



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

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Longstreet called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Burns

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner W Scott Burns
Commissioner Daniel Hochman
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
Landscape Architect Billy Goodnick
Recreation Supervisor I Terry Brown

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Monica Jones, Friends of Los Baños Outreach Coordinator, talked about their effort to raise funds for the Recreation Swim Program at Ortega Park.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Free Family Portrait Event Volunteer Recognition - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Free Family Portrait Event volunteers and businesses for their contribution to residents and support of the Franklin Neighborhood Center Advisory Committee project.

Ms. Rapp advised that this item will be postponed until the July 2009 meeting.

2. Recognition of Healthy Start Director Theresa Weissglass - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Theresa Weissglass, Santa Barbara School Districts Healthy Start and Afterschool Opportunities for Kids (A-OK) Director, for 10 years of service as an exemplary leader and supporter of the City of Santa Barbara's collaborative to provide the A-OK program.

Ms. Rapp praised Ms. Weissglass for her contributions to the A-OK Program, saying she was the brains, stamina, leadership, and passion behind pulling the partnership together over the years, building a strong collaboration, and keeping everything moving forward.

Ms. Brown publicly thanked Ms. Weissglass saying that she has mentored her and made her a better supervisor and better programmer in the afterschool program.

Dr. Brian Sarvis, Superintendent, Santa Barbara School Districts, recognized Ms. Weissglass for her work and dedication over the last ten years and thanked her for her service.

The Commission recognized Ms. Theresa Weissglass for 10 years of service as an exemplary leader and supporter of the City of Santa Barbara's collaborative to provide the A-OK program and presented her with a certificate of appreciation for her efforts, dedication, and service.

Ms. Weissglass said it has been a great privilege working with the Santa Barbara School District and the Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department. She then recognized Ms. Terry Brown for her dedication, open-mindedness, and willingness to continually upgrade the standards of the mutually delivered programs. Ms. Weissglass presented Ms. Brown with a certificate of recognition on behalf of the Santa Barbara School District for providing 10 years of outstanding service, enthusiasm, and creative ideas as a member of the mutual agencies A-OK Leadership Team.

Ms. Weissglass presented Ms. Rapp with a certificate of appreciation recognizing the Parks and Recreation Department for 10 years of consistent support and

advocacy on behalf of the A-OK Program, providing excellent sports activities, leadership and staff, and for generosity in offering facilities use as a key partner, and for on ongoing partnership with the Santa Barbara School District in this and other endeavors, serving other Santa Barbara youth, which is a model in the State of California.

Ms. Rapp interjected that she has gained an appreciation for the collaboration the Department has with the School District and agreed with Ms. Weissglass that it is not a successful model in most communities. She said it is a unique partnership, and because both agencies protect it and work on it, it works. Ms. Rapp thanked all School District personnel for their participation in the collaboration.

3. Recognition of Billy Goodnick - For Action

Ms. Rapp highlighted Mr. Goodnick's career with the City of Santa Barbara, Parks and Recreation Department.

The Commissioners praised the work Mr. Goodnick has done over the years and said his vision, passion, and dedication will be missed. The Commission recognized Billy Goodnick for 22 years of service to the City, Department and the Community and presented him with a certificate of appreciation.

Mr. Goodnick thanked everyone who has supported him in his career over the past 22 years. He briefly reminisced about his career.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

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

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

Chair Longstreet reported on the Stakeholders' meeting for the Golf Course Project.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp advised that the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2010 budget yesterday. She reported one change affecting the Parks and Recreation Department budget is that it was proposed that the Waterfront Department cover 100 percent of the cost to provide the Beach Lifeguard Service which was \$147,000. Ms. Rapp indicated that amount was reduced to 50 percent, so the budget will be adjusted accordingly. She further said that one position was restored in Council's desire not to have employees be laid off -- there was one employee who had not found other

employment. She said that City Council adopted a balanced budget relying on over \$3 million of one-time measures to reach the goal. Ms. Rapp said that looking at the coming year, knowing that the City is already off almost \$5 million, we will start looking at reductions and watching revenues and additional reductions, as needed. She further said there will be additional discussions in preparation for Fiscal Year 2011.

Ms. Rapp said that the focus of the Council discussion was the most recent report for sales tax and the TOT revenue, and the City is currently projecting that revenues for Fiscal Year 2010 are already going to be off by approximately \$1.5 million.

Chair Longstreet suggested a schedule of quarterly work sessions be developed so the Commission can keep abreast of what is going on regarding the budget and possible reductions. Ms. Rapp referred Chair Longstreet to Agenda Item 9, Commission Priorities for FY 2010, saying the Commission could have further discussion about that at that time.

Ms. Rapp advised that City Council moved forward the Charter Amendment language recommended by the Commission, which included a youth vote for a youth 16 years of age or older, combining the Park Commission and the Recreation Commission, and increasing the membership to seven, and that the details of the youth member would be worked out as an ordinance recommendation once the Charter Amendment is approved.

