



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

Minutes

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: I
Commissioner Forsell

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Steve Forsell
Commissioner Arnaldo Gonzalez
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill

Liaisons Present

Councilmember Iya Falcone

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to speak.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet praised the efforts of the Sailors of the USS Ronald Reagan who, during their visit to Santa Barbara, volunteered to clean up and paint Skater's Point.

Commissioner Forsell reported on the activities of the Tennis Advisory Committee. He praised staff efforts in getting the Tennis Lighting project completed, saying it will result in cost savings.

Commissioner Gonzalez and Chair Conner stated they attended the Community Wellness Educational Forum held on Saturday, January 12, 2008, and that Ms. Rapp will report of the event later during the meeting.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

There was no Youth Council report.

1. Summary of Council Actions

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that Councilmember Iya Falcone is the new liaison to the Creeks Advisory Committee and Park and Recreation Commission.

Councilmember Falcone addressed the Commission. She thanked the Commission for their work. She stated that she is the Council liaison to the Creeks Advisory Committee, City Council representative to the PARC Foundation, and Regional Parks and Recreation Task Group. Councilmember Falcone said she welcomes the Commission's questions and concerns and encouraged them to call on her at any time.

2. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 12, 2007.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 12, 2007.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

3. Recognition of Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers for Their Volunteer Maintenance of the Jesusita Trail

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers for their volunteer maintenance of the Jesusita Trail.

Ms. Zachary highlighted the work done by the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers (SBMBTV).

The Commission recognized the SBMBTV for maintenance of the Jesusita Trail and presented them with a certificate of appreciation.

Chris Orr, President, SBMBTV, accepted the Certificate on behalf of the organization.

Commissioner Forsell commented that the Jesusita Trail is in very good shape. He said he and his wife hike there frequently. He thanked the SBMBTV for their efforts.

Commissioner Longstreet thanked the SBMBTV for their work and also for their participation in the Front Country Trails Working Group. She said that with all the groups participating, progress will be made, and a good resolution will be reached for everyone.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission about the Community Wellness Educational Forum put on by the Community Wellness Coalition, in addition to the Plan Santa Barbara folks for the City. She said the intent of the workshop was to have a focus on community health and how those issues should be looked at related to the City's General Plan Update. Ms. Rapp said the program was very good, and there were representatives from Air Quality Management, Nutrition, Transportation, and she spoke on the relationship between health and parks. She indicated that the workshop would be televised, and she encouraged the public to watch.

Regarding the General Plan Update, Ms. Rapp said that Planning staff will be looking to advisory committees for policy recommendations to go forward to the Planning Commission and City Council that need to be considered. She said that clearly, much thought has gone into existing policies, but it would be good for the Commission to read the materials and have a discussion to see where the policies could possibly be strengthened and what areas are of a higher level of concern now.

Ms. Rapp advised that Ms. Megill would be scheduling a special 3-hour work session for the Commission to discuss the General Plan Update. She said the focus of the work session will be on Parks and Recreation, and at a later time, we will include more of the environmental recommendations that will come out of the Creeks Advisory Committee process.

Commissioner Gonzalez recommended that some information be provided in Spanish.

Chair Conner commented that the keynote speaker was excellent and did a great job of disseminating information.

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request and proposed locations.

1. 00 E. Anapamu St. - Jeannette Candau - (1) Evergreen Pear (1) Ornamental Pear

Mr. Downey highlighted this tree removal address. He said that this item was reviewed by the Commission during a special joint meeting with the Street Tree Advisory Committee on October 12, 2008, but was continued with the request that as many trees as possible be planted as street trees and the remaining trees be placed within the project, in order to provide shade to the sidewalk.

Mr. Downey said that as the project developed, it became apparent that the two trees next to the Coffee Cat building would need an application for removal because of the conditions at the site. He said that, consequently, both trees have been included in one application. Mr. Downey said that the one of the trees is not the designated species for that block, neither of the trees are in very good health, and part of the design includes tree grates and tree well adjustments in the area, and in order for the trees to be in the center of the grates, they would need to be removed and replaced so the trunks could be at the center of the grates for pedestrian access. Mr. Downey indicated that the current tree designation for the street is the Ornamental Pear. He said that Street Tree Advisory Committee expressed concern that the trees were not as originally planned to be native plantings. He said the Committee recommended planting Western Redbud or Toyon as opposed to the Pear trees.

