



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Larimore-Hall

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet (Chair)
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall (Vice-Chair)
Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Daniel Hochman
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Golf Course Manager Mark Reed
Community Services Supervisor Antonio Velasquez
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Assistant Community Services Supervisor Ricardo Venegas
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Assistant City Attorney Scott Vincent

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Item 8, Tree Preservation Policies and Enforcement Procedures, was addressed immediately after Item 5, Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of Beebe Longstreet for Dedicated Service to the Creeks Advisory Committee

Mr. Benson recognized Chair Longstreet for her service on the Creeks Advisory Committee as liaison for the Park and Recreation Commission. He praised her attendance record and contributions. Mr. Benson presented Ms. Longstreet with a plaque and certificate of appreciation on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, Creeks Division, and the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Chair Longstreet expressed appreciation for the work the Creeks Advisory Committee does. She stated she learned a great deal as liaison to the Creeks Advisory Committee and said it was a fascinating experience.

2. Food Distribution Program Volunteer Recognition

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the food distribution volunteers for their contribution to neighborhoods and support of the City and Parks and Recreation Department's Mobile Farmer's Market and Mobile Pantry Food Distribution Programs.

Ms. Rapp said that much of the great work the Department does in the community is done by people in the community. She said the Food Distribution Program is a great program – is one that has existed only through the support of the volunteers that will be recognized today.

Mr. Velasquez and Mr. Leyva provided a report on the Food Distribution Program.

The Commission recognized the volunteer efforts of the Food Distribution Program 34 volunteers and presented them with certificates of appreciation.

Chair Longstreet said she has visited the programs; they are well-run, and staff and the volunteers do a wonderful job. Commissioner Conner concurred.

Ms. Rapp said that it is also important that the Department and Commission take the time to recognize the non-profit agencies that help make the food available. She said she wants to recognize the terrific work they do in the community and expressed that the Department is proud to partner with those agencies.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

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

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and the Youth Council.

Chair Longstreet reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee.

Chair Longstreet reported that she attended the Two-Year Anniversary of the Teen Center Cake Cutting Ceremony on March 17th. She said it was a nice event and was well-attended.

Chair Longstreet said that she, Ms. Rapp, Mr. Escobar, and Dan Bifao attended the CPRS District 8 Awards Banquet on March 20th where the Department received the following awards: Park Planning, Bohnett Park Expansion; Champion of the Community, Dan Bifano, who has done over 30 years of volunteer work to keep the Rose Garden alive; Agency Showcase Award for the Marketing Campaign Resolution Solution TV Campaign,

and Ms. Rapp who has served for two years as the CPRS District VIII President, received several accolades for getting District 8 up and running again.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

3. Summary of Council Actions: There were no comments on the Summary of Council Actions.

4. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2009; and

B. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special work session of March 9, 2009.

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2009, and the special work session of March 9, 2009.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following Street Tree removal request:

(1) 300 block of E. Arrellaga Street – Philip Suding, representing the property owner – (8) Syzygium paniculatum, Brush Cherry

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendations regarding item 5A (1).

B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

(1) 32 E. Padre Street – Sarada Lewis – (2) Eucalyptus globulus, Blue Gum

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 5B (1) and approve the removal of the tree closest to the driveway and deny the removal of the tree furthest from the driveway and have the tree furthest from the driveway trimmed.

C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request:

- (1) 2726 Miradero Drive – Villa Miradero North HOA – Cupressus species, Cypress species

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding item 5C (1).

- (2) 2130 Mission Ridge Rd. - Teri and Eric Gabrielsen - Eucalyptus globulus, Blue Gum

Mr. Downey reported that the Commission reviewed this item twice before, each time requesting more information, and during the November 2008 meeting the Commission requested to see proof of permission to repair the wall before deciding the fate of the tree.

