



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 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**

Commissioner Forsell

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners & Staff Present**

Commissioner Ada Conner  
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Commissioner Steve Forsell  
Commissioner Arnolando Gonzalez  
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall  
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp  
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey  
Executive Assistant Karla Megill  
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna  
Parks Manager Santos Escobar  
Business Manager Nancy Woods  
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson  
Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna  
Recreation Supervisor I Terry Brown  
Golf Course Manager Scott Jorgensen  
Recreation Supervisor Susan Young  
Wastewater Systems Manager John Schoof  
Supervising Engineer Linda Sumansky

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Rapp advised the Commissioners that staff provided them with several items of communication between staff and Karolyn Renard.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Karolyn Renard spoke regarding her opinion that there are problems with the Douglas Family Preserve (DFP) Conservation Easements. She expressed her belief that the City does not hold title to the parcels that are conservation easements at the DFP property. Ms. Renard expressed that she cares so much because the Monarch Butterflies are devastated by the lack of care to this conservation easement. She asked that this item be placed on the agenda next month for further discussion.

## **COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

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

Commissioner Longstreet said that she attended Mr. Dick Ruffero's funeral. She said Mr. Ruffero was a long-time supporter of the City and former Park and Recreation Commissioner. Ms. Longstreet said he was a unique individual and will be greatly missed.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

1. **Summary Of Council Actions** - Provided for information only.
2. **Approval Of Minutes**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2008.

**Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2008**

## **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

3. **Recognition of Cathy Kennedy's Service to the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation**

Ms. Rapp highlighted this item. She said that Cathy Kennedy has served with the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation for eight years. She highlighted Ms. Kennedy's background and accomplishments.

The Commission presented Ms. Kennedy with a Certificate of Appreciation and thanked her for her service to the PARC Foundation.

Ms. Rosalind Amorteguy, President of the PARC Foundation, presented Ms. Kennedy with a bouquet of flowers and expressed the appreciation of the PARC Foundation Board.

Ms. Rapp presented Ms. Kennedy with a framed 100 Years of City Parks poster and thanked her for her support of the Department.

4. **Recognition Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve, Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee, and Owen Dell for Support of the Douglas Family Preserve Community Planting Day**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve, the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and Mr. Owen Dell for their support of the Parks and Recreation Department second annual Community Planting Day.

Ms. Frye presented a brief slide show depicting the work done by the Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve, Douglas Family Preserve Advisory Committee, and the Department during the Second Annual Community Planting Day.

The Commission presented certificates of appreciation to Brad Taggart, representing the Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve, and Owen Dell.

Ms. Rapp commented that this was the second community planting day at the Douglas Family Preserve and concurred with Mr. Dell's comments about Brad Taggart. She stated that Mr. Taggart has been the heart and soul behind both of the planting day efforts. Ms. Rapp said Mr. Taggart worked closely with the Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve to make the Community Planting Days happen. She said that the City is very appreciative of his efforts, and to everyone who was involved.

Commissioner Longstreet commented, as liaison to the Committee, that the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee is a new committee, and they have struggled as new committees do, but they are getting their feet on the ground and getting the work done that needs to get done. Ms. Longstreet thanked Ms. Kathy Frye and the Advisory Committee for all the work they do.

Ms. Karolyn Renard commended Brad Taggart for his efforts. She said the planting should have been done with a professional Monarch rehabilitation plan. Ms. Renard reiterated her concerns regarding the DFP conservation easements and the Monarch butterflies. Ms. Renard commented that copies of attachments to the agenda were not available to the public at this meeting, which is a violation of the Brown Act.

Note: Ms. Renard requested a copy of the attachment for this agenda item and was so provided with a copy.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS**

### **5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Recommendation: That the Commission:

#### **A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request.**

- 1. 515 N. Quarantina St. - Robert A. Toscan - (2) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palms**

Mr. Downey highlighted the justification for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approval of the request at applicant expense and on the condition that three 24-inch box *Melalucea styphelioides*, Prickly Melalucea be planted in parkways in the 500 block of Quarantina.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission approve the removal of (2) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palms located at 515 N. Quarantina St.**

#### **B. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.**

1. 2903 Verde Vista Dr. - Dennis Morelli - Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request because the reasons are not adequate justification to warrant the removal.

**Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda, located at 2903 Verde Vista Dr.**

2. 204 E. Gutierrez St. - Robert Lee Sorg - *Melaleuca styphelioides*, Prickly Melaleuca

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request because the reasons are not adequate justification to warrant the removal.

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the *Melaleuca styphelioides*, Prickly Melaleuca located at 204 E. Gutierrez St.**

**C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.**

**1. 1314 La Cima Rd. - Gibson Wolfe - Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine**

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request because the reasons for removal are not valid.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that the Commission deny the removal of the Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine located at 1314 La Cima Rd.**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**6. Carrillo Recreation Center Seismic Renovation and Rehabilitation**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive an update on the Carrillo Recreation Center Seismic Renovation and Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. John Schoof provided this report.

