



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, March 27, 2013

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. at City Hall Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Megan Alley
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna
Executive Assistant Karla Megill

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Christina Gonzalez
Commissioner Charlie Trentacosti
Parks & Recreation Youth Intern Kate Yee

City Council Liaisons Present

City Councilmember Cathy Murillo

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Speakers: Mr. Gene Tyburn

The meeting was temporarily recessed at 4:08 p.m.,

The meeting reconvened at 4:13 pm.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of Francisco Aguilera, East Beach Grill and Reef and Run – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Rich Hanna, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
- Members of the Public: Francisco Aguilera, East Beach Grill; Jane Cairns, Reef and Run Chief Executive Officer

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Reef and Run, Francisco Aguilera and the East Beach Grill for their financial support of the Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard program.

The Commission presented Francisco Aguilera, East Beach Grill, and Jane Cairnes, Reef and Run Chief Executive Officer, with certificates of appreciation recognizing their incredible support of important youth aquatic programming in the community.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: Santa Barbara Youth Council Member Eesha Kelkar provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Alley reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee budget subcommittee.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee and talked about the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation fundraiser scheduled for April 28th, 3-6 p.m., Magic on the Urban Wine Trail.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee.

Ms. Wiscomb briefed that she attended the City Council meeting of March 5th and spoke in favor of Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects. She said she attended the Special City Council Budget Worksession on March 13th concerning revenues and unfunded infrastructure needs. Ms. Wiscomb further briefed that she attended the Semi-Annual Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair meeting held on

March 21st, hosted by the Airport Department. Ms. Wiscomb briefed that she, Commissioner Gonzalez, and Ms. Rapp attended the San Luis Obispo County Association of Parks and Recreation Administrators (SLOCAPRA) Workshop, entitled "Earn Your Stripes; Partnerships in Advocacy" in Atascadero on March 16th. She read a letter from Commissioner Gonzalez expressing her feelings on the Workshop.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

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 special joint meeting of January 30, 2013, and the regular meeting of February 27, 2013.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Megan Alley, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special joint meeting of January 30, 2013, and the regular meeting of February 27, 2013.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

Any action of the Parks and Recreation Commission made pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 15.24, Preservation of Trees, may be appealed to the City Council within ten days.

4. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

- A. Deny the following Setback Tree removal requests.
 1. 3731 Capri Dr. – Sequoia sempervirens, Coast Redwood – Bob Colombana

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the tree at 3731 Capri Drive.

2. 245 Coleman Ave. – Araucaria columnaris, Cook Pine – Dave and Nancy Shatz

Chair Wiscomb acknowledged receipt of a letter dated March 25, 2013, from Bob Cunningham, Street Tree Advisory Committee member, Subject: Request to remove setback tree at 245 Coleman Avenue, stating that the Commissioners have a copy of the letter.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the tree at 245 Coleman Avenue.

- B. Consider the following change of designation
 1. Luneta Plaza – consider a change of species

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to co-designate the Eucalyptus erythrocorys and Eyucalyptus torquata for all for Luneta Plaza and the Corymbia ficifolia for the north side only of Luneta Plaza.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORT

5. Eggstravaganzas at Chase Palm Park and Parque de los Niños – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on Eggstravaganza 2013.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Terry Brown, Recreation Supervisor

6. Urban Forest Management Plan Project – For Discussion

Recommendation: That the Commission:

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

- A. Receive a status report on the Urban Forest Management Plan project; and
- B. Review and provide comments on the Urban Forest Key Issues and Draft Objectives.

The Commission had the following comments on the Key Issues:

Commissioner Casebeer commented that one fact that jumped out at him regarding the citywide canopy cover and tree population is that 80% of urban forest is in residential areas. He asked whether that is private ownership.

Ms. Zachary said the areas are zoned residential, so it would also include City streets in residential areas; the percentage does not just private trees. Mr. Casebeer said that a huge percentage of the urban forest is privately owned trees. He said he is excited to hear the emphasis placed on public outreach and education. He asked about the City's tree planting guide and said that before someone puts a tree in the ground, they should consult the planting guide to make sure the tree is appropriate for the location.

Commissioner Casebeer emphasized Ms. Zachary's comments about Santa Barbara Beautiful (SBB) and said it is a great example of a partnership between the City and a public organization. He said that most of the Tree plantings in the neighborhoods have been paid for by SBB; he complimented the Board of Directors of SBB and people who support that organization.

Chair Wiscomb interjected that SBB also supports the Small Tree Care Program, which not only helps to purchase the trees, but also helps to maintain them in their first few years of life so they can get started and grow healthy.

