



**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, September 27, 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
Jill Zachary	Creeks Program Manager
Sarah Clayton	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Billy Goodnick	Landscape Architect
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
George Johnson	Associate Planner
Antonio Velasquez	Recreation Supervisor
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

Liaisons Present

Das Williams	City Councilmember
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CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – Chair Forsell discussed a letter he received from Si Jenkins, Jedlika's Saddlery, regarding the inclusion of Parma Park in the Activity Guide for activities such as horseback riding, dog exercising, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Kenneth Loch addressed the Commission regarding his desire to teach tennis to the community through the Department.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Conner reported on the activities of the Active Adults Advisory Committee. She stated that there are listening devices at the Louise Lowry Davis Center for use by people wanting to attend these meetings. Ms. Rapp interjected that the devices can be moved to other facilities as needed.

Chair Forsell reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee. She indicated that she attended the Westside Community meeting last week and the site visit to the Westside Surf Project. She further stated that she is pleased to see activity at the Oak Park Bridge.

Commissioner Gonzalez reported that he attend a workshop at the Community Gardens in the Franklin Center area. He further said he had the experience of looking at how they create the compost from recycling food or fruits from Vons. Mr. Gonzalez said it is really interesting.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall reported on the activities of the Skaters Point Advisory Committee. He said the Committee is off to a good start and have set an ambitious agenda of issues to be tackled over the next couple of years. Mr. Larimore-Hall said the Committee received a history surrounding Skaters Point including the broad legal and social issues that face skateboarding as a sport and its interrelationship with the community. Mr. Larimore-Hall said there is a lot expertise on the Committee and a passion for skateboarding, and it is clear that there is a real commitment to work out some of the issues that have come up.

Commissioner Longstreet commended staff on the Concerts in the Park and said she missed them.

Intern Spracher arrived at 4:06 p.m.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT – Intern Spracher provided this report. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council has returned from summer break and there are three new Youth Council members, two from San Marcos High School and one from Anacapa High School. She said the Youth Council is seeking a Junior High School representative. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council members attended the Annual Youth Leadership Training, which was also attended by members of ADAP and Future Leaders of America. She said that the group reviewed the Roberts Rules of Order and procedures and their objectives for the coming year. Ms. Spracher said that the Teen Center project is moving along, and expressed that the Council is pleased to see progress. She indicated that the Council is working with staff to complete calendars for the first four months of the Center’s opening, as well as working on policies and procedures. Ms. Spracher further said that the Council is planning the grand opening event. Ms. Spracher said that the Committee voted on the name for the Teen Center, which will be “Twelve 35”. Ms. Spracher said that the Council has a goal to increase

their visibility this year and are working with the school administrators to accomplish this. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council attended the 2nd Annual Leadership Conference at Westmont, hosted by Friday Night Live and ADAP. She said the Council made a presentation to teens from Santa Barbara and Santa Maria, and presented the same workshop during the summer at Leadership Training in Carpenteria. Ms. Spacher said that the Youth Council is in the process of planning the Haunted House and are looking for teen volunteers to help out with the project, and asked that interested teens contact Teen Programs. Lastly, she said that she will be leaving the meeting early this evening to attend the First Coast Sponsored Youth Forum Speakout with the Glenden Association on the subject of suicide.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** Chair Forsell said he was pleased that we have a two-year agreement with Major League Softball, and that must mean that their performance has been satisfactory and the Commission will be receiving a report in the near future. Ms. Rapp responded saying that Mr. Forsell is correct. She said that the previous contract was a two-year contract also. Ms. Rapp said that there have been concerns raised by players and MLS has been responsive to staff regarding those concerns.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. Special meeting of July 10, 2006;
 - B. Special meeting of July 24, 2006;
 - C. Regular meeting of July 26, 2006; and
 - D. Special meeting of September 5, 2006.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the special meeting of July 10, 2006.

Chair Forsell and Commissioner Larimore-Hall abstained

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the special special meeting of July 24, 2006.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the minutes regular meeting of July 26, 2006.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the minutes special meeting of September 5, 2006.

