



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Minutes (Amended)

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Recreation Program Manager Judith McCaffrey
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Golf Course Manager Mark Reed
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Recreation Supervisor Terry Brown
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Sr. Supervisor Mark Alvarado
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor Susan Young
Neighborhood and Outreach Coordinator I Pete Leyva

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commission Intern Michael Yi

Liaisons Present

Councilmember Cathy Murillo

AGENDA ITEM _____

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Rapp asked that the Youth Council Report be addressed just prior to item 8, report on the Santa Barbara Youth Council Conference.

Ms. Rapp further asked that item 7, Interview and Appointment of Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee, be addressed after Item 4, Approval of Minutes, and before Item 5, Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers: Kenneth Loch

National Public Gardens Day:

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: Gwen Stauffer, Ganna Walska Lotusland; Molly Barker, Casa del Herrero; Joni Kelly, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; Kristina Foss, Santa Barbara Historic Mission

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Recognition Of Pearl Chase Society Donation Of Painting Restoration For The Carrillo Recreation Center- For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Pearl Chase Society for their donation of painting restoration for the Carrillo Recreation Center.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Jason Bryan, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Members of the Public: Sue Adams, Pearl Chase Society

2. City Sponsored Egg Hunts and Recognition of Volunteers - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission receives a presentation on the City Egg Hunts and recognizes community volunteers and organizations for their service and donations.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Terry Brown, Recreation Supervisor; Pete Leyva, Neighborhood and

Outreach Services Coordinator

- Members of the Public: Erica Martin DeCampo, Carlos Frutano, and Scott McGregor

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Longstreet reported that she attended the Teen Youth Culinary Arts Graduation. She further talked about the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation Fundraiser scheduled for May 4th. Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Trentacosti reported on the activities of the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation and talked about the fundraiser scheduled for May 4th.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation and said that she was recently appointed to the Board.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp talked about the Parks and Recreation Commission and Neighborhood Advisory Council vacancies and encouraged interested City residents to apply.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. Summary of Council Actions - For Information

4. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2012.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2012.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 5A(1), Caleb Overton; Item 5B(1), Christina Anderson; Item 5B(3), Corey Anderson;

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Front Yard Setback Tree removal request.

1. 2817 Samarkand Dr. – Tipuana Tipu, Tipuana – Caleb Overton

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for 2817 Samarkand Drive.

B. Deny the following Front Yard Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 3526 Santa Maria Ln. – Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum – Arbor Services, Inc., for Christina Anderson

Commissioner Longstreet expressed concern that the tree could reach over 100 feet tall. She said the tree is beautiful, but asked what its height is expected to be in five years. Mr. Downey said he anticipates another five to eight feet of growth in the next five years. Commissioner Longstreet asked the lifespan of the tree. Mr. Downey said the lifespan of the tree should be about another 80 -100 years.

Commissioner Trentacosti asked whether the breadth of the tree would increase proportionately to the height. Mr. Downey said the lower portion of the tree is about the spread it will achieve; the upper portions would later develop to match it. He said the drip line of the tree would not change appreciatively as it grows.

Commissioner Ferrara asked whether there has been any discussion as to the type of replacement tree that might be planted and what size it would be, if the tree is removed. Mr. Downey said he has had discussions with the owner regarding that, but there has been no decision as of yet. Mr. Downey said the owner is working with a certified Arborist, and she is getting good advice.

Commissioner Casebeer asked what the difference was between item 5A(1) which was approved for removal and this tree. Mr. Downey said each tree is considered on its own merit. Mr. Downey said the tree on Samarkand is closer to the building, and the applicant has demonstrated damage to the foundation of the house. He said the applicant in this case has shown some damage to the sidewalk which is much easier to repair and much more

accessible than the foundation of the home; the tree has a different growth pattern. Mr. Downey said they are both large trees, but the circumstances are slightly different.

Commissioner Burns commented that the few times he has gone against staff or the Street Tree Advisory Committee has been when there has been an owner who has planted the tree and has had it for a period of time, and then it has grown larger than they thought it would be. He said that is the reasoning he would be using when he would vote to allow the owner to remove the tree.

Chair Wiscomb discussed the criteria for the Street Tree Advisory Committee's recommendation. She said the Committee felt the stature of the neighborhood would be seriously impacted by the removal of the tree. Ms. Wiscomb stated that she understands the owner wants to use the property and sympathizes with that, but she struggles with finding justification in the Municipal Code that would allow the owner to remove the tree; she said possibly size in relation to the lot, but that does not satisfy the conditions for removal, and one of those is the character of the neighborhood is materially affected by the removal of the tree. Ms. Wiscomb said that in as much as she sympathizes with the homeowner, she believes the removal of the tree would impact the character of the neighborhood. She said the tree is beautiful; the sidewalk damage is a crack; it is not a tripping hazard. Ms. Wiscomb said that since the character of the root growth has slowed down, she believes the tree should stay.

