged the same amount. Ms. Jang-Bardick responded saying that besides the number of people at an event, staff looks at the number of tables and chairs, how many canopies, etc., in addition to how long they will be in the park. She said the pricing is based on how large the event is in terms of people, set up time, etc. Ms. Bardick said that the smaller events that are in the parks the shorter amount of time with less set up are paying a lesser rate.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented regarding the proposed fees and charges schedule and the sporting events, saying that the proposed 43% increase at the bottom end is pretty significant. He asked what it is about the canopies and tables and chairs, etc, that necessitates such a large increase. Ms. Bardick said that if you are only going to be in the park for a two hour span of time, the fees may seem a little high, but the reality is that there are very few sporting events that are in the park for such a short period of time. She said there is usually set up time, time for the event, the awards ceremony, the wrap up, and the breakdown time. She further stated that the more items you have in the park, the greater amount of space you are taking up that the general public does not have access to, and further, the more time it takes to set up and breakdown the event.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked regarding the Westside and Franklin Center, whether those centers are being used enough at this price as opposed to other years. Ms. Clayton said that after the prices went up, we received feedback from the community that they did not want to use the facility quite as frequently, and they were going to other places, using City parks, etc. She said that she does not have the statistics available regarding what the frequency is for use this year as compared to previous years, but would bring that information back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Chair Forsell commented that there was a time when the City did not charge at all for set-up and break-down day. He said that a few years ago, when we began charging for those days, there was incredible public outrage. Mr. Forsell

commented that we are recommending a 25% fee increase for those set-up and break-down days and asked whether staff has received any public input regarding the proposed increase. Ms. Bardick replied saying that staff has not received any public input regarding those proposed fee increases.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether those fee increases were phased in. Ms. Woods said yes, and further that the proposed fee schedules was posted each of the facilities since April 18<sup>th</sup>, with information notifying individuals that they could make comments to or attend the Commission meetings to make comments regarding the proposed changes.

Mr. John Clinton addressed the Commission regarding Night Moves. He expressed opposition to the proposed fee increases that will affect this event.

Chair Forsell asked how many people participate in the event. Mr. Clinton said about 3,000 people. Chair Forsell asked if he was a non-profit. Mr. Clinton said no. Mr. Forsell indicated that if it were a non-profit event, he might have sympathy for a recurring event that went on for 18 weeks, saying maybe that individual should have a break in the fees, as opposed to an event that occurs once a year. He said that if Mr. Clinton is making a lot of money on the event, and the City if taking a reasonable share of it in fees, he would have a different opinion.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he thinks the non-profit/for-profit distinction is a little tricky, because Night Moves is the kind of event that could very easily be provided by either kind of corporation. Mr. Larimore-Hall said what is difficult for him to understand is that you have to have categories of organizations or categories of events, and any time you do that there are going to be sorts of events or organizations that fall through the cracks. He expressed hope that this can be mitigated in this particular case. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that it seems like quite a big hit for this particular kind of event, and this event is providing a service to the community, whether incorporated as a 501c(3) or not. Mr. Larimore-Hall asked for more information from staff regarding whether it is possible to make changes to the fees and charges language to better allow the Night Moves event to happen.

Chair Forsell suggested a category of "recurring events" or something of the like. He asked staff to bring back information at the next meeting regarding whether there are other groups in that category or whether the Night Moves is the only one in the category. Ms. Woods said staff would bring that information back at the May meeting. She further clarified that the increases will not apply to Mr. Clinton's event this year, saying the fees and charges will not go into effect until September 1<sup>st</sup>, and that there is a 2-year phase in for amounts over \$75.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that the City cannot subsidize events.

## **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Longstreet commented about an email she received from Jeff Cope regarding beach cleanup. She said that the newspaper indicated that slip fees were increasing because of beach cleanup costs. She clarified that the slip fees are being increased because of parking. Ms. Longstreet said she supports the transfer of beach cleanup responsibilities. Ms. Longstreet said that she is glad the City is keeping the fees reasonable, but the City cannot subsidize events. She commented that she likes the fact that when it appears that the Department has increased fees too much, staff have re-evaluated the fees. She further said she is glad that staff gives things enough of a chance to see if they will level out. Ms. Longstreet said she was glad to see funding for Integrated Pest Management (IPM). She said that it needs to be in there every time and probably needs to increase yearly. Ms. Longstreet commented that we will be moving out of the hardscape and more into the staff hours it takes to make the program work. Ms. Longstreet said that comment needs to be expressed loud and clear to Council.

