



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 17, 2008**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Longstreet called the Park and Recreation Commission to order at 4:02 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Forsell

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners & Staff Present**

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Commissioner Steve Forsell  
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  
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey  
Parks Manager Santos Escobar  
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson  
Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan  
Associate Planner George Thomson  
Recreation Supervisor Susan Jang-Bardick  
Recreation Coordinator Cyrus Alexander  
Recreation Assistant Chris McDermut

**Commissioners & Staff Absent**

Commissioner Ada Conner  
Commissioner Arnaldo Gonzalez

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Chair Longstreet acknowledged the Commission's receipt of an undated letter from Kathleen W. Martin regarding David Barton's College of Tia Chi Chuan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No one wished to speak.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION**

### **1. Recognition of Horny Toad Employees for Volunteer Clean-Up and Restoration of Mission Creek**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Horny Toad employees for their volunteer clean-up and restoration of Santa Barbara creeks.

Mr. Benson acknowledged Horny Toad staff for their volunteer clean up and restoration of Mission Creek. He introduced Tammy Snow, Amy Stanfield, and Kate Larramendy from Horny Toad.

The Commission presented the Horny Toad with a certificate of appreciation and a framed photo and certificate of appreciation from the Creeks Division and thanked them for their volunteer efforts.

Ms. Larramendy thanked the Commission and said they will continue to look for ways to stay engaged in the community.

### **2. Recognition of Outgoing Park and Recreation Commissioners**

Ms. Rapp stated that two Commissioners' terms are ending this month.

Ms. Rapp recognized Mr. Steve Forsell, who served seven years on the Commission. She acknowledged his contributions, achievements, and dedication over the years, particularly on the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force.

Chair Longstreet presented Mr. Forsell with a framed photo award from the Department and thanked him for his dedication and service to the Department, the City, and the community.

Chair Longstreet expressed her appreciation for Mr. Forsell's dedication and work over the years. She said his leadership on the Golf and Tennis Advisory Committees will be missed. Ms. Longstreet said there will be a big gap left on the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force as he was a master in that area. She said she will miss working with him.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed his appreciation for Mr. Forsell's assistance and support and said he enjoyed working with him.

Commissioner Forsell said he enjoyed serving on the Commission. He thanked the Commissioners he has worked with in the past. Mr. Forsell said that he appreciated working with the Director's and the Parks and Recreation staff he has worked with.

Ms. Rapp recognized Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez who has served on the Commission for the last four years and will be going off of the Commission the end

of December. She said staff anticipates he will be at the January 2009 meeting to be formally recognized.

Ms. Rapp said City Council appointed two new Commissioners yesterday: Daniel Hochman and Scott Burns. She very briefly highlighted their backgrounds and said she has met with each of them to talk about the work of the Department and the Commission.

Chair Longstreet welcomed the new Commissioners.

Mr. Scott Burns said he does good work and will do his best.

Mr. Daniel Hochman said he is honored by this appointment and is looking forward to working with the Commission.

Chair Longstreet asked for a tour of current projects and suggested the new Councilmembers be included.

### **COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

Chair Longstreet reported on the activities of the West Beach Art Screening Committee and Creeks Advisory Committee.

### **COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Rapp reported on the City's budget situation for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010. She said the Department has been asked to identify \$600,000 in reductions at mid-year, and most of the reductions staff has identified are doable, with minor service reductions, for example Ortega Pool would not open right after the Memorial Day holiday as usual, but would be postponed until July 1st. Ms. Rapp said that the same is true for the West Beach Wading Pool, and the Carrillo Recreation Center will close one-hour early. Ms. Rapp said the majority of the reductions are positions that the Department is continuing to hold vacant. She said the others are just minor reductions in programs or expenditures.

Ms. Rapp indicated that the Department has been asked to be prepared to make a reduction of anywhere from \$1 million to \$1.6 million for Fiscal Year 2010. She said staff is brainstorming ideas and also looking at opportunities to be entrepreneurial and looking for new revenue opportunities, as well as what staff will bring forward as recommendations for reductions in programs and services.

Ms. Rapp said she is in the process of developing a format, and she believes there is a need for staff, the Commission, and the Advisory Committees to look at what the priorities are for the community for the Parks and Recreation Department as the Department looks at prioritizing services and making recommendations for reductions.

Ms. Rapp said staff anticipates scheduling a Commission workshop in January to have a preliminary discussion regarding the Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

Chair Longstreet said regarding the budget that the Department has done a marvelous job squeezing every ounce possible out of every dollar, but we are down to cutting. She said we need to engage the community, and tough decisions will need to be made. She stated that the Commission is behind staff, but will be asking difficult questions.

Ms. Rapp advised that the City will be celebrating the opening of Bohnett Park on Friday, December 19th, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Chair Longstreet commented that Bohnett Park looks beautiful and wished everyone well.

