



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conner called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Forsell

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Steve Forsell
Commissioner Arnaldo Gonzalez
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Recreation Programs Manager Judith Cook
Business Manager Nancy Woods
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Landscape Architect Billy Goodnick
Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Recreation Supervisor I Terry Brown
Assistant Community Services Supervisor Ricardo Venegas
Kimmie Coley, Recreation Coordinator
Jessica Parades, Community Services Coordinator
John Ledbetter, Principal Planner
Peggy Burbank, Project Planner
Manny Morales, Job Apprentice Program Coordinator
Wendy Uribe, Job Apprentice Program Coordinator

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Ms. Rapp called the Commission's attention to time certain agenda item number 11, Plaza de la Guerra Infrastructure, Concept Design. She recommended that the Commission continue with item number 12 immediately following that item.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: October 16, 2007, Memorandum outlining Park and Recreation Commission and Street Tree Advisory Committee Casa Las Granadas Project Street Tree recommendations and comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

- Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission on the press conference the Department held to announce the \$860,000 Jobs Grant received with the Workforce Investment Board. She said that Mr. Velasquez has been working with SER Jobs for Progress, who is going to be the lead agency, who has hired their staff. Ms. Rapp said that SER is in the process of going through staff training and setting up their offices in the community centers and at the Housing Authority. She said they will be beginning their outreach soon to identify youth for the program. Ms. Rapp said that staff will want to give six-month reports to the Commission and City Council to keep them apprised of program progress.
- Ms. Rapp said that the Department received notification that the City will receive the 2007 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Innovator Award from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation at a ceremony in Sacramento on January 17, 2007. She said the City will send a delegation to Sacramento to receive the award. Commissioner Conner asked if the City was the number one recipient of the award in California. Ms. Rapp said that she spoke with a representative in the Office of California Department of Pesticide Regulation who indicated there are eight awards given throughout the state, and she does not know if they are all entitled "Innovator" awards. She said that we are the only City receiving the award. Ms. Rapp said it is a substantial honor.
- Ms. Rapp said that Department Managers had a one-day retreat in September to focus on challenges facing the Department in the future. She said that the managers would like to have a half-day retreat with the Commission to talk about some of those issues and draw down on some of the priorities and actions they would like to take.
- Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission on the Haunted House, which will take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 27th and 28th at the Carrillo Recreation Center.
- Ms. Rapp said that staff is in the process of setting up a site visit for the Commission to visit the Santa Barbara Municipal Tennis Courts Facility prior to the November 14th Commission meeting. She said possible dates are November 7th or November 12th.
- Ms. Rapp said that Council is going to establish a Task Force Ad-hoc Committee to address infrastructure financing. She advised the Commissioners that Council is currently recruiting for the task force and said that applicants should have experience in one or more of the following areas capital planning; long-term financial planning; capital markets and long-term debt planning; municipal finance; public outreach and participation; and environmental issues.

1. Introduction of Park and Recreation Commission Intern Christina Gonzalez

Ms. Rapp introduced Ms. Christina Gonzalez who will be serving as the Youth Intern to the Park and Recreation Commission. She said that Christina serves on the

Youth Council and was an advocate of the Teen Center. Ms. Rapp said staff looks forward to her service on the Park and Recreation Commission.

Ms. Gonzales said she looks forward to serving on the Commission.

COMMISSIONER AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Forsell reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force. He said they are moving towards some kind of recommendations and resolutions.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Ms. Gonzalez provided this report. She briefed on the Haunted House, October 27th and October 28th, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. at the Carrillo Recreation Center. Ms. Gonzalez also briefed on the City Council Candidates Forum, which is co-sponsored by San Marcos's Leadership Class and Junior Statesman of America, which will be held October 29th at 6:30 p.m., at San Marcos High School.

2. Summary of Council Actions

Ms. Rapp commented that there are several items that reference projects funded by Proposition 12. She said that the Department is nearing the end of the Proposition 12 funding, and these projects will be completed within the next couple of months in order to secure that funding.

Ms. Rapp briefly highlighted the status of the following projects: Franceschi Park Improvement with the driveway and parking lot; Leadbetter Utilities Project; Tennis Court Lighting Project; Los Baños Sewer Connection. She said these are all Proposition 12 projects, and staff is trying to get them completed before the deadline.

3. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the following meetings:

- A. Regular meeting of July 25, 2007

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 3/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 25, 2007.

Commissioner Forsell commented that he noted on the tennis volley ball combination and setting up two of the courts on the beach and asked if there has been any progress.

Ms. Rapp said she would have staff look into the matter and give him a follow-up phone call.

B. Special meeting of August 15, 2007

The Commission deferred action on this item until the next meeting.

C. Special meeting of October 12, 2007

Chair Conner indicated that Ms. Megill distributed an amended page one of the minutes of the special meeting of October 12, 2007. She said the amended minutes reflect the correction under the Roll Call for the Street Tree Advisory Committee members that Carol Bornstein is the Chair, and Maury Treman is the Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the amended minutes of the special joint meeting of October 12, 2007.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

4. Recognition of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for their support of volunteers used in the Community Services and Active Adults and Classes sections.

The Commission recognized the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for their support of volunteers used in the Community Services and Active Adults and Classes sections and presented Roger Hand, Executive Director of RSVP, with a certificate of appreciation.

5. Overview of Planning of Fiesta Children's Parade and Recognition of Fiesta Parade Announcer Volunteers

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report from staff regarding the history of the Department's Annual Children's Fiesta Parade and the planning required to organize this community event held each August during Old Spanish Days; and recognize several of the community volunteers which have contributed to the success of the event.

Ms. Cook provided an overview of the history and planning of the Fiesta Children's parade.

The Commission recognized the following volunteers who have contributed to the success of the event and presented them with certificates of appreciation: Dan Tingle, Jessica Haro, Carol Saucedo, Elvira Avina, Christine Le Bon, Gina Morelli, Rob Guilbault, Janis Johnsen and Paul McCaffrey.

6. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 1809 De La Vina - Jose Vasquez - Cinnamomum camphora

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 4/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the Cinnamomum camphora tree at 1809 De La Vina.

B. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 20 Portola Lane - Robert Rocha - Washintonia robusta

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the Washingtonia robusta located at 20 Portola Lane.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

7. Annual Contributions Report

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the donations and grants received by the Parks and Recreation Department during Fiscal Year 2007.

- Ms. Woods provided a report on the 2007 Annual Contributions Report.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked in terms of how we value volunteers hours, would there be any consequences in examining changing the rate in which we value volunteer hours.
- Ms. Woods said that we change the rate in which we value volunteers hours about four years ago. She said that at that time, we were only valuing volunteer hours at the rate of about \$4.50 per hour. She said that as the minimum wage increases, we should take a look at how we value those hours. Ms. Woods said that we do not report those numbers to anyone and are not held accountable for them. She further stated that the rate at which we value those hours -- \$9.00 per hour, is a very low number.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall agreed.
- Commissioner Gonzalez asked whether there is an increase or decrease in volunteerism.
- Ms. Rapp said there has been an increase in volunteerism because of the Teen Center and some of the programs through Active Adults. She said that the Department is focused on increasing our volunteerism.

8. Tree Inventory

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report on the status of the Street and Park Tree Inventory Project.

- Mr. Downey provided a report on the Tree Inventory and shared the current progress of this effort with the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Fiscal Year 2007 Annual P3 Performance Measurement Report

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report on the Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2007 Performance Measurement Program (P3).

- Ms. Woods provided this report.
- Chair Conner said it was great to see the numbers up for Youth, Teens, Tennis, and Active Adults, and of course Parks.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that staff does an amazing job and he is happy to see goals being met.
- Commissioner Forsell concurred. He said that he is particularly pleased with the Parks Division accomplishments.