Mr. Downey indicated that the tree, owned by Marymount School, is located at 2130 Mission Ridge Road, and the wall extends from 2132 Mission Ridge Road into 2130 as these two properties used to be one property. He said the applicant resides at 2132 Mission Ridge and has received permission to repair the wall. Mr. Downey indicated that the wall has not been designated historic; however, the repair of the wall in place will allow a better opportunity to achieve that designation. Mr. Downey stated that if the Commission approves this removal, staff recommends no replacement tree at this location, saying there is a large Canary Island Palm which would remain in this space. He further stated that Marymount School will also expend a significant amount of money to complete this work if approved.

Mr. Downey said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff do not want to lose this magnificent tree even though it would jeopardize the historic designation of the wall. He said they recommend alternate methods or locations be explored to locate the wall. Mr. Downey stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend the request be denied.

Mr. Downey briefed that part of the process involved the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC).

Mr. Jacobus, Community Development, briefed that the tree in question is impacting a potential historic landmark -- the walls of the original Black Estate, built in 1913. He said the root system of the tree is doing significant

damage to the wall. Mr. Jacobus stated that if the wall is relocated, it would lose a lot of its historic significance, and the City would lose its ability to have it designated on the National Register. He said the City only has six National Register designations, and it is not easy to get that designation.

Mr. Jacobus indicated that the applicant created a restoration plan, which he has reviewed and approved. He said the plan assures that the wall will be disassembled and reassembled exactly the way it is now, and allows for the fact that there will potentially be some breakage. Mr. Jacobus further said the applicants have received a permit to do the work. He said he recommends the wall be saved.

Commissioner Hochman asked whether losing this piece of the wall would negate the possibility of the rest of the wall being designated a historic landmark. Mr. Jacobus said that the remaining part of the wall could still be given landmark status, but this is an important segment of the wall because it faces the street; it is the first thing you see as you enter the gate.

Public Comment:

Lauren Carl Troiani, Marymount School Board of Trustees and Chair for the Buildings and Grounds Committee, said the Board met on the issue and support the Gabrielsen's request, because they want to maintain their good relationship with their neighbors. She further said the Board is aware the Gabrielsen's have submitted drawings for the City's approval at the Commission's request, which includes the portion that is on Marymount's property. Ms. Carl Troiani said that Marymount School has an agreement with the Gabrielsen's for the coordination of the work properties that the Gabrielsen's have agreed to manage, and an amount for reimbursement.

Mr. Eric Gabrielsen, 2132 Mission Ridge Road, property owner, said it is not possible to maintain a tree in this location. He said it is an important part of the character of that part of Santa Barbara. Mr. Gabrielsen said it is a considerable expense to repair the wall, and it is not something they want to have to do again by taking the risk of moving the wall slightly and then having to repairing it several years down the line. He thanked the Commission for their time reviewing the item and expressed that Eucalyptus trees cannot be allowed to turn historic walls into rubble.

Ms. Rapp provided a brief history regarding this removal request for the benefit of the two new Commissioners.

Chair Longstreet asked Mr. Downey where approximately where the tree is in its lifespan. Mr. Downey estimated that the tree was planted relatively close to the time that the wall was built, and these trees can typically live 200 years in this area. He said this tree has lived approximately 50 percent of its lifespan.

Chair Longstreet expressed that the applicant did what the Commission asked him to do and when the Commission last reviewed the item, the Commission was leaning toward the importance of the preservation of the wall.

Commissioner Conner asked whether there was any discussion of pruning the roots. Mr. Downey said there are differing opinions regarding the affects of root pruning on the tree, and without the site being open and inspecting the site at the time of repairs, he cannot be certain whether or not it would compromise the tree.

Chair Longstreet said she could not vote for root pruning on a tree that size in that location. She said it would be too big a risk. Commissioner Conner agreed.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he does remember the previous discussion regarding this item and it seemed to be a consensus of the Commission that they were ready to make a decision of choosing the wall over the tree. He said he doesn't understand the metaphysics of why the wall cannot be designated a historic landmark if it is moved a few feet over, but does understand the sentimental value of those designations. Commissioner Larimore-Hall agreed with Chair Longstreet that the applicant did what the Commission asked of him.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Daniel Hochman, and passed 5/0 to approve the removal of the Eucalyptus globulus, Blue Gum tree located at 2130 Mission Ridge Road and identified in item 5C (2).