Chair Forsell and Commissioner Larimore-Hall abstained

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. Recognition of Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council

The Commission recognized the Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council for monthly clean-ups of Mission Creek and Leadbetter Beach and presented certificates of appreciation to the following individuals: Ed Harris, Judee Hauer, Brittany Harris, Garrett Brannon, Kenneth Giles, Richard Frickmann, Lee Ann Dollison, Darlene Chirman, Jason Nelson, Mark Holmgren, Brian Trautwein, Daniel Wilson, Melanie Cross, and Christine Fagerlin.

4. 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. Approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 85 N. La Cumbre – *Geijera parviflora*

Justification: An investigation was made to determine if the existing plans could be amended in an effort to preserve this tree. Staff determined that the tree should be removed and replaced with a 24" box Australian Willow tree in a tree well north of the new driveway.

2. 542 Allan Rd. – *Liquidambar styraciflua*

Justification: Replace existing tree with 1 Chinese Pistache.

Commissioner Conner 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 4A (1 & 2).

B. Deny the following street tree removal requests:

1. 422 Linda Rd. – *Cupaniopsis anacardioides*

Justification: Tree is healthy and contributes to the neighborhood.

2. 3718 Osito Ct. – *Jacaranda mimosifolia*

Justification: Tree is healthy and contributes to the neighborhood.

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

recommendations of staff and approve the tree removal requests identified in items 4B (1&2).

C. Approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 640 Willowglen Rd. – *Pinus thunbergiana*

Justification: Replace the existing tree with a small tree or shrub. Note: the Committee recommended that the pine would benefit from better grooming and an occasional fertilization if the owner would prefer to keep the tree.

Commissioner Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of staff and approve the tree removal requests identified in items 4C (1).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Creeks Project - Old Mission Creek at West Figueroa Street

Mr. George Johnson provided a presentation on the Old Mission Creek Storm Water Management and Creek Restoration Project.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that Bohnett Park has the low flow treatment and now stormwater treatment and now we will be able to see some results. Mr. Johnson responded saying that is true. We do have the low flow treatment with Westside UV Facility, as well as the small bioswales at Bohnett Park, and the bioswales at Bohnett Park also serve to do some stormwater retention, but this will complete the circle in being able to treat stormwater flows from this tributary into Mission Creek. Commissioner Longstreet said it is nice to see this focus and the tie in. She further said that this won't be real visible in the community once it is done, and that is another point that needs to be made – not everything we do will be extremely visible, but the results, hopefully will pay off down the line.

Chair Forsell asked whether there have been any adverse comments from adjacent property owners. Mr. Johnson said that screening was an issue with respect to tree removals, and when staff met with them last, staff did not have the exact information as to what particular trees would be removed, so it was hard for the property owners to determine whether they would be impacted by the removals. Mr. Johnson said, however, with the more detailed plans, staff will be able to go back to the property owners, and will likely need to be a little more negotiations as to which trees will remain and which trees will be removed. Mr. Johnson said that the plan is to plant a lot of trees on the banks to replace those that are removed. He stated that staff is trying to reiterate that if there are any visual impact, they will be short-term in nature, anywhere from three to four years.

Ms. Zachary said that staff will stake the site and at the next meeting with landowners, staff will be able to show them the potential locations for everything. She said that staff will ribbon the trees so you can actually tell whether a tree would stay or go, and could the design be altered slightly to keep a tree that is important. Ms. Zachary said that by doing this property owners will be able to relate to how it impacts their property.

Commissioner Longstreet asked regarding the railroad property and the development on it whether it has any potential impacts to this project. Mr. Johnson said he has looked briefly at the plans and there is a setback from the creek in that location. He said that the property owner staff has met with has been very cooperative, verbally, with respect to the removal of non-natives on the bank. Mr. Johnson said the only real proposal is to stabilize the bottom of the bank and remove some of the non-natives and replace them. He said that even if the project were to go through with its current design, it would not significantly impact the project.

Commissioner Conner asked what the interpretive kiosk will look like. Mr. Johnson said staff has not gotten into the details of what it will look like yet. He guessed that it will be a sign that will have an overview of the site and explain some of the things discussed in this presentation and as to how the water is treated, what is happening at the site, some of the habitat value, as well as how water quality is being improved. Mr. Johnson indicated you would be able to see some of the ponds from that location and there will be fencing in front to discourage access.

