



City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL

Commissioners, Staff, & Liaisons Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Rocky Jacobson
Commission Intern Michael Yi
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Golf Course Manager Mark Reed
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey
Recreation Supervisor Terry Brown
Recreation Coordinator Kimmie Coley
Administrative Analyst Nancy Woods
Recreation Coordinator, Charles Trentacosti
City Councilmember Grant House

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Rapp suggested that since item 5, Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Budget, is a time certain item for 5:30 p.m., depending on how quickly the agenda items progress, that item 6 be taken prior to Item 5 depending.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers: Ms. Helen Burwell

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

Recognition of the Junior League of Santa Barbara for Efforts Hosting the “Spring into Health” Family Day – For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Junior League of Santa Barbara for their volunteer service to Spring into Health, an event focused on educating youth and families on healthy lifestyle choices available in the Santa Barbara community.

Documents:

Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Kimmie Coley, Recreation Coordinator

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the Lower Mission Canyon Design Subcommittee meeting and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Commissioner Jacobson reported on the Activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Committee and that she went to the Arts and Craft Show and introduced herself to the members during the Easter show.

Commissioner Ferrera reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force activities. He said there is a Trail Day at Manning Park this Saturday at 8:00 am. He further said the next event is on June 4th and the next meeting is on June 1st.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She further reported on the Golf Advisory Committee. Ms. Wiscomb said she attended the SPARK Youth Speak Out which was well-attended. She also reported on the Earth Day events, in which the Department participated.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp advised that the Parks and Recreation Commission has one vacancy and encouraged interested persons to apply. She highlighted the criteria and said that a person as young as 16 years of age may apply for appointment.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Commission Youth Intern Yi provided this report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

2. Summary of Council Actions - For Information
3. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2011; and
- B. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special work session of April 20, 2011.

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 23, 2011, and the special meeting of April 20, 2011.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 4A(1) – Lesley Colasse; 4C(1) – Connie Schott, David Schott, Robert Forouzandeh, Bill Spracher, Michael Stilwell, Cy Lyon

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request.
 - 1. 1215 E. Cota St. – (2) *Callistemon citrinus*, Lemon Bottlebrush – Leslie Colasse

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for removal of the Lemon Bottlebrush tree at 1215 E. Cota Street under the condition it is replaced by a 15-gallon Live Oak tree placed at the site as recommended by the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

- B. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.
 - 1. 21 N. Milpas St. – (2) *Ficus microcarpa* ‘Nitida’, Indian Laurel Fig – Beverly Iles

Mr. Downey briefed the Commission that Ms. Iles is concerned about damage the trees are causing. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee has determined that the damage is not significant enough to warrant removal of the trees and recommends denial of the removal requests.

Mr. Downey advised that the applicant sent correspondence requesting that final action on the removal request be postponed until the June 22nd Commission meeting, because she is out of town and unable to attend the meeting to voice her concerns.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to postpone final action on this removal application until the June 22nd meeting per the applicant's request.

2. 530 Flora Vista Dr. – *Schinus terebinthifolius*, Brazilian Pepper – Sierra Property Management

Mr. Downey highlighted the reasons for this removal request saying the applicant cited concerns regarding previous and future damage to the sidewalk. He said that the Public Works Department has repaired the sidewalk and there is no current lifting of the sidewalk. Mr. Downey stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee has reviewed the removal request and determined that the reasons for the request do not justify the removal and recommends denial of the request.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the removal request for 530 Flora Vista Dr.

- C. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 507 Brosian Way – (3) *Eucalyptus spp.*, Eucalyptus – Mike and Mehri Forouzandeh

Mr. Downey briefed that the applicant's reasons for requesting the removal of the three trees are for safety reasons. He said the applicant is proposing to build on the private roadway that is Brosian Way, and as part of that, there are safety concerns regarding these trees. Mr. Downey said that there have been numerous times branches have fallen, and the neighborhood is concerned about that. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff has visited the site and determined that two of the trees present immediate safety concerns based on their structure. He said that the way the trees are structures predispose them to losing more limbs and that cannot be correct. Mr. Downey said the third tree, the one directly on the corner, is a traffic visibility hazard. He advised that based on the safety concerns regarding the two trees, and the visibility hazard for the third tree, the Street Tree Advisory Committee is recommending the trees be approved for removal on the condition that trees are planted within 100 yards of the trees on private property that can achieve 30 feet in height.

Commissioner Ferrara said he visited the site; there are some branches that look as though they will fall at any time. He said the power lines do not appear to be impacted. Mr. Ferrara commented that he understands the property owner's concern for their children. Mr. Ferrara asked whether pruning will help and said that he would like to see the trees remain. He encouraged the property owners not to let their children play under the trees.

Commissioner Burns asked what type of maintenance would be appropriate for these trees. Mr. Downey said pruning can occur which will extend the life of the tree for about one year. He said that no amount of pruning will correct weak

attachments. He further said there are so many weakly attached branches, a significant amount of pruning would be required. He said in his professional opinion, no amount of pruning will make the trees safe.

