



City of Santa Barbara
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
 Special Meeting

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Longstreet called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 620 Laguna Street.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present

Beebe Longstreet	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Daraka Larimore-Hall	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Ada Conner	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Arnoldo Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commissioner

Commissioners Absent

Steve Forsell	Park & Recreation Commissioner
Christina Gonzalez	Park & Recreation Commission Intern

Staff Present

Nancy L. Rapp	Parks & Recreation Director
Jill Zachary	Assistant Parks & Recreation Director
Sarah Hanna	Recreation Programs Manager
Judith McCaffrey	Recreation Programs Manager
Santos Escobar	Parks Manager
Cameron Benson	Creeks Manager
Tim Downey	Urban Forest Superintendent
Randy Fritz	Street Tree Inspector
John Ledbetter	Principal Planner
Karla Megill	Executive Assistant

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 23, 2008

Ms. Rapp advised that there was a clerical error on the agenda and the minutes the Commission is being asked to approve are that of July 23, 2008.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 23, 2008.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

2. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 1301 Carpinteria St. – John Kingsbury – (2) *Brachychiton populneus*, Bottle Tree

Mr. Downey reported that these trees are very sparse, and one is too close to the water meter. He stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approval of the request.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the removal of the tree located at 1301 Carpinteria Street.

2. 102 N. Hope Ave. on San Remo Dr. – Tim Downey and Southern California Edison – (5) *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda

Mr. Downey said this item is related to item 2 D (1). He reported that the trees were severely topped by the utility company for many years. Mr. Downey indicated that after these 5 trees are removed there would be 1 Jacaranda tree and 1 Bottle tree left. He said it is not sustainable to keep Jacarandas under the utility lines. Mr. Downey stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approval of the request and a smaller tree be designated for this location.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission approve the removal of the tree located at 102 N. Hope Avenue on San Remo Drive.

B. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. 40 S. Ontare Rd. – Jayne Rosenblatt – (1) *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine, (1) *Olea europaea*, Olive

Mr. Downey reported that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the request because the reason for the request does not justify the removal of the tree.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the tree located at 40 S. Ontare Road.

2. 209 E. Cota St. – Tim and Blanca Waaler – Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda

Mr. Downey reported that the reason for the request was debris dropping on the sidewalk causing a slip hazard. He said the Street Tree Advisory Committee determined this was a maintenance issue and there were other means of access to the property. Mr. Downey indicated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the tree located at 209 E. Cota Street

3. 232 Cottage Grove Ave. – R.J. Spann – Pittosporum rhombifolium, Queensland Pittosporum

Mr. Downey advised that the problem the tree is experiencing is caused by an insect that sucks sap and creates “honeydew”. He said it is a seasonal issue, and the trees can be washed off to improve the sticky condition. Mr. Downey stated that the trees are healthy and that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the tree located at 232 Cottage Grove Avenue

4. 418 Bath St. – Antonio Torres – Pittosporum rhombifolium, Queensland Pittosporum

Mr. Downey indicated this tree is experiencing the same problem as the tree identified in item 2B (3). Mr. Downey stated that the trees are healthy and that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the tree located at 418 Bath Street.

5. 826 E. Yanonali St. – Efren Jimenez – Pittosporum rhombifolium, Queensland Pittosporum

Mr. Downey indicated this tree is experiencing the same problem as the tree identified in item 2B (3 & 4). Mr. Downey stated that the trees are

healthy and that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the tree located at 826 E. Yanonali Street.

6. 144 San Rafael Ave. – Tom Storm – Eucalyptus polyanthemus, Silver Dollar Gum

Mr. Downey reviewed the reasons for the request. He indicated the applicant believes the trees are hazardous, too close to underground utilities, Palm trees would be a better blend with the neighborhood, and the trees are messy and cause the need for more street sweeping. Mr. Downey indicated that the trees are healthy and there are no signs of any hazardous conditions. He said Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the request because the reasons for the request do not justify the removal of the healthy, mature tree.

Chair Longstreet said she received a call from Mr. Storm today and discussed the issues with him. She expressed that the trees on that particular block add a great deal to the entire community and if the tree is healthy, it would be a great loss to remove it.

Commissioner Conner said she visited the tree and concurred with Chair Longstreet's comments. She said that if the tree were to be removed it would detract from the neighborhood.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the tree located at 144 San Rafael Avenue.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that the application for removal and research provided by Mr. Storm was impressive, and it is clear that Mr. Storm is clear about making sure that any replacement tree would fit the neighborhood.

- C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 2130 or 2132 Mission Ridge – Teri and Eric Gabrielsen – Eucalyptus globules, Blue Gum

Chair Longstreet commented that she watched the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting today during which this item was addressed.

