



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Megan Alley
Commissioner Chris Casebeer (departed at 5:20 p.m.)
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Christina Gonzalez
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commission Intern Michael Yi
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

Chair Wiscomb introduced two new Commissioners, Megan Alley and Christina Gonzalez.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Rapp stated that there were no formal changes; however, reserved the right to request changes later in the agenda as presenters arrive for specific items on the agenda.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – No one wished to speak.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. **Recognition of Outgoing Parks and Recreation Commission Youth Intern, Michael Yi - For Action**

Ms. Rapp and the Parks and Recreation Commission recognized Michael Yi for his contributions to the Commission and the community.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Intern Michael Yi provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation and talked briefly about the PARC Foundation Retreat. She further reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Westside/Lower Westside Task Force. She further reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. Ms. Wiscomb commented on the PARC Foundation retreat and agreed with Ms. Longstreet that it was positive.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

2. **Introduction of Steve Biddle, Parks Supervisor, and Bill Bettinger, Recreation Coordinator - For Information**

Ms. Rapp introduced Steve Biddle, Parks Supervisor, and Bill Bettinger, Recreation Coordinator, who recently joined the Department.

Ms. Rapp provided an overview of the Department staff role for Fiesta.

Ms. Rapp advised that there are no pressing items for the regular August meeting. She, therefore, recommended the meeting be cancelled.

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. **Summary of Council Actions - For Information**

Ms. Rapp highlighted the Summary of Council Actions.

4. **Approval of Minutes - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 27, 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 June 27, 2012.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

5. 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 5A(2) - Elise Andersen

A. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. 419 W. Islay St. - Pinus brutia, Calabrian Pine - Barbara Smith - Sherrill

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the removal of the tree at 419 W. Islay Street.

2. 1424 Pacific Ave. - Syzygium cumini, Java Plum - Mark Huggs

Mr. Downey highlighted this request. He said this tree is rare; there are only four of them in the tree inventory. He said that the Street Tree Advisory Committee looked at the tree, and since it has been determined to be a City tree, and the City can provide maintenance for it, the Committee recommends denial of the request. Mr. Downey stated that if the Commission concurs, staff will immediately provide trimming maintenance to the tree.

Commissioner Ferrara asked if staff will confer with the utility companies to determine who will do the pruning of the tree. Mr. Downey indicated that the high voltage lines are already being maintained by Southern California Edison. He said the other lines are designed specifically to be in close

proximity of the trees. He said staff will address those lines when they trim the tree.

Commissioner Ferrara expressed concern over the current condition of the tree saying it needs maintenance. He said he would like to see it pruned and see how it looks afterwards and revisit it at later time.

Commissioner Longstreet said that the tree is a street tree and a publicly owned tree. She expressed that she is glad it will receive care, but it is a large specimen and if there are only four of them in the community; that is important. Ms. Longstreet said she is pleased to hear it will be pruned as soon as possible.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the removal of the tree at 1424 Pacific Avenue.

Commissioner Gonzalez concurred with Commissioner Ferrara and said that she can't see the trees being good for the power and utility lines, but thinks that pruning the trees and seeing how it looks after it is pruned and maintained and possibly revisiting it at later time is a good idea.

Chair Wiscomb said staff's willingness to clean it up now that they are aware that it is part of the Street Tree inventory is a great idea. She concurred with Commissioner Longstreet that if there are only a few of these trees in the community and diversity is desired in the urban forest, it deserves a chance to be trimmed and see how it looks from then on. Ms. Wiscomb commented that the property owner may even change her mind about the tree after it is maintained.

