



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: June 30, 2007
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Skaters Point Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: **Annual Advisory Committee Report For Fiscal Year 2007**

At the January 25, 2006, meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Commission directed staff to develop a plan to create an advisory committee for Skaters Point with the goal of re-engaging the skateboard community in the operation of the Skaters Point facility. Members of the public who were in attendance during that meeting or saw the televised meeting expressed great interest and enthusiasm for the idea. The purpose of the Skaters Point Advisory Committee will be to provide guidance to the Department on the operations of the Skaters Point skate park facility. Committee members were appointed by the Park and Recreation Commission at their April and May Commission meetings and the Committee began their work in September 2006.

Committee Members

The Commission appointed the following six voting members and the Park and Recreation Liaison to the committee as follows:

Adult Skater Representative

- OPEN

Parent of Skater Representative

- Mike Glick, Santa Barbara

Youth Skater Representatives

- John Collector, Santa Barbara
- Sasha Paskal, Santa Barbara

Skate Shop Representative

- Carlos Alejandro Juarez, Santa Barbara

Community At-Large Representative

- Jim Fitzpatrick, Santa Barbara

Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison

Daraka Larimore-Hall

Four committee members - Youth Skater (2), Parent, and Adult Skater were appointed to one year terms and the Community, At-Large and Skate Shop Representative were appointed to two-year terms in order to stagger the terms. Subsequent terms will be two years for all members.

In addition, the Commission established that there were to be eight non-voting liaisons that also form the committee. This includes representation from the following: Park and Recreation Commission, Youth Council, Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee, Ranger, Sports Supervisor and Recreation Programs Manager.

Committee Projects/Activities

The goals of the committee are to gather community input on the current operation of Skaters Point, identify issues and concerns that should be addressed in the future, and develop recommendations for consideration by the Park and Recreation Commission.

Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule

Committee members were appointed by the Park and Recreation Commission at their April and May Commission meetings. Monthly meetings began in September and are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 6-8pm at Casa Las Palmas.

Member Representation

Members represent a number of different categories of skater: youth, adult, parent, skate park representative and member-at large.

Committee Projects/Activities

The Skaters Point Advisory Committee is a brand new committee this year. The first ten months have been spent training the committee in Robert's Rules of Order and Brown Act procedures, orienting members to the history and operations of the skate park, setting goals for the committee work, and addressing concerns and issues with the skate park each month. In addition the Committee has been monitoring the success of the trial program setting aside Saturdays from 9am-11am as time for youth 12 and under to skate. The Committee will be coming back to the Commission in the fall with a recommendation regarding this trial program. One of the goals of the Committee was to work to generate positive stories about skateboarding in the news media, and one story was recently printed in the Santa Barbara News-Press. The Committee has been working with staff to develop strategies to increase participants' compliance with the park rules. Lastly, the committee is working on developing a survey that will be mailed to skate clinic participants and distributed to participants at Skaters Point in late August. The Committee plans to utilize the data collected in their committee work.

Recommendations/Concerns

One challenge to this committee has been maintaining a quorum for meetings. The members, both adult and youth, have busy schedules and although the meeting schedule for the last year was distributed at the first meeting, a number of committee members have been unable to attend meetings, typically at the last minute, because of busy work and travel schedules. This caused a lack of momentum in the committee's work when a meeting was cancelled for the month.