



**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, May 17, 2006

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – The Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Forsell at 4:01 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 L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Nancy Woods	Business Manager
Sarah Clayton	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Superintendent
Billy Goodnick	Landscape Architect
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Scott Jorgensen	Golf Course Superintendent
Jason Bryan	Recreation Supervisor
Susan Jang-Bardick	Facilities and Registration Coordinator
Bettie Weiss	City Planner
Beatriz Ramirez	Project Planner
John Schoof	Principal Engineer
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one wished to speak.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Larimore-Hall reported on the activities of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee. He advised that the Department has received funding from the Redevelopment Agency (RDA) for signage in some of the parks. Mr. Larimore-Hall further reported that Mr. Escobar and another advisory committee member attended a nationwide conference regarding IPM and met with the individual in charge of IPM for the City of New York who was very impressed with the City of Santa Barbara's program and wants to implement some of our strategies there. Mr. Larimore-Hall said the Committee had some preliminary discussion about trying to re-launch a regional IPM Coalition to facilitate coordination between public entities throughout the region in terms of implementing the IPM Strategy. Commissioner Larimore-Hall encouraged the public to apply for the at-large vacancy on the IPM Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee budget meeting.

Commissioner Conner reported on the activities of the Aquatics and the Active Adults and Classes Advisory Committees. She said that during both meetings the budget was discussed.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Spracher provided this report. Ms. Spracher briefed that the 5th Annual Youth Leadership Awards Banquet is scheduled for June 5th. She reported that the rummage sale held by Teen Programs netted about \$500. Ms. Spracher encouraged members of the public to attend the Youth Council meetings. She said that the Youth Council is interviewing new members at the next meeting to fill positions being vacated by graduating students.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** There were no comments on the Council actions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
Regular meeting of April 26, 2006,

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 26, 2006.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. Volunteer Recognition

The Commission recognized Dot Byrne for her dedication to senior programs at the Carrillo Recreation Center and presented her with a certificate of appreciation.

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

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 setback tree removal requests:

1. 634 De La Vina Street – Washingtonia filifera

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the Washingtonia filifera in parkway appears to be dead and should be removed.

B. Deny the following setback tree removal request

1. 634 De La Vina Street – Pinus radiata

Justification: The Committee and staff disagreed that the reason for the request (tree is leaning and may fall) was not valid. Tree appears to be healthy and the slight lean away from the house appears to have occurred a long time ago. The Committee also recommends that the subject Pinus radiata and the adjacent pine would both benefit from a professional pruning.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, 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 4A (1) & 4B (1).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Holiday and Summer Program Review

Ms. Clayton provided a presentation on the holiday program offerings and status of summer recreation programs. She provided an update on the Winter/Spring Break Camps, summer registration, Summer Programs 2006, and highlighted summer special events.

6. Repairs to the Equipment Room of the Los Baños Del Mar Swimming Pool

Mr. John Schoof, Principal Civil Engineer, provided the Commission with an update of the condition and proposed repairs to the equipment room of the Los Baños Del Mar Swimming Pool.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the September Phase will affect pool users. Mr. Schoof said yes, the pool will have to be drained, and the drain

replaced. Ms. Longstreet thanked Mr. Schoof for scheduling the work around the summer.

Chair Forsell suggested the Los Baños Pool be added to the tour in June. Ms. Rapp said that access is currently restricted, but offered to provide more pictures. She said that doing this work will solve the problem once and for all.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Reaffirmation of Skaters Point Advisory Committee Membership

Ms. Cook reminded the Commission that during their regular meeting of April 26th, they modified the membership of the Skaters Point Advisory Committee to include two youth skater members. She said that the Commission is being asked to establish the membership of the Advisory Committee by resolution. Ms. Cook further asked that the Commission reaffirm the appointment of youth representatives John collector and Sasha Paskal to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall and passed 5/0 that the Commission adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Park and Recreation Commission of the City of Santa Barbara establishing the membership of the Skaters Point Advisory Committee; and reaffirming the April 26, 2006, appointments of Youth Representatives John Collector and Sasha Paskal to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee.

