



City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Joint Meeting

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conner called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 4:05 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Gonzalez

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present

Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
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

Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Sarah Hanna	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Nancy Woods	Business Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Scott Jorgensen	Golf Course Manager
Cameron Benson	Creeks Manager
Tim Downey	Urban Forest Superintendent
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Jason Bryan	Recreation Supervisor
Terry Brown	Recreation Supervisor I
Ricardo Venegas	Assistant Community Services Supervisor
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant
Manny Morales	Job Apprentice Program Coordinators
Wendy Uribe	Job Apprentice Program Coordinators

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Ms. Rapp indicated that Volunteer Recognition will occur with Item # 9.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

- Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee, Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, and the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee.
- Commissioner Conner reported on the PARC Foundation SCAPE event and asked Ms. Rapp to elaborate on that event.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

- Ms. Rapp provided a briefing on the PARC Foundation / Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) event July 27th through 29th, at the Faulkner Gallery. Ms. Rapp said that part of the proceeds from the show will be donated for the maintenance of the Douglas Family Preserve.
- Commissioner Forsell talked about a sport that is a combination of tennis and volleyball. He said the sport has really taken off. Mr. Forsell said it is an interesting and up and coming sport. He further indicated that the Southern California Beach Tennis Association has requested that two nets for the sport be permanently placed at West Beach. He said they are willing to provide the nets, put them up, and maintain them. Commissioner Forsell ask staff look into this. Ms. Rapp responded saying that staff are in the process of contacting the Southern California Beach Tennis Association to look into that further.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: None

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** Ms. Rapp briefly highlighted item number one, the ten-year lease with the County of Santa Barbara for tenant space at the Franklin Neighborhood Center for the Public Health Clinic. She said that the item has been under discussion for many years. She said the construction will be an extensive remodel of their existing interior space with the objective of expanding their patient services. She said that County Mental Health moved out of the Franklin Center some time ago so that Public Health Services could be expanded. Ms. Rapp said that as part of the remodel project the City is partnering with the County to do some major ADA improvements in the facility that would greatly benefit facility users. Ms. Rapp highlighted those improvements.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular of June 27, 2007.

Commissioner Forsell, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 27, 2007.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: Volunteer recognition will occur with Item # 9.

3. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

A. Approve the following street tree removal requests.

STREET TREES

1. 2915 Paseo Tranquillo – Hugh Margerum – Acacia melanoxylon
2. 1604 Loma St. – Leslie Becker – Ceratonia siliqua

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the tree removal request identified in items 3A(1-2).

B. Deny the following street tree removal requests.

STREET TREES

1. 729 Fellowship Rd. – Sanford Shertzer – Ficus ‘nitida’
2. 400 Block W. Junipero St. – Bob Cunningham – Washingtonia sp.
3. 715 W. Islay St. – Bruno & Salvini – Jacaranda mimosafolia

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the tree removal request identified in items 3B(1-3).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS:

4. 2007 Department Annual Awards Program

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

Department staff provided a presentation entitled “Savoring Our Successes”.

Ms. Rapp provided a report on the 2007 Department Annual Awards Program. Ms. Rapp identified the 2007 Annual Award winners.

5. Implementation of Expanded Youth Programs – For Information

Mr. Venegas provided an overview of the Youth Apprenticeship Program. He introduced Mr. Manny Morales and Ms. Wendy Uribe, Youth Apprenticeship Program Coordinators. Mr. Morales and Ms. Uribe provided information regarding their experiences in the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the program will go through the year. Ms. Uribe said yes. Ms. Longstreet said she was glad the program will be ongoing, as the need for these jobs do not stop in September when school begins.

Commissioner Gonzalez said it will be important for staff to maintain statistical information on the number of students participating, the extracurricular activities the youth participate in, and what is going to be the future in development for them. Mr. Gonzalez stated that we must make the programs cost-effective, not only for the City, but also for the students who are going to be benefiting from them. He recommended staff track and maintain that type of information. Mr. Gonzalez suggested that if the information is maintained and available, next year the Department might be able to obtain additional funding for the program.

Mr. Venegas stated that Mr. Morales and Ms. Uribe have been trained well in record-keeping and doing the necessary documentation.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that it would be nice to know where the youth who participate in this program end up in the future. She said it would be a real success to see these youth enter into summer jobs at other places the next year, possibly through the non-profit support center being able to network.

Ms. Brown provided a briefing on the expanded summer drop-in programs and the handball leagues currently taking place. Ms. Brown commented that there are four youth apprentices workers working with the summer fun programs, and she intends to have them work with the Recreation Afterschool Program (RAP) in the fall.

The Commission praised staff's efforts in implementing the expanded youth programs.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked the age group participating in the handball leagues. Ms. Brown said that the evening leagues on Wednesday and Friday are for ages 19 and under; however, the summer fun programs target the first through eighth graders. Commissioner Gonzalez asked how many are participating. Ms. Brown said from the Franklin league, she has 15 registrants, and she hopes there will be more.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether there has been any feedback on strategically having the two leagues on the Eastside and the Westside, specifically, whether that is a good or potentially dangerous thing. Ms. Brown said that it was encouraged to do the leagues separately, and then at the end of the summer, have a small indoor friendly's tournament at the YMCA.

Ms. Hanna said that staff have done a fantastic job getting the getting staff trained and the programs up and running. She said that some of the people hired as right from those neighborhoods, and they are pied pipers bringing the youth in and making them feel welcome and wonderful. Ms. Hanna further stated that staff was concerned about having Eastside and Westside leagues, but also wanted to be in the neighborhoods, so neighborhood youth could walk there and participate.