Commissioner Ferrara commented that the application indicates that the root system is engulfing the irrigation system. He asked what kind of irrigation system exists. Mr. Downey said the rooting system has displaced the irrigation system, and in order to put the irrigation back as it was originally intended, it will require some trenching, which will cut some roots. Mr. Downey expressed his opinion that it could be re-routed to provide coverage without doing that. He said he does not know whether the system has been damaged to the point that it is not functioning.

Commissioner Ferrara asked if Mr. Downey sees future impact to the sidewalk or foundation of the home if the tree continues to grow as it is. Mr. Downey said that if evidence presents itself at a later time, the applicant could resubmit an application for removal at that time; however, he cannot predict if or when that would occur without that evidence.

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, 3/3 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for 3526 Santa Maria Lane.

The Motion Failed.

Commissioners Burns, Casebeer, and Trentacosti were opposed.

Chair Wiscomb stated that she believes the Commission must act within the Municipal code and that is what guides the Commission through the process, and she believes that the character of neighborhood is materially affected by the removal of this tree; however, the property owner has hired a certified Arborist who has written letter, which is in the Commission packet.

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 4/2 to deny the removal of the tree at this time for the reasons cited in the Municipal Code, which is the impact to the neighborhood; however, that the applicant has the right to come back to the Commission with further evidence of conditions and considerations within the Municipal Code that support the removal of the tree, for no additional fee.

Commissioners Burns and Casebeer were opposed.

Commissioner Burns commented that there are two ways to look at it: first it is such a large tree that it makes the neighborhood look good, on the other hand it is such a large tree that it may be too big for the lot. He said he would be in favor of removal of the tree.

Commissioner Casebeer expressed concern about having the property owner go back to her arborist and then return next month asking whether there would be any significant information that would change the minds of the Commissioners. He said he feels the property owner is willing to put in a replacement tree and wants to maintain the appearance of her property, and the neighborhood. He encouraged the Commission to work with the property owner rather than having her attend more meetings and incur more expense.

Chair Wiscomb reiterated that her motion provides that the applicant not incur additional expenses, but only that she has conditions and considerations within the Municipal Code that support the removal of the tree. Ms. Wiscomb stated that right now, the one that supports denial of the removal is that it materially impacts the character of the neighborhood. She said that the increasing cost to maintain the tree is not a reason for removal; shading of the front yard and residence is not a reason for removal; root system lifting walkway and having engulfed irrigation, and surface roots have created a trip hazard could be, but she would like evidence and support within the Municipal Code of reasons for removal and the Commission could revisit the item.

Commissioner Longstreet stated she will support the motion because it gives the homeowner the opportunity to return to the Commission. She said she may have simply continued the item, but she believes it is the case of the wrong size tree in the wrong location. Ms. Longstreet stated the tree is lovely and she understands neighborhood aesthetics, but it is a tree that belongs in a park or larger space than a front yard. She said that if it were a different neighborhood, the tree might be in a public space.

2. 2023 Edgewater Dr. – Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine – Michael Broz

Mr. Downey advised the Commission that the property owner contacted him today and asked that this item be postponed.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to postpone addressing the street tree removal request for 2023 Edgewater Drive to next month per the request of the property owner.

3. 223 W. Arrellaga St. – Cinnamomum camphora, Camphor Tree – Corey Anderson with Triple Divide Peak LLC

Commissioner Longstreet said she is comfortable waiting to expose the roots to see the damage and determine the safety of the tree and then have the Arborist make a decision to remove the tree if necessary (administrative approval). Commissioner Casebeer asked when the sidewalk will be repaired. Mr. Downey said he would be happy to check with the Streets Division. Commissioner Trentacosti said it seems that the root pruning would be enough to damage the tree irreparably. Chair Wiscomb stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee was comfortable with having Mr. Downey investigate the tree and make an administrative decision regarding the tree, and were very sympathetic towards the homeowner.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 4/2 to concur with Street Tree Advisory Committee to deny the removal until any repairs are done to sidewalk and any of the roots are exposed, at which time the owner will work with staff regarding the safety of the tree at 223 W. Arrellaga Street.

Commissioners Burns and Trentacosti were opposed.

C. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 325 W. Victoria St. – Cypressus sempervirens, Italian Cypress – Larry Satterfield c/o Satterfield Realty for David Astrom

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by , and passed 6/0 to approve removal of the Italian cypress at 325 W. Victoria St. conditioned on the replacement tree approved by staff.

D. Approve or deny the following Front Yard Setback Tree removal request.

1. 325 W. Victoria St. – Cedrus deodara, Deodar Cedar – Larry Satterfield c/o Satterfield Realty for David Astrom

Commissioner Longstreet expressed concern about the lean in the tree and the proximity to the house.

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 5/1 to deny the removal of the Cedrus deodara, Deodar Cedar at 325 W. Victoria Street.

Commissioner Burns was opposed.

7. Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee Interview and Appointment - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission interview applicant Lawrence Saltzman, representing the Pesticide Awareness and Alternatives Coalition (PAAC), and appoint him to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee.

The Commission interviewed Mr. Lawrence Buzzell Saltzman for appointment to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee.