The Commission temporarily adjourned at 5:24 p.m. and reconvened at 5:34 p.m.

8. Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Parks and Recreation Department Budget

Ms. Woods highlighted the Advisory Committee comments regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Fees and Charges and the staff comment on each recommendation.

Chair Forsell said that the lighting situation for Tennis is something that has been discussed for several years. He said it is wasteful the way the lights are working now, and with electricity costs going up, now is the time to do something about it. He said that other recommendations seem perfectly reasonable. Mr. Forsell commented that when a Committee comes back with a recommendation regarding freezes in future fee increases he is taken aback.

Ms. Woods provided the Commission with the additional information requested at their last meeting.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the revenue is basically the same. Ms. Woods said yes, but the amounts reflected are year-to-date. She said that the

Fiscal Year 05 amount covers a 12-month period, while the Fiscal Year 06 amount is only through April. Ms. Woods indicated that the Fiscal Year 06 revenue will actually be higher. Ms. Longstreet commented that we need to recover the cost of the monitors.

Chair Forsell commented that the revenue is pretty much the same, but asked whether there is a substantial increase in expenses for us when we go from 24 to 42, 25 to 31, 322 to 503, etc. Ms. Rapp said for the weekday rentals, there is not, as there is already a staff person working in the building. She said that for the weekend rentals there is an increase, but the monitor cost is directly charged to the event, so all direct expenses are being recovered. Ms. Rapp said that the Community Center rental rates are staying the same this year because we would like to continue to see a renewed interest from the community in using the facility, and then staff will re-evaluate again in the future.

Ms. Woods advised that the Commission requested staff propose a policy which would give similar recurring events a lower fee. She provided the Commission with information regarding Nite Moves and highlighted a policy for the Commission. However, Ms. Woods said that staff is recommending against implementation of a fee discount policy for recurring outdoor events for the following reasons:

1. The philosophy by which fees are determined takes into consideration:
 - a. Limited public access due to the event's exclusive use of the park area; and that
 - b. Fees are calculated to recover City costs for maintenance and operation of parks and facilities for overall public use.
2. The policy sets a precedent for other users of City parks and facilities, to request fee discount consideration for recurring events.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed regret that the Nite Moves event feels encumbered by the rates. She said, however, that Nite Moves is a for-profit agency, meeting a demand in the market, and is a business. It is not a non-profit doing a once a year fundraising event. Ms. Longstreet said that businesses have costs, and the City is providing a rental space for that cost and needs to recover our costs. Ms. Longstreet further said that she is not comfortable deviating from the current system, which seems to work in all other cases, and establishing a policy for a single event.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall thanked staff for the time they spent evaluating this issue. He asked what Mr. Clinton's response was to some of the proposals staff has made over the years to come to a compromise, for example, re-chartering himself as a 501c (3) organization, etc. Ms. Rapp responded saying that the suggestion was made that Mr. Clinton consider associating himself with or forming a non-profit organization, because then the City could look at reducing his facility use fees. She said that it was Mr. Clinton's decision not to do that. Ms. Rapp said that staff included in the report some of the cooperative things staff has done over the years with Mr. Clinton to try to facilitate his event at reduced rates. Ms. Rapp said that staff actually drafted a co-sponsorship agreement a couple of years ago to

show Mr. Clinton what it would look like, but it was not something that Mr. Clinton wanted to do. She said it is still an option he could pursue.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is ready to concur with the staff recommendation, but said philosophically, that he understands it is a problem to craft rules or regulations around unique cases, but at the same time, there is something in Mr. Clinton's appeal that makes sense, beyond his particular case, and there is something in the argument about recurring events and wanting to allow them to be at least profitable enough that they are sustainable. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated that when, or if, it seems that we have some kind of evidence as a department that there is the possibility of other cases falling into this "crack", it would be an issue he would like to raise again and look at exactly the proposed structure, but at this point, he shares in the discomfort with making that big a policy decision based on one case.