6. Community Gardens/Vons Composting Event

Mr. Antonio Velasquez provided a status report on the community Gardens compost delivery from the Vons Composting Program.

Ms. Rapp acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Velasquez and Ken Brown for their efforts in putting together this event.

Commissioner Longstreet commended Mr. Velasquez on the condition of the Community Gardens.

7. Santa Barbara County United Way Day of Caring at Harding Recreation Center Report

Ms. Judith Cook provided a report on the Santa Barbara County United Way Day of Caring 2006 and the work done at the Harding Recreation Center as a part of the Day of Caring.

8. Santa Barbara Beautiful Annual Awards 2006

Ms. Rapp shared with the Commission that Looking Good Santa Barbara was recognized, and Shoreline Drive, from Harbor Way to Shoreline Park, was selected the winner of the Open Public Space Award 2006 by Santa Barbara Beautiful, and was presented the award at the Santa Barbara Beautiful Awards Ceremony on Sunday, September 24th.

9. Franceschi Park Workday, Saturday, October 21, 2006

Mr. Billy Goodnick briefed the Commission that there is a Franceschi Park workday scheduled for Saturday, October 21st. He said the activity is sponsored by the Department, the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee, and the Riviera Homeowners Association.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that she needs someone to take her place as liaison to the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee because the Creeks Advisory Committee conflicts. Mr. Forsell asked the Commissioners to consider this and let him know. This item will be on the agenda for the October 26th meeting.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

10. Teen Center Status Report and Proposed Teen Center Advisory Committee Composition

Ms. Young provided an updated on the status of the Teen Center Project. She further reported on the proposed creation of a Teen Center Advisory Committee and provide direction to staff.

Ms. Young advised that the City received 25 applicants for the position of Teen Center Coordinator. She said that the applications have been reviewed, and 12 of the applicants will be interviewed on October 4th. Ms. Young said that staff hopes to have the Teen Center Coordinator and the Teen Center Advisory Committee in place at the same time in order to contribute to the Teen Center Plans.

Ms. Rapp acknowledged the efforts of the Teen Center Subcommittee. She said that normally the Youth Council takes a break during the summer months, but the subcommittee, consisting of a group of teens has worked through the summer, demonstrating a commitment to moving the project forward.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether the make up of the Teen Center Advisory Committee has been determined. Ms. Rapp said the recommendation is to leave the committee informal at this time; however, the Commission could discuss that at this time.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether having representatives from only the public high schools is right as there are a number of private high schools and junior high schools in the area. Ms. Young said that all high schools and the junior high schools will be given the opportunity to have representation. Ms. Rapp further said that generally the committee members need to reside in the Santa Barbara Secondary School District. She further clarified that this is not a matter that would necessarily come back to the Commission, as the Committee will be an informal group. She said it is staff recommendation to do so in order to get teen a better involvement of the teens. Ms. Rapp said staff will evaluate this later, and if necessary changes could be made.

Chair Forsell asked if the Commission will receive an annual report. Ms. Rapp said yes. Ms. Rapp further said that staff will be bringing Teen Center progress reports back to the Commission a couple times, and also an overview of how the facility is going to operate once the program committee has developed a plan, prior to the grand opening of the Teen Center.

11. Street Tree Advisory Committee Membership

Mr. Goodnick briefed that the Street Tree Advisory Committee considered the suggestion of the Park and Recreation Commission to change the membership of the Street Tree Advisory Committee at their last meeting. He highlighted the Committees concerns, and said that the Committee and staff recommends that the composition of the Advisory Committee remain as is, with three voting members and one alternate voting member.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether the Commission could take action to change the composition regardless. Chair Forsell indicated the Commission could take that action.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission change the composition of the Street Tree Advisory Committee increasing the number of alternate voting members to two.

The Commission took a break at 5:20 p.m. and reconvened at 5:40 p.m.

12. East Cabrillo Boulevard Sidewalks – Parkway Landscape Plan

Mr. Marck Aguilar provided a presentation on the East Cabrillo Boulevard Sidewalks Parkway Landscaping Plan and asked the Commission to provide comments and a vote of support for the general design.

