



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Joint Meeting**

Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – The Park and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Forsell at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Steve Forsell	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

Commissioners Absent

Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
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Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Sarah Clayton	Recreation Programs Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Jill Zachary	Creeks Program Manager
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Tim Burgess	Water Resources Specialist
Jeni Eddington	Creeks Program Assistant
Autumn McKee	Water Resources Specialist
Jessica Scheeter	Creeks Outreach Coordinator
Susan Young	Recreation Supervisor, Teen Programs

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one wished to speak.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Ms. Longstreet reported that she attended the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee meeting and they are moving forward with signage at DFP.

Chair Forsell reported that he attended the PARC Foundation meeting about grants.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Spracher provided that this report. Ms. Spracher said that a Youth Council will be creating a Youth Intern Program in order to get more teens involved. She said eventually, it will be required that teens serve on the Youth Intern Program for a number of months before they are appointed to the Youth Council. Ms. Spracher said that Christy Haynes, Teen Center Coordinator was appointed and is present at the meeting.

1. **Summary of Council Actions** – There were no comments.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. Regular meeting of November 15, 2006.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2006.

Mr. Larimore-Hall arrived at 4:09 p.m.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. **Recognition of Si Jenkins**

The Commission recognized Si Jenkins for his continued volunteerism at Parma Park. Chair Forsell presented Mr. Jenkins with a certificate of appreciation.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS - None

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

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

- A. **Approve the following Street Tree and Set Back Tree removal requests.**

STREET TREES

1. 2535 Chapala St. – Eucalyptus ficifolia - Thomas Byrne

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the tree is showing evidence of disease and that the future health of the tree is likely to continue declining. The applicant will be responsible for removal of the tree and replacing it with a 24" box Jacaranda mimosifolia.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the tree removal requests identified in items 4A (1).

SETBACK TREES

2. 1734 San Pascual St. – (1) *Acer saccharinum*, (1) *Platanus acerifolia* – Andy Sillers, Agent for Paul Elwira

Justification: The Committee determined that both trees were not compatible with the amount of area they are planted in. The trees are already outgrowing the front yard area and they have only grown to a third of their eventual stature. The trees are growing into power lines, and roots have begun to negatively impact the surrounding hardscape.

3. 1520 Shoreline Dr. – *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* – Barry Nisen

Recognizing that this tree is a specimen tree and a significant skyline tree for this area of the Mesa, the committee had considerable difficulty and reluctance in deciding to allow for the removal of this tree. The Committee felt that the tree had been pruned three times within a seven year period and has continued to lose limbs without provocation. This indicates that a more frequent maintenance schedule will not provide conditions in which this tree can be considered safe to the public. In addition, the level of regular maintenance required will only increase and is excessive for both the Parks Division and the Applicant.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the tree removal requests identified in item 4A (2-3).

- B. **Deny the following Street Tree and Setback Tree removal requests.**

STREET TREES

1. 760 Calabria Dr. – *Schinus terebinthifolius* – John Leonard

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the *Schinus terebinthifolius* is a healthy tree and that the sidewalk lifting caused by the roots could be remedied by root pruning and replacing the sidewalk when needed. The Committee recognized that plumbing has a useful lifespan and root infiltration of sewer lines occurs over time and does not justify removal of the tree.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the tree removal requests identified in items 4B (1).

SETBACK TREES

2. 2432 De La Vina St. – Tipuana tipu – Mehran Mobrem

Justification: The Committee felt that the tree could benefit from corrective pruning to allow access of larger vehicles to the driveway and to pull limbs back from the building. There is no evidence that the tree is damaging the driveway at this time. The roots that are raising the sidewalk should be pruned and the sidewalk section replaced by the applicant.

Leslie Lane said that she concurs with staff to deny the tree removal and recommended that root pruning be done under the direction of the City Arborist.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the tree removal requests identified in items 4B (2).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Clean Water Business Certification Program – For Information

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission receive a staff report on the Creeks Division Clean Water Business Certification Program.

Autumn McKee, Water Resources Specialist, introduced the Clean Water Business Certification Program. She said that the focus is currently on the restaurant, automotive, and construction industries. She said that the goal is to assist with businesses comply with City and State laws.