Mr. Downey advised that he attended the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) when this item was heard. He said that HLC felt the Pear trees worked well and matched quite well with the trees across the street at the Library.

Mr. Downey said that the Committee and staff recommend approval of the street tree removal request and the locations on the plan provided.

Commissioner Forsell asked what the significant differences were between the original plan and the plan they have.

Mr. Downey said that the plan the Commission currently has does not show the two proposed removal trees; those would be replaced at their current

locations within the sidewalk. He said the difference in this plan is that there are now three street trees along the project, and four additional trees adjacent to the sidewalk; there were no additional trees in the previous plan.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnaldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission approve the removal of one Evergreen Pear tree and one Ornamental Pear tree located at 00 E. Anapamu Street per the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation.

B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 1431 Shoreline Dr. - Lauren Emma - Indian Laurel Fig

Mr. Downey reviewed this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee felt the location of the tree would create problems at the site due to the aggressive nature of the species.

Mr. Downey said that the Committee and staff recommend approval of the removal request with the condition that the applicant replace the tree with another tree planted in the setback area.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnaldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission approve the removal of the Indian Laurel Fig tree located at 1431 Shoreline Drive.

2. 3736 Magnolia/Dixon St. - John Purdie - Italian Cypress

Mr. Downey highlighted this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approval of the removal request stating the trees are diseased and poorly located.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 4/0 that the Commission approve the removal of the Italian Cypress tree located at 3736 Magnolia/Dixon Street.

3. 1811 El Encanto Rd. - Grant Castleberg - Sugar Gum

Mr. Downey highlighted this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approval of the request with the condition that the applicant preserve the Oak trees in the surrounding area and any tree 20 feet or taller within 100 feet of the tree in question.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether if a tree is 20 feet or taller and it is not in the purview of the Commission, do they in fact have any say over making someone keep it or not.

Mr. Downey said the Commission could rule to wait on taking action on the removal at this time. He said the Committee and staff felt it was a rather large loss and the conditions mentioned would be appropriate, and in addition, their landscape plan shows they are planning to do that anyway.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that she did not want to place a condition on them that was not enforceable by the Commission. Commissioner Longstreet stated preserving the Oak trees is very important.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 4/0 that the Commission approve the removal of the Sugar Gun tree located at 1811 El Encanto Road.

C. Deny the following continued Setback Tree removal request.

1. 1727 Santa Barbara St. - Richard Suding - Canary Island Palm

Commissioner Forsell recused himself from this item.

Mr. Downey highlighted this tree removal request, reminding the Commission this item was discussed last month, and that the Commission requested the item be continued until landscape plans could be provided.

Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff unanimously recommend that the removal of the Canary Island Palm tree be denied. He said that the Committee and staff felt the tree would not be inconsistent with the neighboring properties because two adjoining properties have three of this specie located in the front yard setback. He further said that staff supports relocation of the tree to another location; however, the Committee does not. Mr. Downey indicated that the applicant has advised that they have an offer to relocate the tree at no cost to the applicant or to the City, but it is unknown where the tree will be relocated. Mr. Downey provided the Commission with the landscaping plans and the Single Family Design Board's comments related to the landscape and the Canary Island Palm.

Speakers: Richard Suding and Phil Suding

Bob Cunningham, Street Tree Advisory Committee, provided written comments to the Commission regarding this removal request. These comments will be filed on record in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that she visited the site of the tree twice and does not see how it is incompatible. She said it does serve a purpose in its present location.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 2/1 that the Commission uphold the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendations to deny the removal of the Canary Island Palm located at 1727 Santa Barbara Street.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS:

5. Community Service/Volunteer Projects in Santa Barbara City Parks

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a staff presentation on two community service projects which occurred this month in City parks.

Mr. Escobar briefed the Commission that on Saturday, January 12, 2008, 13 sailors from the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Aircraft Carrier, along with Public Works/Building Maintenance Division, and Parks Division staff removed vines and painted the Skateboard Park.