Commissioner Burns said his concern is for the safety of the families.

Commissioner Casebeer spoke in favor of preserving the trees. He asked Mr. Downey if it is this species of tree that has problems, or is it these specific trees that have problems. Mr. Downey said that basically regular maintenance was not performed on two of these trees, so they did not develop properly and structurally sound. He said the main problem with the third tree is a visibility issue. Commissioner Casebeer said he disagrees that the tree is a traffic visibility issue. Chair Wiscomb interjected that at intersections there is what are called sight triangles, and there has to be clear space, a vision of sight in a triangular pattern at an intersection. She suggested that at this intersection, in one of the directions, that is not the case because the tree is blocking it. Commissioner Casebeer asked whether a traffic study has been done. Mr. Downey said he has not asked that one be done at this particular site. He said he has worked with them in many cases regarding tree visibility issues, and the standard visibility in a 25 mile per hour zone is to not have any trees in the sight line within 50 feet, and this tree is 12 feet from the corner.

Commissioner Casebeer expressed concern for Eucalyptus trees in general, saying the property owners purchased the properties with the trees in place and must take on responsibility for the trees and their maintenance. He said as Commissioners, they must preserve the historical landscape of the City.

Chair Wiscomb stated that she is the Commission's liaison to the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She said the Commission follows the City's Municipal Code which outlines considerations and conditions by which the Commission makes a decision as to whether trees are removed or not. She said there are seven conditions. Ms. Wiscomb said that Mr. Downey has stated that no amount of pruning will alleviate the unsafe condition of these trees. She said that *"The condition and structure of the tree and the potential for proper tree growth and development..."* is a consideration for removal. Ms. Wiscomb said that in this case, the potential for proper growth and development is not present because the trees have not been properly maintained. That being said, Ms. Wiscomb stated that there are conditions for removal. She said that at least one of the conditions must be met for the Commission to approve a removal of a tree. Ms. Wiscomb stated that one of the findings for removal is *"That regard for the safety of persons or property dictates the removal."* She said that that a branch blocking emergency ingress and egress, could be catastrophic in an emergency situation. She said that when she hears that falling branches have destroyed property, substantiated by photographs provided to the Commission, and, further that one branch fell and just missed landing on a stroller, as testified by one of the property owners attending the Street Tree Advisory Committee meeting, she believes that safety of persons and property dictates the removal of the trees. Ms. Wiscomb acknowledged that the removal of the trees will visually impact the neighborhood, but said the Commission has to consider the safety of persons who live in the City and property over preserving the historic landscape of the City.

Commissioner Casebeer asked how the Street Tree Advisory Committee voted on the removal request. Mr. Downey responded that the vote was unanimous in favor of removal.

Commissioner Burns suggested removing the two trees that are structurally deficient and leaving the third tree in place.

Commissioner Ferrara said he agrees with the compromise, but questioned the fact that the trees have been there for 100 years, and now all of a sudden we believe they are going to fall apart. He said as far as the safety issue, there are trees with pine cones and fronds on them that fall down all over the City. Mr. Ferrara expressed that does not understand the urgency of removing these trees at this time as there is nothing underneath these trees for 100 feet in any direction; there is a home there but it is not directly under the trees. He said he visited the site and did not see any visibility issues, and disagreed that there is a traffic safety issue. Mr. Ferrara said he too would compromise agreeing to the removal of two trees and leaving the third tree in place.

Chair Wiscomb clarified that the tree at the corner is not compromised. Mr. Downey responded that the tree at the corner requires pruning, which could help the tree. He reiterated that the Traffic Safety Division does not care for trees that close to an intersection.

Chair Wiscomb said there are well-documented safety concerns.

Original Motion:

Commissioner Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson, to approve the conditional removal of the two trees upon the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation that the applicant plant three trees that can achieve a 30-foot minimum height on private property within 100 yards of the existing trees; and that removal of the third tree is postponed until the Traffic Division can weigh in on the site visibility issue.

Commissioner Casebeer said he wanted to address the issue of sufficient notice to the neighbors. He said there have been concerns addressed and asked whether the Commission is taking action too quickly without adequate notification to the neighborhood.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the notification process is standard. Mr. Downey highlighted the notification process stating that the Municipal Code requires, “*Any tree for which a removal permit has been requested must be posted with notice of the permit request by the Parks and Recreation Department for at least ten (10) days prior to issuing a permit for removal.*” It does not specify the size of the notice, but staff would be happy to evaluate the current notice at a staff level to determine its sufficiency and address any changes that need to be made.

Mr. Burns acknowledged Mr. Schott’s comments regarding noticing and suggested staff talk to him further about his suggestions. He said, however, his

primary concern is safety, and regardless of how many people were present, it would not change his opinion regarding an unsafe tree.