Ms. McKee stated that the Clean Water Business Certification program began in 2005. She said that 10 automotive businesses had been certified and restaurants are currently being invited to participate in the program. Ms. McKee said that there are more than 200 restaurants in Santa Barbara and restaurants located in the downtown corridor are the first restaurants to be invited to participate.

Mr. Burgess, Water Resources Specialist, stated that there are 97 licensed automotive businesses in Santa Barbara. He said that he has recertified the businesses originally certified.

Ms. Longstreet asked which tools are being provided to restaurateurs to clean their mats. She asked about delivering the informational items with the building permit.

- Ms. McKee responded that mat washing is a challenge and that the mat washing service previously available in Santa Barbara is no longer available. She said that many restaurateurs are trying alternative methods such as hanging mats to dry with buckets beneath them in order to reclaim the wash

water. She added that other restaurants wash their mats in their dishwashers.

Ms. Longstreet asked whether there is any participation from the green building movement to help with the construction industry.

- Ms. Zachary said that staff have been in discussion with the Built Green Program and have reviewed some of their Best Management Practices and will be recommending a little more in detail what they could include so that contractors who are participating in the program are actually implementing more measures that are more conducive to protecting water quality. She said that next month, staff is involved in a training program for contractors related specifically about Best Management Practices.

Ms. Longstreet stated that when some tools have been developed, it would be good to hand them out with building permits.

- Ms. Zachary said that staff does hand out a fact sheet, and the Building and Safety Division is responsible for that. She said that there is an erosion control and sedimentation policy that contractors are asked to adhere to, and is enforced when that does not happen.

Mr. Gonzalez asked whether staff has looked into the self-car wash and carpeting cleaning businesses.

- Ms. Zachary responded that the Creeks Division has been looking at these businesses for a number of years and will need to tackle it very seriously in the next 18 months. She said that staff is trying to be creative with mobile businesses to get them to find ways to contain their wash water and find ways to discharge it to the sewer. Ms. Zachary said there currently are no regulations that speak specifically to mobile businesses.
- Mr. Burgess responded that mobile businesses are difficult to track. He said that he has been in contact with mobile car washers. He said that depending on the fleet size, various devices can be used to retain the water. Mr. Burgess said that because of the Clean Water Act and subsequent National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, the water catchment business is growing.

Mr. Larimore-Hall said that he is concerned that he sees a carrot but not the stick. He said that he would like to know what is being done to uphold the law. He asked if there is a criterion that exceeds the law.

- Ms. Zachary responded that City staff enforces storm water codes and said that the Creeks Division has added an additional staff member to augment that effort. She said that when a violation is observed, a Notice of Violation is given to the violator. She said that if the violation is not abated, then the violator is cited. Ms. Zachary added that an element of the program is to help businesses come into compliance and better understand the challenges faced by the various industries.

6. San Roque Creek Stewards Project At Stevens Park – For Information (Attachment)

Ms. Scheeter, Creeks Outreach Coordinator, provided a staff report on the San Roque Creek Stewards Project at Stevens Park. She provided a brief background, highlighted the project including identifying project partners, talked about the next steps, and budget information.

Ms. Scheeter reported that during the months of October, November, and December there were various public planting and educational days.

Mr. Larimore-Hall asked if there is a master list of volunteer opportunities.

- Ms. Scheeter responded that a list of potential volunteer projects is being drafted for next year.

OLD BUSINESS

7. Teen Center Update – For Information (Attachment)

Ms. Susan Young, Recreation Supervisor, stated that the Teen Center was approved in June 2004. She said that volunteers have been working on this project and that it is located on 1235 Chapala Street. Ms. Young reviewed the original design requests, the chosen name for the center, and the current stage of construction.

Ms. Young introduced Christy Haynes as the new Teen Center Coordinator. Ms. Christy Haynes said that she is excited to shepherd the opening of the Teen Center.

