



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 26, 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 Nicolas Ferrara  
Commissioner Christina Gonzalez  
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti  
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb  
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.  
Recreation Program Manager Judith McCaffrey  
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna  
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson  
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna  
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Sr. Supervisor Mark Alvarado  
Library Director Irene Macias  
Assistant Public Works Director Pat Kelly  
Fire Operations Chief Pat Mcelroy  
Harbor Operations Manager Mick Kronman  
Project Engineer John Ilasin  
Project Planner Michael Berman

**Commissioners & Staff Absent**

Commissioner Chris Casebeer

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** Ms. Rapp suggested that agenda item 8, Urban Forest Management Plan Project, be addressed prior to item 6, Street Tree Advisory Committee

AGENDA ITEM \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations. Ms. Rapp also asked that item 10, Advisory Committee Liaison Appointments be addressed after item 12, Creeks Division 2012 Report.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION:**

1. **Recognition of the Pearl Chase Society for Funding Maintenance and Repair of the Mission Aqueduct Wall - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Pearl Chase Society for their funding contribution to repair the Mission Aqueduct Wall at the Mission Historical Park.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager
- Members of the Public: Barbara Lowenthal, Pearl Chase Society

2. **Beach Lifeguards Heroic Act - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Beach Lifeguards Kevin Massanari, David Schmidt, and the Supervisory team for their heroic actions during the 2012 Santa Barbara County Triathlon.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Rich Hanna, Sr. Recreation Supervisor; Pat McElroy, Fire Operations Chief
- Members of the Public: Guy Smith

**YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:** None.

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

Commissioner Ferrara reported on the August 2012 Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the Neighborhood Advisory Council Retreat and the September 2012 meeting. She further reported on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation.

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

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. Ms. Wiscomb briefly talked about the activities of the PARC Foundation Fund Development Committee. She said she attended the Bohnett Park Mural unveiling event and encouraged people to go out and see the area. Ms. Wiscomb further said she attended the Westside Family Day and Health Fair, which will be reported on later in the meeting.

### **COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:**

#### **3. Westside Family Day and Health Fair - For Information**

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Mark M. Alvarado, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Sr. Supervisor

### **CONSENT CALENDAR:**

#### **4. Summary of Council Actions - For Information**

Commissioner Longstreet congratulated Ms. Rapp, saying that she was acknowledged at City Council for her work with Primo Boxing. Ms. Longstreet expressed appreciation to Ms. Rapp saying she was instrumental and helpful in keeping that organization alive.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 25, 2012.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 25, 2012.**

### **STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS:**

#### **8. Urban Forest Management Plan Project - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the Urban Forest Management Plan project and that the Chair select two members of the Commission to participate in the Urban Forest Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary (Huff), Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Commissioners Ferrara, Alley, and Trentacosti volunteered to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee.

Chair Wiscomb expressed that she would like to serve on the Committee because of her background and experience. She therefore appointed herself to the Committee. Chair Wiscomb also appointed Commissioner Trentacosti to the committee because he is well-versed with policy and he is familiar with those types of documents.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **6. 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 6A(1) - Phil Suding; Item 6C(1) Joan Price, Homeowner

#### **A. Approve the following Street Tree removal request.**

- (1) 903 E. Cabrillo Blvd. - (1) Archontophoenix cunninghamiana, King Palm,
- (2) Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palm, (1) Arecastrum romanzoffianum, Queen Palm, (2) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm
- Phillip Suding, Agent for Richard V. Gunner and Margaret S. Gunner

**Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation regarding 903 E. Cabrillo Blvd., on the condition the project receives all other City approvals.**

#### **B. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal request.**

- (1) 2025 Bath St. - (2) Trachycarpus fortunei, Windmill Palm - Andy Sillers

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation regarding 2025 Bath Street.**

**C. Deny the following Street Tree removal request.**

(1) 550/555 La Marina - (2) Syagrus romanzoffianum, Queen Palm, (5) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm - Laura S. Rasmussen

Joan Price, the homeowner at 555 La Marina, spoke indicating that she supports the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the tree. She stated that she does not mind if the applicant wants to trim some of the canopy of the palm tree to improve her view. Ms. Price told the Commission that there are a number of empty tree wells on the street, and there are 15 palms on the street. She said she knows it is not the designated street tree, and that she does not think the designated street tree exists on the street. Ms. Price said she would love to work with staff to plant more street trees in the neighborhood. Ms. Price said that all of her neighbors have ocean views, but the palm trees do not diminish those views. She said that the owner's tree blocks her view more than Ms. Price's tree does.