Commissioner Longstreet agreed that education is key, referring to new homeowner residents to Santa Barbara. She suggested it would be nice if there were some education provided to the real estate community and handouts made available to help new homeowners so they are made aware of the City's Tree regulations and policies pertaining to setback trees. She suggested it could be included in the information provided when someone looks at a property. She further suggested periodic water bill inserts with the rules and the importance of trees for everyone.

Commissioner Longstreet said regarding the Park Trees, there is not a dedicated park tree funding mechanism; the parks are jewels in the community, and we need to put the same emphasis on their care as Street Trees and others. Ms. Longstreet talked about Tree canopy, and protecting it, suggesting that there needs to be allot of community buy-in on the importance of trees. She said it

should go beyond the trees that the Parks and Recreation Commission sees; there should be better education about the rules in the Historic Landmarks District (HLC), saying she was on the Parks and Recreation Commission before she was aware that the HLC had purview over setback and other trees in that district. Ms. Longstreet stated that there is education on many levels to do, not only for global warming aspects, but property values as well. Ms. Longstreet commented that there are many homes in the community that are gorgeous because of the trees in front of them, but if the trees were removed, they would not look so nice.

Chair Wiscomb commented that education was brought up very early by the Technical Advisory Committee, and the survey reflects that.

Commissioner Alley said that it was clear to her when she attended one of the workshops that people are passionate about tree; the citizens of the community want to support the tree plan, and it is just a matter of educating the public. Ms. Alley commented that the trees contribute to the City's vibrant neighborhoods, add to the charm and characteristics of the streets, and provide a healthy environment. She expressed that the more natural coverage there is throughout the community it will help decrease the heat being trapped. She also said green roofs and an expansion into more efforts to get green, would be beneficial. Ms. Alley said that youth education and community partnerships can help in terms of getting trees planted. She suggested it might be a good idea to partner with the youth in our community. Ms. Alley also suggested an outlet for people who do not own homes to get involved.

Commissioner Longstreet said she is bothered by parkways built in places where they are not maintained or not wide enough for a tree but one is planted there. She suggested standards be established; she said have a parkway that is wide enough for appropriate plantings, or do not make a parkway. She said it is not fair to the tree that gets planted there and not cared for, the landscaping, etc. Ms. Longstreet said that in this time, the City needs to be more selective in how they build things and they need to be built appropriately.

Chair Wiscomb concurred and said a lot of work can be done during the plan review process and development process in terms of getting trees at the forefront. She said oftentimes in development projects, they are an afterthought. Ms. Wiscomb said that owners of property and developers should want to put trees in, and expressed that maybe that comes from the policy level in the Community Development Department during the planning process and the Building Division during construction. Ms. Wiscomb said Ms. Alley's comment concerning getting the youth involved is very well taken. She said SBB does go to the schools around Arbor Day and plant a tree and have a ceremony. She said that more events like that teaching children about the benefits of trees and how they provide a healthy environment is important.

Chair Wiscomb commented that aesthetics and appearance was rated as number one on the survey. She said that people do value the urban forest, but until they are asked, they don't know they do. She said it needs to be brought to the forefront in terms of its importance, and that is an educational issue. Ms. Wiscomb said that allot of the policies and key issues coming up belong under the umbrella of education.

Commissioner Casebeer expressed that he was happy to see the preservation of historic trees mentioned in the objectives.

Commissioner Longstreet stressed that trees need to be planted so that in 100 years someone has something to look forward to. She said trees have a lifespan, and staff needs to plant trees for the future.

Chair Wiscomb concurred saying that was a key issued discussed at the last Technical Advisory Committee—diversity not only in species, but also in age. She agreed that we need to continue to do that so we are planting trees for the future so we have an urban forest that is diverse in age to sustain itself.

7. Integrated Pest Management 2012 Annual Report – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2012 Annual Report and forward the report to City Council.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager
- Members of the Public: Lawrence Saltzman, IPM Advisory Committee

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Megan Alley, and passed 4/0 to accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2012 Annual Report and forward the report to City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

8. Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee Membership – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission accept the recommended change to the membership representation on the Integrated Pest Management Advisory (IPM) Committee as proposed by the IPM committee and staff, and forward that recommendation to Council for approval.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Chris Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to accept the recommendation to change the Environmental Defense Center position to a Community At Large member position on the Integrated Pest Management Advisory (IPM) Committee as proposed by the IPM committee and staff, and forward that recommendation to Council for approval.

ADJOURNMENT: At 5:54 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director