10. Results of Expanded Summer Programs

- Ms. Brown, Ms. Coley, Ms. Paredes provided a presentation of Summer Fun.
- Commissioner Gonzalez asked whether staff provides some of the pictures to the kids. Ms. Coley said she did take many photos and gave some to the families with whom she developed a rapport.
- Mr. Venegas provided a report on the Job Apprenticeship Program. Mr. Manny Morales and Ms. Wendy Uribe, Job Apprenticeship Program Coordinators, assisted him in the presentation.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked how the participation in the Job Apprenticeship Program was. Mr. Morales said it was a good experience.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether they still hang out together. Ms. Uribe said yes.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked why the process consists of a police records check and a TB test. He asked whether that is City employment policy.
- Ms. Rapp said that we do keep in mind one of the goals of the program as we make those decisions.
- Mr. Venegas said it is part of the City hiring process.
- Ms. Rapp interjected saying it is primarily because they will be working with children.

- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether if they have a police record, it will preclude them from participating in the program.
- Ms. Rapp said that each applicant is considered on a case-by-case basis. She said the focus is to really outreach to young adults who would normally not find it easy to find a job for various reasons, so we really look at if there was an incident in their past, what was it, and how has their life changed, and also take into consideration what type of job they will be performing.
- Commissioner Gonzalez said he had the opportunity to observe some of the youth at work.
- Chair Conner asked whether any of the youth worked on the bioswales and whether they enjoyed it.
- One youth said he did and that he enjoyed it.
- Ms. Rapp said that the Community Center Advisory Committees held a joint meeting and all of the Youth participating in the Job Apprenticeship Program were recognized with a certificate. She said that at the end of the program, all of the youth participating in the program were asked to share one thing that they learned through participating in the program. She said that each of the youth had positive experiences.
- Ms. Rapp thanked those participants in attendance at the meeting and said she hopes they will participate again in the future.

11. Plaza de la Guerra Infrastructure - Concept Design

Recommendation: That the Commission provide comments regarding the conceptual plan for Plaza de la Guerra.

- Mr. Marck Aguilar, Redevelopment Agency, and Doug Campbell, AICP, ASLA, and Regula Campbell, AIA, provided a presentation on the Plaza de la Guerra Infrastructure Concept Design.
- Mr. Aguilar advised the Commission that he is seeking the Commission's comments on the concept design at this time, and he briefly highlighted the project timeline.
- Commissioner Forsell said the plaza needs upgrading without question. He said that the loss of parking in Plaza de la Guerra or the close proximity is a huge problem. He asked how many additional parking spaces are proposed.
- Mr. Campbell replied saying that one space will be added on De la Guerra Street between State and Anacapa Streets. He said with the addition of diagonal parking easterly of Anacapa between Anacapa and Santa Barbara Streets would provide an additional 15 parking spaces over what is there currently. Mr. Campbell said that they are exploring reallocating the parking spaces in the loop to the City Hall parking lot.
- Commissioner Forsell reiterated that any net loss of parking in the downtown area is a problem.
- Commissioner Forsell asked whether the 78 more seats gained in sidewalk dining will provide a net gain of revenue to the City. Mr. Aguilar said the City will get additional revenue, but there is also a tremendous benefit to the restaurants and also to the community. Mr. Aguilar said that the goal is to enhance the liveliness of the area.

- Commissioner Forsell questioned whether it is a good idea to put a big fountain in that area considering the area attracts vagrants.
- Mr. Campbell said that an appropriately designed water piece without standing water with a water effect disappearing into paving using light and appropriate design features has been a significant aspect of the success of other public places of which his company has been associated. Mr. Campbell expressed that the attractiveness of such elements to wide varieties and numbers of people increase the vitality of a place is significant in preventing the sort of attractive nuisance that sometimes these features can become when they are not properly designed and other uses and pedestrian activities may be limited in the area. He said it is a challenge, but it can be successful.
- Ms. Campbell said that the Historic Landmarks Commission was very excited about the fountain since it had appeared in earlier concepts for the plaza as an animated feature.
- Commissioner Forsell commented regarding the proposal to use decorative color concrete. He said that as a Real Estate Appraiser, he sees this as the rage right now, and he has seen it look very good and he has seen it look very bad. He said he hopes it looks very good, rather than very bad.
- Mr. Campbell said they look towards the highest standards for precedence of their work, and believe that the introduction of stone is very important.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he thinks the concept is great, beautiful, and exciting. He said he thinks this is the direction the City needs to go in.
- He said that in terms of the car issue, the parking needs to be removed. He said that in terms of deliveries, we need to work around that. He said he is excited about De la Guerra Plaza not being a parking area. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that if people want more parking they need to lobby their City Officials to building another parking lot downtown. He further stated that we need a Plaza to be the center of the City.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked when detailed information regarding the number of maintenance hours will be available.
- He said he would like to know by when there will be some kind of a recommendation in terms of a policy for deliveries.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked to see as soon as possible, a plan regarding how to do water diversion in a way that is environmentally sustainable so that runoff is not going into our creeks.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether there is any anticipated change in usage policy or events permitting after this project is completed. He said this is a space that is important for Official City Events like Fiesta and will become a much more commercial space as people are sitting out there as customers of the restaurants, he would hate to see it not also be a public square as it has been historically for rally's, protests, events, etc., he wants to make sure that there are no plans for any changes to those policies.
- Ms. Rapp responded saying that the Commission will see that staff is starting to include in Commission and Council agenda reports what the project maintenance impact is when the projects move forward.
- Ms. Rapp clarified that this project is a conceptual plan. She said that when the project moves further along in the design process and some of the key decisions need to be made, staff will have more detailed information regarding