### **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

Chris McDermutt provided this report. He reported that the Youth Council participated in the Milpas Holiday Parade.

Mr. McDermutt said one Youth Council member resigned due to scheduling conflicts. He advised that the Youth Council appointed a new member, Max Resser, from Bishop Diego High School. He advised that Intern Torres-Santos was appointed as the Second Vice-Chair of the Youth Council.

Mr. McDermutt reported that the Youth Speak Out has been rescheduled to Thursday, January 22, 2009. He said the topic of the Speak Out is Graffiti - Art Versus Vandalism. He further stated that the Youth Council applied for funding for the Speak Out and Graffiti Workshop with a newly formed youth group "Youth Making Changes." Mr. McDermutt said that "Youth Making Changes" is a group of students funded by the Santa Barbara Foundation who will award funds to youth-lead projects, one of which is the Youth Speak Out. He said that the Youth Council will know whether the presentation to the group is successful by the end of January 2009.

Mr. McDermutt briefed that Youth Council members were invited to a League of Women's Voters' Luncheon along with members of the Santa Barbara School District's Board and the entire League of Women Voters, and these individuals were provided the opportunity to ask questions of one another and interact. He said it was a wonderful event that facilitated good dialog and opened up collaboration between all three groups.

Mr. McDermutt briefed that the next Youth Council meeting is January 5, 2009, at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers. He encouraged all teens to attend.

Ms. Rapp expressed the Department's appreciation to Chris McDermutt. She said he has been a model for the other Youth Council members and said it has been nice seeing him move from serving on the Youth Council to being a staff member with Teen Programs working with the Youth Council. Ms. Rapp said Mr. McDermutt is a demonstration of the opportunities available for our youth and thanked him for his leadership and his contributions to the Youth Council, the Department, and the community.

## CONSENT CALENDAR

### 3. Summary of Council Actions

Ms. Rapp advised that staff made a presentation to the City Council on the Tree Preservation and Landscape Plan, and Council referred that item to the Ordinance Committee for further study. Ms. Rapp said staff will continue to work with the Ordinance Committee to develop the official policy.

Regarding the Plan Santa Barbara Proposed Policy Guidelines, she said she believes all of the concerns raised by the Creeks Advisory Committee and the Commission were very well represented in the updated version of the Policy Guidelines. Specifically, she said she felt the concerns were present in the report and will be considered in the next phase, which is the EIR for the process. Ms. Rapp said staff and the Commission will continue to be engaged in the process, which will take about 12 months.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2008.

**Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2008.**

## STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

### 5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action (Attachments)

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. 201 W. Montecito St. - Shannon Brooker - Cryptocarya rubra, Red Laurel

Mr. Downey said this tree is located on the Las Aguejas side of the building. He stated that the building is zoned commercial/residential, and the project proposes to create the residential portion. Mr. Downey said the location of the tree is the only area along the building where there is enough space to have a driveway entrance. He said the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend approve of the removal request.

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 5A(1).**

2. 414 Tallant Rd. - Keith and Michele Wenal - Eucalyptus camaldulensis, Red Gum

**Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 to concur with the staff recommendation regarding item 5A(2).**

- B. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. 1514 Clearview Rd. - Ted Shrode - Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine

Mr. Downey reviewed this request. He said this tree is a very large Canary Island Pine; it is approximately 95 feet tall planted in a 28-inch parkway. Mr. Downey reviewed the reasons for removal. He said the tree is healthy and does not appear to be a safety hazard at this time, although it does drop pine cones. Mr. Downey said the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend the removal request be denied.

Speakers: Kim Valley, Sam Robinson, and Sharon Brazil spoke in favor of retaining the tree.

Ted Schroad, applicant, said pine cones are not the issue, branches are the issue. He said if the branches fall they will damage homes. He said if the tree is not removed, he recommends two trunks be removed.

Chair Longstreet stated she remembers when the item was before the Commission in the past. She stated the tree is an important tree and she would take the Street Tree Advisory Committee's recommendation on safety.

Mr. Downey stated the tree was inspected for visual signs of safety hazards, and none were observed. He said removal of the two trunks would predispose the main trunk to decay and be a poorer option than a normal trimming of the tree.

