



City of Santa Barbara  
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
 Regular Joint Meeting

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Minutes (**Amended**)

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair *Forsell* called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 4:04 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Park and Recreation Commission Intern Spracher

**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

Commissioners Absent

Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
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Staff Present

Joan Kent	Assistant City Administrator
Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Judith Cook	Recreation Programs Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Nancy Woods	Business Manager
Antonio Velasquez	Recreation Supervisor
Terry Brown	Youth Activities Coordinator
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Letter to Ms. Ada Conner from Lisa Ann Kelly dated April 6, 2007, regarding her request to have a Eucalyptus robusta tree trimmed.

Chair Forsell acknowledged this letter.

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

## **COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

- Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, the Creeks Advisory Committee, and the Westside Center Advisory Committee.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall reported that the Skate Park Advisory Committee continues to have scheduling problems.
- Commissioner Gonzalez indicated that he attended the Santa Barbara Youth Council meeting and deferred to Intern Spracher for a full report.
- Commissioner Forsell reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force. He said the progress is slow but steady.

## **COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None**

## **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:**

Chair Forsell acknowledged that this is Ms. Spracher's last meeting. He thanked Ms. Spracher for her contributions and expressed appreciation for the fact that she attended the meetings in their entirety.

Ms. Spracher provided the Youth Council report. She reported on the Youth Speak Out saying it was a great success. Ms. Spracher said the topic of the Speak Out was Underage Drinking and the Social Host Ordinance. She said approximately 90 people attended the Speak Out. Ms. Spracher stated that the Youth Council is seeking members and interviews will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Spracher said that the Youth Council appointed Carly Lochner and Meagan Lorenton to the General Plan 2030 Committee.

Ms. Spracher said this is her last meeting and a new Intern will be in place by the next meeting. She thanked the Commission for allowing her to participate on the Commission.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked Ms. Spracher what the reaction was at the Youth Speak Out in terms of the Social Host Ordinance. Ms. Spracher said the feed back was positive and that most people thought it would be successful and it would help cut down on underage drinking in Santa Barbara. Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether the participants were mostly high-school aged people. Ms. Spracher said participants were a mix of high-school aged and adults.

1. **Summary of Council Actions:** There were no comments.
2. **Approval of Minutes:**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meetings of April 25, 2007.

**Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 4/0 that the Commission approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 25, 2007.**

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

### 3. Volunteer Recognition – Richard Beatty and John Davis

The Commission recognized Richard Beatty and John Davis for their hard work and commitment in providing volunteer landscaping maintenance at Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens several times each month.

### 4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission:

#### A. Approve the following Street Tree and Set Back Tree removal requests.

##### SETBACK TREES

1. 601 E. Anapamu St. – Karen Quinn/BDC Management – (3) *Schinus terrebinthifolius*
2. 1046 –1074 Miramonte Dr. – SB Highlands HOA – (9) *Pinus radiata*, (1) *Lyquidambar stryaciflua*

**Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the tree removal request identified in items 4A(1-2).**

#### B. Deny the following Street Tree and Setback Tree removal requests.

##### STREET TREES

1. 519 San Onofre Rd. – David Morse – *Quercus virginiana*

Mr. Dave Morse addressed the Commission saying that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation does not address the fact that the root barriers that were installed originally have erupted, and the replacement pad that the City originally replaced has erupted. He further said there is eruption within the attached one-car garage that is profound. Mr. Morse provided photos. Mr. Morse said that if it is recommended that the tree is not removed and replaced with another species, the canopy is aggressively trimmed back from the house because the canopy is beginning to encroach the roofline of the house.

Commissioner Longstreet said that she went out 519 San Onofre Road today, and the garage Mr. Morse refers to is on the other end of the property.

Chair Forsell asked whether the cracks in the garage are not typical Santa Barbara, San Roque, Sanmarkand kind of settlement, does Mr. Morse

believe they are caused by the three. Mr. Morse said the apex of the crack is the eruption from the root; it would not be a classic settling dynamic. Mr. Forsell stated he has seen many house over 26years as an appraiser, and he has been surprised at what actually is causing cracks, and it almost always is the soil in one way or another.

Chair Forsell asked Mr. Fritz whether he received a copy of the photos of the cracked garage floor. Mr. Fritz said he had not. Mr. Morse said the photos were fresh photos. Chair Forsell asked Mr. Morse if he has been before the Commission before asking for permission regarding this property. Mr. Morse responded no.

