



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Megan Alley
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Parks & Recreation Youth Intern Kate Yee
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Rich Hanna, Sr. Recreation Supervisor
Terri Brown, Recreation Supervisor
Susan Young, Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor
Riley Harwood, Police Sergeant

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Ms. Rapp asked that the Youth Council Report be addressed just prior to Item 4, Teen Leadership Conference.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to speak.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Intern Kate Yee provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Ferrara reported on the Creeks Advisory Committee site visit to the CalTrans Channel.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council. She further reported that she attended the Urban Forest Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

Commissioner Alley briefed that she was unable to attend the Neighborhood Advisory Council and deferred to Commissioner Longstreet's report.

Commissioner Casebeer reported that he was unable to attend the Arts & Crafts Show Advisory Committee meeting this month. He said he did spend time in Alice Keck Park and encouraged the public and other Commissioners to visit the park, which looks absolutely beautiful. Mr. Casebeer encouraged members of the public to come out and help maintain the garden between 8am and noon on Mondays.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She said she attended the Chromatic Gate Ribbon Cutting ceremony on July 15th, and encouraged the public to visit the site, saying it looks spectacular. Ms. Wiscomb reported that she attended the Urban Forest Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee meeting. Ms. Wiscomb said she attended an event at Skater's Point last Saturday, Roger Perry sponsored, a Concert consisting of a variety of Youth Bands; it was a great event. Ms. Wiscomb reported that she attended City Council yesterday to speak on behalf of the Commission to support advancing the Redevelopment Agency unencumbered bond proceeds. She said the Department has two projects: the Bath Street Pocket Park (\$250,000 and the Cabrillo Bathhouse/Pavilion renovations (\$9 million+). Ms. Wiscomb said that the City Council approved sending the Department's projects to the oversight board which will make a decision as to whether they will be sent to the State Department of Finance for approval.

Commissioner Casebeer asked whether if there are members of the public that want to support these RDA projects, who should they contact. Chair Wiscomb indicated they should contact the PARC Foundation and send their contribution with a letter or go to the PARC Foundation website.

Ms. Rapp advised that the Oversight Board meeting is next week, July 31st at 9AM in the Waterfront Classroom building. She said that will be a critical meeting for the Department to communicate the communities priorities for those two projects.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Summary of Council Actions – For Information

The Commission received the Summary of Council Actions. They had no questions.

2. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 26, 2013.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 26, 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.

3. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 3703 Coral St. – (6) Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm – Carla Berkowitz

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the request to remove the setback trees at 3703 Coral Street.

2. 2312 Wellington Ave. – Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda – Holiday and Richard Vaill

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the request to remove the setback trees at 2312 Wellington Avenue.

B. Consider the following co-designation.

1. 200 block of E. Mission St. – co-designate

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Alley, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to designate the Red-flowering Gum as the street tree in the 200 block of E. Mission Street.

2. 1800 block of Laguna St. – co-designate

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to co-designate the Island Oak as the street tree for the 1800 block of Laguna Street.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORT:

4. Teen Leadership Conference – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report on the Santa Barbara Youth Council's Teen Leadership Conference and recommendations from Teen Leaders.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Youth Council Members: Ivette Gil and Eesha Kelkar

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

5. Annual Advisory Committee Reports – For Information

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

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff:

The Commission received the reports. There were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

6. Skate Park Status Report – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a status report on Skater's Point skate park operations.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director; Rich Hanna, Sr. Recreation Supervisor; Santos Escobar, Parks Manager; Riley Harwood, Police Sergeant
- Members of the Public: George NeGai, Co-President, Goleta Skateboarding Movement; Srivastava Rubayi; Jim Fitzpatrick; James Sperlin; Jennifer Jaqua

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Alley commented that this is an opportunity to assess the mentorship we need to provide for youth in the community. She talked about the importance of youth getting out and being active and engaging with each other. Ms. Alley said youth need leaders and positive influences to show them how to behave, and said it is the community's responsibility to help them find the right sense of direction. She said she is optimistic and looks forward to the August 14th Skate Park Outreach event.

Commissioner Ferrara expressed we are experiencing a behavior and safety problem. He said there has to be some way to control ingress and egress to the park. Mr. Ferrara said he believes the park needs to be supervised, and compared it to the pools, saying they would not be left unsupervised. He said someone could get seriously injured and asked about posting a lifeguard there. He stressed the importance of safety. Mr. Ferrara stated that the park should be closed until it can be supervised.