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

2. 457 Paseo del Descanso - Michele Gallagher - Acacia melanoxylon, Black Acacia

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to concur with the recommendations of staff and the Street Tree Advisory Committee regarding item 5B(2).**

C. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 404 E. Padre St. - Richard I. McLaren - Sequoia sempervirens, Coast Redwood

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to accept and concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff regarding item 5C(1).**

2. 3059 Lucinda Ln. - Rick Holly/Action Tree - Platanus racemosa, California Sycamore

**Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 to concur with the staff recommendation regarding item 5C(2).**

3. 1732 Santa Barbara St. - Rick Nash - (3) Tipuana tipu, Tipu and (1) Podocarpus gracilior, Fern Pine

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

4. 1224 Diana Ln. - Jeanne Walker - Tipuana tipu, Tipu

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

5. 3509 Madrona Dr. - David and Kay Jones - Ulmus parvifolia, Chinese Elm (continued from February 2008)

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to concur with the recommendation of staff and the Street Tree Advisory Committee regarding item 5C(5).**

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **6. Symposium on Aging and Senior Expo**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on two major senior citizen events, the Symposium on Aging and Senior Expo.

Mr. Jason Bryan provided this report.

7. **"Best of" Awards for Teen Center**

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report regarding 2008 Teenie Awards presented to the Twelve35 Teen Center and Teen Programs.

Mr. Cyrus Alexander provided this report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

8. **Recommendations for Regulating Commercial Activities in City Parks and Beaches**

Recommendation: That the Commission receives additional information on permitting of certain activities in various parks and policy options for regulating commercial activities in City parks and beaches, and provide direction to staff.

Ms. Susan Jang-Bardick provided this report.

Commissioner Forsell said he went to observe one of the Boot Camps (Booty Camp of Santa Barbara) at Alameda Park. He said he believed it fit right in and was not at all disruptive to the park.

Commissioner Forsell asked regarding the proposed fee for Alameda Park, whether there was any differential in the fees that will be charged for 6 participants or 20 participants. He said these businesses are performing a real function in encouraging exercise. Mr. Forsell stated his primary goal is to preserve small businesses; he does not want to put them out of business. He asked why some categories indicate 20+ and some, like La Mesa Park, indicate only 20 participants.

Ms. Rapp said the group size is more an indication of the maximum allowable size in that location. She said the fee is based on a private business using public property for personal gain. Ms. Rapp said the fee is separate from the number of people in the activity. She said most of the activities are going to be smaller activities. Ms. Rapp said that if there were an influx of businesses with greater numbers of people and there was more impact to the park, staff might look at a different fee structure.

Commissioner Forsell commented that there is nothing in the policy regarding time constraints or limitations, which was a concern expressed by some citizens during the September meeting.

Ms. Jang-Bardick said staff decided to leave that a staff determination. She said that many of them are quiet activities, and some of the locations are not near residential homes. Ms. Jang-Bardick said that rather than having a rigid policy

that might exclude some potential uses that would not impact the neighborhood, it was decided to leave it to staff's discretion.

Commissioner Forsell said the Lottery System is a good idea. He was encouraged by the group consensus and that some of the groups are amenable to meeting in other areas. Mr. Forsell suggested that the title of the policy be changed from Commercial to something else, as it is not really a Commercial activity.

Commissioner Forsell commented that a \$1 million insurance policy could be expensive; he asked what that costs. He said if we are increasing fees 66% and also adding a requirement to obtain a liability insurance policy, he wants to make sure it does not overwhelm these individuals and that everything staff is trying to accomplish has not been.

Ms. Rapp said the fee that currently exists did not take into consideration this type of activity. She stated that the need for insurance is required by Risk Management for *all* public events taking place in a City Park, and most of these organizations should have insurance already. Ms. Rapp said that, alternatively, these agencies can become an Independent Contractor with the City, which is a different contractual relationship with the City. Ms. Rapp said that liability insurance is a reasonable cost of doing business and is not a negotiable cost from the City's perspective.

Commissioner Forsell said he understands and agrees with Ms. Rapp on most points, but has difficulty comparing a large event with a Boot Camp setting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Robert Grujalva, Body Boot Camp, spoke in opposition to the increased fees. A copy of his comments are on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Karen Monson, representing David Barton's College of Tia Chi, expressed concern about the Lottery System, saying they have met in the same spot at La Mesa Park for over ten years. She said they would like to find a way to remain in their current space.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Commissioner Larimore-Hall thanked Mr. Grujalva for his written comments. He said, however, that he agrees very strongly with comments from staff for practical reasons and on principle. Mr. Larimore-Hall said it does not make sense to make public land available to private businesses for free; he is happy to subsidize private businesses, where appropriate, for the public good—its part of public policy, especially when we are looking at depletion of the General Fund and everyone is scrounging for more sources of revenue so we do not have to cut very basic and fundamental services for the people of Santa Barbara. Mr. Larimore-Hall said it just doesn't make sense to have any other system than one in which

people engaged in private business for profit will have to pay the people of Santa Barbara for use of the people of Santa Barbara's resources.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed that he was disappointed to see Options 1 and 2 dismissed. He suggested that if there were a community desire for programs such as this, it would behoove the Parks and Recreation Department to provide it from the public sector, because it is expected of us to raise revenue and it is our job, purpose, and charter to provide services and activities people want to do. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated he would like to see the Department partner with local Entrepreneurs who have innovative ideas following trends in terms of fitness and the types of activities people want to engage in, where we are partnering with them to look at subcontracting situations, or even direct provision of our activity projects. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he would like to see that happen before subsidizing private businesses. He stated that if they are going to move towards the Lottery System, he believes the proposed fee schedule is more than fair and reasonable for the quality of space. Mr. Larimore-Hall said businesses may need to make some changes to the business model to make it more sustainable from the profit side, but that is not the City's or Commission's responsibility.

