



**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, July 26, 2006

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – The Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Forsell at 4:02 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
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Billy Goodnick	Landscape Architect
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Jill Murray	Water Resources Specialist
Allyson Biskner	Associate Park Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

Liaisons Present

Marty Blum	Mayor
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CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Gene Tyburn, a certified arborist, addressed the Commission and expressed concern that there are too many gardeners in Santa Barbara pruning trees. He expressed that gardeners who prune trees should be licensed to do so and have workers compensation for their employees. He said that the City of Santa Barbara

is the responsible party to enforce this issue. Mr. Tyburn stressed that the laws need to be enforced.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Longstreet indicated that she attended the Annual Parks & Recreation Department staff meeting during which several department staff were presented awards for outstanding service and teamwork. Ms. Rapp elaborated on the awards that were presented. Commissioner Longstreet encouraged the Commissioner to attend the event next year.

Commissioner Conner talked about the July 24th Park and Recreation Commission Tour. She thanked staff for the tour. Commissioner Gonzalez praised the efforts of staff with respect to the projects toured by the Commission. Chair Forsell concurred that the tour was interesting and good. Commissioner Longstreet commented that it was good that some of the Councilmembers attended the tour.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall reported on the activities of the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee. He urged members of the public not to feed the wildlife, particularly the squirrels, at the City parks.

Chair Forsell reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation and the PARC Foundation Board retreat conducted on Monday, July 12th. He further reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT – Intern Spracher provided this report. Ms. Spracher said that there are five openings on the Youth Council and encouraged youth to apply for the positions. She said the Teen Center is on schedule for the January 2007 opening. Ms. Spracher reported that she and Christina Gonzalez attended the Sister Cities Youth Summit in Washington D.C., where they had the opportunity to talk to youth from all over the world to see how they are making improvements in their communities.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** There were no comments on the Council actions.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
Regular meeting of June 28, 2006,

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 28, 2006.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. **Recognition of Jesusita Trail Volunteers**

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that Ms. Allyson Biskner has accepted a position with URS and will be leaving City employment.

The Commission recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to the Los Padres National Forest Service personnel for providing outstanding emergency trail maintenance and most recently at Jesusita Trail. Individuals recognized were: Ray Ford, Trails Alliance President; Chris Orr and Paul Hering, Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers; and Kerry Kellogg, Trails and Wilderness Manager for the Los Padres National Forest District.

4. **Volunteer Recognition – Santa Barbara Volleyball Club**

Bob Patterson, Past President of the Santa Barbara Volleyball Club, provided a background and history of the Santa Barbara Volleyball Club. He thanked the Commission and the Department for the recognition.

The Commission recognized the Santa Barbara Volleyball Club teams and presented certificates of appreciation to three coaches for their dedication to community recreation and commitment to the development of volleyball players. Specifically recognized were: the Santa Barbara Volleyball Club; Liz Towne-Gilbert; Erica Menzel; and Ed Gover.

Commissioner Conner told the players it was a pleasure to watch them play in Atlanta. She told them they are all winners, and they are all wonderful.

Commissioner Longstreet congratulated the Volleyball Club. She said that she spent time in Sacramento with her daughter when she played for the Club. Ms. Longstreet said it was a good experience. She said that the real success is how many girls play in the league. Ms. Longstreet stated that starting a Blenders League and being able to develop more players makes a big difference.

5. **Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations**

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. Deny the following street tree removal request:

1. 429 Linda Rd. – *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that the tree is healthy and contributes to the neighborhood. Concern about growing grass under the tree could be alleviated through best management practices.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the

recommendations of staff and deny the tree removal request identified in item 5A(1).

B. Approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 1318 Gillespie St. – *Brachychiton acerifolius*

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that sidewalk damage will continue due to expanding diameter of trunk. Recommend removal of existing Brachichiton tree and replacing it with two *Koelreuteria bipinnata*. The City will plant an additional Koelreuteria tree in open area across the street at 1321 Gillespie.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of staff and approve the tree removal request identified in item 5B(1).

C. Approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 2417 Anacapa St. – *Sequoia sempervirens*

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that the tree is not an appropriate tree for the location Tree is too large for the space allowed and will eventually damage and encroach into sidewalk.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of staff and approve the tree removal request identified in item 5C(1).

2. 611 E. Victoria St. – *Phoenix canariensis*

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that the tree was planted too close to eaves of house.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of staff and approve the tree removal request identified in item 5C(2).

3. 209 W. Ortega St. – *Citrus sps.*

4. 209 W. Ortega St. – *Persia Americana,*

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that the trees are crowded and are heavily shaded by street tree canopy. Based on

application, there is an expectation that the area will be landscaped after removal of trees.

