



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Joint Meeting**

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Minutes (AMENDED)

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chair Forsell called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice-Chair Forsell

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Steve Forsell	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Beebe Longstreet	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Arnoldo Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Laura Spracher	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

Commissioners Absent

Daraka Larimore-Hall	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner

Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Terry Brown	Youth Activities Coordinator
Kevin Buchanan	Recreation Specialist
Brooke Wilken	Lead Recreation Coordinator
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant
Harold "Hal" Hill	Project Manager
Michael Berman	Project Planner

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – Ms. Rapp advised that Item 12, Martell Appeal of Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee Decision to Not Take Action on Incident Involving Mr. Kennedy, cannot be addressed this evening as Mr. Kennedy has jury duty. Ms. Rapp asked that the Commission determine whether the items should be heard at the March 28th meeting or hold a special meeting. The Commission indicated their preference to defer the item to the March 28th meeting.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ken Loch addressed the Commission regarding an Art education program and Tennisauce.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Longstreet reported that she and on the Oak Park Bridge Ribbon-Cutting event. She further reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force and the Creeks Advisory Committee. Ms. Longstreet stated that she attended one of the mobile pantry farmers markets at the Franklin Center. She said it is very useful to the community and a great program that provides very easy access. Ms. Longstreet said that she invited Jason Bryan to the Laguna Cottages where he provided a presentation to the seniors. She publicly thanked him for the presentation he provided. Ms. Longstreet further said that she went to the start of the Tour of California race, saying it is the kind of tourism we want to encourage. She said it was a great event.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Spracher provided that this report. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council has been focusing on the opening of the Teen Center. She stated that the construction is completed and a formal grand opening is set for Friday evening, March 16th. Ms. Spracher said there will be an opening for the public on Saturday, March 17th. Ms. Spracher advised that the Youth Council has appointed three new members. She also said that the Youth Council is organizing a Youth Speakout, which will be scheduled for May 2007.

1. **Summary of Council Actions** – Ms. Rapp reported that staff will be providing Council with a Teen Center Update on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 24, 2007.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 30 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 24, 2007.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. **Recognition of Mr. Paulson**

The Commission recognized Robin Paulsen and Club West volunteers who support after school track and field programs. The Commission presented Mr. Paulson and Club West with certificates of appreciation.

4. **Tree City USA – Special Appreciation to Santa Barbara Beautiful** – Mr. Escobar briefed the Commission on the Tree City USA and acknowledged the contributions and support of Santa Barbara Beautiful in helping the City achieve the designation of Tree City USA. The Commission presented Mr. Desmond O'Neill, Santa Barbara Beautiful Board member, with a certificate of appreciation.

5. Street Tree Master Plan Changes

Recommendation: The Commission approve the recommended changes to the Street Tree Master Plan necessary for the installation of 107 street trees within the City.

Mr. Fritz briefed the Commission that the Botanic Garden has obtained and extended funding from a California ReLeaf Grant to plant 107 trees representing 5 species in Santa Barbara's urban forest. Mr. Fritz indicated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff developed a list of 5 species that have characteristics suitable for planting as street trees and meet the objectives of the grant to enhance species diversity. He identified those species as: Pearl Acacia, Flaxleaf Paperbark, Fringe Tree, Cape Chestnut, and Santa Cruz Island Oak. Mr. Fritz indicated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff have identified suitable planting sites where there is the opportunity to plant multiple trees in an effort to create continuity of tree type in each block.

Mr. Fritz said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommends that the Commission approve the adoption of tree species changes to the Street Tree Master Plan for the purpose of implementing this tree planting grant.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that he saw some spaces where there were no trees, and asked whether it is because the trees were lost or there were never any trees there.