Commissioner Casebeer disagreed, saying the skate park works and serves the needs of the community. He said he would like to hear from the youth. Mr. Casebeer commented that supervision has been tried and it's a losing proposition. He spoke to the stakeholders and said they have the opportunity to talk to the other skaters, to be proactive and encourage them to obey the rules and take care of the park.

Commissioner Longstreet said there have been two or three hearings since the park has opened; she said she's learned that we cannot overreact. She said the skating community by and large takes a risk. Ms. Longstreet stated that it is a parent's responsibility to make sure children who are under 18 years of age wear helmets and safety gear. Ms. Longstreet said we definitely need a positive perception to move the new parks forward; it is exciting to hear about the potential in Goleta. Ms. Longstreet said she believes the older skaters should set an example for the younger skaters. Ms. Longstreet suggested the younger kids need to be mentored. She commented that parents don't get to just drop their kids off at a neighborhood park; it is not daycare center—parents are responsible for their children. Ms. Longstreet said she wouldn't put young people in a power position; it is just too hard for them. She said she firmly believes the facility will never be supervised, due to the State law, the way it is set. Ms. Longstreet stated that the Skate Park laws need to be enforced, but the City is not going to provide supervision because the liability is too much; the City would have to charge a fee to enter the park, and that would leave out a whole segment of the community for which the park was built. She encouraged common sense and said she would like to see the Committee address the bicycle issue. Ms. Longstreet said the way to have a safer skateboard park is to not have all levels of skaters in there; more parks are needed. She expressed support Ms. Rapp's decision to close the skate park and said the inappropriate behavior cannot be tolerated. She said that bad behavior changes things, and it changes things for everyone.

Intern Yee said all the ideas are great and agrees that another park to separate smaller children from the older children is needed. She also agreed with Mr. Ferrara that leadership and safety is essential. Ms. Yee stated that kids need to be free to be themselves; however, it is a public park. She commented that even the Youth Council has supervision. Ms. Yee stated some level of supervision is necessary, even if it is an older teen that has the responsibility to know what is right and what is wrong and is capable of taking action.

Chair Wiscomb said she views all the youth present Council Chambers as stakeholders in the skate park, as leaders, and they are here today for that very reason. She said they own that park and have to take responsibility for making sure it is protected as the special place it is, so they can continue to use it. Ms. Wiscomb commented that the most successful places to recreate are places where there is ownership by the people that use them. She said she loves the idea of more skate camps, clinics, and special events at the park; she said she thinks there should be a skateboard demo day, and make it into a positive event. Ms. Wiscomb expressed that she does not think the park will ever be problem free, but the message will get out that the few who ruin it for the rest are not wanted there. She commented on the amount of money it costs to repair vandalism and said that money could be put towards a new skate park. Ms. Wiscomb stated that she does not believe the park should be fenced. She said there are more positive ways to go about this and encouraged the stakeholders to organize themselves as advocates for the park. Ms. Wiscomb said she fully supports Ms. Rapp's decision to close the park.

7. Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission elect a Chair and Vice Chair to serve as presiding officer for the period of August 1, 2013, through July 30, 2014.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to elect Commissioner Wiscomb to serve as Chair for the period of August 1, 2013, through July 30, 2014.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Wiscomb, and passed 5/0 to elect Commissioner Casebeer to serve as Vice Chair for the period of August 1, 2013, through July 30, 2014.

8. Advisory Committee Liaisons – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission make advisory committee liaison appointments.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

The Commission reviewed advisory committee liaison appointments. Following is an updated list. Changes are reflected in italics.

Advisory Committee	Liaison
Arts and Crafts Show	Chris Casebeer
Creeks Restoration & Water Quality Improvement Program Citizen	Nick Ferrara
Front Country Trails Task Group	Beebe Longstreet/Megan Alley
<i>Golf Course</i>	<i>Chair Wiscomb</i>
Integrated Pest Management	Nick Ferrara
Lower Mission Creek Design Subcommittee	Chris Casebeer
Neighborhood Advisory Council	Megan Alley & Beebe Longstreet
Park & Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation	Beebe Longstreet/Lesley Wiscomb
Street Tree	Lesley Wiscomb
<i>Youth Council</i>	<i>Chris Casebeer</i>

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:19 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks & Recreation Director