



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Megan Alley
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Parks & Recreation Youth Intern Kate Yee
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.
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Project Planner Jessica Grant
City Administrator James L. Armstrong

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Christina Gonzalez
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Intern Yee provided this report

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Alley reported that the Creeks Advisory Committee did not meet in November; however, she met with Cameron Benson who provided an orientation on the Committee. She said she looks forward to attending the December's meeting and reporting on the Committee's activities.

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

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee. He further said that he met with Jason Bryan for an orientation on the Committee and also visited the Show on Sunday and spoke to some of the Arts and Crafts Show exhibitors. Commissioner Casebeer said he attended the Mesa Lane Steps Ribbon Cutting ceremony and said they are safe and are a good investment for the community.

Commissioner Trentacosti reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee. He talked about revenue and rounds and the 9 and Dine program.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation. She said she too attended the Mesa Lane Steps Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and said the project received a \$200,000 State Coastal Conservancy Grant and the project was a great partnership between the County and the City. Ms. Wiscomb further indicated that the project was completed in one month; the permit was issued for a 90-day completion.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 24, 2012.

Commissioner Megan Alley moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 24, 2012.

Commissioner Ferrara abstained.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

2. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation - For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 2B(1): Marcos Christodoulou and Antonio Gaoma

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Partially approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 1132 Crestline Dr. - (3) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm - Sheri C. Gardner

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to concur with the staff recommendation for 1132 Crestline Drive as proposed.

Chair Wiscomb clarified that the staff recommendation is that the removal of the tree closest to the driveway is permitted; removal of the other two trees is denied; and the other condition is that prior to removal of the tree closest to the driveway, the owner must obtain a public works permit to for extension of the driveway apron.

B. Deny the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 307 Mellifont Avenue – (2) Syagrus romanzoffianum, Queen Palm – Marcos Christodoulou

Commissioner Ferrara asked whether when an individual purchases a home, they made aware of the Street Tree and Setback Tree regulations. Mr. Downey said there is no regulation that requires that to be done, and during his tenure, he has not been asked to supply that information to any realtor. Commissioner Ferrara stated that it might be beneficial to do that. Commissioner Ferrara commented that he did visit the site and found the trees to be in good shape. He further said that if they are healthy and receive proper maintenance, he sees no problem with them remaining in that location. He said he supports the recommendation to deny the removal.

Commissioner Casebeer asked whether the property owner permitted the new trees he planted in the front yard, saying the Commission's charge is to maintain the urban forest. He said once the trees are established, it is

the property owner's responsibility to maintain them. Mr. Casebeer said that if the low-hanging branches are cut off as they start to die, they will not fall off. He asked Mr. Downey who is responsible to trim the Palm trees since they are in the setback.

Mr. Downey indicated he needed to share additional information regarding the application, saying there is a drainage problem in the yard, and the most recent letter, provided to the Commission yesterday, and again today, indicates the applicant is going to be installing a French drain in the area of the trees.

Mr. Downey said that the homeowner is responsible for maintaining trees in the setback. He further said that Palm fronds do not fall off until they turn brown, and they can be pruned before they fall off.

Commissioner Casebeer complimented the homeowner on the improvements he has made to the house. He said he concurs with the staff recommendation to retain the Palm trees.

Commissioner Trentacosti commented that it takes a while for the Palm fronds to fall off. He asked Mr. Downey how long it takes. Mr. Downey said each tree is different, but typically a frond would be on a tree several weeks before it begins to fall off.

Chair Wiscomb commented that when she went out to the site with the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC), she absolutely agreed that the trees should remain; however, the letter the Commission received from the property owner talks about the French drain, which is a new issue, and something the STAC was not aware of. She said there is the issue that the installation of the French drain may interfere with the root system of the trees. She said the property owner has done a great deal of tree plantings, which was noted by the STAC. She said those trees will have a great deal of horticultural benefit when they mature. Ms. Wiscomb said the STAC noted that. She said the fact that they want to fix the drainage problem and install the French drain, if the Commission could see it clear to condition the removal on the installation of the French drain, as per the study by Alex Cole, she would support that.

Commissioner Casebeer asked for clarification. Ms. Wiscomb said she would support allowing the owner to remove the two trees under the condition that the French drain is installed and that the new trees on the property are maintained.

Commissioner Casebeer commented that a French drain is typically a trench 10-12 inches wide, dug along the foundation of the house; the trees are 10 feet from the foundation. He said he cannot see how, with a diligent contractor the roots would be impacted.

Mr. Downey said that Palms are one of the trees whose roots can withstand construction much closer to them than any other trees. He suggested a motion that would offer the ability for staff to assess the tree roots once the drain is being installed, or one that would approve the removal on the condition that the French drain is installed and the drain would impact the safety of the trees. Chair Wiscomb said she actually liked that idea.