Commissioner Casebeer commented that the Forestry Section does a tremendous job maintaining the urban forest with very limited resources. He said over the last four or five years, the City has been dealing with diminishing sources of financing; there are fewer people doing the same amount of work. Commissioner Casebeer said that staff would like to care for every street tree we have, but there is a plan, and each year only so many trees get attention.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

- 1. 2023 Edgewater Way - Pinus halepensis, Aleppo Pine - Michael Broz**

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 6/0 to concur with the staff and Street

Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for removal of the tree at 2023 Edgewater Way and that Mr. Downey will be working with the applicant to determine the replacement tree.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

6. Street Tree Master Plan Review - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive presentation on the comprehensive review of the Street Tree Master Plan.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Mandy Burgess, Administrative Analyst; Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

7. Open Space Park Tree Canopy Assessment - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the results of the Open Space Park Tree Canopy Assessment Project.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Christopher Braden, Planning Intern

Chris Casebeer departed at 5:20 p.m.

10. Police Activities League (PAL) Annual Teen Center Report - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive an annual report and presentation on the Twelve35 Teen Center programs and operations provided by the Police Activities League.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Police Activities League PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: Laurie Parker, Executive Director, Police Activities

League; Judy Lugo, Police Activities League Program Director

Commission Comments:

Intern Yi commented that the Youth Council was apprehensive about the Police Activities League taking over the Teen Center. He said, however, they are very proud of what PAL has done with the Teen Center. Mr. Yi said that prior to PAL taking over the Center it was more of a "hang out" place, but now it is designed so that teens can find their passions and go on to music careers or other careers.

Mr. Yi asked if the membership is growing every year. Ms. Parker said that the Teen Center membership is growing every year. She said some of the summer camperships are run out of the Teen Center, which brings the kids in. Ms. Parker stated that PAL's goal was to have structured program so the kids would have a reason to come in; it seems like they are staying. She said it has turned into something other than just a "hang out" center. Ms. Parker said they want to maintain a safe space for the kids; that is a key component. She said the Teen Center is on a safe line; it is not part of the Eastside or the Westside gangs—it is a safe space for kids to come.

Mr. Yi asked if there are transportation issues for getting kids to the Teen Center. Ms. Parker said that the Teen Center has three vans. She said they have transportation from the Jr. High Schools because they run a sports program there. Ms. Parker said they are looking into running a high school program. She said they have found that transportation is not really needed since the center is a block away from the bus line. Ms. Parker stated approximately 80 - 90 percent of the kids take the bus or come there after school and their parents pick them up. Ms. Parker talked about a new program started this summer "Friday Active Day", where they take the kids on field trips. She said they provide transportation for those programs.

Commissioner Gonzalez said that she too was apprehensive about PAL taking over the Teen Center, especially in light of the hard work that the Youth Council and other organizations put into the Teen Center. She said, however, that it appears that PAL has done an excellent job, and their commitment has not ceased. Ms. Gonzalez thanked PAL for touching the lives of young kids and encouraged them to continue what they are doing. Ms. Gonzalez praised the Summit High School, saying it is wonderful that the kids have an alternative to El Puente, as well as somewhere to be afterschool. She expressed that it is important that the Teen Center is in the middle; it is not of the Eastside or the Westside.

Ms. Gonzalez asked if PAL has a mentorship program.

Ms. Parker said that PAL has two components of mentorship under the National PAL Mentorship Program: Youth Leadership Council and The Explorer Program. Ms. Parker highlighted the programs.

Commissioner Longstreet said she was pleased to hear about the knitting program PAL is offering. She said quiet activities that require kids to focus is really good for kids that sometimes have trouble focusing in school. She said it is an alternative that pays off in other areas because they learn to quiet their minds. Ms. Longstreet said she was pleased to see something a little different being offered that also incorporated the aspect of giving something back to the community. She commended PAL for looking at different ways to reach out and help kids anchor themselves.

Commissioner Ferrara expressed that PAL is doing a fantastic job with the Teen Center. He asked if they are able to attract kid from both the Eastside and the Westside, acknowledging the Center is in the middle.

Ms. Parker said that kids from all over come to the Teen Center. She said that the camperships have brought kids in, and once the kids see what the Center has to offer they come back. Ms. Parker said maybe they are part of the sports program at the Jr. High School, and it turns into something more. She said they also get kids from the City of Goleta. Ms. Parker said that a key component of the Teen Center is being so close to the bus line, making it easily accessible.

