



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: July 19, 2010
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Lower Westside Community Advisory Committee
SUBJECT: **ANNUAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010**

Committee Members

The Committee is currently comprised of Nick Ferrera, Chairperson, Elvira Quiroga, Manuel Cruz, and Elena Cruz.

Park and Recreation Commission Liaison

Christopher Casebeer

City Council Liaison

Frank Hotchkiss

Appointment Process and Meeting Schedule

Community Center Advisory Committees are appointed by the City Council and meet on a monthly basis. Advisory Committee meetings are held every third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Louise Lower Davis Center, 1232 De La Vina Street, Santa Barbara, Ca 93102. In case of no quorum being present, the Committee meets as a Committee of the Whole and conducts business subject to ratification at the next meeting.

Member Representation

The Committee's geographic charge encompasses a large area composed of three census tracts (Census Tracts 8.01, 8.02, and 9), otherwise known as the Lower Westside Neighborhood. Five members are selected from any of the three Tracts and two are designated for at-large representation from outside the designated area. The members are appointed to staggered four-year terms. Members are not required to be electors.

Committee Projects/Activities

The following were activities undertaken by the Committee for FY 2009-2010:

- Organized and assisted with neighborhood outreach activities to continue focusing on neighborhood safety issues including park clean up, working with youth and families, food services to the neighborhood, voicing their concerns for a much-needed community facility, and ongoing youth activities.
- Provided assistance and input to Staff with the ongoing coordination of the Mobile Food Pantry provided to low income families in the neighborhood.
- Organized and held on April 3, 2010 an Easter Egg Hunt attended by over 100 families and their children.
- Organized and assisted at Parque Del Los Ninos in collaboration with ten agencies on June 5, 2010 a successful Neighborhood Block party aimed at providing information and services to families.

In addition, this advisory board has spent numerous hours discussing various youth employment programming and effective collaborations with those agencies to provide direct services within each neighborhood. The Advisory Committee will continue to make strong recommendations to work with those who are effectively having success and providing direct services in the City Census Tract.

Recommendations

The Lower Westside Community Center Advisory Committee recommends that Neighborhood & Outreach Services staff continue to assist with ongoing development of programming and out reach to families within the Lower Westside, with a greater emphasis on youth services, youth employment and peer growth opportunities that will address public safety issues and enhance the quality of life for families within the neighborhoods: