



City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Joint Meeting

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

Minutes

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Conner

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

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

Commissioners Absent

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

Staff Present

Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Sarah Hanna	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Jeff Smith	Recreation Supervisor, Sports
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant
Beatriz Ramirez	Project Planner
Brian Bosse	Redevelopment Supervisor

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA – Mr. Daraka Larimore-Hall suggested the Advisory Committee Liaison item be deferred to the April 25th Commission meeting since two commissioners are absent.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Ms. Lisa Ann Kelly addressed the Commission regarding her difficulty in having a Street Tree pruned near her home.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force and the Creeks Advisory Committee. She further reported on

the activities of the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee. Ms. Longstreet said she attended the opening of the Teen Center.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall reported that he has not been able to attend the Skater's Point Advisory Committee due to work commitments. He reported on some of the Committee's activities. Mr. Larimore-Hall reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Hanna, Recreation Programs, provided a brief update on youth programs offered by the Department. She provided the Commissioners with a copy of the Spring and Summer Activity Guide. Ms. Hanna informed the Commission that there would not be a camp registration day this year, due to declining use of the camp registration day. She further stated that the Department sent out a reminder postcard regarding camp registration and a postcard regarding junior guards' registration on April 14th, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Hanna reported on participation in the Afterschool Programs.

Ms. Hanna talked about several new programs designed for youth: "Learning to Make a Change", "Archery Clinic", Camps that include dogs, for example Dog Obedience, How to be a Good Friend to a Park with your Dog, five on five beach football for youth, swimming lessons, tennis classes, art, dance, and fitness, to name a few.

Ms. Hanna reported that the Teen Center is averaging 27 participants per day, but there have been days when the maximum occupancy has been met. She also indicated that donations are coming in to support the scholarship program. Ms. Hanna said the first night \$5,000 donations came in with an additional \$3,000 for the Angel Fund. Ms. Hanna highlighted some of the activities planned for teens. Ms. Hanna stated that the prices for department programs are reasonable and include transportation for the excursions.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the Franklin and Westside Centers are staffed during the day to provide services to families in need of assistance. She said the staff there are helpful and supportive of neighborhood issues and families.

Ms. Hanna stated that staff members have had a number of contacts recently from parents looking for things for their children to do, or referral services. She said that staff members from the Community Services Section are contacting parents regarding their particular needs.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT – None

1. Summary of Council Actions – Ms. Zachary highlighted these items.
2. Approval of Minutes:

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 2007.

The Commission deferred action on this item to the April 25, 2007, meeting.

3. Special Recognition of Marshall Rose

Ms. Zachary expressed the appreciation of the City for all of the work Marshall Rose has done for the City of Santa Barbara. The Commission thanked Mr. Rose for his efforts and presented him with a plaque.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

4. Recognition of Volunteer Coach Kevin Sullivan

Mr. Jeff Smith, Recreation Supervisor, Sports, introduced Mr. Kevin Sullivan. He highlighted his background and volunteer efforts.

The Commission recognized Kevin Sullivan as a volunteer and supporter of the 4/5th grade girls' basketball team at Cleveland Elementary School.

5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission:

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

STREET TREES

1. 617 Garden St. – Martha Degasis – Washingtonia robusta
2. 1202 Carrillo St. – Lisa Arroyo – Cupressus macrocarpa

SETBACK TREES

3. 502 Brinkerhoff Ave. – Doug Reeves – Cinnamomum camphora
4. 1015 Flora Vista Dr. – Susan Cochran – Coral Sp.
5. 513 Santa Barbara St. – Dawn Sherry – Pittosporum undulatum

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, 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 5A(1-5).

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

STREET TREES

1. 271 San Rafael Ave. – Lilia McAustin – Eucalyptus polyanthemos

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, 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 5 B (1).

2. 519 San Onofre Rd. – Dave Morse – Quercus virginiana

Mr. Fritz highlighted this tree removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that the tree was healthy, and had a beautiful canopy. He said that the Committee did not feel that this tree represented a significant visual impediment to vehicles exiting the driveway and that the extent of hardscape damage to the driveway did not warrant removal of the tree. Mr. Fritz said that the Committee recommends that the applicant request to have the tree pruned to reduce leaf litter accumulation in yard.

Mr. and Mrs. Morse addressed the Commission regarding their rationale for requesting the tree removal.

Commissioner Longstreet said that she does not have their letter, so she is not prepared to take action on the request tonight.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission postpone this item until next month when they have the opportunity to review the letter submitted by Mr. Morse.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that it would be helpful to get clarification on the issue of visibility from the Advisory Committee's standpoint. He stated that the homeowner has indicated there is a safety issue related to visibility. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated that safety is the highest criteria in making these types of decisions. He further said that from the photos provided by Mr. and Mrs. Morse, that the big white truck is the biggest hindrance to visibility when pulling out of the particular driveway that the tree.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that on a visibility issue, the first step she would take is to contact the City and obtained permission to paint the curb red, for visibility sake.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

6. Upper State Street Project

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Receive a staff presentation on the Upper State Street Study Report, and public comment; and
- B. Provide Commission comments and recommendations on public open space issues discussed in the Upper State Street Study Report, to be forwarded to Planning Commission and City Council.

Ms. Beatriz Ramirez provided a presentation on the Upper State Street Study Report.

Commission Comments

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the City should never trade off the creek buffers. Creek buffers should be the standard and included in every project now and in the future.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed the desire that the Commission meet jointly with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and conduct site visits to the project area to become more involved with the process in order to meet the needs of the public and the tree needs.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that the installation of a traffic signal at McCaw Avenue would be a wonderful addition. She said it would not only impact MacKenzie Park but would be a positive affect for the Golf Course. She further stated that there is a safety problem in that area during Fiesta, and a traffic signal would slow traffic down.

Commissioner Longstreet said that the driveway and landscaping parts of the plan are wonderful. She expressed the hope that there would be an incentive for people to participate in this aspect of eliminating driveways and setting up parking districts.

Commissioner Longstreet was pleased that many of the proposed changes or improvements can be done right now with out a great deal of money. She said she would like to see as many of the little improvements go forward as possible.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed that the City is looking at a great increase in density in that area, and there is a need for pocket parks. She said she would like the City to be mindful to look at serving all ages in many different kinds of activities as the area is developed, from tot lot, places for working people to sit and eat lunch during the day time and for people to sit and rest, skate parks, dog walking areas, etc. She further commented that if the City wants to keep people with their dogs out of the creeks, the City needs to provide an alternate place for them to go.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he noticed in the short section on open space the idea of incorporating more plaza areas. He asked whether in creating a plaza or paseo, are we looking at public areas or recommending design for private property that would incorporate those things. He then asked who would clean them and maintain them. Ms. Ramirez said they would be incorporated by development. She said it would be an opportunity to have open green space, but

not necessarily public with public liability. Mr. Larimore-Hall commented that there is a need for more open space or public spaces that have a broader usage and where people can congregate during breaks and their lunch hour. He said that the City needs to think very carefully about the proposed areas for parks. Mr. Larimore-Hall further said the City needs to think carefully about usage and whether to attract people from the surrounding neighborhoods as a way to mitigate some of the affects of denser commercial areas, more traffic, more shoppers, etc. He said that the City needs to consider whether the goal is to integrate people who live in the neighborhoods and create more public space for them, or is the goal to attract people to both come to shop and recreate, or just to recreate. He said that the answers to those questions would suggest different kinds of designs for those parks and open space areas.

Chair Conner concurred with Commissioners Longstreet and Larimore-Hall. She said she is concerned about the density issue and hopes we will look at that as we move forward in the process

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission concur with the staff report and sent it forward to the Planning Commission along with their comments.

7. Review of Conceptual Design for Phase II of the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project

Steve Yates, Conceptual Motion, provided a presentation on the Conceptual Design for Phase II of the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project.

Commissioner Longstreet asked regarding the Pershing Park Bike Path, whether it is ever going to be completed. Mr. Bosse responded saying that he is unable, at this time, to answer to that question. Commissioner Longstreet commented that part of that project was a demand pedestrian crossing and it services City College.

Commissioner Longstreet asked, if the Pershing Park Bike Path was being considered, how it would figure into this plan, Mr. Yates responded saying that at some level the project is trying to prevent redundancy. He said that whether the pedestrian activated signal occurs there or not, there is an existing sidewalk to the location that comes around. Mr. Yates indicated that there is a pedestrian only connection point that as people do come across, they would like to get them to the water as quickly as possible. He said they are providing the amenity for that to be able to happen, with or without the pedestrian activated crossing.

Commissioner Longstreet asked how wide the new bike path is going to be. Mr. Yates said conceptually, the new bike path will be the same as the existing beachway. Ms. Longstreet asked why it cannot be made wider. She suggested that we not put in something that we already know is inadequate, even if it has been padded out with the grass, which is brilliant. Ms. Longstreet suggested that the bike path be made as wide as staff thinks it should be in other places and set the model for when it comes time to do the rest, so we know what works and we have a lot to stand on with the Coastal Commission as we move forward.

