



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 26, 2009**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Longstreet called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Longstreet.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Beebe Longstreet, Daraka Larimore-Hall, Ada Conner, W. Scott Burns

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Hochman

Staff Present: Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp, Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna, Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey, Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna, Recreation Supervisor Jeff Smith, and Executive Assistant Karla Megill

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Longstreet acknowledged receipt of a letter from Brigitte Forssell on behalf of the Riviera Association Board thanking the Parks and Recreation Department for extensive vegetative fuels management at Franceschi Park.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION**

None

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS**

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Youth Council, Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, and the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee.

Chair Longstreet reported on the activities of the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee, Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation, and said she attended the Golf Course Tour with the Creeks Advisory Committee.

## **COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Rapp talked about the impact of the golf course project on the golf course. She said there will be a 20 percent inconvenience discount on all the Golf Fees.

Ms. Rapp said the City Leadership Academy will provide two reports to the Commission over the next few months: 1) a report on the Cabrillo Bathhouse history, current conditions, and opportunities for increased utilization and revenue; and 2) a report on improving the neighborhood voice in how the City provides services to under-served neighborhoods.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT**

None

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Longstreet to approve the consent calendar.

### **Vote:**

3/0 (Larimore-Hall abstained)

1. Summary of Council Actions - For Information (Attachment)
2. Approval of Minutes - For Action (Attachments)

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 22, 2009; and
- B. That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special work session of August 5, 2009.

## **STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS**

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

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request.
  1. 1718 Prospect Ave. - Marcia Cohen - Ligustrum lucidum, Glossy Privet

Documents:

- August 26, 2009, Parks Division Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speaker:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Larimore-Hall to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 3A (1).

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote

- B. Deny the following Street Tree removal request.
1. 1294 Bel Air Dr. - David Brown - (2) Callistemon citrinus, Lemon Bottlebrush

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: David Brown

**Motion:**

Commissioner Conner / Larimore-Hall to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and deny the removal of the street tree at 1294 Bel Air Drive.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

- C. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal request.
1. 835 Deerpath Rd. - Fiona Fitzherbert - (6) Eucalyptus globulus, Blue Gum

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Mr. Homer Smith and Ms. Fiona Fitzherbert

The Commission requested additional information from the Fire Department regarding defensible space before making a final determination regarding the removal of these trees.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Larimore-Hall / Conner, to postpone action on the removal request regarding 835 Deerpath Road until additional information is obtained from the Fire Department.

**Vote:**

Unanimous Voice Vote.

- D. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.
1. 102 W. Pedregosa St. - Cliff Hickman - Trachycarpus fortunei, Windmill Palm

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**Motion:**

Commissioner Larimore-Hall / Burns to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 3D (1) and approve the removal of the setback tree removal request for 102 W. Pedregosa Street on the condition that the tree will be relocated.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

- E. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.
1. 3665 Sunset Dr. - Angelo Brombal - Cedrus deodara, Deodar Cedar

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Longstreet to approve the removal of the setback tree at 3665 Sunset Drive.

**Vote:**

2/2 (Burns/Longstreet – Yea; Larimore-Hall/Conner Nay)

Commissioner Burns explained his reasons for recommending approval, saying Mr. Brombal planted the tree and has maintained it for 50 years; if he feels it is appropriate to take it out and is leaving two other comparable trees, he feels the Commission should grant allow the removal of the tree.

Chair Longstreet said that the tree is very large tree and there are three of them in the location. She said it has outgrown its location and is more suited for a park.

- F. Approve changes to the Street Tree Master Plan.
1. 1300 block of Chapala St. - Platanus acerifolia, London Plane Tree

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Conner to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and approve the changes to the Street Tree Master Plan for the 1300 block of Chapala Street.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

4. Parks and Recreation Budget - For Discussion

Ms. Rapp provided an overview of the August 5th Special Commission Budget Worksession discussion and highlighted the budget timeline.

Chair Longstreet asked if there are similar levels of maintenance for trees as there are for Parks. Ms. Rapp said no, but staff do make recommendations on maintenance, and identify priorities for how limited funds are spent.

Mr. Escobar added that he and Mr. Downey identify trees that need to be serviced on an emergency and regular basis.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said it would help to see, in terms of street trees and park and facility trees, a tiered system that the Department uses in making maintenance decisions.

Mr. Downey said there is an unofficial tiered system; the first priority is safety, and second priority is aesthetics.

Chair Longstreet asked staff to schedule a tour with Council Members in January after the new Council is seated, to get them up to speed on what is being cut, what the facilities look like, etc.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked when the Advisory Groups provide input. Ms. Rapp said Advisory Committees provide input April through June, but the Commission may invite the Advisory Committees and the public to participate in some discussions outside of that time period. He suggested that at their first worksession, in addition to recreation services, there be a conversation about how to get the advisory groups involved on the front end, in the theoretical discussions.

