



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: August 20, 2008

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Report

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.

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this item is to provide the Park and Recreation Commission with the opportunity to review the Plan Santa Barbara Policy Options Report with a particular focus on policy options that are related to Parks and Recreation programs and objectives.

The Policy Options Report provides the basis for the policy issues to be considered General Plan update. The Report describes the findings from Phase 2 of the Plan Santa Barbara outreach process, including the Development Trends Workshops held in April 2008. With "Living Within Our Resources" as a central mission statement for the City, sustainability has become the overarching theme of the General Plan Update. The Planning Division conducted two workshops in July to solicit public input on the policy options. On August 14, the Planning Commission also conducted a work session to review the results of the workshops. The Planning Division will present the outcomes of the workshops and work session to the Commission on August 20. A summary of the workshops is also available online at www.youplansb.org.

The Park and Recreation Commission has a similar opportunity to provide input and send specific comments and recommendations to the Planning Commission and the City Council. As noted in the attached staff report from the Planning Division, final policy options will be selected based on public, board and committee input for inclusion in a Policy Preference Report. The Policy Preference Report will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on September 10 and 11. The Planning Commission will then forward recommendations to the City Council. On October 8, the City Council will hold a special meeting to determine which policies will be included in the general plan update. Policies selected by the City Council will be considered in the next phase of policy analysis and environmental review.

Materials to Review

The Commission received a copy of the Policy Options Report under separate cover in mid-July. Additional materials for the Commission's review prior to the August 20 meeting are attached to this staff report. These include the: 1) staff report from the Planning Division, 2) policy options matrix developed by Parks and Recreation staff, 3) matrix of Creeks Advisory Committee issues, and 4) youth survey results report.

Recommendations

Staff developed the policy options matrix to assist the Commission in its consideration of policy options specific to park, recreation, open space, community character, land use and resources. In a number of cases, Staff is recommending agreement with the policy option as presented. In others, Staff has prepared recommendations for the Commission to consider as part of its review and discussion. In addition to those outlined in the matrix, the Commission may have comments on other policy options, including policy options related to creeks and water quality. The Creeks Advisory Committee reviewed the policy options at its regular meeting on August 13. Recommendations from the Committee will be provided to the Commission at the meeting on August 20. The Commission may also want to consider attending the upcoming Planning Commission meeting and subsequent City Council meeting.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Planning Division Staff Report
 2. Parks and Recreation Policy Options Matrix
 3. Creeks Advisory Committee Issues related to the Policy Options
 4. Youth Survey Report

PREPARED BY: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director