



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 27, 2009

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administrative Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Proposed Charter Amendment to Consolidate the Board of Park Commissioners and Recreation Commission into the Parks and Recreation Commission

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission review a proposed amendment to the City Charter and make recommendations to the City Council regarding the proposed number of members, the inclusion of a youth member, and the powers and duties of the proposed Parks and Recreation Commission.

DISCUSSION:

At the March 25, 2009, meeting, the Commission passed a motion to amend the City Charter to formally consolidate the Board of Park Commissioners and the Recreation Commission. A second motion to increase the membership of the Park and Recreation Commission from five to seven failed. During the discussion, Commissioners expressed interest in having the Commission include a youth member; however, concerns were raised about the feasibility and legality of the proposal.

On April 28, 2009, the City Council discussed various proposed charter amendments, expressing support for the consolidation of the Park and Recreation Commissions, and the recommendation for five members.

Also discussed was the proposal to modify the City Charter to allow youth to serve as voting members on City boards and commissions. Although there was no consensus on the proposal, Council expressed interest in considering a proposal to include a voting youth member on the Park and Recreation Commission. Staff was directed to work with the City Attorney on legal considerations and take the item back to the Park and Recreation Commission for discussion and recommendations to City Council. Council indicated support for increasing the Park and Recreation Commission membership to seven if a youth member were to be added, if recommended by the Commission.

The City Attorney has drafted proposed charter amendment language (attached). The amendment consolidates the two commissions into one Parks and Recreation Commission (name change), increases the membership to seven, allows for one member

to be individual of age sixteen (16) years or older at Council election, merges the powers and duties of the former boards, and adds creeks to the new Commission's powers and duties.

Should the Commission recommend against the inclusion of a youth member, the proposed draft language would be modified accordingly, including reducing the membership to five persons.

The proposed ballot language is scheduled to return to Council on June 16, 2009. If approved, the charter amendment would be placed on the November 3, 2009, ballot. Should the charter amendment pass, an ordinance will be created for Council approval to specify the Parks and Recreation Commission membership requirements including appointment, residency, length of service, and age requirements.

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Charter Amendment Section 809

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director