



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, May 28, 2008

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Conner called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Forsell

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Park and Recreation Commission Chair Ada Conner
Park and Recreation Commission Vice Chair Beebe Longstreet
Park and Recreation Commissioner Steve Forsell
Park and Recreation Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez
Park and Recreation Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Parks and Recreation Director Nancy L. Rapp
Executive Assistant Karla M. Megill
Parks and Recreation Business Manager Nancy Woods
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
Recreation Supervisor Jeff Smith

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Park and Recreation Commission Intern Christina Gonzalez

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA - None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS - None

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION - None

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Forsell reported on the activities of the Tennis Advisory Committee. He said the Committee discussed the new lighting at the Municipal Tennis Courts and Pershing Park and said that every tennis player that plays at night is thrilled with the new lighting system. He further said the new system is going to save a substantial

amount of money for the City in the form of lighting costs. Mr. Forsell said the Committee discussed the proposed fees and charges for Fiscal Year 2009.

Chair Conner reported that she attended the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Banquet where Mike Anderson, who runs the City Lifeguard Program and Junior Guard Program, was awarded the Russ Hargreaves Memorial Award.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that Teen Programs will be hosting the 7th Annual Youth Leadership Awards Banquet on Monday, June 2, 2008. She said the event is by invitation only where organizations, including all of the Schools are invited to submit nominations for their outstanding youth leader, and those awards are presented at this banquet. Ms. Rapp encouraged the Commissioners to RSVP, if they have not already done so.

Ms. Rapp advised that staff has been working with Teen Programs and the Council Committee on Youth and Children to determine how to expand the Youth Intern to Boards and Commissions Program. She said a subcommittee was formed to look at how the program could be broadened within the City organization. Ms. Rapp said that staff will be bringing a report forward to the Commission on that effort in the future.

Ms. Rapp briefed that staff has made a presentation and led a couple of tours for the City's Infrastructure Financing Committee, which is the committee put together by the City Administrator to help develop recommendations to help determine how, in the future, we will fund the tremendous unfunded capital program. Ms. Rapp said that staff is continuing to provide support to that committee as they request it.

Ms. Rapp talked about the City's effort to develop a comprehensive youth strategy. She said the Department has been a part of that process attending meetings every two weeks, and has offered to facilitate the youth employment/youth jobs segment of that strategy. Ms. Rapp said there has been tremendous support from the community and business owners, now that they have been hearing about the importance of youth jobs, to make those available, but there is no comprehensive approach to connecting those employers with the various programs in the community that are doing youth jobs. Ms. Rapp said that staff will be making a presentation to that group of community leaders on June 9th to determine how the Department can facilitate that coordination between the youth job service providers and people in the community that want to make jobs available in their workplaces, and also, the youth that are most in need of that type of assistance.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT - None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Summary of Council Actions

Commissioner Longstreet asked regarding item number 1, the agreement with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), whether that is a Creeks Division agreement. Ms. Rapp said the agreement is primarily for the Parks Division for a Sediment Management Plan, defensible space/vegetative fuels

abatement, and Andree Clark Bird Refuge biological and archaeological resources support contract.

2. Approval of Minutes

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

Park and Recreation Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Vice Chair Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 23, 2008.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

3. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. **116 E. Yanonali St. - Rob Maday - (3) Syagrus romanzoffianum, Queen Palms, and (1) Eucalyptus ficifolia, Red Flowering Gum**

B. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. **116 E. Yanonali St. - Rob Maday - (1) Stenocarpus sinuatus, Firewheel Tree**

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for these tree removal requests. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommended approval of the request identified in item 3 A (1) stating the removals are consistent with good arboricultural practices. Mr. Downey stated that the Committee and staff recommended approval of the removals on the condition that they are replaced with three additional Firewheel trees. He said the Committee determined the trees the applicant proposed for replacement, Silk-Floss trees, would be too close to the building and could not fully develop.

Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommended denial of the request identified in item 3 B (1) stating that the tree is a healthy specimen and the reasons for removal are not valid and do not justify removal.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Vice Chair Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the recommendation of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff to approve and deny, respectively the street tree removal requests identified in item 3A (1) and 3 B (1) for street trees located at 116 E. Yanonali Street.