Public comment

Marilyn Loperfido addressed the Commission saying she is glad the City is addressing the sidewalks on East Cabrillo Boulevard. She said that her idea of a compromise is something that would work for the Arts and Crafts Show members

as well as accommodating the needs of everyone else. She highlighted several concerns of the Arts and Crafts Show members: planned work in the red zones within the show boundaries will create a hardship for show members when loading and unloading. Ms. Loperfido suggested that staff revisit the distance for plantings around the street lamps within the show boundaries, as opposed to outside of those boundaries. She said a fair and equitable solution to the dilemma is planning the sidewalk area from within the show boundaries and then extending the plans outside of the show boundaries, which would in affect, be two different plans at the same location, which she believes could be easily accomplished. Ms. Loperfido expressed that it is difficult for all parties involved to make a fair and educational conclusion without an on-site visit accompanied by show members. She said it is really important not to overlook the concerns of the City's longest residents of the park in favor of a use proposed by parties who do not regularly frequent that park or depend on it for their livelihood. She said that the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee took a vote over a year ago to ask work session with the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) and all parties involved. She said the Committee is still waiting for that work session to occur. Finally, Ms. Loperfido reiterated that some parts of the plan are viable for the Show, and some will not work at all. She urged the City to operate from the position of "do no harm." She asked the Commission for their support.

Chair Forsell asked what the interaction and reaction has been from the Arts & Crafts Show community. Mr. Aguilar said staff met earlier in the month with members of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and members. He said that until then, he had been working primarily with staff, who brought forth the concerns of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and members of the show. Chair Forsell asked whether there are plans to have additional meetings rather than just providing information to the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee members and participants. Mr. Aguilar responded saying that there are no additional meeting planned. He further said that the project is at the point in its development where he is trying to obtain a concept approval from the HLC. Mr. Aguilar indicated that a lot of the work that has been done is directly responsive to the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee members and participants and Parks and Recreation Department concerns. He said that the landscape design team has been working very closely with the historical consultant to develop a plan that works for the contemporary uses, but will also maintain historic character, which is the balance they are trying to achieve.

Chair Forsell stated that the concerns of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and members certainly have to be addressed. He further said that based on Ms. Loperfido's comments, it sounds as though all of the concerns of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and members have not been addressed. Mr. Aguilar responded saying that the plan may not address all of their concerns. He stated that is the nature of a compromise.

Ms. Rapp said that Ms. Cook has represented the concerns of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee members and participants and the Show in general.

She said there has been a lot of consideration, and as Mr. Aguilar has said, this is definitely a compromise. Ms. Rapp said that this is not what the Department would like to have seen, but realizes that a compromise that works, must be reached. Ms. Rapp highlighted the compromises for the Commission.

Ms. Cook said that parking is a concern. She said that permits have been issued to Arts and Crafts Show members to load and unload in the red zones. She said they have used the red zones to load and unload and then they re-park. Ms. Cook indicated that one of the big concerns of the Show in the plan was that the large red zone, which is approximately 150 – 200 feet long, would be planted with solid plants, which would mean that some show members could be carrying their items, some of which are very large and heavy, as much as 100 – 150 feet to their space. Ms. Cook said that another concern was that there are a number of yellow loading and unloading zones, currently in that area, and the parking on Cabrillo Boulevard on the weekends fills up all day. She said it is very important that the yellow zones remain intact, so people can use those areas for loading and unloading. Ms. Rapp said that with the red zone and the planting, the Advisory Committee is concerned that it will be able to retain any of their new members because that is the area in which they would show.

Commissioner Longstreet asked where the area is. Ms. Cook said it was in the area of Calle Cesar Chavez near the restroom. Mr. Aguilar interjected that at the meeting with the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee, the Committee suggested that landscaping not be included in that area. He said staff thought that was a good idea and that is their proposal, that there be no plantings in the loading zones. He said that with respect to the no parking zones, the design is being responsive to Public Works Transportation. He said that in the past there have been permits issued to load and unload in the red zone. Mr. Aguilar said that practice, if it has not ceased already, will cease. He said that given that information, they are obliged to fill that parkway with some plantings.

Commissioner Longstreet asked what the plant pallet is. Ms. Marth Degausus highlighted the plant pallet. She said they are trying to keep the height of the plants low. Commissioner Longstreet stated the plant pallet needs to be pedestrian friendly and not injure anyone.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked regarding the current sidewalk what the problem is that there are no plants and what the maintenance will be. Mr. Escobar said with the additional planting, it will cost the City an additional \$23,000 annually.