Mr. Fritz said that given this additional information, it might be best for staff to arrange a time to go out and look at the garage to attempt to document some movement in regards to the settlement.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that she was at Mr. Morse property at 519 San Onofre Road and did not see that extensive a root damage in her opinion comparatively speaking. She said she saw more concrete damage in the yard next door. She further stated her believe that there would not be root damage much outside the canopy of the tree, and it has a large canopy. Ms. Longstreet stated that the garage is located all the way behind the house at the far end of the lot. She said the tree is a wonderful tree and she cannot vote to remove the tree.

Chair Forsell suggested staff go out a look at the tree again and return to the Commission next month with an evaluation and an update.

2. 1035 Rinconada St. – Maurya Murphy – *Liquidambar styraciflua*

#### SETBACK TREES

3. 601 E. Anapamu St. – Karen Quinn/BDC Management – (1)  
*Pittosporum Tobira*

4.

**Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee for items 4B(2 & 3) and ask staff to revisit item 4B(1) and come back a recommendation next month on that item.**

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

### 5. 9/80 Implementation Staff Report

Ms. Zachary provided a report on the implementation of the City-wide change in the standard work schedule from 10/80 to 9/870.

Commission Longstreet asked whether the appropriate level of supervision will be available on Fridays. Ms. Zachary said yes, supervision will be available for the programs. She further said that the Recreation Programs Managers will alternate Fridays off.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether there would be an opportunity for other staff to have a different day other than Friday off as a flex day. Ms. Rapp said yes, that opportunity will be afforded to staff based on their work schedule wherever feasible.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall thanked staff for the efforts in this area and said he believes it will have a lot of benefits to the City.

Chair Forsell agreed that the program benefits will outweigh any inconveniences to the public.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **6. Proposed Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Parks and Recreation Department Budget and Resident Discount Policy Change**

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Make a recommendation to the City Council to accept the proposed policy change to the Resident Discount program of a 10% differential for activities and a 20% differential for facility rentals; and
- B. Recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation FY 2008 and FY 2009 operating budget, capital improvement budget and Fees and Charges Schedule to the City Council.

### **Police Activities League Presentation (PAL)**

Capt Ed Szeyller provided background on the Police Activities League (PAL).

Commission Longstreet commented that she wants to communicate to the public how much the City outreaches to the public and asked PAL to talk about that. Officer Wojciechoski talked about that.

Chair Forsell commented that he particularly likes the carrot and stick approach that PAL uses.

Chair Forsell commented that at the Special Meeting on Monday, there was a lot of discussion about the "Westside" and the "Eastside" and the two do not meet. He asked Capt. Szellyer, whether they see that in their programs. Capt. Szellyer, said that they found when they moved to Anapamu, they got a greater mix of kids, and now they have almost a 50/50 mix of Eastside and Westside kids.

Chair Forsell commented that the PAL program could almost be a prototype for what the Parks and Recreation Department wants to do. Mr. Wojciechoski said a key element in the success of a program is structure, and that is what kids want.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall thanked Capt Szeyller and Officer Wojciechoski and PAL for their work, and this is part of a model for good policing and for having a Police Department that is deeply rooted in the community. Mr. Larimore-Hall said there are parts of our community that have very understandable apprehension of getting involved with anything that is connected to the Police Department, so he is less worried about what happens to the people that overcome that apprehension enough to start in a program and more about the people who are not or would not come to the program. He asked what kind of strategies PAL has in place and who they are working with in the community, etc, and what kind of advice they are getting from community organizations about how to publicize the programs in such a way that get people in the door in the first place.

Officer Wojciechoski said that PAL, the Beat Coordinators, and the Chief had been doing outreach even before the incident on State Street. He said they have a very good relationship with a couple of the Priests at Our Lady of Guadalupe who announced during a couple of church services that the PAL organization and the Chief would be there on Sunday evening and talk to get input from the parents. Officer Wojciechoski said there were about 200 people at the meeting, and one of the issues that came out of the meeting was that some of their children want to be involved in soccer, but they cannot afford it. Officer Wojciechoski said that as of yesterday 56 kids are involved in soccer, and those kids are participating as a direct result of the meeting. He said that is how you break down the barriers, and get the word out.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked what people at home can do to help. Capt. Szellyer said that PAL accepts donations. He said PAL is a non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible. Contact information for PAL is: 222 E. Anapamu St. Suite 21, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, Phone: 805-962-5560.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked for an age breakdown of the kids who participate in PAL programs.