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

6. Integrated Pest Management 2008 Annual Report - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2008 Annual Report and recommend that the report be forwarded to City Council.

Mr. Escobar provided this report.

Chair Longstreet commended staff for their efforts.

Chair Longstreet commented that eventually staff may need to do something more to get a handle on the squirrel population at Shoreline Park. Mr. Escobar said staff continue to trap at Shoreline Park, but will have to ask for an exemption to apply some other materials to get the squirrel population under control.

Commissioner Burns asked why there was almost 15,000 hours of hand-weeding at the Airport. Mr. McKee, Airport Environmental Compliance Officer, said the Airport

completed several capital projects, and as part of the mitigation for the environmental impact they have done some native habitat restoration projects. He said that over 93 percent of the 15,834 hours were devoted to manual weed control within those native habitat restoration areas. Mr. McKee said that about 45 acres are currently being maintained. He said the hours are cyclical; the first year more hours are devoted, and as more cover by the native habitat develops, the hours decline. Mr. McKee said that by the seventh year, if the restoration is successful, maintenance is no longer required.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall requested additional information regarding the impact on labor hours as a result of changing the City's pest control practices. He said that information is important now as a baseline, particularly this year in light of budget reductions. Additionally, Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that next year, he would like to see a breakdown in terms of what implementing these policies means for the workload of Parks staff in particular, and then what staffing and budget cuts affect that. Mr. Escobar advised that the information Commissioner Larimore-Hall is asking for is broken down on page 20 under "Alternative Pest Management Practices Used in 2008".

Ms. Rapp added that when the program was adopted, the Department went through an extensive analysis for how it operated before and the change an impact on workload with the IPM Program. She said the Department determined the increase in work effort was the equivalent of three full-time equivalents (FTE). Ms. Rapp said that since that time, City Council approved two positions: one position, plus hourly, and the purchase of equipment to support the green team. She said that IPM has become ingrained in the way Parks staff performs maintenance. Ms. Rapp agreed with Commissioner Larimore-Hall saying that the Commission will likely want to revisit the impact of the budget reductions on IPM, because staff has identified impacts to the progress of the IPM program. She said that as a result there will most likely be an increase in some materials that have not been used, because there will be less staff available. Ms. Rapp said stressed, however, that staff is still committed to the goals of the goals of the IPM Program.

Commissioner Burns suggested this would be a good time to seek volunteers to do work in the parks. Ms. Rapp said that expanding the Volunteer Program in the parks has been gradual effort over the past few years. She said that Rose Garden is one of the Department's success programs. Ms. Rapp said the City would not have the Rose Garden if it were not for the volunteers. She said staff recognized the need to work with the neighborhoods and solicit more volunteers to work in the parks. Ms. Rapp said that staff will revisit the topic as part of the budget discussion.

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2008 Annual Report and forward the report to City Council.

7. Co-Sponsorships Report

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report regarding the Department's efforts to develop co-sponsorship agreements with organizations in the community.

Ms. Hanna provided this report.

Commissioner Hochman asked if the Co-sponsorships are designed to be revenue neutral or do we make or lose money. Ms. Hanna said that some of the co-sponsorships involve fees, for example, Pony League Baseball, the City provides fields, they provide capital improvements that are usually equivalent to the rental fees, yet when they conduct their program, they charge fees to cover the costs of umpires, uniforms, coaching, etc. She said that some co-sponsorships do have fees for their programs, but because they share resources with the City, it keeps their fees lower.

Commissioner Burns commented on Lawn Bowling, that there are people who play in Santa Barbara who rank nationally.

Commissioner Burns asked whether AYSO has partnered with us in the past. Ms. Hanna said the City does rent the fields for profit and to put money back into the fields to maintain them, and the fees are nominal. She said AYSO has programming from Goleta to Carpinteria, and there are fields throughout the area both on City, District, and County property where teams are playing. Ms. Hanna said a relationship could be developed, but there are many soccer organizations, and the Department would need to be fair to all organizations.

