



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, June 27, 2012

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 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
Commission Intern Michael Yi
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Program Manager Judith McCaffrey
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna

Liaisons Present

City Councilmember Cathy Murillo

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers: Gene Tyburn

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. **Recognition of Outgoing Parks and Recreation Commissioners - For Action**
Commissioner Burns was recognized for his contributions and service on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Intern Yi provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Ferrara briefed on the upcoming Kids Fishing Derby

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee. He further talked about the Solstice Concert event in Alameda Park.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She reported on the summer food program at the Westside Center.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp advised the Commission that the Department is hosting a meeting with key stakeholders which includes funders and people who have a vested interest in the Westside and the Lower Westside, to discuss long-term parks and recreation unmet needs and perhaps some opportunities. Ms. Rapp indicated that Chair Wiscomb will be attending the meeting. She said staff expects the conversation will continue, and the group of stakeholders will be expanded. Ms. Rapp said, however, that this is a start to talk about opportunities looking to the future.

Ms. Rapp briefly talked about the challenges the City has been having at the Bird Refuge. She said Ms. Zachary made a presentation at Public Comment at City Council on Tuesday, and staff is continuing to explore options, but it is a long-term problem.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2012.

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2012.

Commissioners Ferrara and Longstreet abstained.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 4B(1) - Christina Anderson and Bob Cunningham; Item 4C(1) - Mark Miller

A. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

- (1) 809 W. Sola St. - Pinus canariensis, Canary Island Pine - Liz Bush**

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to approve the removal of the tree at 809 W. Sola Street.

B. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

- (1) 3526 Santa Maria Ln. - Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum - Arbor Services Inc. for Christina Anderson**

Mr. Downey briefed that the Commission reviewed this item during the April 25, 2012, meeting, but voted to deny the removal allowing the applicant to return to the Commission with evidence of conditions and considerations within the Municipal code that support the removal of the tree. He said that Ms. Anderson submitted a letter from a certified arborist and additional photos.

Commissioner Ferrara stated he cannot find any justification in the findings for removal.

Commissioner Burns expressed that the tree will get too large for the location and said he thinks it is a good reason to remove the tree.

Commissioner Casebeer commented that there is a greater good called the urban forest and said he would vote to support staff's recommendation to preserve the urban forest.

Commissioner Longstreet concurs that there is no compelling evidence to remove the tree. She said the solar issue is complicated and they will need to balance many issues.

Chair Wiscomb said that Ms. Christman made a good point that replacement with a young species may serve an opportunity to balance out an inventory that is top heavy and mature, large caliper trees, and thus demonstrate proper forest management. She said you could say that, but she agrees that the character of the neighborhood will be materially affected by the removal of the tree; it is a big beautiful tree. She further commented that the City has not yet addressed the solar route. Ms. Wiscomb said she supports the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny removal of the tree.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/1 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the removal of the tree at 3526 Santa Maria Lane.

Commissioner Burns was opposed.

C. Partially approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 227 Los Alamos Ave. - (1) Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum, (1) Yucca elephantipes, Giant Yucca - Mark and Melinda Miller

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to approve the removal of the (1) Yucca elephantipes, Giant Yucca at 227 Los Alamos Avenue.

Commissioner Casebeer talked about the issue of sewer laterals saying the City of Santa Barbara passed an ordinance requiring property owners, when they sell, to provide a scope of the sewer line to inspect the condition of the line. He said there is a new kind

of technology--trenchless-- where they put a sleeve down the old sewer line, which is a continuous piece of heavy PVC, which over the years will not have problems with roots that the old iceberg piping has. Commissioner Casebeer said he would rather preserve the tree and not combine the sewer line issue. He said he would support staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Longstreet said she has difficulty with a setback tree on private property, but when it is a street tree on public property she does not have the same difficulty. She said those trees belong to everyone; they are in a park right of way. She said she is in favor of preserving the tree if there is nothing wrong with the tree. Ms. Longstreet said it is part of the urban forest.

Commissioner Burns said that the trees on this street towards the beach have all been removed, but above, the three or four homes above, all have the same tree and appear to have the same problems. He said that in this case, he agrees the tree should be preserved.

Chair Wiscomb said that the removal of this tree would have an adverse affect on the neighborhood. She said there are other Liquidambar trees in the neighborhood. Ms. Wiscomb commented that during the Street Tree Advisory Committee meeting the Committee said they might consider planting some new street trees to establish a canopy there, so when these trees have served their useful life, there is an established canopy. She said that she supports the staff and Street Tree Advisor Committee recommendation to preserve the tree.

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the (1) Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum, at 227 Los Alamos Avenue.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Update on Upcoming Summer Special Events - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the upcoming summer special events.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Judith McCaffrey, Recreation Programs Manager

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:13 p.m., with no further items to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 6/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director