Commissioner Conner asked what the maintenance at Sheffield Reservoir will entail. Mr. Escobar said that the maintenance will entail 5 days of work of 2-3 maintenance workers. He said it will be contracted out. It will be aggressive work and IPM will be incorporated into the maintenance. She asked how many acres Sheffield Park is. Mr. Escobar said Sheffield is approximately 26 acres. Commissioner Conner asked for more information on acquisition of property near the Westside Center. Ms. Woods said staff will provide that information to her at the next meeting. Ms. Conner said that she was elated by the balancing of the budget and how well it was done this year. She thanked staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed concern asking whether adding 1 FTE to comply with the goals of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is really enough. Mr. Escobar said that according to the 2004 Annual Report there was an increase of 10 percent. He further said that it depends on the maintenance levels. Mr. Escobar said that the standards have been lowered and we are meeting the status quo. He further said that some of the sustainability landscapes will lower some of the work hours required for some of the heavy duty landscapes. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that as a Commissioner, he wants the City to fund the mandate of IPM so it does not end up being a burden on staff. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he is interested in hearing from staff and their representatives to make sure one political priority is not being placed over another, and said he wants to be part of efforts to monitor that over the next year.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that for the next budget cycle it would help to see numbers on usage of the facilities for private events, in addition to how it holds up in terms of revenue. Ms. Bardick responded saying that there have been a total of 100 private gatherings during calendar year 2005 and 128 wedding ceremonies during the calendar year 2005.



Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he would like to see whatever demographic data has been generated in terms of participation in recreation activities.

Regarding the Westside Community Center project, Mr. Goodnick said that rather than an acquisition project, it is a relatively small capital project. He said there is \$250,000 in RDA funding set aside to make minor improvements there. Mr. Goodnick indicated that staff heard from the Westside Study Group that there was a need for upgrades there. Mr. Goodnick briefly highlighted the proposed upgrades and said that staff plans to get input from the community as to the priorities.

Chair Forsell talked about the Golf Course budget saying that it is an enterprise fund. He commented staff on their efforts in managing the Golf Course budget.

Chair Forsell said that starting the fee changes on September 1<sup>st</sup> is a positive thing.

Chair Forsell asked what the cost recovery ratio is for Recreation. Ms. Clayton said that with the proposed budget it is at 39 percent. She said that we are currently doing around 42 percent cost recovery for this year.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked regarding high school students who are 18 years of age, whether they are charged a student rate if they are on the Golf team. Ms. Woods said that the Department does not charge the Golf teams for practice, as there are agreements in place with the high schools.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **7. Skateboard Park Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointments – For Action**

Ms. Cook indicated that 7 applications were received. She said that Mr. Fitzpatrick who is applying for the Community At Large position is not present and will be interviewed at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Commission interviewed and considered the following applicants to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee. Individual identified by an \* was not appointed.

Mr. Taylor Nisbet, Adult Skater  
Mr. Mike Glick, Parent of a Skater  
John Collector, Youth Skater  
Sasha Paskal, Youth Skater  
Carlos Alejandro Juarez, Affiliate of a Local Skate Shop  
\*Doug Yartz, Affiliate of a Local Skate Shop

**Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Mr. Taylor Nisbet, an adult**

skater, to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Mr. Mike Glick, a parent of a skater, to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2007.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint two youth skater position to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint John Collector and Sasha Paskal, youth skaters (13-17 years of age), to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee for a terms ending December 31, 2007.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Mr. Carlos Juarez, an affiliate from a local skate shop, to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2008.

**8. Set the Date for Commission Tour of Projects – For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission set a date for a Commission site visit to various Parks and Recreation Department projects.

The Commission selected June 1<sup>st</sup> as the tentative date for a tour. Ortega, Sheffield, Stevens, and Parma Park, were suggested tour sites.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS** – Ms. Woods discussed the semi-annual advisory committee recruitment. She highlighted the interview and appointment dates.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

At 6:40 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,  
**Original signed**

Nancy Woods  
Acting Parks and Recreation Director