Chair Longstreet briefly talked about the Recreation Field Study that was done approximately 12 years ago. Ms. Rapp interjected that the Department strives to provide fair access to all of the user groups.

8. Tree Preservation Polices and Enforcement Procedures

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Review the proposed changes to Title 15 of the Municipal Code regarding the preservation of Trees; and
- B. Concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding the use of American National Standard Institute (ANSI) A300 Pruning Standards and Best Management Practices in the City's regulation of trees.

Ms. Zachary introduced this item and advised that attachment 4 to the report was incomplete and that attachment contains the proposed changes to the Municipal Code. Ms. Zachary said staff has handed the complete attachment out to the Commission, and the proposed changes are identified in red font. She indicated that Mr. Vincent, Assistant City Attorney, will go through the proposed major changes.

Ms. Zachary reviewed the tree preservation regulations and the recommendations presented to the Commission during the November 2008 meeting. She highlighted the various public meetings held. Ms. Zachary reviewed the staff recommendations and the proposed fine structure, and gave an overview of the City Council Action.

Mr. Downey reviewed the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 300 Pruning Standards and Best Management Practices (BMPs). He highlighted the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) discussion of March 5, 2009, and reviewed the STAC recommendations.

Mr. Vincent reviewed the proposed revisions to Municipal Code Section 15.20 and 15.24.

Commissioner Hochman asked for clarification regarding the discrepancy between standards for residential trimming going from 1/3 to 1/4 and the City staff, which is requiring 1/3 removal or trimming on City trees. Mr. Downey stated that City budgetary constraints require that equal maintenance be provided to all trees. He said that if the City went to a 1/4 standard, its ability to maintain the vast number of trees in its inventory would be significantly reduced.

Mr. Hochman commented that he believes cities should be held to the same standards to which citizens are held and expressed concern about reducing the standard to 1/4 for residents and leaving them at 1/3 for the City. Mr. Downey responded saying that the permits provided to citizens for doing work on City trees is for work in addition to the work the City already provides. He said that the Committee and staff believe the standard is appropriate because it would be an additional pruning.

Mr. Hochman asked about the reference to "Board of Park Commissioners" saying the Commission will be asked to take action later during the meeting to formally consolidate the Board of Park Commissioners and the Recreation Commission into one body, the Park and Recreation Commission, and asked whether the Ordinance would need to be changed. Mr. Vincent said that as the item moves forward, staff will try to anticipate potential changes to the makeup or title of the Commission. He said the references currently in the Ordinance were revised in 2004 to match the existing Charter definitions. Mr. Vincent further said that if the title of Commission is the only change, the Municipal Code allows the City Clerk to make non-substantive ministerial changes. He said that depending on how the Commission votes today and City Council votes, staff will track the action to ensure they run parallel.

Commissioner Hochman asked regarding the ANSI Standards, how prepared are existing city tree-trimming companies to provide the verbal or written goals or objectives and complying with the standards, and how easy or hard is it going to be for a citizen to know whether the work they are doing is legal. Mr. Downey said that documents are designed to do what is best for the trees. He said if the citizens embrace and utilize the documents, that alone will significantly decrease violations.

Mr. Downey indicated that the document is readily available, and information regarding how to obtain it will be placed on the website.

Commissioner Hochman clarified his question asking how readily achievable is complying with the document. Mr. Downey indicated that the ANSI Standards are easy to read and clearly define each practice.

Commissioner Hochman commented that it sounds like it is going to be the citizen's responsibility to write their goals and objectives and tell the tree-trimming company what to do. Mr. Downey replied saying that the Municipal Code does not require that a citizen hire a tree-trimming company to do the work; it is so simply written so that the laymen can understand it. Mr. Downey said that there is an education component of the plan whereby the companies will be invited to come and learn the information so they can provide the proper information to their clients.