Mr. Downey reported that the reasons for the request is a concern that the tree is destroying the wall, which might be a historic structure. He stated that when the property was designated as a landmark, the wall was supposed to be included in that designation, but was not. Mr. Downey

stated the wall is not at this time designated as historic. He said the tree is on the property of Marymount School, and representatives from the school have informed him that they have alternative methods of repairing the wall without removing the tree. Mr. Downey stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend, because there are alternatives to removal, that the removal request be denied. He said, however, that since that time, the item has gone before the Historic Landmarks Commission for recommendations and comments. Mr. Downey said those recommendations and comments include a 5 – 3 vote to remove the tree and replace the wall in its historic location and replant with another tree that would become a skyline tree. He said the minority vote were people who wanted to look at the feasibility of removing one portion of the wall fronting the tree into the public right-of-way and making what repairs they could to the wall. Mr. Downey said that there was a comment at HLC that any moving of the wall could jeopardize the likelihood that this could be listed as a historic monument.

Commissioner Conner asked regarding moving the wall forward whether a meter currently exists in that location. Mr. Downey said the wall would likely have to be moved farther away than that.

Mr. Downey said that after listening to the comments by the HLC, staff recommends a decision be postponed until more information is available.

Speakers:

Craig Buzzell, Business Manager, Marymount School, said they rarely remove trees at the campus. He said he was approached by the neighbors about the tree because it is destroying two walls, one fronting on the Marymount property, and the other on the neighbor's property. He said that he has had the wall evaluated by stone masons, on the assumption that the tree would need to remain. Mr. Buzzell said it will be very costly to repair the wall, and with the tree in place, it will be very difficult for them.

Sharon Sumrall spoke in support removing the tree. She said the wall is beautiful; it should have been historic. Ms. Sumrall said the wall has significant Santa Barbara history to it. She said the tree needs to be removed so the wall can be rebuilt.

Teri Gabrielson spoke in support of removing the tree. She said there is a ton of history behind the house. Ms. Gabrielson said they would love to make the wall a landmark, and will have Transportation look at that possibility.

Chair Longstreet expressed that she does not believe the Commission has enough information to make a decision.

Commissioner Conner concurred.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked what it means that it would complicate or be a problem for future applications for Historic Landmark status if the wall was moved.

Mr. Downey replied saying his understanding is that if they can prove the wall existed over a historic period and there is some historic input, then they can easily get a designation. He said the position or rebuild of a wall puts it into a new location; it does not have that original historic significance, so it is more difficult to designate it as a historic landmark.

Ms. Rapp said it is similar to why the Department could not do what staff wanted to do on the Cabrillo sidewalks to meet the current use of how those sidewalks are used.

Chair Longstreet said this is a large and important tree and asked what staff would request to be replanted there. She stated she would want a recommendation from staff about mitigation for a removal if the Commission approved the removal.

Mr. Downey said HLC said that if the tree were to be removed and replaced, it would not be replaced with the same specie; it would be different skyline tree.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission postpone the item until staff provides further information on this item until the September meeting.

D. Consider the following changes to the Master Plan.

1. Species change – 3700 Block San Remo Dr.

Change from *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda to (2) species 1. *Arbutus 'Marina'*, Marina Strawberry Tree and 2. *Prunus cerasifera*, *Krauter Vesuvius*, Krauter Vesuvius Purple Plum an alternate. The Committee and staff determined these trees would fit into the neighborhood and could be maintained under the utility lines.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 3/0 that the Commission make the recommended changed to the Street Tree Master Plan.

2. Species change – 100 Block W. Gutierrez St.

Change from *Pittosporum undulatum*, Victorian Box to *Arbutus 'Marina'*, Marina Strawberry Tree. The Committee and staff determined that due to the proximity to the creek, the *Pittosporum undulatum* is invasive. They determined the Marina Strawberry Tree would be appropriate for the neighborhood.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 that the Commission make the recommended changed to the Street Tree Master Plan.

Commissioner Gonzalez arrived at 4:25 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

3. “Plan Santa Barbara” – General Plan Update – For Action (Attachments)

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Report, review the policy options matrix, and provide comments and recommendations to the Planning Division and the Planning Commission on the policy options related to Parks and Recreation programs and objectives. The Commission will also have an opportunity to review the Youth Survey Results Report.

Mr. Ledbetter provided an update on the Plan Santa Barbara – Policy Options Report.

The Commission took a break at 5:12 p.m. and reconvened at 5:26 p.m.

Ms. Rapp provided a briefing on Parks and Recreation, Planning for the Future.