Ms. Rapp stated that our facilities are rented by people in the community and organizations and individuals in the community who run for-profit and non-profit recreation programs that compete with ours. She said that this is not the case with Mr. Clinton's event. Ms. Rapp said that staff acknowledges that Nite Moves is a great community event, a lot of people participate on a weekly basis, and it is not something the Department is currently doing. She said, however, that when we talk about crafting a policy, we have to determine how to differentiate, and we could be put in the position of perhaps providing a discount to people or organizations offering programs that compete with our programs. Ms. Rapp said that regarding Mr. Clinton's event, the fee increase comes out to 25 cents per person per day.

Chair Forsell said that after listening to Mr. Clinton's plea last month, before reading the staff report he was inclined to be supportive of having a discount policy. He said, however, that staff's argument is persuasive enough to convince him that an individual policy should not be crafted for one group.

Ms. Woods advised that there was a proposal to transfer the beach maintenance responsibilities to the Waterfront. Ms. Woods said that Council did not agree with that, and the program will remain in Parks and Recreation. She said that the Department has a contract with the Waterfront Department whereas Parks and Recreation provides landscaping for the Waterfront Parking Lots. Ms. Woods said there is an additional overhead of \$96,000 for that work, and Council said that the Waterfront should pay that amount to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Ms. Rapp added that Council will be pulling together a joint meeting with the two Commissions, and will be asking staff to prepare a report looking at the tidelands trust area and the waterfront area, regarding where money is spent, where money is generated, and legally, where are the limitations and opportunities that the City can consider. She said that meeting will likely take place in the next two to three months. Ms. Rapp said that the Commission will be looking at the issue of regardless of who does beach maintenance, to what degree can we reduce the amount of beach maintenance, and what affects would that have on the beach and beach users. Ms. Rapp said Council made specific comments regarding the

desire to have a more natural beach. She said staff will be preparing information to bring back to the Commission for discussion regarding the topic. She said there has also been some discussion about the possibility of the snowy plover presence there. Ms. Rapp suggested that a broader discussion be held regarding the whole beach area.

Ms. Rapp informed the Commission that staff is in the process of preparing a comprehensive participation report, which will be a very valuable tool for staff when making difficult decisions.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall and passed 5/0 that the Commission recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year 2007 operating budget, capital improvement budget, and Fees and Charges Schedule to the City Council with the staff recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Upper State Street Study and Improvement Plan

Ms. Bettie Weiss, City Planner, Ms. Beatriz Ramirez, Project Planner, and John Ledbetter, Principal Planner, provided a presentation on the scope, process, and time frame for the Upper State Street Study and Improvement Plan.

Ms. Rapp said that the Commission may want to appoint a liaison to follow this project and keep the Commission informed.

Comments

Commissioner Longstreet expressed with gas prices as high as they are right now, things are going to be changing transportation-wise, and transportation alternatives need to be found, especially within the City. She stated that density needs to be offset with open space, pocket parks, etc. Ms. Longstreet stated that we need to get creek setbacks in early and that as we make changes we need to really protect the creeks.

Commissioner Conner asked regarding a traffic survey done a couple years ago, whether Las Positas and State is the busiest intersections in the City. Ms. Weiss said indicated that she does not recall that intersection is the busiest intersection the City. Commissioner Conner said she is please about this project because there is a lot of traffic in that area.

Commissioner Conner concurred with Commissioner Longstreet regarding putting in pocket parks, because of the escalation and population in that area. She further suggested a skate bowl be installed at MacKenzie Park for skateboarders. Ms. Conner said she is please with the project.