Commissioner Conner asked whether that would factor in replacement plants. Mr. Escobar said yes.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he understands a compromise does not make anyone happy. He said he cannot make sense out of planting plants in a space that is going to have traffic. He further said he cannot make sense of limiting the utility of that park and access to it for aesthetic reasons. Mr. Larimore-Hall

commented that it is the Pacific Ocean, lined with a park and beautiful palm trees—it is gorgeous, and attracts people from all over the world. He said the area is beautiful and that he does not see where it needs more landscaping. Mr. Larimore-Hall said it definitely needs work and needs to be filled in, etc., but he said he would be much happier voting for something that is a lot more practical.

Ms. Rapp interjected that staff has spend a great deal of time in discussion regarding plants, maintenance, hardiness, sustainability, and increase in workload. She said that this is just one of the areas of the City where we are in development for adding park green space, whether a small pocket park over on the Westside, so staff will need to deal with the increase in green space that is going to be maintained by parks. She said staff will be coming up with real numbers for that. Ms. Rapp said that the discussion of plant material has been extensive from those three considerations: hardiness, sustainability, and with IPM how do we maintain it. She said staff is operating under the assumption that a compromise needs to be achieved.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed concern that we have been dealing with this for well over two years, and we are not getting the sidewalks done. She said staff and everyone else has worked hard to come to this compromise, and we should move on with the project and there will be better sidewalks. Ms. Longstreet said she thinks it is the best plan we will probably see, and it will really be up to the public as to whether it survives. She said she likes the fact that there is 10,000 square feet more of hardscape. Ms. Longstreet said she would like to see plantings around the tree wells. She said that the red curb issues may be a mute point depending upon what the Transportation Division decides to do. Ms. Longstreet expressed that she would like to see more of the decomposed granite and some pathways through it. She said that with the amount of staff time and money that has gone into this project, we should be building it. Ms. Longstreet said that if this does not pass at HLC with all of the Commission's comments she hopes staff will take it to Council so the project can move forward.

Commissioner Longstreet moved that the Commission accept the plan with the comments given.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked that the motion be amended to include that the P & R budget be increased by the amount of the maintenance costs.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/0 that the Commission accept the plan with the comments given and that the budget be increased by the amount of the maintenance costs.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall abstained.

Ms. Rapp asked the commission to appoint a representative to attend the HLC meeting. Commissioner Longstreet said she would attend. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he will attend with Commissioner Longstreet.

13. Set Date for Special Meeting to Hear M. Lestrade Appeal of Arts and Crafts Advisory Committee Decision – For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission set a date for a Special Meeting to hear an appeal from Michel Lestrade, member of the Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts Show, regarding the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee decision to remove his “Body Doubles” painting from the show.

The Commissioners decided upon Thursday, October 19th, 5:00 p.m.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that staff from Public Works, the Police Department, and the Parks and Recreation Department held a meeting with the Oak Park Neighborhood regarding concerns related to vandalism in the neighborhood surrounding the park, alcohol consumption in the park, homeless people in the park. She indicated staff has been receiving email communication about these concerns, and staff has been receptive. Ms. Rapp said that clearly there are areas of concern to the resident that need to be addressed. She said this item will be agendaized for the Commission in the future for further action.

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that the Veronica Meadows item will be heard by City Council on October 3rd at 4:00 for the staff presentation, with public comment being heard at 6:00 p.m. She asked Commissioner Longstreet if she could attend the meeting representing the Commission.

Ms. Rapp briefed that five staff attended the NRPA Revenue and Marketing Seminar. She said that she, Billy Goodnick and Santos Escobar will be attending the NRPA Conference in Seattle the second week in October.

Ms. Rapp indicated the City will begin recruiting for the Assistant Parks and Recreation Director very soon.

Ms. Rapp said that Council will present a proclamation on Lights on Afterschool! On October 10th. She further said there will be some special programs related to that national program.

Ms. Rapp briefly highlighted the Creek Week activities. Creek week is October 7 – 15, 2006.

During October, staff will be presenting the CIP recommendations to the Commission in October.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:28 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director