Public Comment:

Kathiann Brown addressed the Commission. A copy of her written comments is on file in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Wes Brown talked about the ANSI Standards and BMPs. He said some cities have required companies that perform work on trees to be licensed, and prior to doing so that they be given the ANSI Standards and BMPs and sign off agreeing to comply with those procedures, so that if in the future, the Arborist finds someone in violation of the procedures or trimming trees without a license, they are automatically in violation. Mr. Brown said this gets ahead of the problem and focuses the education on those individuals already doing the work and is an efficient use of city resources. He said this procedure has been adopted by other municipalities and found to be very effective and legal, and he urged the Commission to move beyond the language or "recommending" or "suggesting" to "requiring" that the ANSI Standards be followed.

Kellum DeForest commended the City for making progress regarding tree preservation particularly the penalty phase. He suggested the penalties be included in the Ordinance. Mr. DeForest commented that there needs to be a section in the Ordinance regarding the protection of trees of Historic properties or Structures of Merit properties. He agreed that the ANSI Standards should be mandatory for both the City and private residents.

Chair Longstreet asked whether in El Pueblo Viejo skyline trees are regulated under the Historic Landmarks Commission. Mr. Vincent responded saying that there are many ways trees and landscaping come into the purview of the City.

Mr. Vincent responded to Mr. DeForest's comment regarding trees within El Pueblo Viejo and on landmark sites are subject to Historic Landmarks Commission review and any alteration to the exterior of a landmark site or a site within the El Pueblo Viejo is regulated by Chapter 22.22 of the Municipal Code. Mr. Vincent said those tools already exist and go well beyond the requirements of Chapter 15.24.

Mr. Vincent responded to Mr. Deforest's comments concerning penalties saying the penalties the Commission viewed today will be adopted in a resolution that will go along with the administrative process. He said the administrative process is outlined in Chapter 1.25 of the Municipal Code.

Chair Longstreet asked whether the City's website mentions that there are other tree regulations such as those for El Pueblo Viejo, and could they be added. Mr. Downey responded saying that part of the education process is to provide that information on the website and staff is proposing to do that.

Commissioner Burns asked for clarification regarding how it is determined whether a tree is in the setback. Mr. Downey said that if more than 50 percent of the tree trunk is in the setback, it is likely that the tree was planted originally within the setback. He said the other measurement referenced would be trees over four inches, and the proposal is to measure the breast at diameter, which is four and a half feet above the ground. Mr. Downey said that any tree larger than four inches that falls 50 percent within the setback would be regulated.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether there is any particular reason not to include the ANSI Standards as part of the licensing process. Mr. Downey said the City does not currently license tree businesses to do tree work. He said that would be an additional task that would have an impact on City staff.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether the addition of a licensing program as part of this overall policy discussed by staff. Mr. Downey responded saying that the City of Redwood has not incorporated the ANSI Standards into their Municipal Code; however, has a permit requirement for any work on any tree that falls within the City limits. He said a permit must be obtained, and part of the permit process requires use of the ANSI Standards to determine objectives and a trimming plan. Mr. Downey said that if the City were to adopt something similar to that, it would require much more review that staff is prepared to provide at this point.

Commissioner Conner thanked staff for including the ANSI Standards and asked if the staff Tree Trimmers have them and use them. Mr. Downey said staff is aware of the standards; he plans to share the current version with them.

Chair Longstreet asked whether this will apply to utility companies who trim trees within the City limits. Mr. Downey said staff is looking into what rights the utility companies have, and is not proposing they apply to them at this time until further investigation is done.

Chair Longstreet expressed concern, saying the City comes down very hard on residents, and the City tries to do the best job, and the utility companies come through and hack them. Ms. Zachary said it is a tough question that comes up at every public meeting. She said there are trees planted in the wrong places in some stances, and utility lines that need to be maintained if they are high voltage electric lines. She said that the Forestry staff try to work with Edison to the best of their

ability to identify when a pruning job is done when it can be rounded out so it looks less lopsided, and when there is a need to replant a tree, to plant a species that is more appropriate for the location. Ms. Zachary stated that when staff moves forward with the Urban Forest Management Plan, staff will look at that in more detail.

Commissioner Burns asked whether thought was given to suggesting the ANSI Standards be used right now, but in three years or an appropriate time period, the City look at making it mandatory. Mr. Downey said staff has not decided whether this item will be revisited, but when it becomes appropriate to make changes staff will move forward with the changes.

