



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Larimore-Hall

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commission Intern Diego Torres-Santos

Staff Present

Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Creeks Outreach Coordinator Liz Smith
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Program Manager Judith McCaffrey
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor Susan Young
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Coordinator Pete Leyva
Recreation Specialist Anita Ho

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Ada Conner

Mr. Casebeer arrived at 4:05 p.m.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Volunteer Recognition of Chef Ian Trenwith

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Chef Ian Trenwith for his support and guidance in the Healthy Options for Teens Culinary Arts Program.

Document:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Anita Ho, Recreation Specialist

Ms. Ho introduced Mr. Trenwith.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall presented Mr. Trenwith with a certificate of appreciation.

Commissioner Casebeer thanked and congratulated Mr. Trenwith for his wonderful service.

The meeting temporarily adjourned at 4:10 p.m. due to technical difficulties.

The meeting was called back to order at 4:21 p.m.

Mr. Trenwith noted the program was 17 weeks, and thanked Ms. Ho for her help. Mr. Trenwith introduced program participants Angelica Dominguez and Veronica Dominguez, both San Marcos High School students.

Ms. Rapp added that the PARC Foundation was very appreciative of the program, and that the students catered a fundraiser that raised \$7,000 for scholarships for children in the community.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force and the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee. Mr. Burns

said that Mr. Trenwith and Healthy Options for Teens catered the PARC Foundation fundraiser on the Condor Express, raising \$7,000 for the PARC Foundation.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Lower Westside Advisory Committee and said that the Commission will be receiving a report about the Westside Block Party. Commissioner Casebeer reported that he attended the Special Olympics Torch Run Luncheon in the Sunken Gardens, and was pleased to see Jose Castrion honored as the Special Olympics Athlete of the Year.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall and Chair Longstreet attended a meeting on restructuring the Neighborhood and Outreach Services Committee, and reported that the conversation is moving forward, with a lot of stakeholders with strong opinions, and that it will not be a fast process.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Torres-Santos reported that some Youth Council members are leaving due to graduation and college, and there will be a brand new youth council next year. The first meeting with the new members will be Thursday, July 1 at 5:15 p.m. at the Davis Center. Mr. Torres-Santos reported that there were 22 applicants for nine positions, four appointments have been made, and they are working with staff to select the five remaining spots so that there is good representation from all the neighborhoods. He said there will be an orientation on Friday, June 25 at the Teen Center. Mr. Torres-Santos also reported that the Youth Council still has concerns about the Teen Center and teen programs, and they will continue to work with administration.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Summary of Council Actions: There were no comments on this item.
3. Approval of Minutes

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the:

- A. Special Meeting of May 19, 2010

Commissioner Larimore-Hall noted that the minutes refer to a "Regular Meeting" when it was in fact a "Special Meeting."

Commissioner Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 3/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 19, 2010, as amended.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall abstained.

B. Regular Meeting of May 26, 2010

Commissioner Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 26, 2010.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Document:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 4C(1), John Fritsche; Item 4D1), Sally Vannatta and Florence Formby

A. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 830 Calle Cortita – Sharon and Jim Parsons – (2) Eucalyptus spp., Eucalyptus

Commissioner Wiscomb suggested stipulating that the property owner protect the oak trees during the removal of the Eucalyptus trees.

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Wiscomb, and passed 4/0 to approve the removal of the Eucalyptus trees located at 830 Calle Cortita with the stipulation that the applicant work to protect the oak trees.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 512-518 Bath Street. – City of Santa Barbara Housing Authority – (2) Yucca gloriosa, Spanish Dagger, (1) Pittosporum undulatum, Victorian Box

Commissioner Burns asked whether there is any opportunity to relocate the trees.

Mr. Downey reported that the trees are located very close to the wall, and may be able to be transplanted, but the nature of the trees is they are heavy and extremely expensive to relocate, and that the Victorian Box is nearing the end of its life and is not worth relocating.

Commissioner Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, and passed 4/0 to approve the removal of the three trees at 512-518 Bath Street.

C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 724 Miramonte Drive – John Fritsche – Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm

Public Comment:

Mr. Fritsche presented soil reports and photos of the trees and property; described damage to the house below his property due to landslides, noted the location of utility lines above the trees.

Commissioner Burns asked who would be liable if the Commission denied approval and the tree fell next week.

Mr. Downey reported that he is not comfortable commenting on liability, He indicated that when trees are assessed for hazards, they are observed for a visible defect in the tree itself, and that he did not observe any defects in the tree. Mr. Downey said the tree itself is not hazardous, but the City Attorney's office would need to speak to liability.

Commissioner Wiscomb suggested that the Commission might benefit from some of the discussion of Street Tree Advisory Committee members at the site, and asked Mr. Downey to comment on the soil the tree is located in.

Mr. Downey reported that the tree is growing in sandy soil, and that is the natural soil this tree grows in. He said that without further information about the stability of the soil at that location, he would be unable to come to any finding other than the tree is growing in its nearly natural environment, and there are no signs the tree has done anything but stand and grow. Mr. Downey indicated that staff has not denied that the tree leans, and trees like this lean all the time at a greater angle in sand for a hundred years; the lean is not an indication of hazard.

Commissioner Wiscomb asked Mr. Downey to relate discussion amongst Street Tree Advisory Committee members about the location of landslides in relation to the location of the tree.

Mr. Downey reported that landslides have occurred behind the home, downhill from this location. He said the trees are located in front of the home, and the geology report comments on the movement of waters in the area, but it did not identify this specific area as having been reviewed.

He said staff felt that it didn't seem appropriate to reproduce the report for the Commission, because the slide happened in another area.

