



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: July 1, 2007
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Lower Westside Community Center Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: **Annual Advisory Committee Report For Fiscal Year 2007**

Committee Members

The Committee is currently comprised of seven members from the community. Josephine Tapia (Chairperson), Elvira Quiroga, Enedina Gil, Elena Cruz, and Carlos Hernandez are current committee members. There are two vacancies on the Committee.

Park and Recreation Commission Liaison

Daraka Larimore-Hall

City Council Liaison

Helene Schneider

Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule

Community Center Advisory Committees are appointed by the City Council and meet on a monthly basis. The Lower Westside Community Center meets every third Thursday of the month at 7:00pm at 629 Coronel Place. When a quorum is not achieved, the Committee meets as a Committee of the whole and conducts business subject to ratification at the next meeting.

Member Representation

The Committee's geographic charge encompasses a large area composed of three census tracts (Census Tracts 12.02, 12.03, 12.04), otherwise known as the Lower Westside Neighborhood. Five members are selected from any of the three Tracts and two are designated for at-large representation from outside the designed area. The members are appointed to staggered three-year terms. Members are not required to be electors. Members represent the following ethnic groups: Anglo-American, Hispanic, and Native-American.

Committee Projects/Activities

The following are activities undertaken by the Committee for FY 2007:

- Assisted Community Development to survey the community and gather input as to what they would like to see in the Phase II project for the center parking lot on Coronel Street.
- Collaborated with Santa Barbara Food Bank to provide a Mobil Pantry Food Distribution Program at the Lower Westside Community Center on a monthly basis. Committee members have volunteered their time to set-up the food distribution site, conduct outreach and client intake among other things.
- Involved in the development of new programming at the Lower Westside Community Center. Members have assisted by actively recruiting volunteers to assist with summer programming.
- Advocated for the Lower Westside Community Center's Director position to be converted back to a full time position. The position has currently been brought up to three-quarter time.
- Advocated for a new facility to house the Lower Westside Community Center.
- Organized and presented a community block party on November 18, 2006. The event brought many members of the Lower Westside neighborhood together and provided them with information about many agencies in Santa Barbara.

Recommendations/Concerns

The Committee's main concern is the limitations experienced by the lack of its facility. The Committee believes that Center programming can only improve by having its own facility. Committee members believe that the Center could provide more resources to the community if the building it resided in was city owned and not leased as it currently is. The center could also provide a wider variety of services and programs with a larger facility capacity.