Ms. Zachary added that if staff moves forward with the recommendations, they are forwarded to City Council by the Ordinance Committee, a new fine schedule is adopted, and a new education program implemented, staff is hopeful that over time, the effects of the changes will be realized. She said that if at that time it appears that another step needs to be take, staff will consider doing so.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is happy to see the discussion of the fine schedule, and said it makes sense to have a different schedule of fines for pruning versus removal. He suggested, however, that the proposed fines for removal may still be too low, and whether it makes sense to have a graduated fine based on the size of the tree. Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed that he thinks it makes sense to have a high fine for the removal of a tree and he is unsure that it makes sense to have the fine tied to the diameter of the tree.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said realistically, people prune or remove trees themselves, they don't always use a tree service. He said there might be a regressive or punitive unintended consequence of requiring everyone use a professional service all the time. Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed interest in knowing how, through the permitting process, the City can find something in between the standards being a suggestion and moving to a different regime about who is allowed to touch City trees in the City.

Regarding the different standard between the work the City does and what is required of private home owners, Commissioner Larimore Hall said it needs to be recognized that the City has a resource issue and a responsibility for equal maintenance throughout the City that private owners do not have. He stated that the City has a much more complicated balance to keep in mind in terms of spending resources, and it makes sense to him that there would be a slightly different standard.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall commented that he is impressed by the people who follow the rules and come before the Commission requesting permission to remove trees on their property, although most of the time, those requests are denied. He said that having an aggressive fine structure, a process that educates people on how they can best be stewards of the trees on their property is only fair to the people who follow the rules.

Mr. Vincent said that historically a property owner, private citizen who wanted to work on a City tree has to get a permit and has to provide insurance. He said that in addition to that requirement, the City is adding that the work be done to ANSI Standards. Mr. Vincent said the City is incorporating the ANSI Standards as requested by members of the public into private property owners working on City trees. He stated that to the degree that the City issues permits, the ANSI Standards have been incorporated, but the debate now is can the City afford to expand the permitting process.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/0 to concur with the recommendations of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and forward them to the Ordinance Committee.

OLD BUSINESS

9. Proposed Charter Amendment to Consolidate Board of Park Commissioners and Recreation Commission and Change Membership of Park and Recreation Commission

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Reconfirm the Commission recommendation to amend the City Charter to formally consolidate the Board of Park Commissioners and the Recreation Commission; and
- B. Reconfirm the recommendation to increase the membership of the consolidated Park and Recreation Commission from five to seven.

Ms. Rapp briefly reviewed the current composition of the Board of Park Commissioners and the Recreation Commission and provided a brief history of how meetings were agendized in the past.

Chair Longstreet expressed concern about the current membership of five. She said when items of significance are on the agenda that really need the attention of more than just three or four members. She further suggested that the Commission have horticultural expertise since park matters are under the purview of the Commission. Ms. Longstreet commented that the Commission has lacked that expertise for years. She said the Commission could incorporate two more members to make decisions and better represent the City.

Commissioner Conner concurred. She also said there were a couple times when there was not a quorum and the meeting had to be cancelled, and there were items that needed to be addressed.

Commissioner Hochman spoke in favor of consolidating the Board of Park Commissioners and Recreation Commissioners into the Park and Recreation Commission. He said that he served on the the Creeks Advisory Committee, on

which there were nine members. He said it was completely ineffective. Mr. Hochman expressed concern saying that you get diversity having more people, but you will also extend the length of the discussion time and meetings. He further suggested it could be more difficult to gain consensus depending on the mix of the people.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is lukewarm about expanding the membership. He said a larger committee does not necessarily make it easier to achieve a quorum. Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated that if there is going to be a Charter amendment regarding the makeup of the Commission, it should mandate that one voting member of the Commission be a youth under the age of 25. He agreed with Chair Longstreet that having certain areas of expertise built into the Commission.

Commissioner Burns said that he does not *think* the time commitment for the Advisory Committee is a large commitment. He agreed with Commissioner Hochman that adding two more members could increase the time of the meetings. Commissioner Burns stated that with the budget issues facing the Department, he does not believe we should expend staff time tweaking something if it is not broken.