Ms. Rapp suggested the Commission establish a subcommittee to work with staff to plan what needs to be accomplished between August and November.

Chair Longstreet suggested that the School District is an important factor. Ms. Rapp said the Department has not heard anything contrary to the School District funding the afterschool programs at the level they have been.

The Commission appointed Commissioners Longstreet and Burns to a Subcommittee to work with staff on the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget.

5. Neighborhood and Outreach Services - For Discussion

Ms. Hanna provided the summer highlights for the Neighborhood and Outreach Services.

6. Youth Sports Organization's Request to Utilize Passive Parks for Sports Programming - For Discussion (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission receives a report regarding the request from youth organizations to utilize various parks for active sports programs and provide direction to staff.

Documents:

- August 26, 2009, Recreation Division Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director; Santos Escobar, Parks Manager, Jeff Smith, Recreation Supervisor
- Members of the Public: John Maloney

Ms. Rapp said staff is proposing a trial program and encouraged caution, she reminded the Commission of the complaints the Department received in the past related to soccer. She said part of the evaluation of the pilot program will be the impact to the park turf.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed concerned about the physical impact on the parks in this difficult time. He said he would like a report on the impact of the program after a few weeks of practice in order to determine whether it makes sense fiscally. He asked that something be built into the proposal about the fees that are being waived in order to mitigate the impact.

Commissioner Burns concurred, but said it may take a few months to get a real idea of the impact.

Mr. Smith said the Department is not waiving any fees--there are no fees; the Department doesn't have staff to monitor the practices, coaches monitor their own practices.

Commissioner Conner said that she wants to be sure the financial impact is closely watched to make sure the maintenance costs don't go up.

Mr. Escobar said AYSO has in the past used these parks. He said the park caretakers will keep the Department abreast of wear and tear on the park.

Commissioner Burns suggested there are many parents involved in AYSO and suggested a program be implemented, and that the Department ask those parents to get involved.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **7. Street Tree Advisory Committee Voting Members - For Action (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Commission approve changes to the composition of the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC), including increasing the number of regular voting members from three to five, and eliminating the two alternate member positions.

**Documents:**

- August 26, 2009, Parks Division Staff Report

**Speakers:**

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Ada Conner to approve changes to the composition of the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC), including increasing the number of regular voting members from three to five, and appoint the individuals currently filling the alternate positions to those two positions.

**Vote:**

3/0 (Larimore-Hall abstained)

### **8. Commemorative Plaque Design Change - For Action (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report and approve the proposed design of the Santa Barbara Beautiful Street Tree commemorative plaque.

**Documents:**

- August 26, 2009, Parks Division Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

**Speakers:**

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director, Santos Escobar, Parks Manager, Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**Motion:**

Commissioner Larimore-Hall / Conner to approve the proposed design of the Santa Barbara Beautiful Street Tree commemorative plaque.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

9. Recommended Changes to Park and Recreation Commission Advisory Committees - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission review Park and Recreation Commission Advisory Committees and determine whether certain committees should be modified or dissolved.

Documents:

- August 26, 2009, Administration Division Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

Commissioner Conner asked staff received feedback from the advisory committees.

Ms. Rapp said staff forwarded an email to the Commission from the Douglas Family Preserve Advisory Committee (DFPTAC) which feels it has a valuable role and continue to meet semi-annually. She said that staff recommends the Committee stay together until completion of the current grant project and then be converted to an Ad Hoc Committee.

Ms. Rapp said staff did not receive input from the Tennis Advisory Committee.

Chair Longstreet expressed concern about dissolving the DFPTAC saying they are a group of technical people and she wants to keep their interest. She suggested simply suspending the committee similar to what was done did with the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Conner / Burns to concur with the staff recommendation regarding the Park and Recreation Commission Advisory Committees, with the exception of the DFPTAC who should continue to meet until the current project is completed and then suspend that committee similar to what was done with the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee, and further, regarding action minutes, that full discussion minutes be prepared for meetings during which the Commission is adopting its budget proposal to City Council.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

10. Election of Chair and Vice Chair - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve as presiding officer for the period of September 1, 2009, through July 30, 2010.



Documents:

- August 26, 2009, Administration Division Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

**Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Conner to elect Beebe Longstreet to serve as Chair for the period of September 1, 2009, through July 30, 2010.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

**Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Conner to elect Daraka Larimore-Hall as Vice-Chair for the period of September 1, 2009, through July 30, 2010.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the Commission, at 6:35 p.m.,

**Motion:**

Commissioner Burns / Larimore-Hall to adjourn.

**Vote:**

Unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director