



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, June 25, 2008

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Conner called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Forsell

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Steve Forsell
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey
Community Services Coordinator Pete Leyva
Community Services Supervisor Antonio Velasquez
Business Manager Nancy Woods
Associate Planner Kathy Frye

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Arnaldo Gonzalez
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Youth Intern Christina Gonzalez

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Zachary asked that item 7, Parma Park Equestrian Staging Area Project, be taken immediately after item 3, Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations, as Mr. Ian Fisher, who is present on behalf of the Parma Park Trust, has time constraints.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Conner acknowledged the letter dated May 30, 2008, from Gary Clark to Ms. Rapp and Ms. Carpenter praising the recent capital improvements, specifically, the lighting timer mechanisms installed at the tennis facilities.

Ms. Zachary added that the project was funded through Proposition 12 and is one of the grant projects completed this past year.

Commissioner Forsell, Commission liaison to the Tennis Advisory Committee, commented that all Tennis Advisory Committee members feel similarly to Gary Clark. He said the tennis community is very appreciative and hopes to see a big improvement in the expenses for lighting.

Chair Conner thanked Ms. Rapp and Ms. Carpenter for their efforts, and Mr. Clark for writing the letter.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Volunteer Recognition Of George and Ruby Glass For Service To The Santa Barbara Golf Club

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize George and Ruby Glass for over 20 years of volunteer service at the Santa Barbara Golf Club.

Ms. Woods introduced George and Ruby Glass, volunteers at the Golf Course. She highlighted their volunteer work and expressed the Department's appreciation for all the work they have done over the last 20 years.

Chair Conner presented Mr. and Mrs. Glass with a certificate of appreciation and thanked them on behalf of the Commission.

George and Ruby Glass thanked the Department and the Commission for recognizing their volunteer efforts.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

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

Commissioner Longstreet said she attended the City Council meeting last night where they talked about the UUT Ordinance that will be on the ballot in November. She said it should be before the Commission for information soon. Ms. Longstreet said it is an important funding source for the Commission and all General Fund departments, and the public needs to be educated on what that funding is used for.

Ms. Zachary briefed the Commission that Council approved the changes to the Resolution yesterday, allowing the use of Alcohol by permit at the Louise Lowry Davis Center and the Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls.

Chair Conner suggested the Commission go on an Open Space Tour, possible in August. The Commissioners suggested the following areas be on the list of areas to be toured: the Douglas Family Preserve and Shoreline Park.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2008.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 3/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 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. 100 Barranca Ave. - Bob Cunningham, ASLA/Arcadia Studio, Inc. - Erythrina caffra, Coral Tree**

Mr. Downey requested address item 3A (1) and Item 3B (1) at the same time as they are on the same property, two separate trees. The Chair agreed.

Mr. Downey highlighted these tree removal requests. He said the address is 100 Barranca Avenue, but the trees are actually located on Shoreline Drive. He said the trees are poorly structured. Mr. Downey indicated that the proposed landscape will provide a large amount of shade for the sidewalk. He said there are problems with the street tree in that it takes up the entire sidewalk. Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend the removal of the trees and going with the proposed landscape plan will provide six trees in the setback and will benefit the area.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to approve the removal of the trees identified in item 3A(1) and item 3B(1).

2. 525 W. Los Olivos - William Hopper - Platanus racemosa, California Sycamore

Mr. Downey highlighted this tree removal request. He said that the trunk of the tree leans over the driveway apron partially blocking access, there is a large hollow in the trunk, and the entire tree leans towards the adjacent property. Mr. Downey said the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend removal of the tree due to the potential danger for the tree to fall. He further said that staff plans to replace the tree with the same species.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 3/0 to approve the removal of the tree identified in item 3A (2).

B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 100 Barranca Ave. - Bob Cunningham, ASLA/Arcadia Studio, Inc. - Erythrina caffra, Coral Tree

See discussion under item 3A (1).

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to approve the removal of the trees identified in item 3A(1) and item 3B(1).

