



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** July 25, 2007

**TO:** Park and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Administrative Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** 2007 Department Annual Awards Program

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission hear a report on the 2007 Department Annual Awards Program.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

The Department held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Awards Breakfast on July 12, 2007, at the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center. Over 100 staff were in attendance, and 50 individual awards were presented. City Administrator Jim Armstrong, Assistant City Administrator Joan Kent, and Commissioner Beebe Longstreet also attended. The program kicked off with a department-wide PowerPoint presentation, "Savoring Our Successes," which featured key projects, efforts, and accomplishments over the past year.

Awards were presented in 3 categories.

#### **1. EXCELLENCE IN TEAMWORK**

##### **Teen Center**

For outstanding effort and team work in design development, construction completion, grand opening coordination, and program implementation at the City's first ever teen center - Twelve35. Staff overcame numerous challenges related to collaboration with teens, community members, design team and staff, design decisions, delays, securing \$112,000 in donations for equipment, filling the facility with programs, and hosting grand opening events. The entire project turned out beautifully, and was completed under budget.

Awardees: Cyrus Alexander, Kenyon Williams, Roberta Payan, Elvia Hernandez, Adriana Maynez, Susan Young, Sarah Hanna, Keven Strasburg, Billy Goodnick, Kathy Sullivan

##### **Resident Discount Policy Task Force**

This task force was formed in November 2005 to review and evaluate the implementation and impact, both positive and negative, of the Resident Discount Program implemented in January 2004. The group gathered and analyzed data on residents and non-resident program participation and facility rentals. Of particular concern was the decline in participation and revenue experienced in several

recreation programs. Their findings successfully culminated in change to the policy effective July 1, 2007.

Awardees: Rich Hanna, Jason Bryan, Terry Brown, Cathy Carpenter, Susan Jang-Bardick, Jill Zachary, Nancy Woods, Judith Cook

### **Water Quality Programs**

In Fiscal Year 2007, the Creeks Division Water Quality Team made great progress in the implementation of our water quality programs. Each member played a different role, but all worked closely together to conduct creek water quality monitoring, creek walks, benthic macroinvertebrate surveys, storm monitoring, and water quality research. In the last year, enforcement of storm water runoff codes was expanded, and key capital projects were completed. The completion of the 5-year water quality report also provided the foundation for the next phase of water quality research and monitoring.

Awardees: Jill Murray, Tim Burgess, Autumn Malanca, Leigh Ann Grabowsky, Amy Burgard

### **Supporting Community Youth**

This spring, the increase in youth violence in our community came front and center when a 15-year-old was killed by a 14-year-old on State Street. When asked by the Park and Recreation Commission to develop budget proposals to get more youth involved in recreation programming, staff stepped up with a number of ideas. The task required program research, budget development, prioritizing needs, writing reports, and making presentations to the Commission, Finance Committee, and City Council – all within a very short period of time. Their success was demonstrated when City Council committed to \$175,000 in additional funds for community youth programs.

Awardees: Terry Brown, Jeff Smith, Susan Young, Antonio Velasquez, Ricardo Venegas, Judith Cook, Sarah Hanna

### **Forestry**

The Forestry crew is a small work group, which means that effective teamwork is critical to accomplishing annual goals. Coordinating work schedules and equipment, while managing “fires of the day,” and numerous citizen service requests is always a challenge. Over the past 3 years, Forestry has worked diligently and very successfully in spite of several key retirement vacancies. Citizen complaints are down, pruning schedules have been met, and P3 targets for annual tree pruning were exceeded. Crews worked with dedication, flexibility, and professionalism, and received numerous compliments from residents on their customer service.