Mr. Fritz responded saying that in those areas, there have never been trees. He further indicated that there are some areas on the East side that look as though there were palms trees there in the past, but they are no longer there. Mr. Fritz said that at this point, a new street tree will be established.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that over the last 30 years, we have lost 20 percent of the species that we have in Santa Barbara. He asked whether when that happens we replace the trees with the same species or do we change the species. Mr. Fritz clarified that the numbers Mr. Gonzalez is referring to were developed when Dr. Muller was putting together his book "Trees of Santa Barbara", and in many cases, he was looking for individual species that existed in public areas, not necessarily tree species in general, but trees that were in parks or areas that could be publicly accessed. Mr. Fritz stated that in many cases, the diversity did not necessarily represent trees that the City took care of, but because we have planting areas on public property, it gives the City the opportunity to reintroduce some of those species that are no longer present in the inventory.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked whether staff plans to recruit volunteers at the high school. Mr. Fritz said he would like to put forth a volunteer opportunity for community service to the local high schools. He further said that he made contact with Wise Drive, a group made up of local youth on the East and Westside areas. He said it would be a nice opportunity to integrate with the

people who live in those areas and try to get buy-in and ownership of the trees in those particular areas that they live.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the Street Tree Master Plan changes as requested.

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

Recommendation: That the Commission:

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

SETBACK TREES

1. 318 W. Cota St. – Rosie Uribe – Araucaria heterophylla

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that removal of this tree would be in the best interest of the applicant and the neighborhood. The tree has a history of losing large limbs and dropping cones. In addition, the Committee believes that the tree will only continue to outgrow its planting area and is likely to cause further damage if allowed to remain.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the tree removal request identified in items 4A (1).

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

STREET TREES

1. 1001 Olive St. – Ernest A. Watson – Olea europaea

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the tree is in good health and suggested the owner prune the canopy of the Monterey Pine located in the front yard setback. The Committee recommends that the applicant remove large branches from the Monterey pine to increase light transfer and allow the Olive tree to grow in a more vertical manner.

Mr. Michael Watson said the tree is a hazard to the community in the fact that it has been grafted. He said it is prolific and deposits fruit on the street and public sidewalk creating a significant trip and fall hazard. He urged the Commission to approve the removal of the tree.

Mr. Fritz responded saying that Mr. Watson is correct in the sense that staff did place a placard on the tree that the tree is being reviewed by the Commission.

He said that the placard identified the reasons the applicant asked to have the tree removed. Mr. Fritz said the tree is quite healthy and because of this it is prolific during the fruiting season.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the tree removal request identified in items 4B (1) because the olive trees are important historic trees.

2. 15 W. Junipero St. – Patricia Ruja – Washingtonia robusta

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that there is no justification for removal at this time. The applicant is concerned about falling dry palm fronds. This tree has been scheduled for service at which time the accumulation of fronds will be removed.

Commissioner Gonzalez moved, seconded by Chair Forsell, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the tree removal request identified in items 4B (2)

3. 211 & 215 W. De La Guerra St. – Mary A. Williams – Syagrus romanzoffianum

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the trees are healthy. There is no indication that these palms are prone to failure or that they present a clear danger to the public or property. The City maintains approximately 2000 Queen Palms and the incidence of tree failure is not common.

Ms. Mary Williams addressed the Commission urging them to approve the removal of the two queen palms on her property because they are in danger of falling. She said she wants her concerns to be made a part of public record.

Mr. Fritz responded saying that the City has approximately 2,000 Queen Palms. He said to make a statement that Queen Palms are a tree that regularly falls is incorrect. Mr. Fritz said the tree is inspected more regularly by the crews, which provides some reassurance.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the tree removal request identified in items 4B (3)

SETBACK TREES

4. 3 S. Soledad St. – Jose A. Peralta Sr. – Phoenix canariensis

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the tree was healthy, that it provides significant bird habitat and that it represents a skyline tree in the area. The Committee recommends that the applicant maintain the tree on a more frequent basis to ensure that fronds do not continue falling.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether there was interference with the electrical lines. Mr. Fritz responded saying that the interference came from the proximity of the tree to the lines. He said that Edison has been pruning that tree for the last ten years. Mr. Fritz said that the tree is going to grow beyond the electrical hazard.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the tree removal request identified in items 4B (4)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

7. Afterschool Clubs

Ms. Brown acknowledged Kevin Buchanan's contributions to the City of Santa Barbara and stated that he would be leaving City service on March 16th. She said Keven is going to work for the City of Burlingame.

Ms. Brown, Mr. Buchanan, and Ms. Wilkin, provided a presentation on The Afterschool Opportunities for Kids (A-OK) Clubs program.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the program is a great idea because it plays on the strengths of the staff members, has a creative component, and gives the kids something different to do.

Vice-Chair Forsell commented that financing the program has been problematic in the past, but it seems to be in good shape at this time.

Ms. Rapp commented that it is rewarding to see staff come forward with ways to improve the service the Department provides to the community, the parents, families, and the children in the City's afterschool programs. She said the success of the program is due to the efforts of staff. Ms. Rapp thanked Mr. Buchanan who has brought up the service quality of the Afterschool Programs to the quality program it is today.

Vice Chair Forsell thanked Kevin Buchanan for his hard work and wished him well.

Commissioner Longstreet commented on the importance of afterschool programs in prevention. She said that the programs have truly paid off for the City and add value to the lives of our children.

8. Teen Center Update

Ms. Susan Young provided the Commission with a report on the status of the Teen Center Project and Grand Opening events.

9. Integrated Pest Management Annual Report – For Action (Attachment)

Mr. Escobar provided the Commission with the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2006 Annual Report. He said that the Commission is being asked to accept the IPM 2006 Annual Report and recommend approval to City Council.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that it is interesting to look at the program over the years. She said it is nice to see that there is a balance of use and hopefully more green materials will be developed so we do not have to use the yellow or red materials.

Vice Chair Forsell made positive comments that the IPM Advisory Committee and the Airport Commission unanimously approved the IPM Report. He said it says a lot about the report. He thanked everyone who has helped get the IPM Program implemented over the years.

Ms. Rapp said that in both instances where there was a need to use an increased amount of yellow materials and red materials for the mosquitoes and increased rodent problem at the airport, both of those instances were public safety and public health issues. She stated that all of the departments are committed to using green materials, but when it is necessary for public safety, the right thing needs to be done in a timely manner, which is what occurred this year.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission make accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2006 Annual Report and recommend approval to City Council.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

10. Advisory Committee Appointments

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Consider the application of Lu Gilbert, incumbent, and make one appointment to the Active Adults Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission re-appoint Lu Gilbert, representing the community at large, to the Active Adults Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2008.

- B. Consider the application of Carol Bornstein, incumbent, and make one appointment to the Street Tree Advisory Committee; and

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission re-appoint Carol Bornstein, representing the community at large, to the Street Tree Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2008.

- C. Consider the application of Cricket Wood, incumbent, and make one appointment to the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission re-appoint Cricket Wood, representing the community at large, to the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee, for a term ending December 31, 2008.

11. Cabrillo Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project – For Action

Mr. Harold Hill, Project Manager, Public Works Department, provided the Commission with a presentation on the Cabrillo Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project. He said that staff is requesting the Commission make comments on the project prior to the item being scheduled before the Planning Commission on March 15th.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the work will occur 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or will the work occur only during specific times. Mr. Hill responded saying that the operations will occur only during the daytime, as they are strictly limited to creating noise. He said that 10:00 p.m. is the absolute latest they would be able to work. Mr. Hill further stated that they will work during the weekdays.

Vice-Chair Forsell asked how pile driving noise would be mitigated. Mr. Hill responded saying that one of the recommendations is that a crane be put beside the pile driving unit that actually raises a hood around the driving mechanism, so it does not project outside of the area, and there would be a sound absorbing blanket inside that hood, and it is recommended that there be eight-foot high plywood walls with a four-foot hood that will deflect the sound, to protect the pedestrians.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the Creeks Advisory Committee brought up that on the north corner of State and Cabrillo where there is a little more opportunity for planting at the Lagoon site, that consideration be given to planting shade trees, which would positively affect the temperature of the lagoon. She further said that the Creeks Advisory Committee was pleased that with some of the setbacks and sloping, but water temperature is a major issue.

Ms. Longstreet said the Advisory Committee was happy about the new landscaping on the south side where there is going to be more riparian plantings. She said that another positive is that there will be a gain in sidewalk area on the north side of the bridge. Ms. Longstreet said it is very important that walkability be gained in that area, and if there is a way to put trees in that area, it will positively affect the walkability in that area.

Commissioner Longstreet indicated that the Creeks Advisory Committee discussed whether there was a way for the City to have less disruption in the area with respect to the building on Lower State Street. She said their preference was for the work to be coordinated to have less disruption. Ms. Longstreet further indicated that the Advisory Committee discussed the safety of the lagoon area and that the project should positively impact that.