2. 647 Sea Ranch Dr. - Quality Tree Care, working for resident Matt Williams - (2) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palms

Mr. Downey highlighted this tree removal request. He said these trees are located in a raised planter adjacent to the roadway, and the planter has been pushed a part by the roots. Mr. Downey stated the condition of the planter can only get worse as the trees grow. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend removal of the trees because there isn't adequate space for the trees.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 3/0 to concur with the staff recommendation to approve the removal of the trees identified in item 3B(2).

3. 2233 Stanwood Dr. - Susan Sherwin - (5) Eucalyptus polyanthemos, Silver Dollar Gum

Mr. Downey highlighted this tree removal request. Mr. Downey said that three of the trees are located at the new driveway entrance. He said the Committee and staff determined that these trees have been topped and the re-growth presents a likelihood of falling into the public street. Mr. Downey indicated that the Committee and staff determined that there are approximately an additional 25 Eucalyptus trees in the setback along Orizaba Lane with the same condition. He said that the Committee and staff recommend approval of the removal of these five trees on the condition that the remaining Eucalyptus trees in the setback along Orizaba Lane be removed as well, and replaced with plants more appropriate for the site. He further said that the plants should be chosen with consideration for the Fire Department list of plants not recommended in high fire zones.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to approve the removal of the trees identified in item 3B(3).

4. 51 Hitchcock Way - Rob Young, Sansum Medical Clinic and Eric Halvorson, Action Tree - Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine

Mr. Downey highlighted this removal request. He said that the tree in question is a very large tree at the driveway entrance to the parking lot, the roots of which are causing damage to the parking lot, and threatens the foundation of the neighboring property. Mr. Downey stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that the removal of this tree would be appropriate if the damage caused by the tree is repaired. He said the Committee and staff recommend the removal request be approved on the condition the applicant provides an approved set of plans or signed permits to repair the parking lot and sidewalk.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 3/0 to concur with the staff recommendation subject to the applicable requirements imposed by the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether the tree has ever been pruned.

Mr. Downey said that it appears the tree has been pruned, although it is not a variety of tree that requires much pruning maintenance. He said that in addition to any pruning that has been done by the owner, Edison has done some work to clear the lines.

Commissioner Longstreet thanked the Street Tree Advisory Committee for placing a condition on the removal of these trees. She said the Committee has

developed some good and innovative ideas and she is interested in seeing how it progresses.

C. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.

**1. 225 Vista Del Mar Dr. - Jennifer and Norman Gardner - (2)
Syzygium paniculatum, Brush Cherry**

Mr. Downey highlighted this tree removal request. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that these trees are healthy and the reasons for removal are not valid and do not justify removal. Mr. Downey stated that the Committee and staff recommend denial of the removal request.

Mr. Downey said that the condition of the trees will be reassessed once permanent repairs are made to the hardscapes.

Commissioner Longstreet asked if there is a plan to have the sidewalks repaired.

Mr. Downey said the sidewalks have been patched, and the Streets Division has indicated that once a sidewalk has been patched, it is placed on a repair list. Mr. Downey indicated that he has no further information.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to deny the removal of the trees identified in item 3C(1).

2. 1230 Carpinteria St. - Phillip Emrich - Melaleuca linariifolia, Flaxleaf paperbark

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

Speaker: Mr. Phil Emrich stated that to his knowledge the four trees have not been trimmed since 1990. He said the wind continually causes limbs and branches to fall. Mr. Emrich said he was not aware that the Melaleuca linariifolia trees were not on his property. He said he was concerned about the liability of them falling, but Mr. Escobar has informed him that the trees belong to the City and Mr. Emrich has no liability for the trees. Mr. Emrich said the Melaleuca trees are damaging the sidewalk and there is concern that people walking might trip and fall. He further said the trees are unsightly. He suggested that if the trees were trimmed at least every five years, and that the large tree, which is creating a hazard at this time, in a more timely manner, some of his concerns would be alleviated and he would appreciate it.

