



City of Santa Barbara  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Special Joint Meeting with Franklin Center Advisory Committee, Lower Westside  
Center Advisory Committee, Westside Center Advisory Committee, and Youth  
Council

Monday, May 21, 2007

Minutes

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Conner called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Louise Lowry Davis Center, 1232 De la Vina Street

**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

Franklin Center Advisory Committee Members Present

Ken Rivas  
Consuelo Delgado  
Gloria Desales  
Theresa Pena  
Ana Soto

Lower Westside Center Advisory Committee Members Present

Elena Cruz  
Elvira Quiroga  
Josephine Tapia

Westside Center Advisory Committee Members Present

Vidal Chiprez  
Raquel Vela Mendoza  
Rosalina Palacio  
Josephine Torres

Santa Barbara Youth Council

Jessica Cottriel  
Cole Lupoli  
Chris McDermut  
Laura Spracher  
Tyree Weinstein Decker  
Chelsey Gonzales  
Christina Gonzalez

<b>ROLL CALL (Cont.):</b>	<u>Staff Present</u>	
	Marty Blum	Mayor
	Grant House	City Councilmember
	Roger Horton	City Councilmember
	Joan Kent	Assistant City Administrator
	Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
	Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
	Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
	Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
	Antonio Velasquez	Recreation Supervisor
	Susan Young	Recreation Supervisor
	Terry Brown	Youth Activities Coordinator
	Jessica Paredes	Asst. Community Services Supervisor
	Ricardo Venegas	Asst. Community Services Supervisor
		Karla Megill Executive Assistant

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one wished to speak

**1. YOUTH PROGRAMMING AND BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008**

Ms. Rapp said that recreation programs are prevention rather than intervention. She further said that staff considers all children to be “at risk”.

Ms. Cook provided an overview of proposed youth programs.

The Commission and Committee discussion primarily concerned: the Youth Apprenticeship Program; the opinion of some Franklin Advisory Committee members that some of the youth will not participate in the programs because they feel they are not sensitive to their needs; the opinion of other Franklin Advisory Committee members that the Franklin youth programs are sensitive to their needs; the need for summer Junior High School Programs; scholarship programs; the need for community outreach to “at risk” youth; the need for a full-time person at the Lower Westside Center Advisory Committee; and staffing the community centers with youth employed by the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Public Comment

Cathy Murillo, Shape of Voice Youth Newspaper, spoke in support of expanded youth programs.

David Pritchett, Shape of Voice Youth Newspaper, spoke in support of youth programs

Grant House, City Councilmember, said that he hired young people through youth employment services and they went on to be very successful.

## Commissioner and Committee Member Comments

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked how successful it would be to create a summer program for the junior high students. Ms. Brown said she would be talking to staff at Santa Barbara Junior High School about it.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he would like to see more communication between the Advisory Committees and community organizations.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that he wants the priorities to be highly informed and wants to hear from the advisory committees and the Youth Council.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether it is possible to target the Apprenticeships towards staffing people to recruiting youth people into the programs. He further said he would like to staff the Community Centers with more professional staff.

Commissioner Gonzalez agreed that there should be more programs for Junior High School students. He urged the City to invest now in our children rather than pay later.

Commissioner Longstreet outlined her priorities:

- Junior High Programs
- Franklin Center Youth Drop In
- Handball

Commissioner Longstreet suggested that fees not be frozen because there is a scholarship program in place. Ms. Longstreet further urged that the City stop being divided into the Eastside and the Westside and meet in the middle at the Teen Center.

Mr. McDermott concurred with Commissioner Longstreet. He said that prevention is the main thing that will help the community grow together. Mr. McDermott said that outreach is needed to bring in new kids to the programs. He further said there is a need to unite the community.

Ms. Torres stressed the importance of recognizing that youth gangs have increased. She expressed the hope that the committees can work together to help our kids. Ms. Torres said she was saddened when she heard the School District was going to cut their programs. She said the Sports programs are very important.

Chair Conner said that a lot of parents don't know what their kids are doing after school. She said programming after school is important.

Chelsey Gonzales commented that some Advisory Committee members said the Youth Council members are not the target population. She expressed that she is upset at the fact that the division was made in that room. Mr. Rivas clarified his remarks saying that members of the target population are not involved in any programs like the Youth Council members are.

Christina Gonzalez commented that funding and programming are the issues.

Ms. Tapia commented that the Lower Westside and the Westside need something.

Ms. Rapp commented that the Department is working with the Westside Boys and Girls Club regarding a major renovation, and if it is successful, the Department wants to partner with them to provide recreation services to the Westside.

Ms Young encouraged Commissioners and Committee members to come to the Teen Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:34 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Longstreet moved seconded by Commissioner Forsell, and passed unanimously that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director