Ms. Rapp advised that the Department currently has 17 advisory committees; however, it is staff's recommendation when the budget is presented to the Commission that the Commission look at significantly reducing the number of advisory committees into more effective workable groups that provide the information that the Commission needs from community. She explained saying that some of the Advisory Committees have morphed into working committees used by staff. Ms. Rapp said that staff will bring a recommendation back to the Commission at a later date, but she thinks that reducing the number of advisory committees is the right thing to do.

Ms. Rapp said, regarding appointing a youth as a voting member of the Commission, that she is not certain there are any legal issues, but she will defer to the City Attorney. She said that the Council Committee on Youth and Children has created a subcommittee to evaluate how to improve the youth voice on various City boards and commissions. Ms. Rapp said that if the Commission wanted to recommend to Council that one of the members be a youth, she believed that could be done. She suggested that they consider going to seven members and have a youth and an additional adult for the breadth of discussion.

Chair Longstreet commented that if a youth is a Commissioner, she does not believe it would be fair to assume they would be able to do a four-year term. She said the Youth Intern has historically only done a one-year term. Chair Longstreet said if a youth position were to be recommended she suggests the membership be increased to seven.

Commissioner Hochman expressed concern about naming a Commission slot, saying that it sometimes those positions are more difficult to fill, and based on a

ruling by the City Attorney, even if a seat is vacant, it still counts when you are considering a quorum.

Commissioner Conner commented that if the Commission membership did not increase to seven and a voting youth position was only added, that would put the Commission at an even number. She said that could create a problem. Commissioner Conner asked if that is why staff suggested an increase to seven members. Ms. Rapp said yes.

Commissioner Hochman interjected that there is not rule that requires an odd number, a motion that results in a tie vote, fails.

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and failed 2/3 to reconfirm the recommendation to amend the City Charter to formally consolidate the Board of Park Commissioners and the Recreation Commission and recommend an increase of the membership of the consolidated Commission from 5 to 7 only if one of the two additional members is a designated seat for a qualified elector of the City between the ages of 18 - 25.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said that he would only be in favor of increasing the membership if a youth member seat would be added.

Commissioner Hochman asked whether Commissioner Larimore-Hall meant that the youth seat would be in lieu of the Youth Intern.

Commissioner Larimore Hall said he thinks the motion could be silent on that matter. He said the process for selecting the intern and the way the Commission interacts with the Youth Council is one process, and the Commission would be taking an entirely different step to say that they are going to recommend designating a youth voice as a voting member of the Commission. Mr. Larimore-Hall said the person who is appointed as a Commissioner may or may not come up through or even have a relationship with the Youth Council. He said that having a Youth Commissioner may cause the Commission to rethink their process for getting youth input.

Commissioner Conner commented that if the minimum age is 18, the high school aged youth will be eliminated. Chair Longstreet advised that they cannot serve, as a Commission member must be a qualified elector of the City.

Chair Longstreet troubled with the designation because the largest growing population is the senior segment, and it does not include a seat for them, so she is not sure she wants to do that. Ms. Longstreet suggested the Commission decide on the size of the Commission first and recruit without specifying classifications, because there have been times during the recruitments when there were few if any applicants.

Commissioner Burns said the STAC has a two member Board with two alternates, and asked whether any thought was given to that composition.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall said he is open to talking about a designated seat for the designated community, but he is not convinced that to say there can be a snowball effect and they can over-designate as a reason not to designate at all. Mr. Larimore-Hall expressed that there is a systematic under representation in City policy and planning of youth, and he thinks that, especially for the Park and Recreation Commission and its purview, so much of what they do is targeted at young people and they have older adults making decisions for younger adults, and the best way to complete the circle is to include them in the planning process from the beginning and in a substantive way. He said he agrees that the overall political challenge is recruitment, but the crucial shot is to say we are committed to including the people we claim to represent in the decision-making process.