Ms. Hanna provided a briefing on the Junior High Afterschool Program. She highlighted some of the new activities and marketing techniques. Ms. Hanna said that staff would provide a briefing at an upcoming meeting regarding what will be in place for the fall.

Chair Conner said she is thrilled with the collaborative efforts. She thanked staff for their efforts with respect to the Junior High Afterschool Program.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the facilities, whether School District or City, belong to the community. She said they need to be used to the fullest. She too thanked staff for their hard work.

Ms. Rapp concluded saying that the expanded programs have resulted from the additional funding provided by Council. She said that all of the traditional programs are underway with very high participation across the board. Ms. Rapp praised the staff efforts to get the expanded programs implemented so quickly.

6. Annual Advisory Committee Reports – For Information (Attachments)

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the Annual Advisory Committee Reports.

Ms. Rapp said these reports are provided for the Commission's information and that staff are available to answer questions.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that one item highlighted in the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee's report is the fig tree and their recommendation that there be increased communication regarding the fig tree, including consultation with outside agencies or experts. Mr. Larimore-Hall asked the status of that.

Ms. Rapp said that the Morton Bay Fig Tree is such a historical resource in the community, it was a situation where staff needed to take direct action. She said staff is seeing some improvement in the health of the tree, but not enough. She further said staff are examining options and working very closely with the IPM Advisory Committee to determine what else can be done. Ms. Rapp said it has been very challenging to keep the tree healthy.

Ms. Rapp said that staff would come back with a report on the health of the tree in the future.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he would like to see, over the next year, a much more proactive approach to recruiting and seeking out organizations to try to partner them with programs, advisory committees, etc. to try to increase volunteerism rates and coordinate volunteer efforts throughout the various program areas.

Ms. Rapp responded saying that has been a goal of the Department for the last three years; however, only limited progress has been made due to staffing

challenges at a management level. She further said that since the Department is now fully staffed, the Department will pick up these efforts. Ms. Rapp accepted Mr. Larimore-Hall's offer to work with the Department to identify how to move this effort forward. She said the Parks Division has been looking at park volunteer models from San Francisco and other communities, and the Department has discussed centralizing the volunteer process. Ms. Rapp stated that the Department does a terrific job of using volunteers, but could and need to do a better job.

7. Assisted Listening System – For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a presentation on the implementation of an Assisted Listening System (ALS) at the Louise Lowry Davis Center.

Mr. Bryan provided this report.

8. Zero-waste Efforts at the Carrillo Recreation Center – For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a presentation on the implementation of zero-waste programs at the Carrillo Recreation Center.

Mr. Bryan provided this report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

9. Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls 70th Anniversary / Volunteer Recognition – For Action

Mr. Bryan provided a presentation regarding the Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls 70th Anniversary.

The Commission recognized the 70th Anniversary of the Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls and presented the Club with a Certificate of Recognition.

10. Proposed Changes to the Composition and Name of the Senior Advisory Committee

Recommendation: That the Commission considers changing the composition of the advisory committee serving the Active Adults and Classes section to better serve department and community needs.

Mr. Bryan advised that the Senior Recreation Center Advisory Committee has been struggling for a purpose in recent years. He said that during Fiscal Year 2007, the Committee only held one meeting due to a lack of a quorum. Mr. Bryan said that staff proposes to rename the committee to the Active Adults Advisory Committee and restructure the Advisory Committee. He said that by

doing so, staff feel the Committee will better serve the department and the community needs.

Chair Conner stated that as the liaison to the Senior Recreation Services Advisory Committee, she concurs with the proposed changes.

Commissioner Forsell asked for clarification regarding the action staff is requesting. Ms. Rapp said the item is for action, and if the direction is to proceed, staff will come back with the official designation of the Committee and a schedule for recruitment and appointments.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 5/0 that the Commission consider changing the composition of the advisory committee serving the Active Adults and Classes section to better serve department and community needs.

11. Interview and Advisory Committee Appointment

Recommendation: That the Commission interview and consider appointing Mr. Charles Jefferson, representing the community at large, to the Adapted Advisory Committee.

The Commission interviewed Mr. Charles Jefferson for appointment to the Adapted Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission appoint Mr. Charles Jefferson, representing the community at large, to the Adapted Advisory Committee, for a term ending December 31, 2009.

12. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Recommendation: That the Commission elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve presiding officer for the period of August 1, 2007, through July 30, 2008.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission elect Commissioner Conner to serve as Chair for the period of August 1, 2007, through July 30, 2008.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 5/0 that the Commission elect Commissioner Longstreet to serve as Vice-Chair for the period of August 1, 2007, through July 30, 2008

13. Cancellation of August Meeting

Recommendation: That the Commission consider canceling the August 22, 2007, meeting due to a lack of agenda items.

Ms. Rapp indicated that there are several tree requests that need to be voted on, therefore, there will need to be a special meeting during August to address those items. She further said that there are a couple of lengthy reports coming forward during the September meeting. Ms. Rapp said the Community Development Department will be bringing the Plan Santa Barbara, providing an overview of the work they have done to date and having an extended discussion with the Commission regarding Parks and Recreation needs as it relates to the General Plan Update. She said that staff is attempting to schedule a special meeting/public hearing on Wednesday, September 19th to address the proposal to put a cell tower on the Municipal Tennis Courts. Ms. Rapp indicated that the broad issue to be addressed is whether it is appropriate to have a long-term cell company lease on park property. She said staff expects there will be a lot of public interest in this matter.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the City Attorney would be available at the public meetings. Ms. Rapp said yes, that is why a public hearing will be held and staff presentation provided. Ms. Rapp said a conceptual design and at this point we will be discussing whether it should go forward.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Forsell, and passed 5/0 that the Commission cancel the August 22, 2007, regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:41 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director