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to appoint Lawrence Saltzman, representing the Pesticide Awareness and Alternatives Coalition (PAAC), to the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisory Committee to a term ending December 31, 2013.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Council Member Ivette Gill provided this report.

8. Report on the Santa Barbara Youth Council Conference - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the Santa Barbara Youth Council Conference.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers: - Staff: - Members of the Public:

6. Parks and Recreation Recommended Fiscal Year 2013 Budget - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recommends City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2013 Parks and Recreation Department Budget, including the General Fund, Creeks Fund, Golf Fund, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager;

Commissioner Trentacosti asked the impact of the Redevelopment Fund issue on projects or the budget. Ms. Zachary said that the Department will not move forward on a number of projects previously discussed with the Commission. She said the Department has been doing improvements to Chase Palm Park--Electrical Upgrades to support the Concerts in the Park Series and opportunities to rent that park, and the replacement of all the pole lights and fixtures--that project will wrap up this year. She said that because the City was under contract for that project, it will be completed. Ms. Zachary said that Redevelopment Agency funds were identified for replacing the Chase Palm Park Playground; however, staff does not anticipate that will occur; it is an unfunded need. Ms. Zachary said that the City was under contract for the renovations to the Pershing Park and Plaza Del Mar Restrooms, and that work was completed. Ms. Zachary said the City had not initiated a construction contract for the Chase Palm Park Restroom, so that work will not move forward. She said the Cabrillo Ballfield Renovation project was on the potential to be funded list; however, the Department applied for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds to see if we could start chipping away at the project. Ms. Zachary said the Department was working on the Cabrillo Bathhouse Facility Renovation and Business Plan project; that is currently on hold. She said that project is a huge need, and at the Department level, there is a desire to find a way to at least finish the first phase of the project. Ms. Zachary said the fact that RDA funds are not going to be available makes it difficult for the City to look at many of its facility needs and improvements. Commissioner Trentacosti asked if the Department has a potential list of things to work on in the event there

are surplus funds available. Ms. Zachary said yes, it is part of the six-year capital program, and, if opportunities were to arise, the Department would look at what is reasonable and feasible given where the projects are. She said it is often opportunistic. She said for example, the fact that the Department was able to apply for the Urban Forest Management Grant and were successful puts it to the top of the list for the next fiscal year. Ms. Zachary said the Commission will likely receive a Capital Program update possibly in the fall. She said the Commission will also have an opportunity to weigh in on the next six-year capital program, which staff will begin working on in September.

Ms. Rapp added that the Finance Committee is going to follow up to their meeting last month and have a series of meetings discussing the City's reserve policies and as the economy improves, one of the suggestions was to dedicate a percentage of revenue above budget to the infrastructure needs. Ms. Rapp said that staff will keep the Commission informed of the meetings. She further said that Commissioners Longstreet and Burns attended the Finance Committee meeting to talk about the report that the Commission received and the importance of planning for the City's infrastructure needs.

Commissioner Longstreet stated that the main point she wanted to get across to the Finance Committee is that the Department cannot continue to increase revenues and bring money into the General Fund unless we have facilities people will pay for. She said the City needs to be cognizant of that fact.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether staff will not furlough during the next Fiscal Year. Ms. Rapp said that the City has not building in a mandatory furlough into the budget, which means staff salaries will go up to full salary and they will be working full time. Commissioner Longstreet said she was pleased to hear that; it helps people's morale.

Commissioner Longstreet suggested the Commission forward comments to City Council regarding their concerns regarding the future health of our facilities; concerns about bringing staffing levels back up in certain areas, especially in park maintenance area. She said she feels very strongly about the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (\$225,000) per year to do work that allowed staff to not use so many chemicals. She said all those things have been lost, and she doesn't want us to forget them over time. Ms. Longstreet said she does not want to forget how many of our facilities are aging and we need to pay attention before it is a disaster.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 6/0 to recommend City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2013 Parks and Recreation Department Budget, including the General Fund, Creeks Fund, Golf Fund, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges with Commission comments in a memorandum.

Chair Wiscomb concurred with Commissioner Longstreet. She said regarding the Administrative Analyst it is an important position but she thinks the gains from increasing it to a full-time position over the years is going to grow some the programs they have talked about for years. She said deferred maintenance needs to be addressed, and we need to look at the bigger picture.

Commissioners discussed the Capital program and their disappointment regarding the lack of funding; the deferred maintenance; loss of Redevelopment Agency Funding. The Commission expressed concern about aging Parks and Recreation facilities, and talked about the fact that to generate revenue, there is a need to keep the facilities up.

The Commission discussed furlough impacts and expressed appreciation that the Department won't face that in coming year.

The Commission talked about staffing levels and working to bring some service levels back up, particularly park maintenance and looking at the restoration of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Green Team and IPM Projects, like improving hardscape and renovating landscape so they require less labor hours.

The Commission expressed the importance of the preservation and restoration of social outreach programs to the community, and the need to include programs like free afterschool sports programs.

The Commission noted the remarkable progress the Department has made during difficult times, commenting that it speaks to hard work during not so great times.

The Commission expressed they would like to see playground funds restored in the budget; it is important not to lose focus on that.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director