



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 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 Lesley Wiscomb
Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna
Pool Manager Amber Workman
Graphic Designer Molly McDonough
Recreation Supervisor Terry Brown
Administrative Analyst Mandy Burgess

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

Chair Wiscomb welcomed Andrew Rodriguez, to the Commission as the Youth Intern. Andrew expressed that looks forward to gaining a lot from the experience.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: Email communication from Toby Ayars dated October 25, 2013, Subject Adult Flag Football, and response from Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director, dated November 4, 2013.

The Commission acknowledged this letter.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one wished to speak.

1. Recognition of Bartlett Tree Care Experts for Donation of \$1,000 in Services for the Historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Richard Mason, John Huddleston of Bartlett Tree Care Experts, Inc.

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Bartlett Tree Care Experts for their donation of \$1,000 in services to treat the historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree.

The Commission recognized the contributions of Bartlett Tree Care Experts. Richard Mason and John Huddleston accepted a certificate of appreciation on behalf of Bartlett Tree Care Experts.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez provided this report.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Ferrara reported on the activities of the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Casebeer reported on that he attended the Youth Council meeting, but did not attend the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. Summary of Council Actions – For Information

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

3. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 23, 2013.

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 4/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 23, 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

Documents:

- Staff Report

- Staff PowerPoint
- Speakers:
 - Staff: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent
- Members of the Public: Item 4C(1) - Joan C. McKay

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal requests:
 1. 1600 State St. – (3) *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, Firewheel Trees – Martha Degasis with Arcadia Studio

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to conditionally approve the street tree removal request at 1600 State Street.

- B. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree and Setback Tree removal requests:
 1. 2230 Cliff Dr. – (3) *Yucca elephantipes*, Giant *Yucca* (street trees), (8) *Yucca elephantipes*, Giant *Yucca* (setback trees), and (1) *Fraxinus uhdei*, Shamel Ash (setback tree) – Martha Degasis with Arcadia Studio

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Alley, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to approve the street tree and setback tree removal request at 2230 Cliff Drive with the condition they replace with three designated street trees as proposed.

- C. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal request.
 1. 1721 Lasuen Rd. – (2) *Pinus pinea*, Italian Stone Pine – Joan C. McKay

Mr. Downey reviewed the removal request. He reported that the Street Tree Advisory Committee (STAC) recommends the removal of the tree closest to the driveway due to the poor structure of the tree; the tree has a defect called included bark, which is where two branches grow and there is not a proper connection between them. Mr. Downey said that the STAC is recommending the removal of the second tree be denied. Mr. Downey advised that since the STAC meeting, staff has received new information from the Fire Department, which has been provided to the Commission. He said the Fire Department recommends the removal of both trees due to their proximity to the homes and two chimneys, and because the debris the trees create is a fire hazard.

Commissioner Ferrara asked what the Fire Department means when they say “failure to comply with defensible space requirements”. Mr. Downey replied saying that there sections in the Municipal Code that apply to Fire Safety for properties; if someone has a situation that is in conflict with the Municipal Code, the Fire Department has means to require that they comply. Mr. Downey clarified that the Fire Department does have the option under the Municipal Code to order the removal of the trees, but they have not done that in this case; they are only recommending removal of the trees.

Commissioner Ferrara commented that he looked at the trees; they are both very large trees. He said at first he was going to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation, but, the second tree has quite a spread on its crown, and the branches intermingle with the other trees across the street. Mr. Ferrara said that in light of the letter from the Fire Department, he tends to agree that maybe both trees should be removed at this time.

Chair Wiscomb commented that when the STAC went to the site, the letter was not available. She said there is a condition in the Municipal Code, which is, "regard for the safety of persons or property dictates the removal." Ms. Wiscomb stated that she thinks it is a very serious consideration in this case. She said she would concur with Mr. Ferrara and support a motion to remove both trees.

Commissioner Alley asked Chair Wiscomb to enlighten her on the STAC discussion regarding their recommendation. Ms. Wiscomb asked Mr. Downey to do that and said she would add to his comments as necessary. Mr. Downey said the Committee did reviewed the applicant's information regarding fire safety; their viewpoint was that the issues were maintenance issues—the needles needed to be cleaned up, the trees needed to be pruned/trimmed away from the roof to improve the amount of debris that falls, etc. He said the Committee's perspective was that the fire danger was less of a danger that the structure of the other tree. Mr. Downey emphasized that the STAC did not have the value of the Fire Department's letter to consider.

Chair Wiscomb added that the tree closest to the driveway was the one of more serious concern to the STAC. The one closest to the driveway was the one that had the retaining wall damage, rock damage, and where --the branches overhung the house.

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to not concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation, but to approve the removal of both trees at 1721 Lasuen Road and possibly with a new tree being placed at some point in place of those two trees.