5. 2205 Castillo St. – *Bauhinia blakeana*

Justification: The Committee members and staff determined that the tree is compromised from poor pruning and care. Existing location does not work with design for new child care facility and could pose a risk if destabilized by planned construction work in the root zone.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of staff and approve the tree removal requests identified in items 5C(3, 4, & 5).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

6. Las Positas Storm Water Management Project

Ms. Jill Murray provided a staff report regarding the Las Positas Storm Water Management Project.

Commissioner Longstreet asked when the condos were built on Modoc, were bioswales put in. Ms. Murray said she is unsure; there might be bioswales on that facility to treat the runoff at the condo, but she is almost positive that the water that comes out of the culvert under Highway 101 just comes straight to Modoc Road and along and under Modoc Road. Ms. Longstreet praised the project and the staff efforts with respect to water quality. She said it is neat to see the department cooperation and, hopefully to be able to improve the golf course as well as the water quality.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred with Ms. Longstreet's comments, he said it is wonderful to be able to take a facility like the golf course and add to its recreational utility and environmental component. He asked what it means that the samples show non-point source of pollution. Ms. Murray said that it means that staff has tried to target spacially different areas, and has not found any one point of the pollution. She said it seems that there is a lot of bacteria coming off from a lot of different places, and combined, that is called non-point source pollution.

Commissioner Conner echoed Commissioner Longstreet's and Larimore-Hall's comments. She asked what a slues is. Ms. Murray said that a slues is a dam; it is like a metal place that can be removed or put down, and controls the size of the opening of the pipe.

Chair Forsell commented that the project is creative. Mr. Forsell asked what participation Adams School is involved in. Ms. Murray said that as a bare

minimum, staff hopes that the School District will involve access, because part of the project involves improving the diversion pipe off of their property. She said she is hopeful that the project will encourage them to improve the runoff patterns on their property. Ms. Murray said staff has not begun any of those discussions with the School District as of yet, and did not want to speak in advance of what could be developed. She indicated her hope that the project might inspire some teachers to take on this type of thing as a student project.

Chair Forsell said it would be nice, since they are both contiguous to try to take on the challenge all at once.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

7. Annual Advisory Committee Reports

The Commission received the Annual Advisory Committee reports. Ms. Rapp said several Councilmembers expressed interest in receiving the advisory committee reports. She said they have formed a subcommittee to talk about advisory committees.

Ms. Rapp reminded the Commission that the Arts & Crafts Show actually elects their members who serve on their advisory committee. She said the Commission recently appointed an at-large member to the advisory committee.

DFP Advisory Committee – The Commission discussed the recommendations and concerns of this advisory committee. Ms. Rapp indicated that the Committee is a new committee that has been meeting quarterly for only 18 months. She Commissioner Longstreet said that the Committee is very frustrated. She said the Committee needs to tighten up the way it is run, with structured agendas and staff reports. Ms. Longstreet further said they need clear guidance on where they are going and possibly meet more frequently, so trust can be built between the Committee and staff. Commissioner Longstreet expressed that it is going to be important for her to attend the meetings as the Commission liaison. She suggested that staff provide materials to the Chair regarding the conduct of meetings. Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred with Commissioner Longstreet's comments. He suggested that the Council subcommittee provide training to the Chairs of Advisory Committees regarding how to run a meeting, where the Committee fits in, what happens to their decisions, and further that the training be tailored to each individual committee. Ms. Rapp concurred with Mr. Larimore-Hall and said she would pass the information on. Ms. Rapp added that the DFP Advisory Committee has done a tremendous amount of work, and urged the Commission to pay attention to their issues and look at the factors, because the City needs it to remain a very strong committee with a strong relationship with staff.

Franklin Center Advisory Committee – Ms. Rapp indicated that the Franklin Center Advisory Committee mentioned the increasing problem with youth on the eastside and is asking that Department if there is any way to expand programming in that area. Ms. Rapp said staff has been having those discussions, and have even talked about the possibility of using the Franklin Center in a different way. She said that the Franklin Center has never functioned as a recreation center facility, but staff is talking about it. She further said that it would not be an easy change, because of the current uses of the facility. Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that we do have problems in some of the neighborhoods, and recreational and cultural infrastructure is hopefully a potential solution to the problem. He asked for more details regarding what the concerns are, in light of the comment that they would like to see more City resources brought into the neighborhood, such as what Teen Programs is offering at its downtown facilities. Mr. Larimore-Hall asked whether there is a concern that the Teen Center is not going to service people on the Eastside, is the concern geography related, etc. Ms. Rapp responded saying that there is a geographic concern. She said Teen Programs operates a lot of programs out of the Carrillo Recreation Center. Ms. Rapp said staff hoped that the Carrillo Recreation Center would be perceived as a neutral site. She said that the location of new Teen Center would be even more neutral. Ms. Rapp expressed that she believes the discussion has been, what other youth serving organizations can bring activities in to engage the youth who are spending a lot of time on the sidewalks, in the parks, just hanging out. Ms. Rapp said it is a complex issue, and many of the tenants working out of the Franklin Center have expressed increasing concerns regarding safety, etc. Commissioner Longstreet commented that going back over the years, there is always that “other agency” issue too. She said the Westside has the Westside Boys & Girls Club; the Eastside has Casa de la Rosa, but it flows a lot more even than the Westside Boys & Girls Club. Ms. Rapp suggested that if the Commission wants to pursue the matter further, staff will come back with a report regarding what activities are offered where. Ms. Rapp said there are limited resources, and maybe there is a need and the opportunity to look at doing some things differently. Ms. Rapp said that staff will provide a report to the Commission in the future, and the community center advisory committee members will be invited to attend the meeting. Commissioner Longstreet suggested that the City partner with other agencies to make some other things happen.