Commissioner Gonzalez stated that he heard the Circuit City area is being redone, and further that the Sandman Inn is being renovated, and asked the status. Ms. Ramirez said that is correct, saying that the Circuit City site is planning to demolish the bank on the corner, the Circuit City side, as well as the little strip development where Weight Watchers and several other businesses are, and redevelop it with another Circuit City, another bank, retail stores, and some housing is proposed. She said the project is currently in the DART process, but the application has not been deemed complete at this time. Ms. Ramirez said that the Sandman Inn is proposing to rebuild with another hotel and condominiums. She said the project is currently going through the planning process.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed concern that once you start talking about redevelopment areas and affordable housing the problem of gentrification comes up. He said that when you talk about redeveloping areas and putting in affordable housing, community needs like public transportation and walkability become key issues. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he would not want to see laundromats, convenience stores, affordable supermarkets, and things people depend upon on a day-to-day basis replaced with boutiques and things like that. He said he would like to see the issue of gentrification driving part of the discussion from the onset of the project.

Commissioner Conner asked regarding the Circuit City area, whether the 160 units are going to be put in. Ms. Ramirez said the 160 units is actually the Sandman Inn project; the Circuit City site is a lot less.

Chair Forsell said he is aware of the traffic problems in the Upper State Street area, but said he is vague about the role of the Park and Recreation Commission. He said he believes the Commission's role would be minimal. Ms. Weiss said that there are only a few component parts related to the charge of the Commission. She said the street trees on Upper State Street have been a controversy. She stated that the MacKenzie Park property and the federal property adjacent to it are well-positioned. Ms. Weiss said that it may be a small thing in that there is only one park in the corridor, but it could end up being a big thing for the overall study and some focus of discussion. Ms. Weiss said that the Council has an interest in engaging the community and tapping into the resources of boards and commissions, who they see as community members already engaged. Ms. Weiss said that Council wants staff to work with everyone and to encourage the Commission to give guidance and feedback on areas of particular interest to the Commission and participate in any way that they would like. Mr. Forsell commented that he understands that the Commissioners are people who volunteer their time and may have something valuable to add, but questioned whether the Park and Recreation Commission meeting is the place to talk about shopping centers, housing, density, traffic circulation, etc. Ms. Weiss said that staff will not go any further into a discussion regarding the items; they are providing information and a confirmation of the issues.

Ms. Rapp stated that to talk specifically to the purview of the Commission, she wanted to reinforce Commissioner Longstreet's comments regarding the importance of having green space, pocket parks, etc. She said she concurs with

the comments regarding MacKenzie Park, as it does have a lot of potential. Ms. Rapp said that those things need to be recurring themes as everyone else concentrates on how many units there will be and what can be squeezed into the area. She said that the Commission and staff want to make sure that there is a strong voice for green space and pocket parks, where possible. Ms. Rapp said it is a smaller part of the puzzle, but still a very important part. Chair Forsell said that is clearly within the purview of the Commission, but the discussion has gone well beyond that into items not within the purview of the Commission.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that if the Commission does not review these items, the Commission will be left out in regards to green space, which is an issue.

Commissioner Longstreet concurred with Commissioner Gonzalez saying it is a big issue. She further said that the Commission has expressed concern for years about the lack of recreation in that area. She said that recreation is pretty much focused in the downtown corridor and beachfront areas. Ms. Longstreet said that as these projects develop, and there are little pieces of land available, a developer might want to help the City develop a park. She said it is not unreasonable, and is how most cities get their parks. Ms. Longstreet said she would put in a strong vote for something the City would want to see happen. She further said that this is an opportunity to be proactive with respect to providing recreational activities and/or parks. Ms. Longstreet stated that in her eleven years on the Commission, a lot of times the Commission has been brought in on the project too late to actually make a difference with respect to green space and pocket parks, and she expressed appreciation that the Commission was brought in early on this project.

