



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Conner called the Park and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Forsell

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Steve Forsell
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Recreation Programs Manager Judith Cook
Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Recreation Supervisor I Terry Brown
Park Supervisor Ken Brown

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Arnaldo Gonzalez

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Forsell reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee. He said the Committee is planning the 50th Anniversary of the Golf Course.

Chair Conner reported that she attended the Semiannual Luncheon for Advisory Boards and Commissions Chairs and Vice-Chairs. She indicated that the event was well-attended and many very pertinent topics within the purview of the Boards and Commissions were discussed. Chair Conner also briefed that she attended the CPRS Conference with Ms. Rapp, Ms. Hanna, and Mr. Escobar, and during that event, the City was awarded the Youth Development Award for the Teen Center.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

None

1. Summary Of Council Actions - For Information (Attachment)

Ms. Rapp said this item is for information only.

2. Approval Of Minutes - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2008

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 27, 2008

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

3. Recognition of Barney Berglund, Chairperson of the Santa Barbara Local Organizing Committee for the Amgen Tour of California - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize three years of dedicated work by Barney Berglund, the volunteer Chairperson of the Santa Barbara Local Organizing Committee for the Amgen Tour of California Bike Race.

Ms. Jang-Bardick presented this report.

The Commission recognized and presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Barney Berglund for three years of dedicated work as the volunteer Chairperson of the Santa Barbara Local Organizing committee for the Amgen Tour of California. The Commission also recognized and presented certificates of appreciation to Dan Rudd, Drew Hunter, Steve Boelter, Mike Hecker, Cleta Walker, Shannon Brooks,

Dana Goba for their efforts in fundraising, promotion, coordination, and operations work as part of the Santa Barbara Local Organizing Committee for the Stage 6 portion of the Amgen Tour of California in Santa Barbara. The following were recognized, but were not present: Laura Kath, Ralph Fertig, Sgt, Riley Harwood, and Officer Scott Naganuma.

Ms. Rapp acknowledged the efforts of Susan Jang-Bardick and Judith Cook in working with the local organizing committee. She said this event would not have happened without the work of that committee. Ms. Rapp said the event is not funded in total by the City; the City does offer in-kind support. She said the committee is truly responsible for raising community support and funding for the event to come to Santa Barbara, and their efforts are appreciated by the City and the community.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp highlighted the budget process. She said this is the second year of the two-year budget, which means there will not be significant changes to the City budget. Ms. Rapp indicated that revenues are down, so there will be some reductions. She said the budget will be presented by the City Administrator to City Council either on April 15th or 22nd. Ms. Rapp said the budget will be presented to the Commission at the regular meeting of April 23rd. She said that there are not a lot of budget impacts this year, and she does not believe a budget work session will be needed.

Ms. Rapp said that the Department will be one of the first departments make their presentation to City Council on April 28th. She said the Advisory Committees will meet to develop comments and recommendations to the Commission, so either a special meeting will be scheduled in May, or they will be presented to the Commission at the May meeting. Ms. Rapp said staff will forward the Commission's comments on the budget, which will include any comments from the Advisory Committees, to Council in a memorandum.

Ms. Rapp said that the Finance Committee is scheduled to develop their final recommendations to City Council on the budget on June 3rd. She indicated that she would inform the Commission of any updates to this schedule at their April 23rd regular meeting.

Mr. Larimore-Hall asked whether the Commission will be informed of recommendations regarding budget adjustments during the April 23rd meeting.

Ms. Rapp said that is correct, and she further indicated the recommendations will be discussed when the City Administrator briefs City Council on the budget on either April 15th or 22nd.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked then, whether the Advisory Groups would be discussing the budget after the Commission's regular April meeting, and that will be

forwarded to Council, but prior to the Commission's regular May meeting.

Ms. Rapp clarified saying that she anticipates that either at a special meeting in May or at the Commission's regular meeting in May the Commission will receive all the recommendations from the Advisory Committees and make their recommendations to Council regarding the budget. Ms. Rapp said she will defer to the Commission as to whether they want to hold a special meeting.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action (Attachments)

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal requests.

- 1. 300 block of W. Ortega St. - Jim Colton, PW Engineering - (2) Red Flowering Gum and (1) Myoporum**
- 2. Haley and De La Vina - Jim Colton, PW Engineering - (1) Red Flowering Gum and (1) Weeping Fig**

Mr. Downey reviewed these removal requests. He said that the Army Corps of Engineers determined the Mission Creek Bridge to be structurally deficient, and Public Works is proposing a project to bring the bridges up to code. Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff concur with the removal of these trees. He said that they would like to see if the Brisbane box tree could be preserved in place outside the footprint for the 300 Block West Ortega Street. He further said that they desire a tree protection plan and re-vegetation plan. Mr. Downey said that the Committee and staff recommend that all trees removed be replaced with Red Flowering Gum trees.