Mr. Downey stated that the Department plans to have all four of the Melaleuca linariifolia trees trimmed in the near future.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to support the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the removal of the trees identified in item 3C (2).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

4. Update on Concerts in the Parks and 4th of July Events

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a presentation about the upcoming Concerts in the Parks and 4th of July events.

Ms. McCaffrey provided this report.

5. Youth Employment Coordination

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report on the work that the Department is doing to support the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee on Youth Violence related to Youth Employment.

Mr. Velasquez provided this report.

Commissioner Longstreet said she is happy the City has identified 20 jobs. She asked whether the new employee will be mentoring the youth as in the past.

Mr. Velasquez responded saying that the intent is to create a network of resources so they can link the young people with job opportunities. He said that the Department will not be going in depth in terms of preparation, but will provide the basics in terms of allowing them to go through the process of employment. Mr. Velasquez said the Department will identify agencies that provide those services

Mr. Velasquez introduced Pete Leyva, newly hired Lower Westside Center Community Services Coordinator.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that she realizes that much of Mr. Leyva's time will be taken up by the Youth Employment program, but having that activity at the Lower Westside Center makes it more vital. She said that is a perfectly appropriate activity for that location since it is such a constricted site for recreational activity.

Chair Conner asked where the office will be housed.

Mr. Velasquez said the office will be a movable office; sometimes it will be at the Lower

Westside Center, and there will be some structured activities which will necessitate the use of other facilities.

Ms. Zachary commented that the youth apprentices that have been identified in the Creeks Division will be working on creek restoration projects. She said there will also be youth apprentices working in the Forestry Division on a tree planting program, and with Parks staff doing some work at Alice Keck Park. Ms. Zachary said staff identified very specific projects for the youth to work on that will enhance both the creeks and the parks this summer.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

6. Dwight Murphy Park Improvements

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report from staff on major park improvements at Dwight Murphy Park.

Mr. Escobar provided this report.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that this park is loved and overused, and it is nice to refurbish it.

Commissioner Forsell suggested the Commission visit Dwight Murphy Park during the Open Space Tour.

Chair Conner commented that the park looks fabulous.

Commissioner Longstreet asked if there is a new playground structure in Oak Park.

Mr. Escobar said yes; there is a two to five playground that should re-open the end of the week. He said another new playground, which is a five to twelve structure, is going to be installed within the next couple of weeks.

Commissioner Longstreet suggested Parma Park be added to the Open Space Tour.

7. Parma Park Equestrian Staging Area Project

Recommendation: That the Commission receives a presentation on the Parma Park Stanwood Equestrian Staging Area project scheduled for construction in fall 2008.

Ms. Zachary introduced this item. She said this project has been on the Capital Program for a number of years, and the Commission has previously seen it as a conceptual plan. Ms. Zachary said that since Ms. Frye has arrived at the Department

the project has been a priority, and staff is pleased to present the design for the project so the Department can move forward with construction this next fiscal year.

Ms. Frye presented this report.

Commissioner Forsell commented that signage will be helpful. Mr. Forsell said that parking is always a problem at Parma Park. He asked if when the turnaround is created, will additional parking spaces be put in, other than for horse trailers.

Ms. Frye said that this open space park is normally locked; the staging area will be for events that occur about six times a year, when multiple trailers come to use the park. She said it will allow three trailers to come in. Ms. Frye said that people in the area park in the street, but they do have access to the area, because there is a step over gate at the entrance. She said an individual could either walk in as a hiker or walk in as an equestrian user.

Commissioner Longstreet said she is glad to see this project moving forward. She suggested this site be added to the Commission's open space tour.

Ms. Zachary added that the challenge with Parma Park is that there is not much parking; however, the project is geared towards the equestrian user. She said, at the same time, it will enhance the experience for the hiker. Ms. Zachary said the park is largely used by people who reside in the area, and there are a couple of other areas where people can walk into the park. She said staff hopes to clarify the other entrances so people know there is more than one way to get into the park.

Ms. Zachary acknowledge the Parks Division for their maintenance of Parma Park and its trails.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 3/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director