Chair Wiscomb ask how many kids are participating in the "Give Me Five" program with City College.

Ms. Parker said that most of the participants are high-school level; there was a tremendous amount of response. She said they found that many of the kids are first generation college bound students and the vital need was to help them transition. Ms. Parker said that PAL arranged field trips to City College to get them into Counseling or Tutoring so the kids could see that it is possible. She further said that all of their kids are going to college this year.

Chair Wiscomb commended PAL for thinking outside the box with their programs and activities, like knitting. She commented that PAL has never lost sight of goal—that it is a safe place for kids to go. Ms. Wiscomb commented that what makes it successful is that PAL has combined good, educational and productive activities with always keeping that goal in mind.

Commissioner Alley echoed the sentiments of the other Commissioners. She commended PAL on a job well-done. She said that by teaching kids skills that have been passed down for generations, not only are you exposing them to those skills, you are carrying them on for future generations.

Ms. Rapp provided a history of how Summit High School came to be at the Teen Center.

11. Chromatic Gate Restoration - For Information (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the Chromatic Gate restoration.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

- Members of the Public: Rita Ferri, County Arts Commission

Commissioner Gonzales asked once the sculpture has been painted, are they preparing to raise funds for the maintenance of the piece.

Ms. Ferri said they are hoping to gain a little more money so there is enough money for maintenance, and hire a local firm to do a light wash.

Commissioner Ferrara commented that several months ago there were discussions about redevelopment at the Cabrillo Ballfield area; there were a lot of ideas talked about, some of which will be right where the Chromatic Gate is right now. He asked how this will affect any future development of the area and will it be able to be worked with or around the gate.

Ms. Rapp replied that staff would work on the assumption that the Chromatic Gate is a permanent art installation and any other design or redesign of park areas would work around it. Ms. Rapp did recognize that there are differing opinions in the public about the Chromatic Gate, but for now it is an art structure approved and installed by the City for the community, and staff would operate on the assumption that it is going to be there.

Ms. Ferri stated that they hope to also work on the landscaping and lighting and will work with Parks and Recreation on those items.

Chair Wiscomb said that her understanding, from Santa Barbara Beautiful, is that the paint is more durable than the paint used in 2001, it is a special paint. Chair Wiscomb acknowledged that the Chromatic Gate is a controversial piece of art amongst some of the community members, but she said she has got to think that once it is restored, there may be community members that will change their minds about it.

12. Summer Programs Report - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the status of Summer Programs.

Documents:

- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Judith McCaffrey, Recreation Programs Manager

Commissioner Gonzalez asked regarding the SummerFun program whether staff has looked at ways to raise funds in order to serve more children.

Ms. McCaffrey said that staff has applied for grants in the past but that has not been successful. She said that is a way more funding could be obtained.

Chair Wiscomb commended staff for being so proactive with respect to programming. She said that registration is up 26% and revenue is up 27%, and staff is constantly changing programming to make it successful. Ms. Wiscomb said staff is doing a great job.

Commission Alley commended staff on a job well done and said she is astounded by all the programs offered. She congratulated staff on being proactive and serving the community and youth.

8. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve as presiding officers for the period of August 1, 2012, through July 30, 2013

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 that Chair Wiscomb continue in her role as Chair for the period of August 1, 2012, through July 30, 2013

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 5/0 to elect Commissioner Trentacosti to serve as Vice Chair for the period of August 1, 2012, through July 30, 2013

9. Advisory Committee Liaison Appointments - For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission consider advisory committee liaison appointments.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

Ms. Rapp suggested this item be deferred to the next meeting since Commissioners Casebeer and Trentacosti are not present.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb, and passed 5/0 to postpone action on advisory committee liaison appointments until the September 2012 meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

13. Annual Advisory Committee Reports - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the Annual Advisory Committee Reports.

Documents:

- Staff Report

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:35 p.m., with no further items to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Christina Gonzalez, and passed 5/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director