Lower Westside Center Advisory Committee – Ms. Rapp said that the Lower Westside Center Advisory Committee mentioned the fact that the Lower Westside Community Center Director is a half-time position. Ms. Rapp provided some background information indicating that the position has always been a half-time position. She said that at one time, approximately seven years ago, through a Criminal Justice grant operated through the Police Department, the position was increased to a full-time position for three years, but only a half-time position is funded through the General Fund.

Skaters Point Advisory Committee – Ms. Rapp said that Ms. Cook included a report from the Skaters Point Advisory Committee, but the Committee is just getting started.

Santa Barbara Youth Council – Ms. Rapp said that the Youth Council discussed concerns about the size and composition of the Youth Council and continuing concerns about the diversity of the Youth Council. Ms. Rapp said that the Youth Council is currently seeking members. Ms. Rapp said that the issues on the size of the Youth Council have changed over the last few years, and further that the size of the body has decreased over the years. She said that diversity has always been a concern. Ms. Rapp said staff expects that the Commission will want to take up some of the concerns by talking with the Youth Council and looking at what can be done to help increase the diversity and their outreach into the community. Ms. Rapp indicated that the issue came up during a meeting of the Council Subcommittee on Advisory Committees and they were please to know that the Youth Council had been talking about it and that staff and the Park and Recreation Commission would also be discussing it in an attempt to find solutions to the problem.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that if you look at the Franklin Center and the activities, there are none. He further said that most of the problems are in the area of the Franklin Center. Mr. Gonzalez said it would be worthwhile to look into that particular situation. Ms. Rapp said that Prop 49, funding for afterschool programs, might be available to fund more junior high and high school afterschool programs. She said that staff are in discussions with the School District that this might be a new funding source to expand some of those programs. Ms. Rapp said that staff will provide a report on this at a later date.

Commissioner Conner commented regarding the Adapted Advisory Committee that they are doing good work and that they are collaborating over and over again with the community. She said that the Adapted Advisory Committee is looking to reduce the size of their membership and that they are meeting quarterly, which has been very effective. Ms. Conner stated that the Adapted Advisory Committee is pleased with the addition of a part-time Inclusion Coordinator. Ms. Rapp clarified that the Inclusion Coordinator is a permanent part-time position.

Commissioner Forsell commented that Daraka Larimore-Hall is the primary IPM Advisory Committee liaison and he is the alternate.

8. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Forsell indicated he intended to nominate Commissioner Conner to serve as Chair, but she cannot do so at this time, and asked if Chair Forsell could continue until January, but by charter the Chair and Vice Chair must be done during July.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission elect Chair Forsell to continue as Chair until January 2007.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission elect Commissioner Conner to continue as Vice Chair until January 2007.

9. Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointments

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Interview and make one appointment to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee; and

The Commission interviewed Matthew F. Margulies and Kristen LaBonte, for possible appointment to the IPM Advisory Committee, representing the community at large. Perrin Pellegrin was not present to be interviewed.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Kristen LaBonte to the IPM Advisory Committee representing the community at large for a term ending December 31, 2009.

- B. Interview and make one appointment to the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

The Commission interviewed Ricardo Castellanos and Karen Christman for possible appointment to the Street Tree Advisory Committee as an alternate voting member.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Ricardo Castellanos, as an alternate voting member of the Street Tree Advisory Committee, for a term ending December 31, 2009,

Mr. Larimore-Hall asked that the matter of looking at the possibility of adding a second alternate voting member or modifying the structure of the Street Tree Advisory Committee be placed on the agenda for the Street Tree Advisory Committee for discussion.

10. Cancellation of August 23, 2006, Regular Meeting

Recommendation: That the Commission consider canceling the August 23, 2006, regular meeting due to a lack of agenda items.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/1 that the Commission cancel the August 23, 2006, regular meeting.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:55 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director