



City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Special Joint Meeting with the Street Tree Advisory Committee

Friday, October 12, 2007

Minutes (**Amended**)

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conner called the special joint meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission and the Street Tree Advisory Committee to order at 12:20 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Conference Room, 620 Laguna Street.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present

Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Steve Forsell	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Beebe Longstreet	Park & Recreation Commissioner

Commissioners Absent

Arnoldo Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Daraka Larimore-Hall	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Christina Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

Street Tree Advisory Committee Members Present

Maury Treman	Vice-Chair
Bob Cunningham	
Richard Castellanos	(Alternate Voting Member)

Street Tree Advisory Committee Members Absent

Carol Bornstein	Chair
Karen Christman	(Alternate Voting Member)

Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Tim Downey	Urban Forest Superintendent
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant
Janette Candau	Redevelopment Specialist

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. **Street Tree Consideration – For Action (Attachment)**

A. Casa Las Granadas – Janette Candau – 4 Pyrus calleryana

Ms. Rapp advised that the primary issue before the joint body is a decision on the previous recommendation from the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) that when the street trees were removed that they be replaced. She said that the Commission and STAC are being asked to revisit that decision stating that the landscape plan has not gone before the Historic Landmarks Commission for approval, but the urgency for action is the need to move forward with the sidewalk improvements in the area which would affect whether or not street trees are going to be placed in the sidewalk.

Ms. Candau interjected that the goal is to have the sidewalks finished before the holidays.

Ms. Rapp continued to say that the Commission and the STAC are looking at the issue of the Street Trees in the parkway.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that she has some concerns about the starkness of the sidewalk on that side of the street. She said the pedestrian experience is bleak, and what is being provided does not address that at all; there are two trees at the Coffee Cat, and then there are none until you are past Lost Horizons, and in the middle there are a few poles; it is hot, and uninviting, and unpleasant. She said that you then look across the street, and it is beautiful. Ms. Longstreet stated that somehow the street need to be balanced better. She expressed understanding that it may not be inviting to have trees in the front, but if a canopy of some sort can be placed to soften and change that part of the street, it would be beneficial. Ms. Longstreet commented that she does not see the planter, and asked whether it will go in around the pedestrian ramp later.

Commissioner Forsell said he visited the area last night. He agreed with Commissioner Longstreet. He stated that it was said that the trees were going to be replaced, and he is not going to vote to not replace the trees or to move the trees somewhere else. He further stated that he does not know how it went from putting in the Aristocrat tree to putting in Oak trees. He said that unless there is a valid reason not to, we should stick to the original plan.

Mr. Downey said that one problem with putting the four street trees back in, is the utility banks that were installed. He said that space has been lost.

Commissioner Forsell stated that should not have occurred, and the utility banks should be moved.

Mr. Cunningham said they are water meters, and that he suspects from each of the water meters to the housing are pipes, which creates a problem.

Commissioner Forsell said there is plenty of space for trees where they put concrete.

Mr. Cunningham said he would agree to allow the park designer to be involved in the design of the placement of trees, maybe not within the public right-of-way, but as close as possible to the edge of the sidewalk. Mr. Cunningham further stated that if what is driving coming to a decision at this time is having the sidewalk paved for the holidays, he suggests just pave it temporarily with asphalt. He said that if we want to come up with the best solution, it should not be driven by getting the sidewalk paved by the holidays.

Commissioner Forsell concurred.

Mr. Cunningham commented that occupancy of the apartments rides on this schedule as well.

Mr. Downey expressed concern about placing street trees within the project because they would be maintained by a different agency.

Ms. Rapp said that the original need was to replace four street trees, there are some limitations now in terms of the available space because of the use of the property and the placement of utilities, and asked Mr. Downey how many street trees could feasibly be placed in the space available. Mr. Downey said that two trees could feasibly be placed.

Commissioner Longstreet said any trees would improve the area, but she thinks the design needs to be re-evaluated and provided canopy trees in the center area. She said we need to place four trees even if we give up as having them as street trees and they go in as canopy trees. Ms. Longstreet said that you stand and look across at the Library and you have all different heights of trees; it is a beautiful vision, and you need variation in this project with the mass of buildings. She said that Oak trees would be beautiful, but it could also use something a little taller.

Ms. Candau said that against the Coffee Cat building, they are proposing two Ironwood trees and two native Red buds. Mr. Cunningham said that the Ironwoods would reach a height of 25 feet, and the Red buds a height of 20. He said the Red buds would provide shade and canopy and the Ironwoods and Red buds would take some of the glare off the face of the building. Mr. Downey said they will be placed in a raised planter so they will be elevated.

Mr. Cunningham said that when the STAC was at the site it was noted how big the Oak trees are. He said that the plan misrepresents how big they will ultimately get. He further said they take time to grow, but they will provide a nice

shade canopy over that space, and three Oak trees will really fill the space, but it will be a big bright open space for decades.

Commissioner Longstreet suggested that they could recommend something that has a lesser lifespan, because trees life and they die.