Ms. Rapp briefly talked about the meeting held with the three Community Center Advisory Committees regarding the new Neighborhood and Outreach Services Program, saying it was an extremely positive meeting. She said they were supportive of moving the concept forward. Ms. Rapp said they talked about next steps, which is a joint meeting with the Youth Council, Community Center Advisory Committees, and the Commission. She suggested that the Commission might want to form a subcommittee with members from each of those groups to meet on a more regular basis with staff to move the concept forward.

Chair Longstreet acknowledged John Schoof's passing.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Torres-Santos advised that there are two vacancies on the Youth Council and those vacancies are specifically for Dos Pueblos students. He said that the first meeting with new members will be July 1st.

Intern Torres-Santos said the Youth Council will be hosting a Teen Exchange in August where 15 agencies will come together to exchange information about what other youth are doing in other areas.

Intern Torres-Santos advised that Teen Programs is holding a Salsa Dance Night Friday, June 26th, at the Carrillo Recreation Center, to raise money for the Teen Center.

CONSENT CALENDAR

4. Summary of Council Actions - For Information - There were no comments on this item.

Commissioner Hochman departed at 4:41 p.m.

5. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2009.

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 3/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2009.

Commissioner Hochman returned at 4:46 p.m.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

6. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission

- A. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 921 Arbolado Rd. - Ron Chandler/Peterson's Tree Care - (2) Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum, (2) Pinus radiata, Monterey Pine, and (1) Cupressus glabra, Arizona Cypress

Commissioner W Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and recommendation regarding item 6A(1).

2. 2050 Garden St. - Kris E. Kimpel, Landscape Architect for Melanie Ellison - Cinnamomum camphora, Camphor Tree

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation regarding item 6A(2).

B. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 102 E. Pueblo St. - Melville Sahyun - Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine

Commissioner Ada Conner moved, seconded by Commissioner Daniel Hochman, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff regarding item 4B(1) and deny the removal of the tree at 102 E. Pueblo Street.

2. 621 Ricardo Ave. - David Murphy - Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm

Mr. Downey highlighted the removal request saying the justification given by the applicant is that the tree restricts the ability to park on that side of the driveway. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined that there is room on the other side of the driveway to expand, and recommended that owner explore that option. Mr. Downey advised that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend the request be denied because the reasons do not justify the removal of the tree.

Mr. Murphy, applicant, stated his reasons for wanting to remove the tree: he does not think he can expand his driveway on the left; the tree is ugly—it is a habitat for rats; the tree produces palm fronds which are hazardous, and is costly to maintain; he wants to expand his driveway using pavers, which would beautify the neighborhood; there are plenty of beautiful Monterey Pine trees in the area; the tree interferes with his neighbors views; Mr. Murphy said that if he does put in a new driveway and the tree remains, he fears he will not have the additional width he desires, the tree will continue to grow and damage the driveway.

Chair Longstreet commented that the Commission does not approve removal request based on the theory that a person is going to put in a new driveway; an approved plan would be needed along with a permit that has a removal and planting plan to replant a tree.

Mr. Downey said that in other cases the Commission has postponed a decision until the applicant had a permit for the work they were going to have done, and typically the Commission has requested information regarding the replacement tree.

Mr. Murphy produced a permit for replacing his driveway.

Chair Longstreet asked if the permit includes landscape plans and whether he is going to replace the tree. Mr. Murphy said he plans to landscape steps up the left side of the driveway.

Chair Longstreet said she would be more comfortable continuing item so that the Street Tree Advisory Committee can look at the permitted plan. She further said she does not believe the Commission has enough information to vote on the removal request at this time.

Chair Longstreet advised Mr. Murphy that she would like to send the item back to the Street Tree Advisory Committee so they can take a look at the plans he took in when he got his permit. She further recommended that he provide a planting plan available to them also for the replacement of a tree.

Chair Longstreet advised Mr. Murphy of his right to appeal the decision of the Park and Recreation Commission to City Council.

Mr. Murphy commented that he thought the process would be more of a quid quo pro with the goal of the net benefit to the community. Chair Longstreet said that the Commission's purview is to protect the Urban Forest, which provides a tremendous benefit to the community.

Commissioner Burns asked whether there were two more trees in Mr. Murphy's front yard. He further concurred that if there is a plan, he would be supportive of the removal, but he also feels more information is necessary.

Commissioner Conner concurred.

Commissioner Daniel Hochman moved, seconded by Commissioner Ada Conner, and passed 4/0 to postpone action on the removal request identified in item 6B(2) and send it back to the Street Tree Advisory Committee for review of overall plans, including landscape plans for the site.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

7. Update on Upcoming Summer Special Events - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a presentation about upcoming summer special events.

Ms. Judith McCaffrey provided this report.

OLD BUSINESS

8. Parks and Recreation Facility Tour - For Action

Ms. Rapp said the Commission previously expressed interest in taking a tour of Parks and Recreation Department facilities. She further said staff would extend an invitation to the City Councilmembers to attend. Ms. Rapp suggested the following areas be included in the tour: Shoreline Park, Front Country Trails Burn Areas, Beach Access areas (Shoreline Steps, Mesa Lane Steps, Thousand Steps), Butterfly Garden at Alice Keck Park, Skofield Park, Municipal Tennis Courts Sound Wall, Bohnett Park Expansion, and Douglas Family Preserve Planting Projects.