Chair Conner said she is glad the building is being renovated.

Commissioner Forsell commented that he has worked with KBZ on public projects in the past, and they are a very good design group and have good follow-through.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked if they will be working on the foundation of the building. He further asked if they have calculated the magnitude the building will support after the renovations are completed.

Mr. Schoof said that when you are seismically retrofitting a building, you typically do not want to think about a magnitude that it will withstand; you want to think about the people getting out. Mr. Schoof said it is designed for people exiting and what shape the building will be in afterwards. He said the building will not be in perfect shape after a huge earthquake or after a significant event. Mr. Schoof also said that they are working to historic building codes, which means they are 75 percent of 1975 earthquake requirements. He said that means they will be tearing off the plaster and putting in plywood. Mr. Schoof said if they were to go with current day codes, they would have to tear off the brick and put in shear on both sides of the building and then put the brick back, which makes no sense. He said they will be handling the foundation first, but at the same time, will be tying the brick on to the flexible structure; that will go first, and then they will begin the demolition. Mr. Schoof said they will have to relocate the different activities.

Ms. Rapp said staff will be coming back to the Commission with a plan for relocating staff and activities. She said it is quite a challenge to replace that activity space. Ms. Rapp said staff is looking at different alternatives including makeovers of existing facilities such as making the MacKenzie Adult Building into a dance facility. She said staff is very concerned about not losing program participation; certainly there will be some, but staff will be working very hard to have very little impact to the public.

Commissioner Longstreet said it is exciting. She said that we will lose use of the facility for a year, but the fact that the usability of the building will be so increased by the ADA accessibility will be such a benefit to the community. Ms. Longstreet expressed appreciation for Dave Gustafson's comments of yesterday when he said that this is what RDA projects are about. She said it is true; this project will serve the community; it is in an area that needs the recreation activities. Ms. Longstreet thanked staff for seeing the project through to this point and City Council for seeing the importance.

## **7. After-School Program Hourly School Year Continuity Incentive**

Recommendation: That the Commission receives information on the Council approved School Continuity Incentive for Certain Hourly Employees Working in After-School Programs.

Ms. Hanna provided this report.

Commissioner Longstreet said it is wonderfully innovative. She further said she wishes the City could pay them enough that they were beating down our doors for these jobs, because these are the people who take care of our children; they are the some of the most valuable jobs that we have in our community.

Commissioner Gonzalez said it is an excellent program. He asked whether most of the employees are college students and whether they are Recreation or Education majors.

Ms. Hanna said that many of them are Education majors; many of them are just athletes or are just interested in recreation. She said there is not a Recreation major per se at UCSB; there are some other related majors, but most of these employees are Sociology majors or folks who have come through recreation programs in other cities, or they are simply looking for jobs.

Commissioner Gonzalez suggested that as an incentive that the City work with City College to have them provide some education units based on the training the City provides, which might motivate some of the students. Ms. Hanna agreed that this is a good idea.

## **8. Proposed Social Host Ordinance**

Recommendation: That Commission hears a report from staff regarding a Proposed Social Host Ordinance under consideration by the City Council Ordinance Committee.

Ms. Susan Young provided this report.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that she saw the Youth Council's presentation to City Council and the teens did a wonderful job; they covered everything, they were composed, it was great, and the adults that worked with them did a marvelous job preparing them.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall thanked staff for the updated and said he is excited about this ordinance. He said he has some concerns about some of the details and its implementation. He said he is also concerned with insuring that there is equitable implementation and that it is not something that gets abused or becomes only a tool to deal with other problems and is not used to deal with a whole array of problems with alcohol abuse that hits all parts of the community.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is interested in receiving details and updates regarding the ordinance either directly or through Commission Intern Gonzalez.

Ms. Rapp suggested the Commissioners sign up for e-Subscriptions for the Council Ordinance Committee so they are aware of when the item goes to the Ordinance Committee. She said she would have Ms. Megill follow up with the Commissioners regarding the process for doing that.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

## **9. Los Baños Deep End Wall Replacement and Re-Plastering Project**

Recommendation: That the Commission receives a presentation on the Los Baños deep end pool wall replacement and re-plastering capital project scheduled for summer 2008.

Mr. Rich Hanna provided this report.

Chair Conner commended staff for their efforts in getting the information out to the public.

Commissioner Longstreet commented on the need for a second pool in the community. Chair Conner agreed.

## **10. Proposed Parks and Recreation Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2009**

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report on the proposed Parks and Recreation Department budget for Fiscal Year 2009, and provide comments and direction to staff.