2. **760 Calabria Dr. - John Leonard - Schinus terebinthifolius, Brazilian Pepper**

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that the tree is a healthy tree and the reasons for removal are not valid and do not justify removal.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 5/0 to concur with the recommendation of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff and deny the street tree removal request identified in item 3B (2).

3. **510 and 516 Alan Rd. - Gary Shumaker - (2) Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum**

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that the tree is a healthy tree and the reasons for removal are not valid and do not justify removal.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Vice Chair Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the removal of the street trees identified in item 3B(3).

C. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. **149 Loma Media Rd. - Raymond Jewell - Pinus radiata, Monterey Pine**

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that the location of the tree is too small for the eventual size of the tree and damage by the tree roots would only get worse. He further said that Pine trees are not recommended for hillside areas due to fire hazards. Mr. Downey said that the Committee recommends the tree be replaced by a tree that is more size appropriate for the site.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff recommendation concerning item 3C (1).

D. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 1547 Shoreline Dr. - Ronnie Gosnell - Podocarpus gracilior, Fern Pine

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that the tree is a healthy tree and the reasons for removal are not valid and do not justify removal.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Vice Chair Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 3D(1).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

4. Afterschool Sports Program Update

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a presentation about the Youth After School Sports Programs.

Mr. Jeff Smith provided an update on the Afterschool Sports Program.

Commissioner Forsell said he was very happy in the quality of the coaches. He said this is imperative if the kids are going to go on to do other athletic endeavors in the future.

Commissioner Longstreet said these types of programs is where the Department gets the most out of their money. She said she is so pleased to see that there are other schools involved not just Santa Barbara School Districts schools. Ms. Longstreet said that one of the biggest benefits of sports other than the health benefits is the kids are exposed to a cross section of kids in the community. She said these kids will meet up again in high school, and even if they don't become friends, it lessens the tensions when everyone is exposed to each other on a level playing field. Ms. Longstreet said these programs are meeting social, sports, and fitness needs, and these kids are kids who would otherwise be sitting at home sitting in front of the television or playing computer games, and now they are out getting exercise and learning how to get along with others. She praised the program and thanked staff for their efforts.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred with Commissioners Forsell and Longstreet. He further said that the program is very impressive and staff should be proud of their accomplishments. Mr. Larimore-Hall asked whether it is possible to have a handball league.

Mr. Smith said that handball is handled by Youth Programs, but there is a great deal of interest in that program. Mr. Smith said he participate in one of the training sessions for the coaches that took place at the Westside Boys and Girls Club and found that there is a great deal of interest. He said that he believes there is potential for a handball league.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Proposed Parks and Recreation Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2009

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Hear the reports presented to the May 13, 2008, Finance Committee on Youth Programs and the May 20, 2008, Finance Committee on the Forestry Program; and
- B. Recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation FY 2009 operating budget, capital improvement budget and Fees and Charges Schedule to the City Council.

Ms. Rapp said that staff provided the Commission with a complete budget presentation during the April 23rd meeting, and on April 25th staff made a budget presentation to City Council. Ms. Rapp said that since that time, at the request of the Finance Committee, staff made two additional presentations. She said that staff will provide the Commission with the same presentations made to the Finance Committee; the first presentation is the status of the youth programs funded with the additional funds provided last year, the second is a report on the Urban Forest Program.

Ms. Rapp said that at the conclusion of the youth program report, there was no discussion of any changes to the budget, except that there was an appreciation expressed that with the budget reductions that were proposed, there was nothing that was impacting youth programs. She said that Council was appreciative of that. Ms. Rapp further said that following the Forestry report, she attended a follow-up Finance Committee meeting where the Finance Committee developed their final recommendations to City Council which will be presented on Tuesday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m. Ms. Rapp said it was difficult because there were concerns raised for reductions made within the Police Department that affected service. Ms. Rapp said she believes the Finance Committee recommendation will be to not make any changes to the Parks and Recreation Department budget in that regard, but they have asked that staff come back at mid-year and provide them with a status report on how the Forestry Program is doing with holding that position vacant and looking at our need to maintain the urban forest.