Commissioner Conner concurred with Commissioner Longstreet's comments regarding the Commission being brought in too late, many times, to make a difference on a project. She said it is refreshing to be brought in on a project from the beginning. Ms. Conner said that if a project is putting in 160 residential units, that is going to impact our streets, as well as our parks, and there will be more children with less places to go and situations where acquiring parks will be very important.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall thanked staff for their presentation. He said, with due respect to Chair Forsell, he thinks it is a problem to get overly balkanized, to split up the responsibilities so much that the Commissions are not communicating. Mr. Larimore-Hall expressed hope that the issues of Parks, Recreation, and Open Space comes up in conversations with the other commissions, and are really trying to work in an integrated manner. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that before he could say anything intelligent about where a new pocket park should be placed or expanding a park, he wants to know what the overall plan is for development, where is density going to happen, what is going to be the transportation policy, etc. He stated that the whole point of solid planning is to constantly look at the overlap and the interconnectedness of these decisions so it does not end up being random, and parks are not placed where

they are not accessible, or not needed. Mr. Larimore-Hall agreed that the Commission's overall purview is about parks, recreation, and creeks, but looking at those things in isolation is a mistake.

Chair Forsell reiterated that there certainly is a role to be played by the Parks and Recreation Department and Commission, but his concern is how much staff time is going to be involved with these other issues.

Commissioner Conner expressed interest in serving on the Upper State Street Improvement Plan Subcommittee with Commissioner Longstreet as the alternate. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he would serve on the De La Guerra Subcommittee with Commissioner Longstreet as the alternate.

10. Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointments

Ms. Cook advised the Mr. Fitzpatrick is applying for appointment to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee, representing the community at large. She said that staff is please to have Mr. Fitzpatrick serve on the Committee.

Mr. Fitzpatrick expressed his strong desire to serve on the Skaters Point Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, representing the community at large, to the Skaters Point Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2008.

Mr. Goodnick introduced Ms. Maury Treman who is applying for appointment to the Street Tree Advisory committee, representing the community at large. He said staff is happy to have Ms. Treman serve on the Committee.

Ms. Treman highlighted her background, experience, and interest in serving on the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Ms. Maury Treman, representing the community at large, to the Street Tree Advisory Committee for a term ending, December 31, 2008.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Forsell and passed 5/0 that the Commission re-appoint Bob Cunningham, incumbent, representing the community at large, to the Street Tree Advisory Committee for a term ending, December 31, 2008.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp informed the Commission of the Joint City Council/School District meeting scheduled for June 9, 2006, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that the tentative date for Joint Park and Recreation Commission/Creeks Advisory Committee regarding the Veronica Meadows Project is June 7, 2006, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. She said it will be a structured meeting that will provide the Commission with information related to their purview and also some development issues.

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that staff did a site work of Sheffield Reservoir and staff anticipates the notice of completion the end of June.

Ms. Rapp informed the Commission that she is becoming more involved on a State and Federal level in terms of Afterschool Legislation and activism. She briefed the Commission that she is traveling to Washington DC on Monday, May 22nd to attend the National League of Cities Afterschool Legislative Summit, where she will be hearing the status of federal legislation to support afterschool programs and having opportunity to speak to those issues on Capitol Hill. Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that she was recently appointed to the California Afterschool Network Leadership Team, which is doing the same thing on the state level, looking at legislation, funding mechanisms, priorities, how to get through the legislative process, and end up with a product that can work at the local level, which is a big concern with Proposition 49 kicking in. Ms. Rapp said that she will be providing the Commission with periodic reports on the process as it moves forward.

Ms. Rapp said that staff has put a structure in place that will see us through to the end of the Teen Center project. She said the Teen Center Subcommittee meets every Monday at 4:00 p.m. and staff will meet with them every other Monday, at least twice a month. She said that during the meeting staff will provide a status of the project and their respective tasks.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:18 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Forsell moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp

Parks and Recreation Director