Chair Wiscomb stated that the designated street tree for that street is the Evergreen Pear tree.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that she visited the site. She said there is no traffic on that street; it is a cul de sac. She said she saw no safety issues with where the trees are located. Ms. Longstreet commented that trees are not removed for personal views and she supports the Street Tree Advisory Committee's recommendation.

Commissioner Ferrara agreed with Commissioner Longstreet and said he sees no findings for removal.

Commissioner Gonzalez commented that trimming the palm trees would be a better solution, and she concurs that it appears that the applicant's tree seems to block her ocean view more than Ms. Price's tree does.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding 550/555 La Marina.**

**D. Deny the following Setback Tree removal requests.**

(1) 211 Las Alturas Rd. - Eucalyptus spp., Eucalyptus - Clifford J. Ruddle

Chair Wiscomb stated that the Street Tree Advisory Committee members felt that maintenance practices on the tree could be implemented. She further said that the applicant indicates in the application that the tree is in danger of falling on his neighbor's house or in the roadway. Ms. Wiscomb said that is where maintenance practices come into play. Ms. Wiscomb said the Street Tree Advisory Committee also noted that there is no arborist report on the tree that would substantiate the fear that the tree is in danger of falling on the neighbor's property or in the road.

Ms. Wiscomb further indicated that the Committee felt the removal of the tree would have a significant impact on the neighborhood, which is in the Municipal Code as a cause for denying removal.

Chair Wiscomb said that since the tree is in the defensible space and the Fire Department supports the removal, but has not ordered the tree to be removed, she believes the first step is to ask the owner to implement maintenance practices on the tree and to provide an arborist report that would substantiate that the tree is on shaky ground, if that is a concern.

Commissioner Longstreet said she did visit the site, as best she could, and the tree does not appear to be too close to any homes as to pose a danger. She said she believes the Street Tree Advisory Committee did a thorough investigation; therefore, she supports their recommendation.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding 211 Las Alturas Rd.**

(2) 1528 Clearview Rd. - Alnus rhombifolia, White Alder - Signe Drury

**Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Megan Alley, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the tree at 1528 Clearview Rd.**

**E. Approve species change to the Street Tree Master Plan**

(1) Middle Rd. - species change - Josh Monroy

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to co-designate the Monterey Cypress as a designated street tree for Middle Road.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **7. Moreton Bay Fig Tree Park Planting Plan - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report and approve the amended plan.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager; Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director; John L. Ilasin, Project Engineer; Michael Berman,
- Members of the Public: David Black, Landscape Architect

Chair Wiscomb clarified that the new landscape plan provides for six new jacaranda trees to be planted as opposed to five in the previous plan, the sixth tree being requested to be added by the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She said she wanted that to be clear to the Commission.

Chair Wiscomb asked if the Mexican Fan Palms are part of the historic look. She said the Street Tree Advisory Committee questioned why there are not any shade trees in the parking lot. Mr. Black said that the reason the Palms were chosen at the time of the restoration was that they wanted to minimize the visual obstruction of the Morton Bay Fig tree; they did not want visual competition for the tree.

Commissioner Longstreet commented about integrated pest management and maintenance, and asked if curbing will be able to be put in. Mr. Escobar said that because it is historic and is lined with rock, and it is currently maintained with an edger, they decided to leave it as it is, and not add concrete curbing.

Commissioner Ferrara asked whether there will be benches in the area. Ms. Rapp reported that staff has recommended benches not be installed in the park. She said there are significant problems with people loitering in the park all day, clarifying that it is mostly about the types of behavior that occurs when that happens. Ms. Rapp said this park is largely the type of park that people walk through or stop and observe and appreciate the tree, and it is adjacent to the train station. Ms. Rapp said that for those difficult reasons, staff supported not putting in any type of park furniture in the park.