Commissioner Casebeer moved to deny removal of the tree located at 724 Miramonte Drive.

Motion died due to lack of second.

Commissioner Wiscomb reported that she is uncomfortable with requiring the applicant to provide an arborist report that indicates the tree is "likely" to fall, and that the language is very restrictive, and suggested a report stating the soil conditions "may" deem the tree a hazard during an extreme wind event.

Commissioner Burns suggested that based on the history of landslides and potential landslides, he would err to remove the risk. He suggested either postponing and requesting more information on potential geological damage in the area, or overriding the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation and letting Mr. Fritsche remove the tree.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Wiscomb, and passed 3/1 to override the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation and allow the applicant to remove the tree located at 724 Miramonte Drive.

Mr. Casebeer voted against the motion.

Ms. Zachary noted that the question is not whether the tree is a hazard, but that whether a change in soil conditions or further erosion is a hazard.

Mr. Fritsche noted that he would be glad to plant a tree in its place if the Street Tree Advisory Committee suggests a miniature evergreen that won't reach the power lines, and with leaves that hang on in 40-50 mile per hour winds.

D. Postpone a decision on the following removal request.

1. 1628 Overlook Lane - Lisa Plowman, Peikert Group Architects, LLP. - Schinus molle, California Pepper

Ms. Vannatta reported that a pine cone fell right in front of her dog, and that they can weigh up to 15 pounds. There is a tree located at the Courthouse, and when they see large cones, they put up warning signs. Ms. Vannatta noted that she would love to see the tree go.

Ms. Formby reported that she is a neighbor of the property and would like the tree to stay, not because of the look of the tree, but because it provides habitat for wildlife. The tree is home to red tailed hawks and owls, and noted that of all the trees planted in Santa Barbara, it's one of the safest for high winds.. Ms. Formby reported that she has also spoken with the neighbor on the other side, and he asked not to remove the tree because the tree hides the post that is an eyesore, and that if it was replaced with a tree just as tall to hide the post, he would be fine with removing it. Ms. Formby asked that the Commission consider habitat for animals, and said that it is a safe tree that is deeply rooted and doesn't bend, but acknowledged that the utility company has done a bad job pruning it.

Commissioner Casebeer asked whether Ms. Formby has concerns about the palm tree.

Ms. Formby reported that she would give up the palm tree to save the other tree.

Commissioner Wiscomb asked for clarification on the motion, and whether the Commission was waiting for the applicant to provide a landscape plan showing what trees will be planted.

Mr. Downey reported that the applicant has provided plans, and would recommend a motion to postpone until additional materials are provided, as opposed to setting a specific timeline. Mr. Downey noted that regarding birds, if at a future meeting the tree is approved for removal, the Commission may consider allowing that outside of bird nesting season.

Commissioner Burns asked whether the Street Tree Advisory Committee will have a recommendation by the next Commission meeting.

Mr. Downey reported that some Committee members might not be able to attend the next meeting and they may have to postpone.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Wiscomb, and passed 4/0 to postpone a decision on the removal of the tree located at 1628 Overlook Lane until the Street Tree Advisory Committee has met and reviewed the application materials.

Ms. Rapp suggested taking Item 9 next, as Mr. Albert Hannon is here, and the remaining items are all staff reports.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Advisory Committee Interview and Appointment

Recommendation: That the Commission interview and consider appointing Albert Hannon, as member at large, to the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee.

Document:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Members of the Public: Albert Hannon

Mr. Hannon noted that the Art Show is a treasure to the City and a draw to tourists; that he was previously an at large member of the Committee, and that they asked him to return. Stressed the amount of work the Committee does screening applicants, settling arguments, and the importance to the City.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Wiscomb, and passed 4/0 to appoint Mr. Hannon as the at large member of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee for a term ending June 30, 2011.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. West Beach Music and Arts Festival

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a brief report from staff on the status of the 2010 West Beach Music and Arts Festival Appeal.

Document:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

6. Lower Westside Neighborhood Block Party

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the Lower Westside Neighborhood Block Party that was held June 5, 2010.

Document:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Susan Young, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor;
Pete Leyva, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Coordinator

Commissioner Casebeer complimented Ms. Young and Mr. Leyva for their dedication to the Lower Westside neighborhood, and noted that a couple people were diagnosed thanks to the free clinic offered.

Mr. Leyva reported that two individuals were diagnosed who were unaware that they had diabetes. Also, the eyeglass company who works with the Clinic on Wheels provided free eye exams and glasses to many children who were unaware that they needed glasses.

7. Update on Upcoming Summer Special Events

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

Document:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Judith McCaffrey, Recreation Programs Manager

Commissioner Burns asked how early community members can show up at the Concerts in the Park, and how many people attend.

Ms. McCaffrey reported that the Concerts in the Park have been going on for 12 years, and that attendance ranges from 5,000 to 8,000. Setup begins at 12:00 p.m., and that community members can start setting up at that time. People are encouraged to bring low back chairs or blankets, and picnic dinners.

8. Parks and Recreation Budget

Ms. Rapp noted that the Parks and Recreation Department currently has a number of vacancies, and that staff is anticipating that those vacancies will not be able to be filled, and looking at how to restructure. Staff will be coming back to the Commission with information on changes in services based on vacancies.

Commissioner Burns asked how summer programs are going and whether they are full.

Ms. McCaffrey reported that enrollment is down approximately 8% from last year, but that thanks to the PARC Foundation fundraiser on the Condor Express, the PARC Foundation awarded 45 scholarships to children in the community. Enrollment is looking pretty good for the summer, and the Santa Barbara Sunrise Rotary Club is funding the remainder of the West Beach Wading Pool costs, so it will be open this summer.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:31 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director