Commissioner Casebeer asked whether the removal includes the stumps. Mr. Downey stated that in his opinion, the removal should include the removal of the stumps; it would not be required; however, if a stump is not removed, it will re-sprout, and the sprouts will be weakly attached similar to the problems the existing trees are experiencing. Mr. Downey said that the wise choice is to grind the stumps; however, it would not be required by the current motion.

Commissioner Casebeer asked that the motion be modified to require the property owner to grind the stumps.

Chair Wiscomb agreed to modify the motion, as did Commissioner Jacobson who seconded the motion.

Final Motion:

Commissioner Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson, and passed 4/1 to approve the conditional removal of the two trees, including the stumps, upon the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation that the applicant plant three trees that can achieve a 30-foot minimum height on private property within 100 yards of the existing trees; and that removal of the third tree is postponed until the Traffic Division can weigh in on the site visibility issues

Commissioner Casebeer was opposed.

2. 3074 Marilyn Way – *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda – Starr and Jack Garvey

Commissioner Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrera, and passed 4/0 to concur with the staff and Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for 3074 Marilyn Way and conditionally approve the removal of the tree and require the applicant to plant a replacement tree capable of reaching a 20-foot minimum height.

Commissioner Casebeer abstained.

3. 508 La Marina – *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American Sweetgum – Carl Nastro/Action Tree

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff and Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for 508 La Marina and conditionally approve the removal of the tree and require the applicant to plant a replacement tree capable of reaching a 25-foot minimum height and spread.

- D. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 33 E. Micheltorena St. – (4) *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine – Joe Chenoweth

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for 33 E. Micheltorena St.

- E. Approve the following Street Tree Master Plan change.

1. 1000 Block of De La Vina St. – consider change to designated species

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, And passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for the 1000 Block of De La Vina Street.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Parks and Recreation Department Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Budget Presentation – For Discussion

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director; Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager; Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager; Judith McCaffrey, Recreation Programs Manager; Santos Escobar, Parks Manager; Charles Trentacosti, Recreation Coordinator
- Members of the Public: Steen Hudson, Elings Park Executive Director; Dominic Namnath, Golf Advisory Committee; Chris Talerico, Director of Golf

Commission Comments/Questions:

Commissioner Burns stated that there were five projects on the list of Capital Projects but only two are funded; if funds become available, will the other three be able to be accomplished. Ms. Zachary said yes, if funding became available, those projects are still on the list and would be the ones targeted.

Chair Wiscomb asked what the cost recovery was for Fiscal Year 2011. Ms. Hanna said that the staff estimates it will be around 51%. She said that last year it was 49%, and in Fiscal Year 2007 it was as low as 43%.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the Department has been proactive in eliminating some marginally successful programs, but added new programs to strike interest. She commended staff for their efforts in looking at trends and responding accordingly. She said the program seem to have good attendance and good customer approval ratings.

Chair Wiscomb said that there are two vacant positions the Commission should look at advancing in Fiscal Year 2012 – the vacant Grounds Maintenance Worker and Sports

Recreation Leader, where the funds are proposed to be reallocated for equipment at the Carrillo Recreation Center and then in Fiscal Year 2013 hire fill that position. Ms. Wiscomb said it is going to be important for the Commission to strongly support the retention of those two vacant positions.

Ms. Rapp said staff is proposing to delete a position in Recreation, which is an outgrowth of moving the Adapted Program into Youth Activities – a .08 position associated with the Afterschool Recreation Program. She said the position has been on the list for the last few years. Ms. Rapp said the Department will use the savings for that position to improve the function of that program and some other needs. Ms. Rapp said the comment about preserving the vacant positions is important; staff is being strategic about how those vacant positions are being used. She said the fact that they are vacant can put them at risk of being cut if people are looking for ways to fund other priorities. Ms. Rapp said the Department is holding the positions vacant knowing they are critical to the Department the following year, and need the funds to remain in place. She said the Commission's support in how the Department is approaching the two-year plan is important.

Commissioner Wiscomb commented that volunteer hours are going to be important over the next two years. She further praised the Department's list of capital program achievements and said the programs are wonderful. She thanked staff on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Rapp briefly highlighted the budget approval process and encouraged Commissioners to attend the Council meeting of May 9th.

OLD BUSINESS

6. Formation of Sub-committee to Draft a Proposal Which Would Formally Establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council – For Action (Attachment)

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Establish a sub-committee that includes two Parks and Recreation Commissioners, three Youth Council members, one Neighborhood Advisory Council member and two Department staff to draft a proposal which would formally establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council; and
- B. Appoint two Commissioners to serve on the sub-committee.

Commissioner Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Burns, and passed 5/0 to establish a sub-committee to draft a proposal to formally establish the Santa Barbara Youth Council to include two Parks and Recreation Commissioners, three Youth Council members, one Neighborhood Advisory Council member and two Department staff and appoint 2 Commissioners to serve on the sub-committee.

Commissioner Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to appoint Commissioners Wiscomb and Jacobson to the sub-committee.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:52, with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson, and passed 5/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director