Ms. Rapp reminded the Commission that this is the second year of a two-year budget. She stated that there are only minor changes and this staff report will highlight those changes and any significant issues. Ms. Rapp said that the Fees and Charges Schedule is done annually, so they will see more changes in that document.

Ms. Woods reviewed the proposed Parks and Recreation Department budget for Fiscal Year 2009.

Ms. Rapp discussed the proposed required budget reductions and position changes.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed that the trees will need to be maintained. She said that if the Senior Tree Trimmer position and contract work is deferred, we will be playing catch up. Ms. Longstreet said that deferred maintenance is always a bad idea. She further said that if Council could see fit to find extra money for this, this item would be an important one for her. Ms. Longstreet stated that street tree maintenance is a public safety issue, and she has concerns in this area.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that another problem with not being able to service the urban forest is the number one excuse people use for not being in compliance with the tree ordinance. He expressed concern about that. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that the Department has some very innovative and comprehensive plans moving forward, and are going to need as much compliance and cooperation from homeowners and citizens as possible.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is pleased that the Department has been so committed to converting hourly positions to permanent part-time positions. He said it makes good fiscal sense in terms of retention, etc., but it is also important because it has been a priority for the Department to play a role in creating sustainable good jobs for young people in our community. Mr. Larimore-Hall expressed that there often a negative attitude in the public sector that if there is a job that is generally done by a young person or a student in a part-time capacity, that means it can, and should be lower paid and not have as many benefits, etc., and that is backwards. He said there are thousands of young people in this community who either grew up here, are locals, or are attending college, for whom part-time employment while they are students is what makes or breaks whether or not they are able to be a student. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that having good jobs with benefits that are career track jobs that give your skills that are entry level is crucial. He said he does not want the Department to lose momentum on this program or on pressuring City Council to take it seriously as a City Policy. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he believes it is the intention of staff to make all of these reductions



as one-time reductions, but he is concerned that, as with the Parks maintenance position, once you have not filled the position, the next year when you are also having to tighten your belt, it becomes easier to put it off. He said he understands budget cuts need to be made, but he would feel more comfortable with the budget by finding a way to convince Council to continue to make progress on moving the positions to permanent part-time.

Ms. Rapp assured the Commission that the Forestry Program is stronger today than it has been in years. She said the reductions will be felt, but the Department is in a much stronger position today than than we have been to do this kind of one-time reduction.

Ms. Rapp said the Department will be one of the first making a presentation to City Council on Friday, April 25th. She said the Advisory Committees will be meeting over the next couple weeks and formulating their recommendations. Ms. Rapp said the Department will participate in a presentation to the Finance Committee on May 13th with the Police Department. She advised that they will be giving an updated on youth and youth programs. Ms. Rapp said that on May 20th, the Department participate in a presentation to the Finance Committee regarding the potential impacts to the City might be with reductions in budgets from the School District, County, and State. Ms. Rapp said that staff is concerned about the School District commitment for afterschool funding for the junior high afterschool program and the reductions to County Mental Health and the impact on homeless in parks and facilities.

Ms. Rapp said that the Commission's regular meeting is scheduled for May 28th. She said that also on May 28th at noon, the Finance Committee will be developing their final recommendations to Council, on June 3rd, City Council will give their final direction to staff, and the budget will be adopted on June 24th.

Ms. Rapp suggested that if the Commission sees a need for a special meeting, that the meeting be held on May 19th or May 21st. She said the Commission could develop their budget recommendations at the regular meeting of May 28th.

Commissioner Longstreet commended staff for protecting existing programs, particularly the youth programs. She said this budget, and what is adopted now, may have major changes down the road; changes that are not within the control of the Commission. Ms. Longstreet said she does not believe a special meeting is needed at this point, unless a significant issue is raised by an advisory committee that requires further discussion by the Commission.

Commissioner Longstreet encouraged the Commissioners to advocate strongly for the Department. She said she believes that is what the Commission is here for. Ms. Longstreet asked staff to call upon the Commission to speak at the upcoming Council meetings to voice their concerns.

Commissioner Forsell said that a special meeting is not needed, as the budget is not as complex as it has been in the past. Commissioners Conner and Larimore-Hall concurred.

Ms. Rapp invited any Commissioners that would like to speak specifically to any proposed reductions or any items in the budget to attend the Special Council meeting on Friday, April 25th, approximately 3:30 p.m. City Council Chambers.

Ms. Rapp said that she would be happy to share the Commission's comments as part of her presentation.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked whether staff expect any additional reductions in the budget. Ms. Rapp said at this point this is the City Administrator's proposed budget to Council. She said she does not anticipate any further reductions, but that could happen if there are any other priorities that come up during the budget process.

#### **11. Advisory Committee Liaisons**

Recommendation: That the Commission review current advisory committee liaison assignments and, if necessary, make changes to those assignments.

This item was deferred to the May 28, 2008, meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 that adjourn the meeting.**

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director