Chair Wiscomb commented that from what she read in the report, benches trigger a greater degree of ADA compliance, which would be unacceptable given the fig tree being there.

Commissioner Gonzalez asked if there is going to be lighting in the park. Mr. Escobar said there is ambient lighting surrounding the entire park.

Commissioner Trentacosti asked regarding the signage being removed, whether there is any historical significance to them. Mr. Berman said that to his knowledge there is no historical significance to the signs; they were not mentioned as character defining elements of the park. Commissioner Trentacosti asked why they are being removed. Mr. Berman said the signs are in poor repair, and new signs will be put in; if the Commission wants to have signs similar to the ones being removed put in, that is their choice, but the landscape architect has proposed a different design to consolidate the signs. He said it is the Commission's decision. Commissioner Trentacosti said he has not seen the design for the proposed signs; he understands one of the objectives of the project is to restore the area to its historic look.

Mr. Escobar provided a brief background as to how the signs were made and when they were installed. He said an interpretive sign that outlines the history of the fig tree and the site itself, is proposed for installation.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that the sign design will be discussed at the Historic Landmarks Commission in great detail. She expressed appreciation for the extra space around the Morton Bay Fig tree and she is happy the bollards are there.

Chair Wiscomb commented that when the landscape plan first came to the Street Tree Advisory Committee, she was unhappy about it, because it had come to the Commission, which asked for a landscape plan, and normally they have time to review it, but it seemed very much finalized at that point. She said she understands the timeline and sometimes that happens. Ms. Wiscomb expressed that in the future when the Commission gives a conditional approval for removal, which is what the approval for this project was—approval conditioned on a landscape plan-- she hopes the Commission is afforded the courtesy and the time to actually comment on it in an appropriate and professional manner. Ms. Wiscomb said that she is happy with the plan; it was well-vetted. She was not happy when she originally saw it as some of the amenities the Commission asked for are not there, but she understands the reasons they are not: the ADA accessibility issue, increased space and protection for the fig tree, which is vitally important, and the lack of good options for pedestrian access, and also addressing the safety issues for the area. Ms. Wiscomb expressed that a lot of good things came out of the plan. She said the signage is important; she understands the visibility from the train to the fig tree; which is why they do not want shade trees in the parking lot. She said she is comfortable with the plan.

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to receive the report and approve the amended plan for Morton Bay Fig Tree Park planting.**

Commissioner Longstreet thanked staff and said it is nice to renew a park; it isn't often able to be done.

Chair Wiscomb thanked staff for their presentation.

9. **Historic Landmarks Commission Recommendation to Designate the Eucalyptus Citriodora Trees at the Central Library as Historic - For Information**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the Historic Landmarks Commission recommendation that City Council designate the Central Library, Faulkner Gallery and the thirteen (13) Eucalyptus Citriodora Trees as Historic.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Irene Macias, Library Director; Jaime Limon, Senior Planner

Commissioner Gonzalez agreed with Ms. Macias that a public forum would be an excellent way to hear out what the public has to say about the project and involve the public in direct democracy.

Commissioner Ferrara commented that the Municipal Code requires two public hearings thirty days apart. Ms. Rapp advised that there is no question the appropriate required hearings will take place. She said that staff's position is that the discussion should be held with the consideration of the public benefit from the proposed improvements from the Library Plaza project rather than isolated from the trees.

Chair Wiscomb commented that Mr. Limon, during the Historic Landmarks Commission meeting, mentioned separating the Resolution for the Eucalyptus Citriodora and the Resolution for the structures. She asked if there are going to be two separate resolutions. Mr. Limon said yes there are. He said that level of disagreement exhibited by the department directors in the City is something that the City Council will consider, so given that there are two proposals for designation, the structures and the trees, staff thought it was appropriate for Council to consider them as two separate recommendations. He further said the recommendations will be open enough for Council to give staff the direction as to whether they want to designate the trees as historic, and if so, how many trees.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the Historic Landmarks Commission staff report states that the library plaza was excluded from designation due to drastic alterations from its original design and no longer conveys its historic significance. She stated that the trees are part of the plaza—yes a famous architect developed a plan and the trees were planted shortly after the Faulkner Gallery was completed in the 1930s. Ms. Wiscomb said that the purpose of the redesign is to make it a public

place, and when you make it a public place, it has ADA accessibility, addresses security, and addresses programming. She said she is not saying that she is in support of the concept design that was developed by Campbell and Campbell, because she is not in a position to say that, but, there was also a design for a fountain, and the original water feature was taken out. She said you could incorporate a water feature back into it and maybe give it more of the historic character, without making the trees a historic designation.