Officer Wojciechoski said he does not have the exact information at this time. He said that A-OK targets 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders; PAL Tech Tutoring Pilot is going through Adams with the 4<sup>th</sup> graders; the vast majority (90%) of the kids are 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Officer Wojciechoski said there is a Youth Leadership Program that has 28 kids, middle school through high school. He said the philosophy is to start get them involved at the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup> grade level and then carry them through junior high and then high school through the Youth Leadership Program.

Ms. Rapp briefly talked about the Safe Summer for Kids collaboration, saying that PAL is the primary partner that the Department is working with to put the program into effect this summer. She further said there have been intense

discussions about looking at the Carrillo Recreation Center and what additional youth programs could be brought to that facility. She said staff has talked about Ortega Park and the fact that a summer program may be offered there, and how a partner could be brought in. Ms. Rapp stated that PAL is the strongest partner in the collaborative and that helps bring other people to the table as well.

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that staff has made two presentations to the Finance Committee to date, and they have asked staff for additional information that they will be considering when they make their recommendations to City Council. She said staff was asked to provide information on the Park Rangers, including a history of how many Park Rangers the Department has had, how many citations have issued over the last seven years, and she believes there will be further discussion about whether to fund an additional park ranger position. Ms. Rapp stated that the Commission may want to make comments to Council regarding that matter. Ms. Rapp said that staff was asked to make a presentation just on the facility use fees, primarily the beachfront rental facilities and also some of the park rentals, but for private events. She said specifically, staff was asked to look at those fees to determine whether those fees could sustain a heavier increase than what was proposed, how much additional revenue might be generated that could be used to help fund some of the youth programming ideas that are going to be discussed. Ms. Rapp stated that staff are in the process of developing that information and will take that information back to the Finance Committee on June 5, 2007.

### **Proposed policy change to the Resident Discount Program**

Ms. Woods briefly highlighted the proposed change to the policy of the price differential between the fee that the residents pay for activities and the fee that the non-residents pay. She said that the proposed change is to lower the fee differential for activities from 20 percent to 10 percent in order to foster higher levels of participation. Ms. Woods said that staff is recommending no change in the policy for rental facilities and the fee differential would remain at 20 percent.

Commissioner Longstreet said she can support this based on the fact that we have open spaces and capacity. She stated, however, that she does still feel that the residents of the City need to be served over and above the entire South Coast.

Chair Forsell said he would like to see the Resident Discount Program be eliminated, but he said he can support the program with a 10 percent differential. He noted that the Tennis Advisory Committee recommended the elimination of the Resident Discount Card all together.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated he is not in favor of raising the overall cost of youth programs which the proposed policy change to the Resident Discount Policy would do. He said he is completely convinced by staff that this is not going to impact the most needy or target demographic that we are looking at, and that those folks are best served by scholarships. Mr. Larimore-Hall said what he does not like is pursuing policies that create more vulnerabilities. He further expressed that when you have a population that is stratifying economically the way we are in Santa

Barbara, there is going to be an increasing number of people who can only participate in these programs like this through scholarships, and a middle class that is seeing a cost of living rise is getting squeezed out in a variety of ways, and then a group of people that could care less can send their kids to Spain for the summer. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated that he wants City programs to be high quality and affordable across the income spectrum, because in times of economic downturn, during a budget crisis, in difficult situations, the first things that get cut are the things that are need based—those are the most politically vulnerable sorts of things. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated that as a matter of policy, he would like to see Youth Program fees frozen. He said, he realizes that we are only going to be able to get so much in terms of new youth programs, and he does not think that freezing those fees is more important, for example than having a drop in center at the Franklin Center or expanding the Apprenticeship Program. Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated that he wants to go on records saying that he does not like to see fees increased for youth programs, but he will vote in favor of the proposed change to the Resident Discount Policy.

Ms. Rapp said that Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule for Fiscal Year 2008 depicts the fee structure as a 10 percent differential for activities and a 20 percent fee differential for facility rentals.

**Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall and passed 4/0 that the Commission accept the staff recommendation to accept the proposed policy change to the Resident Discount Policy of a 10% differential for activities and a 20% differential for facility rentals.**

Commissioner Longstreet agreed with Commissioner Larimore-Hall's comments regarding youth program fees.

#### **Commissioner Comments:**

Commissioner Longstreet stated that it is time the City Council funds and hires a full-time Grounds Maintenance Worker I. She asked what it would cost to do so. Ms. Woods said the cost for a full-time Grounds Maintenance Worker 1 is \$54,000, which covers salary and benefits. Mr. Escobar said that the addition of one Grounds Maintenance Worker 1 would be beneficial to add one individual onto the Parks staff to continue to help the Green Team. He said staff has made a lot of progress, but it would be nice to be able to maintain our landscape heritage, because the City has a 105 year history of having some of the most beautiful parks in the country, not just the State of California.

Commissioner Longstreet said that the issue is not simply Integrated Pest Management, but also for fire safety, Franceschi Park, and a number of areas that need attention. She said our staff work very hard, but they need help, and it can't always be done with hourly help; hourly help need to be supervised by full-time permanent employees. She said she would like the Commission to make that recommendation.



Chair Forsell said he would be in favor of that. But he thinks their focus right now is going to be youth programming. Chair Forsell asked if we added a half-time position last year. Ms. Rapp said we added one full-time position last year, but this year, in order to balance our budget, we cut \$40,000 in hourly parks grounds maintenance.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the youth issues are there, but our parks are truly an investment, and if we don't maintain them, you never get them back. She said that we might not get the additional position, but she believes it is worth asking for it. Chair Forsell agreed.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that the City is proud of Integrated Pest Management and the Parks and they have to pay for it. He said the fact that we got one new position and are now in a position where the actual number of hours are not going to be increased is really a problem. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated that he would definitely support the recommendation and volunteer, time and schedule permitting, to attend the Council to support the request for the additional position.

Ms. Rapp provided background information on Park Rangers. Mr. Escobar said that an additional Park Ranger is needed to cover the 49 of parks and other facilities within the City. He said staff is working diligently to provide information to the Finance Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet asked where the fines written by the Rangers go. Ms. Rapp said that the fines go into one fund.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether it is more expensive to not have Park Rangers. He asked whether it is possible to look at that more systematically. Ms. Rapp said that was a discussion at Finance Committee and is being looked at.

Ms. Rapp said the City is concerned to maintain the parks so they are welcoming to all members of the community. She said the Park Rangers work very closely with the Police Department and it is a community problem the City is trying to solve. Ms. Rapp expressed her belief that if there were more staff it would help. She further said that unfortunately, where we used to get a greater degree of compliance by staff in polo shirt with a City logo, the reality is it now takes someone in a Park Ranger uniform or a Police uniform in a position of legal authority enforcement.

#### Youth Programming Considerations

Ms. Cook highlighted proposed youth programming considerations for Fiscal Year 2008. She further discussed the additional programs proposed as a result of recommendations made at the special joint meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission, Franklin Center, Lower Westside Center, and Westside Center Advisory Committees, and the Youth Center.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the Lower Westside Center position could support the Youth Apprenticeship Program, so \$25,000 would be needed in addition to the position, or could it be combined. Ms. Rapp said that it would not

reduce the \$25,000, because the \$25,000 is actually hiring youth to oversee and work with staff on the Youth Apprenticeship Program. She said the staff supervision would be that it assists with Mr. Velasquez and Mr. Venegas in the supervision and development of the program and the outreach.

Chair Forsell asked why La Colina is not mentioned as a possible location for the summer junior high school program; is there not enough “at risk” youth in that area? Ms. Rapp said that staff is focusing more on the central city with La Cumbre and Santa Barbara Junior High and do a pilot program and see how it works out. She said if it is successful, it might be expanded to La Colina and we may event talk to the City of Goleta about for Goleta Valley Junior High. Chair Forsell commented that he doesn’t completely agree with that logic, but he will go along with it. He said that La Colina has a reputation as a high academic school, the neighborhood is a little different than the lower Eastside or lower Westside, but there are still significant problems there, and it not like it is a Montecito Union School. Mr. Forsell said, however, that he understands there are limited funds, and the City needs to start somewhere. He asked staff to keep La Colina in mind.

Ms. Brown said there is a significant opportunity with the fact that La Cumbre and Santa Barbara Junior High do not have newcomer programs for kids graduating from sixth grade to have a place to go and become familiar with their new school, learn some of the academic strategies, get information on clubs, other activities, etc. Ms. Brown said she had a discussion with representatives of Santa Barbara Junior High School and La Cumbre Junior High School to have incoming sixth graders enter their campus and the School District would run the morning program and the afternoon would be devoted to sports through the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Brown said that La Cumbre will be in Session for three weeks during the summer so the program there will be a little different.

Commissioner Longstreet asked if staff thinks the program could be implemented this summer. Ms. Brown said staff would be able to get the three week program implemented at La Cumbre.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the three-week program would cost less. Ms. Brown said yes.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked if staff is concerned that we are filling in a gap left by the under-funding of the School District and we will be left holding that even if things improve for them. He further asked whether in terms of long-term funding we are doing the job of the School Districts.

Ms. Rapp responded saying she has had similar conversations with some Councilmembers, and City Council has a Joint meeting with the Santa Barbara School Districts Board on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and there will be some level of discussion on that matter.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that the School District gets funded for the classroom; they do not get funded for recreation or for afterschool.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated for the record that Commissioner Longstreet's point is well-taken.

Commissioner Gonzalez said that he is familiar with the Department of Education and School Districts are not sometimes willing to apply for monies that are for special programs for youth at risk for summer school programs. He said sometimes they return money or they hold money for lunch programs for summer schools that are not used. Commissioner Gonzalez said it should be noted and the administrators should look at the different resources not only at the State level, but also the Federal level for special kinds of activities.

Commissioner Longstreet commented the Ortega Summer Fun Drop-in is the perfect match program.

Ms. Rapp highlighted the budget process schedule for the Commission.

**The Commission temporarily adjourned at 6:10 p.m. and reconvened at 6:36 p.m.**

**Commissioner Comments on Youth Programming Considerations**

Commissioner Longstreet commented that we need to get the most for our money. She further stressed that recreation programs offer prevention not intervention.

Commissioner Longstreet suggested that the Commission have a two-tiered list. The first list would contain a list of some things that could be done immediately, and a second list of programs that deserve to be investigated, but really need to be "flushed out".

On the first list, she suggested the following:

- 1) Youth Apprenticeship Program
- 2) Junior High Programming – Summer Program
- 3) Junior High Afterschool Programming
- 4) Lower Westside Outreach Worker – Fold funding into \$25,000 to get more for money
- 5) Expand Summer Drop-in at Ortega Park to Full-day Drop-in
- 6) Safe Summer Collaborative
- 7) Handball Program
- 8) Teen Dances – lower priority

On the second list, she suggested the following:

- 1) Franklin Youth Drop-In Center
- 2) Public/Private Partnership
- 3) Mobile Recreation

Chair Forsell asked what the point is of funding the startup of a program if there is not going to be a continuation of funding each year to continue a program. Ms. Rapp said that a big part of the discussion has been sustainability. She further said

that all of the discussions she has been a part of has been under the premise of ongoing funding, and she suggested the Commission operate under that premise.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the Mobile Recreation Van could be a program that could operate under a sponsorship program. Ms. Rapp responded saying that she believes that is a possibility.

Commissioner Gonzalez said that all of the proposals are his priorities because they affect the young and the youth here in Santa Barbara. He further said that in all the studies and statistics show that if you participate, you do well in school; if you participate, you do well in the community; if you participate, you are going to do well in the future. He said that many of these individuals who are going to be sidetracked to be involved in the community are going to be involved probably for the rest of their lives; and they are probably going to get better jobs. Mr. Gonzalez said that the investment we make in our youth today will have positive results in the future. Mr. Gonzalez stated that many individuals have turned their lives around because of their participation in activities; participation in communities makes a difference; he said it made a difference in his life.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that he asked Intern Spracher to identify priorities from a Youth Council perspective. He said that Intern Spracher identified the Youth Apprenticeship Program, Teen Dances, the Junior High Summer Activities, and the Safe Summer Activities for Kids. She further said the Youth Council said they were not very enthusiastic about the Mobile Recreation Van, saying that they did not think it would be attractive to teens.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that the Commission received input from one member of the Franklin Center Advisory Committee member regarding the Youth Apprenticeship Program who wanted it to be radically expanded, which he thinks is important and great. He further said he thinks it is important to keep in mind that this is the beginning of a process and it is simply a proposal for the Parks and Recreation Department piece of what should be a City-wide initiative and should be something that includes both the public and private sector. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he thinks the Youth Apprenticeship Program should be a priority and not be afraid to expand it later on. He said, of all of the things being proposed, this is one of the things that really gets at the structural issues we are dealing with in terms of inequality in the community and inequality of opportunity that lies at the base of a lot of the problem we are facing as a community. Mr. Larimore-Hall commented that more than anything else, this program should be the priority.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall agrees that Handball is a priority; it is cheap and very effective in terms of programming. He ask Commissioner Longstreet to clarify her priorities. They are listed below:

- Youth Apprenticeship Program
- Lower Westside Expansion Outreach Program
- Junior High Programming – Fall Programming
- Expand Summer Drop-in Ortega Park Program
- Handball Program

Chair Forsell said he is opposed to anything that has a big startup cost if we have a limited amount of money.

- Youth Apprenticeship Program
- Expanded Afterschool Youth Sports League even if half of what is proposed
- Handball

**Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet and passed 4/0 that the Commission submit a list of 5 programs as priorities and that those priorities be the 1) Youth Apprenticeship Program, 2) Expanding Junior High Afterschool Programming, 3) the Elimination of Afterschool Youth Sports Fees, 4) Expanded Summer Drop-in Program at Ortega Park 5) Handball Program, and that the Commission send a very clear message to City Council that everything on the list has merit, there are some that the Commission and staff are still working details on, there will be further communication from the Commission and the Department about creating even more recreation and participation opportunities for young people as these programs get flushed out.**

Commissioner Longstreet asked that we add wording that be adding certain programs like the Mobile Recreation that we may come back when grant funding is received for operational costs.

Ms. Kent interjected that it is difficult to make choices on programs that they are not sure are going to make the impact they want to have. She said that the Finance Committee asked for the Park and Recreation Commission's input. Ms. Kent said that what is important is to try to give the Finance Committee some sense of priority of the Commission's top group, and she thinks it is fine to say that five are the most important, but encouraged them to priority those top five.

Commissioner Longstreet asked wording to the effect that the- five programs are programs that can be done immediately, and the Commission feels they would have a significant impact right away, but that the other programs should receive consideration for funding throughout the year and the Commission feels staff should, working within the priorities, have the flexibility to move funding to programs as needed.

Chair Forsell asked that Commission Longstreet wait and fold this into a motion at later in the meeting.

**Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez that the Commission, understanding that these finances are not exact, anticipating there may be more programming funds available, that the Commission would prioritize Expansion of the Summer Drop in Program, restoring the Lower Westside Center Position, and the Mobile Recreation Program, and that the Commission fully support all the programs on the list.**

**The above motion was amended as follows:**

**Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez and passed 4/0 that the Commission, understanding that these finances are not exact, anticipating there may be more programming funds available, the prioritize Expansion of the Summer Drop in Program, Restoring the Lower Westside Center Position, the Mobile Recreation Program, and the Franklin Drop-in Center, and that the Commission fully support all the programs on the list.**

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that he thinks we need another teen center or some kind of a drop in community center on the east side, so the Franklin Center Youth/Teen Center is important. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he does not want to leave the meeting tonight without some kind of an official word from the Commission that they do think it is a priority. He said he would like an amendment to the motion to cluster the top two priorities as the next two priorities and give staff the go ahead to continue the research on the Mobile Recreation Van and the opening the Franklin Center as a Drop In Center. Commissioner Longstreet suggested then that the Safe Summer be added.

**Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Forsell and passed 4/0 that the Commission accept the operating budget with a recommendation for a full-time permanent Grounds Maintenance Worker I and investigate the Park Ranger position and that the GMW position is to off-set the Integrated Pest Management aspects of Parks.**

Commissioner Larimore-Hall agrees with the motion, but has no idea where to put them in terms of prioritization. He said he concurs they are both very important. He further said that if we can only have one, he prefers the grounds maintenance worker.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that there can always be better and more outreach. He said they would like to see the youth apprenticeship program used to fill in those gaps.

## **NEW BUSINESS - None**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director