Mr. Downey said that for Haley Street at De la Vina, the Committee would like to see Oak trees placed near the bridge on De la Vina. He said that staff disagrees, due to consistency of plantings and maintenance, and determined that the designated street tree should be placed in those locations. He said that staff recommends three replacement trees on each street. Mr. Downey said that the Committee and staff desire a re-vegetation plan.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that to approve Street Tree Advisory Committee's recommendations for items 4 A (1) and 4 A (2).

B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 1930 Emerson Ave. - Jonathan V. Leech - Silver Dollar

Mr. Downey reviewed this removal request. He said two Silver Dollar trees are the subject of this request. Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approval the approval of the removal of the tree closest to the home, as this tree is not salvageable. He said that the Committee and staff recommend the denial of the removal of the tree closes to the street, as it is a healthy tree simply in need of maintenance.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 that to approve the removal of the one Silver Dollar tree located at 1930 Emerson Avenue that the Advisory Committee has suggested removing.

2. 3837 Mariana Way - Cathy Callaway, Mariana HOA - California Sycamore

Mr. Downey highlighted this removal request. He said the request is the result of a pruning violation of the City Ordinance. He said the trees had been pruned inappropriately, and therefore, staff asked Home Owner's Association representatives, to apply for the removal, because staff believe the trees cannot be restored to their natural shape. Mr. Downey indicated that the HOA President is protesting the removal because of the beauty of the trees; however, if they continue to prune the trees in this manner it violates the ordinance.

Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approval of the removal request, and that the trees be replaced with like species.

Commissioner Forsell asked what is to prevent them from pruning the two new trees inappropriately as opposed to the existing trees.

Mr. Downey said there are no guarantees; this Association did prune the trees. He said he has educated them on the ordinance and given them the tools to prune the trees correctly. He further said he is confident that with this matter brought to light they cannot continue to prune trees in this manner.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that to concur with the staff recommendations concerning item 4 B (2).

C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

- 1. 405 N. La Cumbre Rd. - Bella Rienstra - Mexican Fan Palm**
- 2. 1280 Kenwood Rd. - Steve Sparkland - Mexican Fan Palm**

Mr. Downey highlighted these tree removal requests. He said the Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed both of these removal requests and felt the trees are skyline trees and a benefit to the entire community. Mr. Downey said the reasons for removal could be mitigated through maintenance. He said the Committee and staff recommend denial of the requests.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that to concur with the staff recommendation to deny the removal of the setback tree removal requests identified in item 4 C (1) & (2).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Integrated Pest Management 2007 Annual Report - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2007 Annual Report and recommend approval to City Council.

Mr. Escobar highlighted the Integrated Pest Management 2007 Annual Report.

Commissioner Forsell said the program has been a phenomenal success and congratulated everyone involved. He cautioned that many of the graphs and charts reflecting the pesticide usage was predicated on the fact that we had a very dry year last year. He said we are only three months into this year, but we are having a wetter than usual year, and suggested that we can expect to see some of that usage increase this year.

Commissioner Forsell asked whether it is as labor intensive as it was four years ago when we began the program. He commented that over the four years, staff has probably learned different techniques, and the people who do the job are probably more efficient, and maybe it not quite as labor intensive as it was then.

Mr. Escobar said that it is very labor intensive. He said that will not change; there will always be a great deal of manual labor involved. Mr. Escobar said that the City does have a lot of the right tools in the right places, but he urged the community to be patient, because, there will be, from time to time, weed infestation. Mr. Escobar said that staff does go from site to site, doing their best to eradicate the

weeds. He encouraged the community to volunteer, saying volunteers are key.

Mr. Escobar said the Department has a wonderful volunteer base at the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden, Alice Keck Memorial Park, Mesa Lane Steps, Douglas Family Preserve, but, the Department continues to need more volunteers in order to help control weeds.

Mr. Escobar stated the Commissioner Forsell is correct; every year will vary in regards to pesticide use. He said some years will be higher than other depending on the pests the Department is trying to control, but the Department will continue to use the least amount of pesticides as necessary.

Chair Conner asked the what the volunteer phone number is. Mr. Escobar said the phone number is 564-5434.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said the program continues to be phenomenal and everyone in the City should be very proud. He thanked Mr. Escobar and staff on behalf of the Commission for their outstanding efforts in support of the IPM Program

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that the fact that there is less pesticides used overall in the system overall is very impressive, because it reflects a paradigm shift in terms of how the City is dealing with public land and resources, and maintaining the physical beauty of the City. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that in the beginning the program was more of shifting from one pesticide to another less environmentally damaging or less of a health threat, and now it is moving to new ways of practicing. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that is very impressive and worthy of pride.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that there volunteerism is rewarding, fun, and a good way to building cohesiveness and camaraderie. He said he would like to challenge community organizations to get out there and adopt a park for a day, bring some sodas, bring some snacks, have a picnic, and pull some weeds. Mr. Larimore-Hall said it is easy to interface with the City, and it is rewarding.