Awardees: Mark Alvarado, Joe Brown, Jess Gaitan, James Freer, Chuck Christman, George Jimenez, Steve Williams, Randy Fritz, Patty Herrera, Santos Escobar

## **2. OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS**

### **Administration – Recreation Supervisor Susan Jang Bardick**

Susan has been helping people to have successful events in our facilities for 10 years. For the last 4 years, Susan has worked with over 75 organizations each year that hold community special events in our City Parks. She makes sure that appropriate permits are acquired, that the set up protects both the people who will be attending the event as well as our parks. She coordinates with Police, Public Works, Fire, and Community Development as needed to make sure that everything is done as it should. Additionally, Susan is the lead staff person coordinating City resources to support 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Fiesta, Solstice, and the Oak Park Festivals. Susan demonstrates exemplary customer service.

### **Parks – Street Tree Inspector Randy Fritz**

Sometimes in work groups there are people who just stand out because they consistently try the hardest, work the hardest, and sometimes just plain get the hardest things done where others have struggled. Often, they are the quiet strength of the team, humble about their successes, and emphasize the work of the team. This describes Street Tree Supervisor Randy Fritz. Within a week of Randy being promoted to Street Tree Inspector, his manager and mentor Dave Gress announced his retirement. Since then, Randy has worn 2 or more hats - learning a new job, learning aspects of his boss's job, and working with Santos to manage the forestry operation. Randy has done an exceptional job leading the Forestry team. Under his leadership, the Forestry crew balanced tree work priorities to obtain notable and professional results.

### **Golf – Grounds Maintenance Worker II Gustavo Jimenez**

Gustavo wears many hats. In baseball he would be considered a great utility player. He's the person the golf crew goes to when they need the job done and done right. Gustavo understands the complete operation, and often volunteers to start work very early to spray compost tea or verticut greens. After decades of working on golf courses Gustavo still approaches each assignment smartly, safely, and with enthusiasm. His calm demeanor and professional attitude bring strength and stability to the golf operation.

### **Creeks –Outreach Coordinator Jessica Scheeter**

Jessica has made great strides in the development and implementation of bilingual media campaigns, expansion of youth programs, promotion of Creeks projects and community outreach. Through the partnerships she has fostered with the County, environmental, community organizations, and schools, Jessica has broadened access to and participation in creek restoration and water quality programs. Jessica brings a thoughtful, thorough and consistent approach to her work, promotes teamwork and collaboration, seeks opportunities and identifies creative solutions,

and represents the City and Creeks Division well while working with a wide range of individuals and organizations.

**Recreation – Aquatics Supervisor Rich Hanna**

Rich Hanna gives 110%, consistently. He is a strong, enthusiastic leader who is passionate about recreation and his programs. A great team player, he is always willing to lend a hand whenever needed. Rich provides outstanding staff training with detailed emphasis on safety for the staff and public. His programs are well planned, well received by the public, and of the highest quality. He always looks for ways to refine current programming and is very creative in developing new programs. His strong work ethic, creative and enthusiastic personality, and his skills as a team player make him a true asset to the Recreation Division, our Department, and the City organization as a whole.

**3. PEER AWARDS (with nominations by department employees)**

**Awesome Hourly – Heather Meeker, Youth Activities, A-OK program**

- Criteria: Is dependable and reliable, maintains a positive attitude, works as a team player

**Team Spirit – Terri Yamada, Parks Administration**

- Criteria: Motivates and encourages the team, mentors co-workers, promotes collaboration and communication, always has a positive attitude, is solution oriented.

**Green Gladiator – Tim Burgess, Creeks Division**

- Criteria: Demonstrates a strong commitment to Sustainability, routinely encourages green practices, thinks and acts creatively to support Green

**The Innovator – Kelly Britton, Youth Activities, afterschool programs**

- Criteria: Thinks outside the box, always thinks about how to do things better, develops creative ideas for saving money, time or resources, creates innovative programs or services

**High Flyer – Always Above and Beyond – Dana Versola, Parks Division**

- Criteria: Always gives his/her best, consistently provides outstanding service to the program, division, department or community; always goes the extra mile

**APPROVED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director