



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** October 26, 2011

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Recreation Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Community Recognition of Santa Barbara Country Dance Society

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission recognize the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society for donating a restored Baldwin Ellington baby grand piano.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Prior to the recent renovation of the Carrillo Recreation Center, the ballroom's baby grand piano was in very poor shape. This baby grand was converted from a player piano in the 1980's and had a number of significant issues that prevented it from being a reliable musical instrument. Since refurbishing the piano would likely cost more than the value of the instrument, the old piano was among many items sent to auction in accordance with City policies.

After the facility renovation was completed, the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society began investigating options for bringing a grand piano back to the ballroom stage for use during the Sunday night Contra dances. The Parks and Recreation Department was interested in having a piano for events as well, but it was not in the budget. After months of research, the Country Dance Society located a newly restored, black Baldwin Ellington piano and financed \$7,000 for its purchase.

The new piano is available to Parks and Recreation events and has been used at Contra Dances, the 90-Plus Ice Cream Social, and at a few Swing and Ballroom dances.

The Parks and Recreation Department would like to recognize the generosity of the Santa Barbara Country Dance Society and thank them for bringing this beautiful musical instrument to the Carrillo Ballroom.

**PREPARED BY:** Jason Bryan, Active Adults and Classes Senior Recreation Supervisor

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

**APPROVED BY:** Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director