maintenance impacts and the information Mr. Larimore-Hall is describing, available for the Commission.

- Ms. Rapp said that Parks and Recreation staff are participating in the project on the assumption that the use of De la Guerra Plaza will remain the same. She said there is a Council restriction on the number of events that can take place in De la Guerra Plaza. She further said staff does not anticipate there will be an increase in the number of events; staff does not anticipate there will be a decrease in the number of events. Ms. Rapp stated, however, that there has been some community discussion about looking at a different use of De la Guerra Plaza, but there has been nothing come forward in a concrete way.
- Ms. Rapp advised that if the Commission feels strongly about the use of De la Guerra Plaza, it would be appropriate for them to make those comments at this time.
- Mr. Aguilar stated regarding deliveries, that they would be allowed in the morning hours until approximately 10:30 a.m., and then during the afternoon the Plaza would be closed off to deliveries so that there could be safe outdoor dining. He said that the area would be opened up again at night at some point for deliveries again.
- Mr. Campbell responded to Mr. Larimore-Hall's question regarding water diversion and runoff management. He said that his company has participated in projects that have been recognized as green/sustainable. He said that he believes this project can exemplify the highest standards; they would aspire and would expect nothing less than the highest sustainability standards, including redesigning of the drainage patterns to provide for drainage into a bioswale filter system into the lawn area. He also express his believe that the project can be self-powered.
- Commissioner Gonzalez said the design is beautiful. He concurred with Commissioner Larimore-Hall with respect to the removal of the vehicles in the Plaza and parking.
- Commissioner Gonzalez suggested the left entrance be balanced like the Storke Placita side.
- Chair Conner commented that electrical outlets were not addressed. Mr. Campbell responded saying that the concept incorporates a series of utility vaults below ground and around the perimeter of the green to the edge of the paving that would upgrade the existing for natural gas, electrical, etc.
- Chair Conner asked regarding extending diagonal parking all the way to Santa Barbara Street, whether De la Guerra become a one-way street.
- Mr. Campbell said that the recommendation is that De la Guerra become a one-way street between Anacapa and State Streets, but between Santa Barbara and Anacapa Streets, it remain a two-way street.
- Youth Intern Gonzalez commented that many youth hang out in Stork Placita and asked what kind of lighting will be provided and how well lit will it be.
- Mr. Campbell said that the existing pole lighting will be supplemented by lighting that will be added to the future trees, and new pole lighting will also be added. He said that plenty of light is very important and will be provided.
- Ms. Gonzalez asked if benches will be provided in the Storke Placita.
- Mr. Campbell said yes.