Mr. Larimore-Hall further said that from working with the IPM Advisory Committee he is aware that it is a great thing in terms of public property and public lands that the City has made a commitment to making them Greener and safer and more environmentally sustainable, but there is also a great deal of privately held land in which pest abatement is not always most circumspect. He said there is a great deal of information available from the Parks and Recreation Department regarding how people can implement these strategies on their own properties and their own private spaces. He urges property owners to get in touch with the Parks and Recreation Department to find out how these changed practices and different strategies can be implemented on private property as well. Mr. Larimore-Hall said

that everyone needs to do their part whether it be by way of volunteerism or making sure that you are using these principles on any lands you steward.

Chair Conner said that she was honored to talk about today, during the Semiannual Luncheon for Advisory Boards and Commissions Chairs and Vice-Chairs, the City's receiving the IPM Innovator Award from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. She congratulated the City and staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 that to accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2007 Annual Report and recommend approval to City Council.

Ms. Rapp acknowledged the work of the Parks staff. She further acknowledge Mr. Santos Escobar and Mr. Ken Brown's work with the IPM Program and thanked them for their efforts with the program.

6. Junior High Afterschool Sports and Enrichment Program - For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of the Junior High Afterschool Sports and Enrichment Program.

Ms. Rapp said that the Junior High Afterschool Program has been a focus for the Department for programs that work to engage kids in positive activities, particularly the junior high age.

Ms. Brown provided a report on the Junior High Afterschool Sports and Enrichment Program.

Ms. Tina Fanucchi, Director, Santa Barbara Education Foundation, said that the biggest challenges in the School District is that the Music and Art Program is always being cut. She said there are many music and art programs in the community, and they thought there should be a way to collaborate with the students and with the School District. Ms. Fanucchi said that for the last year, they have been working on a plan to utilize those resources in the community and bring them onto the campuses. She said the goal would be that students would have an array of music and art programs to choose from in the Afterschool Enrichment Program. Ms. Fanucchi said the plan has two components: the assessment component, and the implementation coordination component. Ms. Fanucchi explained each component.

Ms. Fanucchi highlighted the progress thus far, and said they are close to securing the funding for the assessment component. She said that once that is done, a roundtable discussion will be held with possible funding sources in the community in an effort to get the coordinator's position funded for the next five years. She said their goal is to get the coordinator position funded for the next five

years, there will be music and art programs coming onto the campuses, the coordinator will be coordinating with Parks and Recreation and putting a website together, working with principals, and creating a seamless school day for the students.

Ms. Rapp added that Ms. Hanna has put in a lot of effort building a relationship with the School District over the last few years. She said the School Board and School District Administrative Staff are very supportive and interested in growing these programs after school.

Ms. Rapp briefly talked about the budget saying that the City of Goleta as a Council expressed appreciation for the Program and increased their allocation for the program to \$10,000. She said the cost per school site is just under \$30,000. Ms. Rapp said that the School District contributes \$40,000 (\$10,000 per campus). Ms. Rapp further said that the City of Goleta acknowledges that they will work towards covering the full cost at Goleta Junior High, which will increase their funding commitment.

Ms. Rapp said that when Council met with the School Board there was a lot of appreciation for this program expressed and a lot of discussion about the program as it relates to the increase in youth violence in the community. She said the School District knows it is important, but she knows they have a lot of difficult decisions to make. Ms. Rapp said that the future level of School District funding is unknown.

Ms. Rapp said that the City is not proposing any reductions to this program; in fact, in budget reductions, the City has been very careful to protect anything that has to do with youth. Ms. Rapp said the other challenge is fundraising, because she is unsure as to whether we are capable of raising for this because of the challenges it places on the staff running the program. She further stated that this is a program that history shows, should be fully funded from year to year, which is why having participation from all of the other community partners is so critical. Ms. Rapp said that staff is optimistic with everything that is falling into place right now, that will be the future of this program.

Commissioner Forsell clarified that there is no longer a \$35 participation fee. He asked whether there are plans to charge a fee if funding becomes an issue.

Ms. Rapp said that if the Department ended up at a point where fees were being considered, staff would address ways of doing it differently than in the past. Ms. Rapp reiterated, however, that staff is committed to making the program as enticing and with as few barriers as possible.

Ms. Rapp said that at this point, the Department is committed to keeping the program free. She said that one fact staff has found is that although parents will

pay for afterschool programs for their elementary school-aged child, they are less inclined to do so, if money is tight, for their junior high school-aged child, on the premise that those children are safer on their own or could be on their own.

Chair Conner commented that the Afterschool Program is a fabulous undertaking and encouraged staff to remain optimistic.

7. Ballroom Dance Program - For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on changes to the Saturday Ballroom dances and ballroom dance lessons at the Carrillo Recreation Center.

Mr. Jason Bryan provided a report on the Ballroom Dance Program.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked to what was the big spike in participation in 2006 attributed.

Mr. Bryan said they brought in a big band that was given a great deal of publicity. He said the band brought a lot of people in, but the quality of the band did not live up to the expectations. He said it was difficult to find a band that could play everything in the spectrum of ballroom dancing.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that to adjourn the meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director