Mr. Cunningham said he would be in favor of looking at it as an evolutionary process, and in three or four decades we remove the street trees because they are conflicting with the Oak trees.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Street Tree Advisory Committee member Cunningham, that the Commission and Street Tree Advisory Committee replace the four trees somewhere in the project site to provide canopy for the sidewalk.

The Motion was amended as follows:

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Street Tree Advisory Committee member Cunningham, and passed 6/0 that the Commission and Street Tree Advisory Committee replace the four trees somewhere in the project site to include at least two within the street and the remainder, as close as possible to the sidewalk in order to provide canopy for the sidewalk, and further, to work with the staff and park designer to determine the species of trees and that the plan be reviewed by the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:38 p.m., the joint special meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission and the Street Tree Advisory Committee was adjourned.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 6/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Special Meeting **Park and Recreation Commission** **Agenda**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conner called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 12:00p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Administrative Conference Room, 620 Laguna Street.

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
Christina Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

Commissioners Absent

Arnoldo Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Daraka Larimore-Hall	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Christina Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak

2. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachments)

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

SETBACK TREE

1. 612 W. Mission St. – City Parks Division – Grevillia robusta

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the removal of item 2A(1).

B. Deny the following Street Trees removal request.

STREET TREES

1. 3045 Samarkand Dr. – Kenneth Preston – 3 Eucalyptus behind his property and requesting permission to trim the remainder.

Mr. Preston addressed the Commission saying that two of the Eucalyptus trees he wants to remove has branches that extend over the power lines, over the back yard, and over his house. He said two years ago, the City trimmed the trees on the west side, but left the trees on the east side for him to trim. He said he feels the trees are in danger of falling. Mr. Preston said that three years ago the transformer at the former of his lot blew and the Fire Department came because the crowns of the trees were on fire, and the Fire Department had to call to have those particular trees removed.

Mr. Preston said that he questions who actually owns these trees. He said the City trims the trees on the west side of his home, but the do not

trim the trees on the east side of the lot. Mr. Preston said it is a dangerous situation, and he wants to remove three of the trees and trim the remaining trees. He further said that lastly, the trees are extremely messy.

Mr. Downey responded saying at one time there was an urgent need to trim the one side of the tree as there were dangerous limbs over the roadway. He further said that staff is not opposed to allowing the applicant to have the other side of the trees pruned to decrease the danger over his property.

Mr. Preston asked why City staff just took care of the danger on Las Positas and not the danger on his property.

Mr. Downey stated that because of the time, staff did not know about the ownership of the trees.

Mr. Preston asked whether staff knows about the ownership now.

Mr. Downey said that staff has not conducted a formal survey regarding the ownership and does not yet know the ownership of the trees.

Mr. Preston stated that the trees are on his property, but they were not planted by the property owners of that street,

Mr. Downey said that if it is true that they are on Mr. Preston's property, then they fall under the Setback Tree regulation, which is reviewable by this body.

Chair Conner asked if the Commission could get the information so they can be sure.

Commissioner Forsell commented that it does not really matter, either Mr. Preston has nothing to say about it because it is the City's tree, or Mr. Preston made his case; either way the City has jurisdiction.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that if it is on City land, then the City is responsible for trimming the tree.

Mr. Downey said that if it is determined that the trees are owned by the City, the City would prune that side of the tree, but until such time, staff is inclined to allow the applicant to trim it at his own expense, if he so chooses, if he does not want to wait until ownership is determined.

Commissioner Longstreet asked how long it will take to determine ownership.

Mr. Downey said he could put in a survey request as next week, and would likely have a decision on ownership within a month.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether it would be best to continue the item for a month until all the facts are obtained.

Mr. Downey recommended the Commission move forward and take action on the removal request as the Commission has jurisdiction on that matter.

Commissioner Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the recommendation and deny the removal request identified in item 2B(1).

Commissioner Longstreet asked obtain a final determination on ownership of the trees for clarification purposes.

Mr. Downey indicated that he would issue a letter to Mr. Preston regarding the action of the Commission, which will become his permit to prune the trees.

C. Postpone a decision until more information is provided.

1. West Beach Pedestrian Project – Jeannette Candau, City of SB - Various

Ms. Rapp advised that this project is in a conceptual stage. She said that during the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) site visit there were still questions that needed to be answered on the plan, some trees that were not depicted on the plan. She said staff is spending quite a bit of time reviewing the existing project to discuss with the RDS staff. Ms. Rapp said that Ms. Candau, RDA, has taken into consideration many of the comments and recommendations of the STAC. She advised that staff would like to do a site visit with the Commission before the plans come to the Commission for review.

Ms. Candau told the Commission that she fully intends to invite them to site visit, but before she does that, she wants to be sure that the plans accurately represent what they are proposing to do.

Ms. Rapp said that on Monday, staff is meeting with three Council members regarding the project and it is very likely that the East Cabrillo Sidewalk and West Beach Project will marry into each other and happen in similar timeframes. She said the project will be back before the Commission in the near future.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Forsell, and passed 3/0 that the Commission postpone action on this item until a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:10 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission, the special meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Rapp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director