Commissioner Hochman said he would vote no on the current motion, because there would be too many people at the table, but he might be interested in a motion that took the Commission to seven members with one of the slots being the current Intern.

Chair Longstreet stated that even though the advisory committees may be consolidated, the Commissioners have a lot of other commitments they need to attend to.

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Daniel Hochman, and passed 5/0 to reconfirm the recommendation to amend the City Charter to formally consolidate the Board of Park Commissioners and Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and failed 2/3 to increase the membership of the Park and Recreation Commission from 5 to 7.

Commissioner Hochman asked the timeline.

Ms. Rapp said that the City Clerk has asked for the Commission's recommendations within the week; they will take those recommendations to City Council. She said staff anticipates it will go to the voters in November 2009.

Ms. Rapp commented that a young person 18 - 25 might be hesitant to take on a four-year commitment. She said that when she was recruiting for this term, many adults were hesitant to take on a four-year commitment. Ms. Rapp suggested the Commission structure their recommendation indicating that the youth position is a two-year commitment for that seat only.

Commissioner Burns commented that the community may think staff is being frivolous concerning themselves with whether the Commission has five or seven

members when there are much larger issues to resolve. He said he is not in favor of the change.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall stated he does not see the pressing need to move to seven members in the abstract. He said it is great that the Commission has an intern; it is very different than having a voting Commissioner. He said it serves a different constituency. Mr. Larimore-Hall stated that by definition, a voting Commissioner has to be an elector, and it is beneficial to have the input of people who are not yet eligible to vote. He said he will not vote in favor of this item.

Ms. Rapp said staff will take the discussion to the Council Committee on Youth and Children, because it is a discussion for them. She said they view the Park and Recreation Commission as the pathfinder for this particular issue, and if the Commission has general support for exploring that further, staff will take that to that Committee.

Chair Longstreet said yes, but it is unfortunate now that the Commission will still now only be a Commission of five.

Commissioner Burns asked whether in the future, Council could look at make a change to make the Park and Recreation Commission a non-Charter Commission.

Commissioner Hochman commented that there did not seem to be a great deal of opposition to moving to seven, but there did not seem to be a substantive reason to do that and possibly using that move with a reason and opportunity to get better representation.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall agreed and said he would not be upset if Council put an increase in membership to the Park and Recreation Commission on the ballot.

Commissioner Hochman said there is not a great deal of opposition to increasing the number, except to have a reason for better representation.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred.

10. Follow-up to Commission Budget Work Session - For Discussion

Ms. Rapp highlighted the comments and recommendations from the March 9, 2009, Budget Work Session.

Ms. Rapp advised that the City's revenue deficit for FY 09 and FY 10 have been revised and the Department is being asked to make additional reductions in the last three months of this year. She said a quick look at department revenues show the Department will not be off by much.

Ms. Rapp said the City's revenue projection is off by an additional \$1 million for FY 10; therefore, the Parks and Recreation Department will have to increase its reductions to 9.9% with an additional \$382,000 in reductions that could be taken if

needed. Ms. Rapp said that would bring the Department's total reductions to just under \$2 million, if all of the reductions take place.

Ms. Rapp advised that staff will be going over this in depth at the April 20th work session.

Chair Longstreet said that means the Commission needs to go to work and get the word out to those they deal with. She said they will need to advocate for keeping programs, and stated there are comments in the paper that are misconceptions and they need to be cleared up, because they damage the Department. Ms. Longstreet clarified for members of the public that the City is on a 9/80 schedule; they do not get 26 paid Fridays off per year.

Ms. Rapp asked whether there is any additional reports the Commission would like during April, and suggested staff work with Commissioner Burns and anyone else to talk through different ideas or give a greater background in how our City facilities are used to see if there are things they would like staff to pursue.

Commissioner Burns said he is interested in that.

Commissioner Conner asked to add the Bathhouse under the potential for facilities to be operated by a third party.

Ms. Rapp said that a group of City staff are developing a report regarding that topic and they will be presenting it through the City's Leadership Academy to Executive Management in the fall. She advised that they will present it to the Commission in the fall also.

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/0 to adjourn the meeting.

Sincerely,



Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director