Chair Wiscomb said she appreciates the public process the design went through, and at the beginning of the process there were a couple designs. She said the majority of the public was in favor of the one eliminating the three trees to make the entrance more visible and safer. Ms. Wiscomb said that Ms. Rapp states in her memorandum that you need to weigh the loss of the trees with the public benefit and improved visibility and safety. She said that without a historic landmark designation for the trees, they will still come back to the Commission if the project gets off ground, and if any of the trees are slated for removal, the Commission will have the opportunity to weigh the loss of trees against the public benefit of improved visibility and safety through the Municipal Code, without having an extra layer of protection. Ms. Wiscomb said bottom line is that she thinks the public benefit is important, and flexibility when designing a plaza for the kinds of issues it has is important, and an extra layer of protection is not necessary.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed that she saw no evidence to deem the trees historic; there was reference to the landscape plan that was not there; she sees no visual evidence in the photos, and the trees are protected under the Municipal Code. Ms. Longstreet said that she does not recommend historic tree designation for the trees.

Commissioner Trentacosti commented that the Library Plaza project has enough controversy issues that it is a highly debatable topic. He said there are very significant issues with safety and public benefits, as well as the trees. Mr. Trentacosti said it would be negligent to deem the trees historic, detrimental to the process of deciding the plaza project, and inhibiting that whole decision-making process if the trees are designated historic before they review the overall project.

Commissioner Ferrara expressed his belief that the decision before the Commission was whether the trees should be designated as historic. He said it is too soon for him to make a decision because he wants public input. He said he loves the trees, and there were two views as to whether the three trees could remain and still be able to move forward with the plan. He further commented that there is a question as to how many trees should be deemed historic; he sees only one viable tree, which is the one closest to the entrance.

Commissioner Longstreet clarified that the question before the Commission is whether they feel the trees are adequately protected under the Municipal Code

currently, or do they need another layer of protection by designating them as historic.

Ms. Rapp added that another question is whether the decision needs to be made now, not whether they are worthy of being designated as historic landmarks--they may well be. She said the discussion was generated out of the Library Plaza project review and now is being isolated out, as the Library Plaza project is on hold.

Chair Wiscomb said the decision does need to occur now because the item is going before City Council on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, and if the Commission is in a position to support staff on their recommendation to not consider the trees as historic landmarks, they should forward that recommendation to City Council.

Commissioner Ferrara said he would like to hear how trees designated as historic would provide an extra layer of protection.

Chair Wiscomb said that she supports the Parks and Recreation Department recommendation not to support the historic designation of these trees at this time. All but one of the Commissioners were in agreement.

**11. Shark Sightings and Shark Attacks on Marine Mammals- For Information**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the increase of confirmed shark sightings and shark attacks, on marine mammal on or near City beaches.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

- Staff: Mick Kronman, Harbor Operations Manager; Rich Hanna, Sr. Recreation Supervisor

**10. Advisory Committee Liaison Appointments - For Action**

Recommendation: That the Commission consider advisory committee liaison appointments.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

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

Advisory committee liaison appointments were updated. Appointments for the Creeks Advisory Committee and Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee were postponed until the October meeting when all members are present.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **12. Creeks Division 2012 Report - For Information**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Division 2012 Report.

This item was continued to the October 2012 meeting.

### **13. 2012 Santa Barbara Beautiful Awards - For Information**

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report on awards that will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Department at the 2012 Santa Barbara Beautiful Awards Presentation.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint Presentation

Speakers:

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:25 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

**Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Megan Alley, and passed 6/0 to adjourn.**

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp  
Parks and Recreation Director