Chair Conner asked how the Department was able to get sailor volunteers.

Mr. Escobar said that Ms. Rapp and Capt. Szeyller worked closely with U.S.S. Reagan staff to arrange the workdays. Mr. Escobar said there were approximately 70 volunteer sailors in all. He said they also worked with the Public Works Department which, working with the Neighborhood Task Force, allowed them to do a major clean up on Cacique Street.

Ms. Rapp said that many thanks is due to the Navy League. She said they support the U.S.S. Ronald Reagan and coordinate all of the activities for the sailors, and when they indicated they wanted to do community service projects while they were here, Capt. Ed Seller, who is on the Navy League, worked with the City to coordinate how the projects would take place.

Mr. Escobar said that also on the same day, 80 volunteers participated in the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden annual rose pruning day.

Chair Conner asked whether if you don't know anything about pruning roses is there someone there to give you advice and help you along.

Mr. Escobar said yes, Rosarian Dan Bifano and other volunteers provide rose pruning demonstrations.

Chair Conner asked how many opportunities are there per year for this particular

volunteer activity. Mr. Escobar said the annual rose pruning occurs one a year; however, volunteers throughout the park system are needed every single day.

6. Santa Barbara Beautiful Projects Status Report

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a staff report regarding the projects and programs that receive support from Santa Barbara Beautiful.

Ms. Zachary provided an update on Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008 projects and programs that receive support from Santa Barbara Beautiful.

7. Andree Clark Bird Refuge Update

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a staff report regarding water quality management issues for the Andree Clark Bird Refuge.

Ms. Zachary provided a report regarding water quality management issues for the Andree Clark Bird Refuge.

Commissioner Longstreet asked what lives in the Bird Refuge. Ms. Zachary said there are mosquito fish. She said the Bird Refuge was originally designed for migratory birds. Mr. Escobar said there are fish (occasionally), ducks, migratory birds, and mosquito fish.

Commissioner Longstreet thanked staff for the report. She said this has been an ongoing issue and said it would be good to get a better handle on it.

8. City Receives 2007 Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Innovator Award

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a staff report regarding the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's 2007 Integrated Pest Management Pest (IPM) Management Innovator Award given to the City of Santa Barbara.

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that on January 17, 2008, the City of Santa Barbara received a 2007 IPM Innovator Award from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation in Sacramento, California. She said the City received one of eight awards and, further, that in the history of the award, only five cities have ever receive the award. Ms. Rapp said that Mayor Blum, Councilmembers Schneider and Williams, Jim Armstrong, Joan Kent, Santos Escobar, Eric Cardenas, and she attended the awards ceremony in Sacramento.

Ms. Rapp said that the City has put so much energy and effort into reducing the use of toxic pesticides throughout the community and has implemented the very forward thinking PHAER Zone Model, and the IPM Innovator Award really recognizes the work we have done.

Ms. Rapp said that Mr. James Shattuck, representative from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation will be present at the January 29, 2008, City Council meeting to present the award. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Longstreet praised the efforts of Mr. Escobar and his staff saying that without them embracing the program, it would not have worked.

Chair Conner concurred. Mr. Escobar recognized staff from all City Departments who have worked together to reduce the use of toxic pesticides throughout the City.

NEW BUSINESS:

9. Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointments

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Consider two incumbent applicants and make two reappointments to the Adapted Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission reappointment Ali Sprott-Roen, representing Special Olympics, and Anne Dupee, representing UPC/Work Inc., to the Adapted Advisory Committee, each for terms ending December 31, 2009.

- B. Consider two incumbent applicants and make two reappointments to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission reappointment Gregg Chittick and Oscar Carmona, representing the community at large, to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee, each for terms ending December 31, 2009.

- C. Consider two incumbent applicants and make two reappointments to the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission reappointment James Andelman, representing the community at large, and Doug Fischer, representing the scientific community, to the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee, each for terms ending December 31, 2009.

- D. Consider one incumbent applicant and make one reappointment to the Tennis Advisory Committee;

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the Commission reappointment Gary Clark,

representing the community at large, to the Tennis Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2009.

- E. Interview one new applicant, and appoint that individual to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee; and

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the Commission appoint Corey Welles, representing PAAC, to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2009.