He congratulated staff on presenting a pretty common sense way to move forward.

Chair Longstreet said she understands the concerns with the Tai Chi College, but there is no competition for that space at that particular time.

Ms. Rapp said that staff talked allot about what the intent of the desire of the Commission for grandfathering was. She said that if one of the other Body Boot Camp type activities wanted to go into that location, if they had a greater noise level, it would not be appropriate anyway. Ms. Rapp reminded the Commission that this is proposed as a pilot program. She said staff does not anticipate this will be a problem for Tai Chi. She said that understanding that this is a concern for several of the Commissioners, staff may need to re-evaluate the policy, but it was very difficult to come up with criteria that could be applied across the board for grandfathering. Ms. Rapp said it is staff's expectation that Tai Chi will continue in the location that they are.

Chair Longstreet thanked staff for their efforts. She advised the public that the rules are not being written to meet the needs of each one of their groups; but to encompass the entire community and what may come in the future. Ms. Longstreet stated she believes the policy addresses the major issues, gives staff flexibility to work with different groups through the process, and gives the public a venue to complain if there are issues. Chair Longstreet concurred with Commissioner Larimore-Hall with the business aspects of the policy, saying a person can chose a less expensive site.

Chair Longstreet stated she would be completely supportive of the pilot program and would like a report in a year on how well it is working, the amount of staff time involved, any hitches, and successes.

Commissioner Forsell commented regarding subsidizing private businesses, that these are exercise classes, and part of the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to encourage exercise and outdoor recreation and activities. He reiterated his comment regarding changing the name to something other than Commercial Activities, saying they are exercise classes.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he looks forward to more information from staff about how to figure out, in terms of a fair policy, a difference between 6 people meeting in a park doing some calisthenics and a business. He said there are standard requirements in terms of a business license, a permit, and insurance, but there are also non-profit organizations that also move people into park spaces to do exercise; informal gatherings, etc. Mr. Larimore-Hall said as we are trying to come up with a policy that is all encompassing, he would like to see what are all the options for using park space for organized activities that are not-for-profit so that we are not so one-size-fits-all, that we are precluding things from happening.

Mr. Larimore-Hall said it great to encourage healthy habits and activities, but the Commission has a responsibility, in every situation, to look at how to be revenue neutral or generate revenue. He commented that the Commission cannot be so aggressive in terms of revenue generating now because we want to help a small business, and down the road have to cut our own programming. Mr. Larimore-Hall stressed that he is trying to think very aggressively and creatively with respect to revenue generation.

Chair Longstreet stated that there is an ordinance that states activities using public property for personal gain must be charged. She said she thinks the proposed fee schedule is fair and staff time needs to be accounted for.

Ms. Rapp said the existing rate was developed with the intent of covering non-profits. She said there is frequently, in the facilities, a non-profit rate. She said that if the Commission wants that incorporated into the policy, it would be the existing rate, and the higher rate would be the one that applies to commercial businesses. She further said staff will be developing the Fiscal Year 2010 Fees and Charges, and it could also be incorporated into that document.

Ms. Jang-Bardick commented that four years ago when staff looked at the fees, a fee was built in for a social group that was meeting where dues were part of the club, but it was not a commercial enterprise. She said this was the only fee being considered for increase for profit commercial activities.

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to concur with the recommendations of staff for the fee schedule and policy regarding Commercial Activities in City Parks and Beaches with the addendum that the currently existing fee schedule would apply to non-profit organizations, and that the Commission be provided a report on the status of the new policy in six months.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **9. Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointments**

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Consider the application of Hillary Andrews, incumbent, and make one appointment to the Adapted Advisory Committee;
- B. Consider the application of Cricket Wood and Kathleen Modugno, incumbents, and make two appointments to the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee;
- C. Consider the applications of John Craig, David Fahrback, Jeff Hewes, and Maureen Masson, all incumbents, and make four appointments to the Golf Advisory Committee; and
- D. Consider the applications of Carol Bornstein, Karen Christman, Bob Cunningham, and Maury Treman, all incumbents, and make four appointments to the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 3/0 to appoint all of the incumbents who have applied for vacant advisory committee positions, each for terms ending December 31, 2010, as identified on the agenda.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 3/0 to adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director