Ms. Young stated that Teen Center policies and procedures are currently in progress and a \$15.00 membership fee is being proposed. She said that programs include drop-in tutoring, music recording & production training, drama and theater classes, and other special events. She said that the Teen Center hours are proposed as follows:

Monday – Thursday – 2:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Friday – 2:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday – 2:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Sunday – Closed

Ms. Young indicated that the hours will be extended during the winter and spring breaks and during the summer.

Ms. Young stated that fundraising is ongoing and on track. She said that construction is to be complete in January 2007 with the grand opening scheduled for March 17, 2007.

Mr. Gonzales asked if an advisory group is being established. Ms. Young indicated that the Youth Council is recruiting for Teen Center Advisory Committee members. Ms. Young added regarding the membership fee of \$15.00, that staff is working on a scholarship program for teens that cannot afford to pay the membership fee and said that no teen would be turned away. She further said that there is a recommendation that for the first four months, it be open to everyone and then in July start with the new membership if approved.

Mr. Forsell commented that the membership fees are reasonable at \$15.00 a year. He recommended that individuals that cannot pay for the \$15.00 fee could be asked to help clean up.

Mr. Larimore-Hall asked who will be tutoring the students.

- Ms. Young responded that staff is seeking volunteers. She said that she has met with people from Santa Barbara City College and UCSB, and there are a lot of students who are trying to get their community service hours. She further said that staff is trying to get high school students to tutor the junior high school students.

Ms. Young talked about winter programs. She said that there is an X-Box tournament on December 19th; Girls' Night on December 21st; and a Magic Mountain trip on December 27th. She encouraged teens who might be watching to contact Teen Programs if they are interested in attending.

Mr. McDermott invited the Commissioners to attend the Teen Center Subcommittee meetings at 4:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Gonzalez recommended that the telephone number to the Teen Center include the numbers 1235.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Tree Diversity Program – For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report from Dr. Robert Muller, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden on a proposal for a Tree Diversity Project for the Greater Santa Barbara Area.

Dr. Robert Muller said that historically Santa Barbara's trees were not as diverse as they are today. He said that the landscape was barren. He said that all of the trees have been imported and planted; they are not original or native. He noted that in some cases, only one tree from a particular species is present in Santa Barbara. He said that the Santa Barbara urban forest is in the state of decline. Dr. Muller stated that there has been a decline in tree diversity with roughly 300 tree species currently present versus 450 species in 954. He said that despite the introduction of additional species, a quarter of the diversity has been lost.

Dr. Muller said that he would like the Commission to support the Tree Diversity Project.

Ms. Longstreet asked if the trees would be planted in parks or in a street tree setting. She asked if the trees are available.

- Dr. Muller responded that the tree location would be determined by the characteristics of the tree. He said that the horticultural industry focuses on trees that can easily be planted and that these trees are not as easily obtainable.

Mr. Forsell asked why the diversity has declined and asked if the species were perhaps not a good fit for Santa Barbara.

- Dr. Muller responded that disease, drought and development are the major killers of trees and that the selected trees would meet specific criterion.

9. Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointment – For Action (Attachment)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Interview and make one appointment to the Adapted Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, that the Commission appoint Alison Forsyth, representing the Tri-Counties Regional Center, to the Adapted Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2008.

B. Consider the applications of two incumbents and make two appointments to the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, that the Commission re-appoint Susan Chamberlin, representing the Pearl Chase Society, and Brigitte Forssell, representing the Riviera Association, to the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee for a terms ending December 31, 2008.

C. Interview and make on appointment to the Street Tree Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, that the Commission appoint Karen Christman, representing the Community At Large, to the Street Tree Advisory Committee as an Alternate Voting Member, for a term ending December 31, 2008.

D. Interview three applicants, consider the application of one incumbents, and make three appointments to the Golf Advisory Committee; and

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, that the Commission appoint John Craig, Representing the Los Paisanos Golf Club, and Maureen Masson, Representing the Women's Club, to the Golf Advisory Committee for terms ending December 31, 2008.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Forsell, that the Commission appoint Jeff Hewes and Dave Fahrbach, to the Golf Advisory Committee, representing the community at large, for terms ending December 31, 2008.

- E. Consider the application and appoint one incumbent applicant to the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, that the Commission re-appoint Kathleen Modugno, representing the neighbors, to the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:35 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director