- F. Interview one new applicant, and appoint that individual to the Golf Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission appoint Irelle Beatie, representing the Executive Women's Golf Association, to the Golf Advisory Committee, for a term ending December 31, 2009.

10. Change In Membership of Park and Recreation Commission to Seven Members

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Discuss increasing the membership of the Park and Recreation Commission from five to seven; and
- B. Provide direction to staff regarding how to proceed in the matter.

Commissioner Longstreet said she served on the Commission when there were seven Commissioners, and most of the other Commissions have seven members. She further said that it is not just the number advisory committees to which the Commissioners serve as liaisons, it is that those committees are very active and expect the Commissioners to attend. Ms. Longstreet also said that expanding the membership would provide an opportunity for diversity on the Commission.

Commissioner Forsell expressed it was cumbersome with seven members on the Commission. He said that over the past five years this format has worked well for the public, the Commission, and staff. Mr. Forsell said that the likelihood of getting a quorum with seven members versus five members will not make much of a difference. He further expressed that he does not believe the Commission has ever had a problem obtaining a quorum. Mr. Forsell commented that he does not think the liaison assignments are overwhelming.

Commissioner Forsell stated that it takes time to get up to speed on the Commission, and when you get a new member, it takes time to educate a new member and to have to educate three new people on all the issues will be very difficult, and he sees no logical reason to consider it.

Commissioner Forsell asked whether the change could be implemented and the charter changed after the fact. He further stated that it is difficult to get qualified, interested people to serve on the Commission.

Ms. Rapp indicated that the Commission is a Charter Commission. She said that the City is in the process of taking forward some minor Charter amendments during an upcoming election, and if the Commission so decides, the change could move forward at that time. She said she is unsure whether it could be implemented now and the Charter changed later.

Commissioner Forsell asked whether Ms. Rapp was referring to the November 2009 Election. Ms. Rapp said it would be a local election, but she is not sure what the date would be.

Ms. Rapp said that after she speaks with the City Attorney and City Clerk on the matter, she would bring back additional information regarding whether this can be implemented before the Charter amendment is passed.

Commissioner Gonzalez said he supports the expansion of the Commission to seven members.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 3/1 that the Commission ask staff to pursue increasing the membership of the Park and Recreation Commission to seven members and to obtain further information regarding the action necessary to accomplish this change.

Commissioner Forsell voted in opposition to pursuing increasing the membership of the Park and Recreation Commission to seven.

11. Barbecue/Open Fire Prohibition in City Sports Facilities

Recommendation: That the Commission concur with a staff recommendation to prohibit the use of barbecues and open fires in the following sports facilities: Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field, and Pershing Park, except by permit.

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that this is within the purview of the Parks and Recreation Director, but she wanted to bring this forward to the Commission because it affects safety of all park users. She said there have been increasing problems in some of the ball field facilities with people bringing in portable barbecues and digging pits in the infield, burning charcoal, and leaving charcoal in unsafe locations.

Ms. Rapp said staff are proposing the prohibition of the use of barbecues and open fires at the Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field, and Pershing Park, except when allowed by permit. She said this would apply to all areas including the

parking lots. Ms. Rapp said that this prohibition would not apply to parks where there are designated barbecues. She said that if approved, the Department would move forward with placing additional signage requiring that only charcoal be used in all parks with existing designated barbecues. Ms. Rapp said, however, that wood logs would still be allowed in the barbecue pits at Oak Park (Main, Sycamore, and German Friendship picnic areas), and Skofield Park areas A, B, and C.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked what the difference is between allowing the use of barbecues with permit and without a permit.

Ms. Rapp said the primary difference is that when you have a permit, there is a set of restrictions and requirements for you to be able to have the permit, and staff are also visiting all of the park sites that have a permit to make sure the individuals are following the rules and regulations associated with the permit, so the Department has more oversight.

Commissioner Longstreet said she supports it for the safety of the ball field users, as well as staff.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission support the staff recommendation to prohibit the use of barbecues and open fires at Cabrillo Ball Field, Dwight Murphy Ball Field, and Pershing Park, except by permit.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 4/0 that the Commission adjourn at .

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director