Mr. Benson reviewed the Creeks Advisory Committee recommendations and comments.

Ms. Zachary reviewed the staff report on the Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Report and Matrix.

The Commission specifically reviewed policies related to park, recreation, and open space as well as the creek and water quality recommendations of the Creeks Advisory Committee. Major recommendations from the Commission are outlined below. The Commission asked that these policy considerations be included in the environmental review phase of Plan Santa Barbara. Comments and recommendations from the Commission and the Creeks Advisory Committee on the other policy options are outlined in the attached tables.

The Commission recommends that the Planning Commission and the City Council consider the following recommendations as well as those in the attached tables.

Land Use/Growth Management

Recommendation 1: Revise the Land Use/Growth Management Goal to include more specificity to parks and recreation facilities.

The Commission believes that parks, and recreation facilities, are a key resource (in addition to water, energy, food, housing and transportation) in the

consideration of growth through in-fill development. Land use/growth management goals need to strongly consider that residents should live within walking distance of active and passive recreational facilities and parks/open space.

Recommendation 2: Establish Park/Open Space Standards for New Development and Redevelopment.

The Commission discussed, at length, the need for land development standards to support the provision of parks, open space and recreational facilities within neighborhoods. As Santa Barbara continues to pursue infill development there will be an increasing need for public open spaces and recreational opportunities. Such standards would be applied in a similar fashion to others (such as parking) in the consideration of new development or redevelopment projects. The standard would be applied at a neighborhood level. For implementation, if not needed in one neighborhood, the requirement could be transferred to another neighborhood.

Community Character - Open Space, Parks and Recreation

Recommendation 3: Develop mechanisms by which public and private facilities can be use for neighborhood recreation activities.

The Commission recommends that the Planning Commission and the City Council promote creative and innovative mechanisms for fostering recreational opportunities within neighborhoods. As an example, when not in use, private and public parking lots and school properties provide potential opportunities for recreational activities.

Recommendation 4: Provide neighborhoods that are safe and inviting for youth.

Youth development through recreation opportunities and job training is a key interest of the Commission. The Commission recommends that the next phase of Plan Santa Barbara include policy options that address the need for neighborhoods to be safe and inviting for youth (specifically youth between the ages of 10 and 18). Neighborhoods should include community social spaces for youth and family activities.

Recommendation 5: Integrate walking paths in parks.

In addition to the need to provide park and recreation opportunities within walking distance of residential areas, the Commission recommends that walking paths in parks will increase neighborhood accessibility, promote safety, and enhance pedestrian opportunities. In addition to the Park and Recreation Element, policies related to walking paths in parks could be integrated into an update to the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Community Character – Urban Forest

Recommendation 6: Establish design standards that provide for adequate tree wells/landscape area to promote the planting of large shade trees in parkways, parking lots and setbacks.

Street trees, setback trees and public and private landscape trees comprise Santa Barbara's Urban Forest. Shade trees reduce the urban heat island effect and require adequate tree wells to flourish. As Santa Barbara continues to grow, shade trees will continue to play an important role in the shape and value of the community's character. The Commission recommends that in addition to establishing standards for adequate space for trees to flourish, standards should also allow for/encourage the reduction in parking requirements and the undergrounding of utilities to support the growth of a large urban forest canopy. A policy related to large shade trees could also be integrated into the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Resources

Recommendation 7: Policy Option R1. Highway 101 Setback – Do Not Consider.

While the Commission respects the consideration of the California Air Resources Board land use guideline, the Commission does not support consideration of this policy option for a number of reasons. Santa Barbara's land area is limited and there is a critical need to balance limited land availability and community needs. In addition to residential and commercial areas, there are a number of existing park, recreation and community facilities within the proposed setback. By restricting the placement of such facilities, residents of those areas would be disproportionately affected. Although not guaranteed, improvements in automotive technology over time may result in reduced emissions and improved air quality.

Recommendation 8: Strengthen the City's role as a sponsor for youth development and youth employment.

As a major employer and community service provider, the City's role as a sponsor for youth development and youth employment should be strengthened through inclusion as a policy consideration in Plan Santa Barbara.

Commissioner Conner moved seconded by Commissioner Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 that the Commission have staff craft the recommendation and comments for review by the Chair and Vice-Chair to be presented to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the recommendation from the Creeks Advisory Committee and include it with their recommendations to the Planning Commission.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:05 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

Commissioner Larimore-Hall moved seconded by Commissioner Conner, and passed unanimously that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director

Attachments: 1. Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Related to Parks and Recreation Programs and Objectives
2. Creeks Advisory Committee Recommendations for Plan Santa Barbara General Plan Update