



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 22, 2010**

**Minutes**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chair Wiscomb

**ROLL CALL:**

**Commissioners & Staff Present**

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb  
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall  
Commissioner W. Scott Burns  
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara  
Commissioner Rocky Jacobson  
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey  
Executive Assistant Karla Megill  
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.  
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna  
Parks Planning Technician Amanda Burgess

**Commissioners & Staff Absent**

Commissioner Chris Casebeer  
Intern Diego Torres-Santos

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None

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

**COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION:** None

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation, Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, and the Neighborhood and Outreach Services Subcommittee.

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

Commissioner Larimore-Hall reported that he attended the Neighborhood and Outreach Services Subcommittee meeting. He thanked everyone who participated.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She also reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ms. Zachary talked about the 11th Annual Creek Week.

Ms. Zachary also briefed that Saturday, September 25th, is the United Way Day of Caring. She said the City participates and has two projects this year: La Mesa Park and Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens. She further said there is a Trail Improvement Project at McMenemy Trail for the Task Force members from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

**YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:**

Morgan Lunt, Vice Chair, Santa Barbara Youth Council provided this report.

Commissioner Longstreet asked to be put on the email list for the Teen Center Advisory Committee meetings and also to be invited to the opening.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed concern that there is not a formal advisory committee with a youth vote on programming for the Teen Center now.

Chair Wiscomb commented that it should be given time, and thinks it is a good idea for everyone to have input. She suggested the Commission be provided a report more often.

Ms. Zachary commented that staff will keep the Commission up to date and that staff will smooth things out because the goal is a successful center.

Commissioner Ferrara concurred with Commissioner Larimore-Hall.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the decision to transfer the Teen Center to the Police Activities League (PAL) was a budgetary decision; the City has a ten-month contract with PAL with two reporting periods. She expressed the need for the process to move forward and give it the opportunity to work.

Chair Wiscomb concurred and said there is apt to be some bumps in the road and expressed hope that they can be ironed out.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

2. Summary of Council Actions - For Information

Ms. Zachary highlighted the Summary of Council actions.

3. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 25, 2010.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 25.**

**STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS:**

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission;

- A. Deny the following Street Tree removal request.

Documents:

- Staff Report
  - Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 4C(1) - George Paul and Roberta Piatt

1. 627 Willowglen Rd. - Schinus terebinthifolius, Brazilian Pepper - William Powell

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Rocky Jacobson, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the Brazilian Pepper tree at 627 Willowglen Road.**

- B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 230 Lighthouse Rd. - (6) Eucalyptus globulus, Blue Gum, (2) Myoporum laetum, Myoporum, and (1) Pinus pinea, Italian Stone Pine - Peikert Group Architects, continued from April 2009\_

**Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to approve the removal of the trees at 230 Lighthouse Road**

C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 3741 Portofino Way - Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine - George Paul

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Rocky Jacobson, and passed 6/0 to postpone action on this item indefinitely and have staff work with the applicant.**

D. Approve request to designate the following species to the Street Tree Master Plan.

1. 300 block of Los Olivos St. - change designated species

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to accept the Street Tree Master Plan change for the 300 block of Los Olivos Street.**

Commissioner Burns asked that the Commission have a broader discussion at a future meeting regarding the Street Tree Master Plan.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

5. Urban Forest Inventory Project and Public Information/Community Education - Forestry Program Report - Part 2 - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the second of three reports on the Forestry Program.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Amanda Burgess, Park Planning Technician; and Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

Chair Wiscomb commended staff for their efforts. She said the inventory and assessment will become an invaluable management and educational tool as the City moves forward.

Commissioner Longstreet suggested the Urban Forestry Report be presented to City Council, saying she doesn't think anyone quite knows the extent of the Street Tree inventory or thinks of it in terms of its value. She talked about the importance of funding and diversity in the parks.

Commissioner Ferrara commented appearance of the Mesa will change with the wires going underground.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall suggested staff proceed with maximum caution in using the data in the report, saying some of the report seems good and reasonable, but there are a lot of assumptions built in, as there is whenever someone is trying to come up with a monetary value for something. Commissioner Larimore-Hall indicated that is his concern over some of STRATUM's methodology. He said it is great that the Department is taking an inventory and using a systematic approach to be able to come up with a maintenance plan, but he urged caution in stating that a tree is worth a particular dollar amount to the community--that sets a dangerous precedence for how the importance of the urban forest is discussed. Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked staff to be careful about what data they use from STRATUM.

Commissioner Burns asked staff to provide the Commission a report on Historic and Landmark trees.

Chair Wiscomb commented that she feels the ecosystem benefits in terms of dollar amounts should be given to the public. She said she believes the information is very valuable and something the community can relate to. Chair Wiscomb said the ecosystem benefits give a great summary of how valuable the street trees and the urban forest are in the City. She commended the Department on planting twice as many trees as were lost, and expressed the hope that the tool will be used by the Street Tree Advisory Committee in designating new species to provide diversity within the urban forest. Finally, Chair Wiscomb expressed concern about the age of the City's park trees, considering they are all very similar in age. She said the inventory and assessment will be a great tool to start to change that.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

6. Restructured Neighborhood and Outreach Services Advisory Committees - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

- A. Approve the proposal to create the Neighborhood Advisory Council and forward to City Council for consideration, and

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Rocky Jacobson, and passed 6/0 to approve proposal to create the Neighborhood Advisory Council and forward it to City Council for consideration with the amendment that the number of liaisons from City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission be up to two.**

- B. Provide a recommendation to City Council on how to proceed with Neighborhood Advisory Council member recruitment.

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/1 to recommend option 1, conduct application and interview process for all 13 members following the current City Council advisory committee interview process guidelines, with a lottery to stagger the terms, and that Council give consideration to present members and that staff to perform an active recruitment of current members of the committees.**

**Commissioner Ferrara was opposed.**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:35 p.m., with no further business to come before the Commission,

**Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director