Ms. Hanna provided a report on the new and expanded Youth and Teen Programs. She discussed demographics, the priority focus, and strategy sectors. Ms. Hanna talked about the formulation of a Strategy Planning Committee and the objectives of that committee.

Commissioner Longstreet asked what age youth are eligible for the jobs.

Ms. Hanna said that for the Youth Apprenticeship Program Jobs, whatever age is appropriate for the particular job, starting with age 14 and going on up. She said for the SER Jobs Progress its ages 16 through 23.

Commissioner Longstreet asked who interested youth should contact.

Ms. Hanna said interested youth should contact her at the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Hanna emphasized that the Parks and Recreation Department is facilitating the coordination between individuals who want to provide jobs and those who want jobs.

Ms. Rapp interjected that when the SER Jobs for Progress, \$860,000 grant using Workforce Investment Federal Funds, first was implemented, everyone was under the impression that it would immediately put youth into jobs. Ms. Rapp said that the SER focus is much more comprehensive, and really working to prepare youth to be successful in the workplace. She said SER is case management based; they are working with the families, schools, dealing with education issues, and social issues, and the culmination of all this is job placement.

Commissioner Longstreet asked who the junior high campuses youth program partners are.

Ms. Hanna said the three partners are: PAL, Shape of Voice, and Club West.

Commissioner Gonzalez said one of the problems he sees with the jobs that are being offered is that it is very difficult to involve some of the target youth because their background and environment makes it difficult for them to associate to any kind of training. He said it is going to be difficult to accommodate; the first step will be small, but once you get rolling, you will see success.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked if staff has a list of the private companies who have taken advantage of the Youth Apprenticeship Program. Ms. Hanna said yes, but she does not have the list with her. Ms. Rapp added that the 14 new jobs staff is working with right now are based in the trades, in Wastewater Division and Street Division in Public Works. She said that staff are really trying to look for opportunities for the youth to be successful where they could compete for a full-time position once they have some training.

Ms. Rapp said that staff will provide Mr. Larimore-Hall with the names businesses and the types of jobs provided under the Youth Apprenticeship Program.

Mr. Downey provided a presentation on the Forestry Program. He highlighted program mission, staffing, the tree inventory, annual pruning and planting, FY 08 work to date, the FY 08 Forestry budget, FY)* projected expenditures, proposed FY 09 budget and expenditures. He then discussed program impact assessment, urban forest issues assessment, and assessment of revenue benefit.

Commissioner Longstreet asked if there is a certain amount the City is supposed to spend per resident to be a Tree City USA, and how the City is doing with respect to that requirement. Mr. Downey said the Tree City USA Program

requires that the City spend \$3.00 (previously \$2.00) per capita. Mr. Downey said the City is well within that range.

Commissioner Forsell commented that he was impressed with the precision of the numbers. He asked whether the numbers flow from the Street Tree Inventory implemented a year or two ago, and further, whether the inventory is completed. Mr. Downey said yes the numbers are directly based from that inventory, and the inventory is very close to being finished. He said there were some open space parks that were not surveyed. Commissioner Forsell commented that we only have eight employees currently under the Forestry Section and two vacancies, yet we have managed to complete over 2/3 of the work, versus 1/3 by outsourcing to contractors. He said that if we had the ninth position filled, we would have less cost on paying outside contractors. Mr. Forsell further commented that it might cost less overall to pay staff to do the work than to pay a contractor to do the work.

Mr. Downey said that some of the contract work has been delayed and the Department is back-loading some contract work the end of the fiscal year, so the contract numbers are down.

Commissioner Forsell commented that the Forestry Section gets an astonishing amount of work done for eight people.

Ms. Rapp explained that the comparison between Forestry staff and Contract staff take into consideration many factors. She said it depends on whether grid pruning, the type of tree, etc. Ms. Rapp said the Department was able to negotiate a contract at \$47 per tree, but that has now increased. She said the Department is experiencing increasing costs for the contractors. Ms. Rapp said she met with the Forestry Crews to determine how the Forestry Section might be restructured. She said they discussed holding some of the positions vacant and experience what it would be to do more contracting than was done in the past. Ms. Rapp said the Department has much more experience now; Mr. Downey brings a great deal of experience to the Department. She said the Department has a better understanding of the Forestry Program and are in much better shape for doing that level of analysis on where to go in the future. Ms. Rapp said that staff has worked to hold these two positions and resisted any cuts to those positions or a formal decision to move that money out of a position and into contracting because they are not ready to make that recommendation yet until staff knows what the right decision for the program is.

Commissioner Longstreet said this is a tremendous resource in the community. She said once you put a dollar value on the trees in the community, it becomes very cost effective to have our own staff who do quality work. Ms. Longstreet expressed that we will always need our own Forestry Crew to do the work. She acknowledged that we will need to contract out some things, but there are trees in this community that we don't want anyone else pruning.

Commissioner Longstreet said we want all the money and positions funded; she

understands we need to bite the bullet in some areas, but she will look forward to hearing regular reports on this matter over the next year.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is always concerned when he sees conflicting goals; a goal on the one hand to bring down the cost on in-house tree maintenance labor per tree that the Department has not been able to meet so far, and on the other hand the reality that we are going to leave positions unfilled for staff who do that work understanding that means fewer people trying to cover more things. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that to also hear that we are trying to cut back on our costs in terms of contracting to try to make up some of that slack. He said he is very concern about our ability to meet very important goals for the fiscal solvency of the Department and the Program. He said he is concerned about what kind of impact it is going to have on the ability to make street tree decisions; it is always the Advisory Committees' gut to err on the side of preserving the urban forest and the Commission generally concurs with that. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that anything that can be pointed to as degradation in the schedule in terms of pruning and maintaining street trees is certainly going to be seen by some members of the public as another excuse of why they should rip them out. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that he wants to go on record as saying he is very, very concern about not filling these positions. He said that he is worried about what it means for the employee and the workload of the employee. Mr. Larimore-Hall commented that he hopes the Council's commitment to look at this again in six months is really a commitment to look at it again in six months with an eye towards filling these positions sooner rather than later.

Ms. Rapp said that staff shares Mr. Larimore-Hall's concerns. She emphasized that it will reduce the number of park and facility trees to be pruned. Ms. Rapp said that the priority is always balancing the workload for safety. She assured the Commission that the Forestry Program is stronger today than it was in the past, so this is a proposed one-time reduction for one year. Ms. Rapp advised that staff just identified in FY 08 an additional \$62,000 of unplanned salary savings that will be put into contracting this year, which will give the Department an edge over next year.

Chair Conner said the Commission gets nervous when positions are cut, and she looks forward to the reports that will come forward to the Commission.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked whether the Department is able to do the total Forestry job with the equipment the Department has. Mr. Downey said that there are times when specialty equipment is needed, and should that time come; the Department could rent or lease the equipment. He further said that if it is determined to be more cost effective for contractors to do the work, that decision is made on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that renting equipment could be a safety issue and dangerous.

Mr. Downey responded saying that the specialty equipment he is referring to are

things like cranes that are mandated for state inspection, and staff would ensure they have had those inspections before staff would use them.

Ms. Rapp said that the Forestry crews would love new equipment, but the sections does a good job with what they have.

Ms. Woods briefly discussed the Advisory Committee comments and recommendations on the Proposed Fees and Charges Schedule for Fiscal Year 2009.

Commissioner Forsell commented that the Tennis Advisory Committee recommendation to eliminate the Resident Discount Card altogether is a wise recommendation.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred with the Community Center Advisory Committees comments. He further said it is logical to think about market rates for usage of many of the facilities; however, for some of the facilities, that logic does not make sense. Mr. Larimore-Hall said that for the Community Centers, staff should think about scheduling their use fees and one-time use fees, very distinctly from a place like the Cabrillo Pavilion, etc.

Ms. Rapp said the Department is reducing its budget by \$234,000 to contribute to the City's balanced budget. She said it is important to note that almost \$137,000 of this number is from one-time reductions. Ms. Rapp said that if things continue the way they are, when staff develop the FY 2010 budget, right off the top, we will be looking at \$137,000, in addition to whatever else will need to cut in FY 2010.

Ms. Rapp said that unless the economy really turns around, and revenue starts looking better, that is going to be a challenge. Ms. Rapp said staff made those decisions understanding these were the least hurtful decisions to take without cutting deeper into the Department without knowing what the situation was going to be for next year.