Ms. Rapp said that the Creeks Advisory Committee will be taking a tour of the Golf Course Project and they will invite the Commission.

Ms. Rapp advised that staff would also like the Commission to tour the Carrillo Recreation Center. She suggested the joint meeting between the Commission and the Community Center Advisory Committees be held there, and that Mr. Bryan conduct the facility tour before that meeting begins.

Commissioner Hochman said it sounds great initially; he is not familiar with a number of the parks. He said he would prefer to weight tours towards things that will be coming forward on the agenda in preparation for those agenda items. He said it is great to see work that has been done, but it more productive use of the Commissioners' time to go somewhere there is going to need to be a decision made and be briefed on the decision at the site.

Commissioner Conner expressed interest in the Front Country Trails burn areas and Carrillo Recreation Center.

Commissioner Burns expressed that it would be worth while to tour the Front Country Trails. He said he would like to look at some of the facilities needing capital improvements. Mr. Burns suggested Franceschi House as a possible tour site, saying something need to be done about that facility.

Chair Longstreet said she likes including Alice Keck Park in the tour, because there will be trouble maintaining it and will show the results of budget cuts the fastest. Ms. Longstreet said Beach Access and Trails will fit in nicely. She said a second tour could be scheduled down the line specifically for facilities. She said she thinks a facilities subcommittee needs to be developed to work with the Infrastructure Financing Task Force recommendations.

Commissioner Conner said she would also like to tour the Cabrillo Bathhouse. Ms. Rapp asked if the Commission would like to visit Parma Park. The Commission indicated they would.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Commission Priorities for FY 2010 - For Action

Chair Longstreet expressed it would be beneficial for the Commission to have priorities, and those priorities need to be realistic of staff time. The Commission's priorities are identified below:

- Staying aware of the budget; having input early on as to where the reductions will come from;
- Neighborhood and Outreach Services; work with the Youth Council and Community Center Advisory Committees to ensure the work together well. Encourage joint meetings between these bodies and establish a working subcommittee to keep things moving forward; and
- Establish a Facilities Subcommittee to work on some of the Department's infrastructure issues.
- Establish Fundraising Committee possibly consisting of members from other areas such as the Golf Advisory Committee, PARC Foundation, etc. to assist in raising funds.

Chair Longstreet commented that the focus this year will be what is at risk, and how we do with less, and what the Commission can do to support the staff and come up with innovation and outreach of their own.

Commissioner Conner concurred with Chair Longstreet saying the Commission needs to stay informed so it can be as helpful as possible while the Department moves forward in these difficult economic times.

Chair Longstreet expressed that she thinks the Department is looking at a time when were there will be some philosophical changes; the Department is past making the organizational more lean and is looking at philosophical program cuts now. She said that is where the Commission will be involved.

Ms. Rapp suggested that during the beginning of Fiscal Year 2010, the Commission start to think about how to work with staff to prioritize services that the Department provides. She further suggested developing a fee and pricing policy for how the different activity fees are set for the programs.

Ms. Rapp said regarding Golf, that there has been a significant reduction in Golf rounds. She said the Department will be faced with some significant decisions regarding the Golf Course. Ms. Rapp said staff is doing everything they can do to increase play; staff will be working with the Golf Advisory Committee to develop some options and involving the Commission.

Chair Longstreet asked whether the closure of Glenn Annie will affect play at the Golf Course. Ms. Rapp said staff is hopeful. She further said the Montecito Country Club will be closed for a year. Ms. Rapp said the Course is in top notch condition. She said the Golf Course project was designed to have minimal impact on play. She said the problem is the economy; people aren't spending as much money on recreation.

Chair Longstreet commented that there was talk about losing Street Funding. Ms. Rapp said that if the state raids the gas tax, the money that provides street maintenance and funding for the Street Tree Forestry Program, we may be good for one year, because we can look at the capital funding, but beyond that we will have to work with Public Works to determine how we will maintain our streets and the urban forest. She said once the City knows what the state is going to do, the City will have some time to plan, but it will be a major restructuring of both programs.

Ms. Rapp suggested that at the July meeting staff would bring back more information regarding the Facilities Subcommittee.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 4/0 to establish an Ad-Hoc Committee for Neighborhood and Outreach Services involving the three Community Services Advisory Committees, Youth Council, and the Park and Recreation Commission, consisting of two members from each committee and commission to meet and provide information back to their full committees.

Chair Longstreet asked that staff send an email out to the Commissioners to determine their interest on serving on the various Ad-hoc Committees, and once the committees are formed, that a standing item titled "Ad-hoc Committee Reports" be added to the Commission agenda.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:47 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to June 25, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Faulkner Gallery for a Plan SB Community Workshop. However, this Park and Recreation Commission meeting was cancelled due to the lack of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director