Public Comment

Cas Stimpfen, Old Spanish Days; Matthew Fisher, Representing the Santa Barbara News-Press; and Dennis Rickard

Commission Comments

- Commissioner Forsell reiterated his concerns regarding parking.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that there are several parking garages within walking distance from City Hall. He said that not having parking in the Plaza is a good and necessary thing and urged staff to press ahead.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that in terms of placing the foundation he said he is ambivalent about where it should be placed. He said his background is not in planning, so he will take everyone at their word; having the fountain jet into the street a bit would be calming for traffic. He echoed the idea regarding the need for benches, and making sure there are enough places for people to come and sit and hang out. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that as the public square becomes more commercialized, and we are breaking down the barriers between the restaurants and the public space that, that not mean people aren't able to just go and enjoy the space without being customers of the restaurants.
- Youth Intern Gonzalez emphasized the fact that many youth hang out in Storke Placita, and the current design caters to adults. She said it is very important to find a balance and suggested that it be made a little more youth friendly.
- Chair Conner agreed with Commissioner Larimore-Hall regarding the parking situation. She said that she is happy that with the progress made on the Plaza de la Guerra project and that we are in the concept design phase. She thanked staff for their efforts.

Ms. Rapp commented regarding the addition of canopy trees and the addition of some palm trees. She asked the Commission if they wanted to comment on those items. She further asked the Commission to comment on events related to the future of De la Guerra Plaza.

- Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he would like to see things stay the same with respect to events policy and usage of De la Guerra Plaza. He said it is important to have a space visible from City Hall and right down town for people to have their voices heard, and he does not want to see that diminished. He said he wants to have an understanding from the beginning that those two things will be balanced.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated that there needs to be an efficient and reasonable way for people (participants and staff) to be able to get equipment in and out of the plaza so that it can be useful for large events so we can see local artists and musicians and eat great food for the Old Spanish Days celebration, etc. He said he would like to see dialog between the representatives from Old Spanish Days and Planning Division staff to make sure that is possible.
- Commissioner Forsell said that he did not mention anything about the canopy trees because it appears that it will be an improvement. Mr. Forsell commented that until a site visit is done, it is difficult to determine what the area will look like simply by looking at a diagram.
- Chair Conner said she did not find any fault at all with the trees.

12. Plan Santa Barbara - Community Input Summary Report

Recommendation: Hear a presentation by Planning Division staff on the Plan Santa Barbara - Community Input Summary Report, and provide comments as appropriate.

- Commissioner Forsell asked whether any of the responses were surprising.
- Ms. Burbank said that what was interesting were the new issues such as public health, sustainability, addressing global warming, and a strong encouragement for the City to participate regionally for addressing some of the issues that go beyond the boundaries of the City.
- Mr. Ledbetter said he was surprised by the public health issue.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether the Commission will see some of the input regarding parks, recreation programs, and other things within the purview of the Commission.
- Ms. Rapp interjected asking the Mr. Ledbetter and Ms. Burbank to share with the Commission what the next steps will be. She said they had mentioned they would be identifying policies that either need to be reconsidered or considered as part of this process that might address some of the key issues and asked them to talk about the Commission's role in the formation of those policies.
- Mr. Ledbetter said that he could extract the comments and forward them to the Commission. He said that in terms of policy development, those issues related to Parks and Recreation (open space, public health, etc.) where people are looking for some policy options that will be clear and evident as to which ones are relevant to the Commission.
- Mr. Ledbetter said there will be forum on public health, and he encouraged the Commissioners to attend. He said it would be very relevant. He further encouraged the Commissioners to attend the workshops when they begin in the spring.

13. National League Of Cities City Platform for Strengthening Families and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the City of Santa Barbara adoption of a City Platform as part of the National League of Cities' Strengthening Families and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth program.

- Ms. Hanna provided an overview of the National League of Cities City Platform for Strengthening Families and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether the Community Center Advisory Committees have had the opportunity to review the Platform yet.
- Ms. Hanna said they have had the opportunity to review it yet, but staff will involve them when the annual review is done.
- Commissioner Larimore-Hall suggested that they be given it now so they feel they are in the loop.
- Commissioner Gonzalez asked for clarification regarding the statement "UCSB Teacher Education Program conducts the A-OK afterschool program's annual report to the State Board of Education."
- s. Hanna said that the A-OK Program at the Title I Elementary Schools is a grant-funded program run by the School District. She said that the School

District uses UCSB to do their evaluations; they do the surveys of the children, they look at the statistics for improvement, they do the statistical analysis if the children's improvements, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 4/0 that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director