



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

DATE: May 19, 2010

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Department Proposed Fiscal Year 2011 Budget – For Action

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission provides its recommendations on the Parks and Recreation proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 budget, including:

- A. Creeks Division operating and capital budgets,
- B. General Fund operating and capital budgets, and the
- C. Parks and Recreation Fees & Charges Schedule

DISCUSSION:

At its regular meeting on April 28, 2010, the Parks and Recreation Commission received a presentation and discussed the proposed FY 2011 Parks and Recreation budget, including the General Fund budget, and Creeks Fund and Golf Fund budgets. At the May 19th meeting, the Commission will review the budget recommendations from five advisory committees and make its recommendations to the City Council. Budget recommendations from the Creeks Advisory Committee are attached to this staff report. Recommendations from the Youth Council, Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee, Lower Westside Advisory Committee, Westside Center Advisory Committee and the Franklin Center Neighborhood Advisory Committee will be forwarded to the Commission in advance of the May 19th meeting.

The proposed FY 2011 Parks and Recreation Department Golf Division Budget is submitted as a separate item for Commission consideration.

As part of its discussion on April 28th, Commission members asked for additional information on two aspects of the proposed General Fund budget, including the proposal to transfer operations of the Teen Center to the Police Activities League (PAL) and the proposed fee for tree removal applications.

Transfer of the Teen Center to PAL

Since the April 28th Commission meeting, staff has set up a meeting for PAL representatives and the Youth Council to discuss programming options, the role of the Youth Council, and the mechanism for transferring operations. This meeting is

scheduled for May 25, 2010. At the regular Commission meeting on May 26, staff will report back on the meeting between the Youth Council and PAL. At that meeting, PAL will also provide information on their organization and present their proposal for programming and operating the Teen Center.

Tree Removal Application Fee

Commissioners asked for information on fees that other communities charge for tree removal applications, and what kind of outreach would be used to notify residents if the fee is approved. The table below provides examples of fees for the application to remove or to receive a permit for removal of trees that are regulated. This information is based on published information from each of the city websites.

City	Type of Fee	Amount
Oakland	Removal Application	\$68 + \$10 per tree
San Jose	Removal Application	\$200-\$1,270. Depending on size and number of trees
Los Gatos	Removal Application	\$130 +\$65 per tree, 50% refund if application is denied
San Francisco	Removal Application	\$300 - \$1,214. Range depends on number of trees and reason for removal. Only for Street Trees
Sunnyvale	Removal Application	\$223 - Fee applied to trees that are protected by ordinance
San Luis Obispo	Permit Application	\$81 – Only if approved
Hayward	Permit Application	\$174 – Pruning \$193 - Removal

As shown above, the proposed fee of \$50 for Santa Barbara is lower than fees in other communities. Staff anticipates that with the fee in place, residents and business owners will seek advice prior to submitting an application for removal. In addition, the application fee for the removal of a Street tree that is determined by the Urban Forest Superintendent to be unsafe would be waived, and the tree would be removed at no cost to the applicant. Staff does not anticipate that the fee will lead to removal of trees without a permit because the fine is significantly greater than the application fee. In December 2009, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 09-096 which establishes the following fine schedule for trees that are removed or significantly altered without a permit.

Action without or in violation of permit	Trunk diameter from 4" to 12"	Trunk diameter over 12" and up to 24"	Trunk diameter over 24"
Significant Alteration	Up to \$500	Up to \$1,000	Up to \$1,000
Removal	Up to \$1,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$5,000

Public Outreach

Although it would be difficult to reach a broad cross section of the community with information about the application fee, the Parks Division is taking a number of steps to provide information to the public. First, the tree removal application form will be revised to include the new fee, indicating that it is pending City Council approval. Fee information will also be included on the Department's main web page and will be disseminated through online newsletters, including the monthly City Administrator's newsletter. Staff will also be informing tree professionals and landscape architects about the fee both informally, and as part of the upcoming municipal code outreach and training program.

ATTACHMENTS: FY 2011 Budget Recommendations from the Creeks Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director