Commissioner Longstreet said she likes the idea of an area to congregate next to sea landing. She said it will make a big difference also to the attractiveness of the area. Ms. Longstreet expressed that she appreciates the improvements in that area. She said the Pershing Bike Path is very important it would connect the entire Westside to the beach, and it is a missing connection.

Commissioner Longstreet said that several years ago there was a proposal from an artist to put in a timeline of Santa Barbara on the sidewalk down there, and it was a great idea. She said it is nice to see the project including the historical aspect and the art. Ms. Longstreet commented that piece of West Beach is not very inviting.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that in terms of Phase I he is not sold on the landscaping along the bike path. He said he thinks the more we do away from a natural beach setting is not a way he would like to see the area go to. He stated he really likes the viewing platform idea and anything that we do that is educational about the story of the Waterfront or the Story of Santa Barbara is good, but he encouraged staff to think carefully about how that story is framed, and where the story begins. Mr. Larimore-Hall said likes the education component, and whatever we can do to educate people about the history of this region, both in terms of its natural history and its human history is wonderful.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he likes Phase II, but is disappointed that more connectivity with City College is not included in the proposed changes; he said that is crucial. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that the more we can create an easy interface between the City all the way from Milpas to City College and the Waterfront, the better. He stated that he is not excited about all of the proposed landscaping, but overall the concept is great. He further said he likes the idea of putting in a park in the corner.

Chair Conner asked how this project ties in to putting in another pool, possibly at Los Baños.

Mr. Hanna, Recreation Supervisor said there has been some preliminary discussions about regarding additional pool space at the Los Baños location. He said that originally the discussions were focused around redeveloping the West Beach Wading Pool and adding pool space to that site, but the historic corridor may become a hindrance to actually tying the two facilities together. Mr. Hanna said the last meeting staff had with the Conceptual Motion Company was to move some sort of a pool design to the back side of Los Baños, the south side parking lot area. Mr. Hanna said there was a meeting recently and the possibility does exist to add pool space the back side of Los Baños tying in with the park concept at the side. He said that the pool that may be added to that side, is still very conceptual until the amount of available space is known. Mr. Hanna said there will be more meetings regarding space before a formal design is brought forth.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the walkway next to the pool is hindering the process of getting a new pool. Mr. Hanna responded saying that the historic walkway between West Beach and Los Baños may prohibit adding an additional or

larger pool space to the West Beach location, which is typically underutilized as a wading pool space. He stated that the idea of moving or adding a pool space to the back side of Los Baños (the Harbor side) and developing pool in that area, and turning the West Beach area into parking became a more viable option for more recreation and aquatic space.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the particular walkway is not nice or a very good pedestrian walkway; she said it is not safe.

Mr. Bosse interjected that these improvements were all designed around things that could happen, so there is flexibility.

Mr. Goodnick interjected that to the right of the existing wading pool is a small playground that would not be retained.

Public Comment:

Marilyn Loperfido, Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show, said she loved the discussion about the viewing areas and signage. She said she hopes the Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show will be included in the story-telling of art in the City. She said it would be good if the timing would be coordinated with the project on the East Beach Project and the timing be the same in terms of the disruption in the area. Ms. Loperfido stated that the Arts and Craft Show members are stakeholders in the area and she asked if the Show members would be included on the list of people notified about these meetings.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that Commission this project forward with the Commission comments, and that staff look at the timing of the project in regards to the Cabrillo Sidewalk Replacement Project.

The Commission recessed at 5:40 and reconvened at 5:58 p.m.

8. Proposed Six-Year Capital Program

Recommendation: That the commission hear a report from staff on the proposed 6-YR Capital Program, including General Fund, Creeks and Golf.

This Item is deferred to the April 25, 2007, Commission agenda.

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

Recommendation: That the Commission hear the appeal of Kasandra Martell and determine whether to uphold or overturn the decision of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee regarding the incident that occurred on October 15, 2006.

Ms. Cook highlighted the incident for the Commission.

Ms. Judith Cook provided background information regarding the Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts Show. She advised that the show is governed by a manual of procedures and regulations that addresses all aspects of the show including requirements for membership, acceptable items to sell, appropriate behavior for artisans, procedures for election of the Advisory Committee, handling of complaints and violations of the show rules. As part of their privilege to participate in the show, and through the purchase of their annual show permit, members agree to abide by and follow the Procedures and Regulations of the show.