Commissioner Casebeer addressed the applicant's desire to contribute to the overall urban forest in the Santa Barbara community. He said that Santa Barbara Beautiful is an organization that annually donates tens of thousands of dollars to plant street trees throughout Santa Barbara. He said that would be a great vehicle to add to the forestry stock. Commissioner Casebeer asked Commissioner Ferrara if he would consider amending his motion to remove the need for the applicant to plant replacement trees.

Commissioner Ferrara amended his motion:

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 3/1 to approve the removal of the two Italian Stone Pine trees at 1721 Lasuen Road and encourage the homeowner to consider re-planting with another tree of a suitable size.

Commissioner Alley was opposed.

Commissioner Alley commented that after reviewing the letter from the Fire Department and hearing Mr. Downey's recap of the Street Tree Advisory Committee's discussion, she believes it is a matter of maintenance on the second tree. She said she is inclined to ask if the applicant would be willing to maintain the second tree to eliminate the fire danger.

Chair Wiscomb said maintenance of the pine needles is an ongoing task. Mr. Downey said they drop needles year-round.

Commissioner Casebeer stated that the second tree does overhang the roof, and the applicant has been living with the trees for 40 years. She has been cleaning the roof off, and the house is a two-story, 25-foot high home. He said it is not an easy task.

Chair Wiscomb acknowledged the Committee's view that the loss of the trees would alter the character of the neighborhood, but said that safety of persons and property are a priority. She said the fact that the needles drop all the time, it is unreasonable to expect the applicant, for safety reasons, to continually clean off the roof.

Commissioner Ferrara commented that it is not so much the needles that fall off the tree, but the needles that remain, because if there was a major fire in that area, any spark that would hit the tree would set it off; it is a safety issue.

- D. Deny the following change to the Street Tree Master Plan:
1. 200-300, 3000 blocks of Samarkand Dr. – consider *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, Firewheel Tree as a co-designation – Janis Ristow

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Ferrara, and passed 4/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the Street Tree Master Plan change for the 200-300, 3000 Blocks of Samarkand Drive.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Golf Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointments – For Action
Continued from October 23, 2013 meeting

Recommendation: That the Commission hold interviews and make appointments to the Golf Advisory Committee.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Members of the Public: Gretchen Ostergren, applicant

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 4/0 to re-appoint Gretchen Ostergren, representing the Executive Women's Golf Association, to the Golf Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

6. Street Tree Advisory Committee Interviews – For Discussion

Recommendation:

- A. Hold interviews of Street Tree Advisory Committee applicants; and
- B. Continue additional interviews of applicants to the Street Tree Advisory Committee to, and make appointments at, the December 18, 2013, meeting.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Members of the Public: Duke McPherson, applicant

The Commission held interviews and continued additional interviews to the December 1, 2013, meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

7. Junior High Afterschool Sports Leagues – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Junior High Afterschool Sports Program.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- School District PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary; Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna; Santa Barbara Unified School District Assistant Superintendent Ben Drati; Santa Barbara Junior High School Principal Lito Garcia

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

8. 2013 Free Learn to Swim Program – For Information and Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Receive a report on the 2013 Free Learn to Swim program conducted at Los Baños del Mar swimming pool; and
- B. Recognize the Friends of Los Baños del Mar Pool, Eye & Vision Care of Santa Barbara, and Easy Lift Transportation for their funding and partnerships that made this program possible.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna; Pool Manager Amber Workman

- Members of the Public: Susan Dickinson - President, Friends of Los Baños; Ernesto Paredes - Executive Director, Easy Lift Transportation

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

The Commission recognized the contributions of the Friends of Los Baños del Mar Pool, Eye and Vision Care of Santa Barbara, and Easy Lift Transportation. Certificates of appreciation were presented to representatives of Friends of Los Baños del Mar Pool and Easy Lift Transportation. A representative of Eye and Vision Care of Santa Barbara was not present.

9. Front Country Trails Program Status Report and Volunteer Recognition – For Information and Action

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the Front Country Trails Program and recognize the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers and Dave Everett of the Multi-Use Trails Coalition for their volunteer maintenance of the front country trails.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary; Administrative Analyst Amanda Burgess
- Members of the Public: Jack Greenbaum, Mike Tarpey

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

The Commission recognized the contributions of the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers and presented Jack Greenbaum and Mike Tarpey with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of the SBMBTV dedicated support, trail etiquette education, and volunteer maintenance of the Santa Barbara Front Country Trails.

The Commission recognized Dave Everett of the Multi-Use Trails Coalition for his incredible support, mapping, and volunteer maintenance of the Santa Barbara Front Country Trails.

10. Fiscal Year 2013 Annual Contributions Report – For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the donations and grants received by the Parks and Recreation Department during Fiscal Year 2013.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:52 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary
Assistant Parks & Recreation Director