Commission Comments:

- The Commission is concerned about not filling the Forestry Position. They would like a commitment from Council that they will, in fact, look at it again in six months with an eye towards filling the position sooner rather than later.
- The Commission is pleased to see the department continuing to convert appropriate hourly positions to permanent, and urges Council to in general, look at converting more hourly positions across the board, City-wide.
- The Commission expressed that the City should be very reticent to be raising the user fees on the Community Centers.
- The Commission expressed appreciation for how the Department approached the one-time cuts to minimize negative impacts. The Commission stated staff has really done a good job of protecting the programs affecting the public, especially the youth programs. They further commented that there has

been an increased amount of grant funds coming into these programs, and that should be acknowledged -- that does not come without work.

- The Commission expressed confidence that staff will do what they can to see to it public is insulated from cuts; other constituents including the Department workforce need to be insulated as well.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the community entities may need to start aggressively supporting Parks and Recreation; entities may need to step forward and offer co-sponsorships, offering to help out in programs where they can, etc.

- Commissioner Forsell recommended the Resident Discount Card be eliminated.

Park and Recreation Commission Chair Ada Conner moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Vice Chair Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to recommend approval of the Parks and Recreation FY 2009 operating budget, capital improvement budget and Fees and Charges Schedule to the City Council with comments.

NEW BUSINESS

6. **Proposal to Allow Alcohol at Davis Center and Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club**

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Concur with the recommendation to allow alcohol consumption at the Louise Lowry Davis Center and Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club; and
- B. Recommend to City Council that Resolution No. 99-120, regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain City-owned public areas, be modified such that consumption of alcohol is allowed in the Louise Lowry Davis Center and Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club recreational facilities.

Commissioner Forsell commented that there would be more comments from the neighbors about the Santa Barbara Lawn Bowling Club, because it is right in the middle of Samarkand in the middle of a residential area.

Ms. Hanna clarified that the Santa Barbara Lawn Bowling Club is the downtown club.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the report thorough and concerns appeared to be addressed. She said it will need to be monitored. She further said that she does not see the facility as one that will attract large rowdy parties, and some of the events it can handle are the kind of events that need a home in the community. Commissioner Longstreet said it provides a service to the community and she respects the concerns that have been voiced, but she thinks they can be addressed.

Park and Recreation Commissioner Vice Chair Beebe Longstreet moved,

seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez, and passed 4/0 to recommend to City Council that Resolution No. 99-120, regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain City-owned public areas, be modified such that consumption of alcohol is allowed in the Louise Lowry Davis Center and Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club recreational facilities.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall abstained.

7. Advisory Committee Liaisons

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

The Commission reviewed the Advisory Committee list and made several changes. The updated list is below.

| Advisory Committee | Liaison |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Adapted Recreation Programs | Ada Conner |
| Aquatics | Ada Conner |
| Arts and Crafts Show | Arnoldo Gonzalez |
| Creeks Restoration & Water Quality Improvement Program Citizen | Beebe Longstreet |
| Douglas Family Preserve Technical | Beebe Longstreet |
| Franceschi Park | Daraka Larimore-Hall |
| Franklin Center | Arnoldo Gonzalez |
| Front Country Trails Task Group | Steve Forsell & Beebe Longstreet |
| Golf Course | Steve Forsell |
| Integrated Pest Management | Daraka Larimore-Hall |
| Lower Mission Creek Design Subcommittee | Beebe Longstreet |
| Lower Westside Center | Daraka Larimore-Hall |
| Park & Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation | Steve Forsell |
| Active Adults Advisory Committee | Ada Conner |
| Skater's Point Advisory Committee | Daraka Larimore-Hall |
| Street Tree | Daraka Larimore-Hall |
| Tennis | Steve Forsell |
| Westside Center | Ada Conner |
| Youth Council | Arnoldo Gonzalez |

8. Santa Barbara Golf Club - 50th Anniversary - Celebration Events

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report on the special events planned to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Santa Barbara Golf Club.

Ms. Woods provided this report.

ADJOURNMENT

Park and Recreation Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Park and Recreation Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 5/0 to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director