Ms. Cook indicated that when a show member is suspected of violating a show rule, there are procedures in place to investigate the alleged violation, for the Advisory Committee to meet with the show member if necessary, and for the Advisory Committee to issue appropriate penalty(ies), if necessary, to the artist. She further stated that if the show member, wants to appeal the Advisory Committee's decision, the show procedures allow show members to appeal to the Park and Recreation Commission (Commission). Ms. Cook said that the Commission's decision is final.

Ms. Cook reviewed the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee's decision and provided a timeline of events surrounding that decision.

Ms. Cook reviewed the circumstances resulting in Ms. Kasandra Martell's appeal of the Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee decision.

Ms. Kasandra Martel spoke on her own behalf.

Mr. Jeff Kennedy spoke on his own behalf.

Public Comment:

Mark Hilley, Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee, said that he has been in the Arts and Crafts Show since 1974, and he was on the Advisory Committee when the decision was made. Mr. Hilley stated that when the Advisory Committee looked at the decision, one of the things they looked at is that there is no assigned parking in the show. Mr. Hilley said that the Advisory Committee felt it was a personal issue between the two people in how they treat and act with each other. He stated his opinion that Ms. Martel and Mr. Kennedy have a personality conflict. Mr. Hilley stated that the Advisory Committee's decision is that since the incident happened before the show and on a public street, it is a police matter. He said that the Advisory Committee felt the best decision was to give both parties a warning to calm the matter down.

Arturo Tello thanked the Commission for hearing the appeal of his mother, Ms. Martel. He said that he was a volunteer for the Advisory Committee and is aware of the rules. Mr. Tello stated that he feels the decision of the Advisory Committee was wrong, and it was clear that the rules had been violated and called for a warning. He further said that the issue is not parking, the issue is a big man threateningly yelling at a smaller lady. Mr. Tello expressed his belief

that the only reason no other incidents have occurred over the last few months is because the appeal was in process. Mr. Tello urged the Commission to enforce the rules and overturn the decision of the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee and give Mr. Kennedy a warning, so he is under notice that the next time his actions will have serious consequences. Mr. Tello corrected Mr. Hilley saying that Mr. Kennedy was not given a warning. Mr. Tello took exception to Mr. Kennedy saying he is lying about the events and highlighted what the Show Monitor stated in his report. He further talked about other comments made by Mr. Kennedy about his mother.

Marilyn Loperfido, Santa Barbara Arts & Crafts member, encouraged the Commission to support the decision of the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee, which was to caution both members on their behavior. She said that she would have preferred to see item 9 read "...not to take action involving either party, Mr. Kennedy or Ms. Martel." Ms. Loperfido said her issue is one of hearsay and past history. She said there is no history of this type of behavior written on Mr. Kennedy's part for parking issues. Ms. Loperfido said it is not fair to dredge someone's personality into the matter. She said the Advisory Committee wanted to reiterate that the incident occurred outside of show boundaries. Ms. Loperfido said she is strong about not going on hearsay. She urged the Commission to support the decision of the Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet said she is appalled at the behavior of adults who have the privilege of being in the Arts & Crafts show and representing the City. She said it gives a bad name to the activity and is an embarrassment.

Commissioner asked whether the caution is a written warning that goes in their file. Ms. Cook responded saying that the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee did not feel there were any violation of the rules.

Commissioner Longstreet said it is basically hearsay and said she would support the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee's stand on this and feels there should be documentation in the files of these individuals.

Ms. Cook said she believes the time period during which the incident occurred is within the purview of the Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he has heard there is no system or rules for parking, and asked whether the Advisory Committee could develop some rules for parking for the long-run. Commissioner Larimore-Hall agreed the situation is as he said, she said and it is difficult for him to overthrow the decision of the Advisory Committee. He said that he does think that Mr. Kennedy's comments regarding Ms. Martel's driving ability is troubling to him. He said that if, indeed, it was just an argument between two people, then this escalation of threats is a problem. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that unfortunately there are no written warnings on the record for either party. He said that in terms of assigning lots or spaces, these individuals will not be assigned spaces near each other.

Chair Conner concurred with both Commissioner's Longstreet and Larimore-Hall.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission uphold the decision of the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory committee and deny the appeal of Ms. Kasandra Martel.

10. Advisory Committee Liaisons

This item was deferred to the April 25, 2007, Commission meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

At 6:27 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director