Vice Chair Forsell asked what the purpose of and where the bridge is being made 9 feet longer. Mr. Hill responded saying that the purpose is to provide the opportunity to put new pilings in behind the existing abutments, and then the existing abutments would be removed, which is less intrusive to the stream itself.

Vice Chair Forsell asked when the Cabrillo project will begin and whether it will conflict with this one. Ms. Rapp said staff hopes the project will begin in the fall, and it will be completed about the time this project begins. Ms. Rapp asked Mr. Hill what the total time the area around the bridge would be closed or impacted. Mr. Hill said approximately 21 months. Ms. Rapp said that the Creeks Advisory Committee discussed whether the entire area could be closed allowing all work to be done in a shorter amount of time, but she did not know what the outcome of that discussion was. Mr. Hill said that is possible to complete it in a shorter amount of time, if staff finds it is feasible to completely close Cabrillo Boulevard, to complete it in one construction season. He said that would mean it would need to be closed in the fall of 2008, and they would have to take a look at the environmental documents, if significant changes are made. He said if there is no flaw in closing it and trying to do it in one season, it could start in the fall of 2008 and end at the end of 2009.

Ms. Rapp commented that there have been general concerns expressed by the hotel and lodging folks about the amount of construction on the east side of Cabrillo and lower State Street, and the disruption, impact to tourism, access to the beaches and park facilities, etc.

Vice Chair Forsell commented that it does not look like many of the artists will be the displaced because of the project. He asked if there is a plan to take the ones who would be affected and give them a spot at the far end at the bath house. Ms. Cook responded saying that the staging area has been reduced, which has limited the artists being displaced. She said there are about 18 artists who will be displaced, but there is a plan to accommodate everyone.

Vice Chair Forsell asked where the 1,800 sq feet of turf that will be lost in Chase Palm Park. Mr. Hill highlighted that for Mr. Forsell

Ms. Rapp expressed appreciation to Mr. Hill for his outreach to the Arts and Crafts Show members. She stated that the project has a significant impact to the community in general, but staff is working with Mr. Hill to attempt to mitigate that impact.

Commissioner Longstreet said that we really do not have a choice; the bridge needs to be replaced.

Public Comment

Marilyn Loperfido, Arts & Crafts Show Member, thanked Mr. Hill and his staff for his efforts in working with the Arts & Craft Show members. She concurred with Commissioner Longstreet that the bridge needs to be replaced.

Albert Hannon, At Large Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee member, asked whether the bridge has been designed yet. He asked if the Corps of Engineers would be involved. Mr. Hannon expressed concern about the quality of the sidewalk, asking whether it would match the sidewalk and median strip stating he believes it should match and be of a better quality than poured concrete.

Mr. Hill responded that the deadline for comments for the environmental period is March 28th. He said the project is in a historic district and is one of the considerations when determining the sidewalk material. Mr. Hill said that until staff knows what La Entrada Development is going to do, we are not going to be able to finish the design on the surface materials. He said that for the most part, further down, we will match what has been done historically.

Commissioner Longstreet asked that a section on the mitigation and the signage for Arts & Crafts Show be included and folded into the project.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission forward comments to the Planning Commission.

12. **Martell Appeal of Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee Decision to Not Take Action on Incident Involving Mr. Kennedy**

This item was deferred to the March 28, 2007, Commission meeting. Mr. Kennedy was unable to attend the meeting as he was required to report for Jury Duty.

13. **Fiscal Year 2008 Proposed Budget – Worksession Dates and Change Date of May 2007, Regular Meeting**

Recommendation: That the Commission

- A. Recommend a date for a budget worksession to consider the Proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Parks and Recreation Department budget.

- B. Re-schedule the regularly scheduled Wednesday, May 23, 2007, Park and Recreation Commission meeting to Wednesday, May 16, 2007.

Commission agreed to set a worksession and asked that staff poll the Commissioners to obtain a consensus on a meeting date.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission move the May meeting a week earlier to May 16th.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp announced that the replay of the February 28, 2007, Park and Recreation Commission meeting will be this Saturday, March 3 @ 10:00 pm. and Monday, March 5, @ 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:05 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Longstreet moved seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director