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, that during the installation of the French drain, staff will inspect the root system of the trees, and if they are negatively impacted, staff can make an administrative decision to allow the homeowner to remove the trees at 307 Mellifont Avenue.

Chair Wiscomb withdrew this motion.

Commissioner Ferrara suggested the applicant return to the Commission in a month or so with the plans to see if the trees will be impacted by the placement of the drain.

Chair Wiscomb said in fairness to the applicant, the Commission could make a decision at this time to allow administrative approval of removal of the trees when the drain is installed if the trees are negatively impacted by the installation of the drain.

Commissioner Alley said she her preference would be to preserve the health of the two trees while constructing the French drain – to take the health of the trees into consideration and do everything possible to preserve them. Ms. Alley reiterated saying she would like to see that the construction of the French drain be simultaneously done with the review of the health of the root system of the two trees, because she believes there is a way to build the French drain with minimal impact to the trees, knowing that the preference of the Commission is to preserve the two trees.

Commissioner Trentacosti stated that he likes the idea of having the applicant bring in the plans as recommended by Commissioner Ferrara. He said it might be easier for the applicant, because if it gets to the point where the contractor is digging the trench, and then the tree removal is denied, he has the same problem.

Chair Wiscomb expressed that the Commission is not qualified to review engineering plans and know where the root system of the tree is. She said the Commission could indicate in the motion that it is the Commission's desire that the trees remain, and require that when the

French drain is installed, mitigation measures be implemented, if possible to save the trees.

Mr. Downey recommended the decision be postponed, allow the applicant to provide staff with the plans, and staff can make a determination about the impact to the trees and then provide the Commission with an opinion.

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to postpone a decision on the street tree removal request for 307 Mellifont Avenue until staff has had time to review the plans for the French drain in relation to the impact on the trees.

2. 1265 Kenwood Dr. - Pine spp., Pine - Giovanni Maciocia

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding 1265 Kenwood Drive.

C. Approve the following changes to the Street Tree Master Plan

1. 0-100 blocks of Kimberly Ave. - consider additional species

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Megan Alley, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee to designate the Firewheel Tree as an additional Street Tree species for 0-100 blocks of Kimberly Avenue.

2. 00 block of W. Mason St. - change street tree designation

Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to change the designated street tree for the 00 block of W. Mason Street to the Jacaranda Mimosifolia, Jacaranda and Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Cabrillo Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project Beachway Relocation Addendum

Recommendation: That the Commission review and provide comments to the Planning Commission and City Council on the Cabrillo Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project - Beachway Relocation Addendum.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director; Jessica Grant, Project Planner; Jason Bryan, Sr. Recreation Supervisor

The Commission raised a number of questions related to the design of the beachway bridge, safety considerations regarding multiple bridge users, width of the bridge, relationship of the bridge span to the restoration portion of the project, maintenance requirements of the new turf, replacement of any palm trees removed, and impacts on the Arts and Crafts Show. The Commission provided the following summary comments to be forward to the Planning Commission and City Council:

- Support the safety improvements associated with the permanent relocation of the beachway
- Maintain as many Arts and Crafts Show spaces as possible
- Provide signage about the show both during and after construction
- Pursue grant funding to achieve the project
- Consider relocating some of the Arts and Crafts Show spaces to the west of the dolphin fountain during construction
- Minimize increased turf maintenance requirements

4. Proposed Fiscal Year 2014 - 2019 Capital Improvement Program - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission review the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 - 2019 Capital Improvement Program and provide recommendations on capital project priorities for FY 2014 and FY 2015.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Commission CIP Comments to be forward to the City Council:

The Commission raised a number of questions and discussed projects of importance for the Department's CIP. The Commission reviewed and discussed the projects identified for potential funding in FY 2014 and FY 2015. The Commission organized its priorities under three broad categories: safety, deferred maintenance and neighborhood improvements, and emphasized the need to address existing facility upgrades and repairs over new projects.

Under safety, the number one priority, the Commission expressed its support for the following projects: Playground Replacement Program, Pool ADA Regulatory Improvements, Park Infrastructure Safety Program, and Park Restroom Renovation Program. For deferred maintenance, the Commission prioritized the Park Irrigation Renovation Program, Parking Lot Maintenance Program, Sign Replacement Program, and Carrillo Gym Wall Spalling. For neighborhood improvements, the Commission acknowledged the importance of the NITF street and lighting projects, development of the Ortega Pocket Park, Kids World, and Cabrillo Ballfield improvements. The Commission also recognized the need to complete the renovation of the Cabrillo Pavilion and Bathhouse. Lower priority projects include Chase Palm Park Renovation, Carrillo Ballroom Air Conditioning, and the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

The Commission also discussed Golf Division equipment replacement and infrastructure improvements, including roof repairs for the Clubhouse.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:57 p.m., with no further action to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director