



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb (Chair)
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Carolyn Brown
Commissioner Nichol Clark
Commissioner Jim Heaton
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Parks Manager, Santos Escobar
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Manager Judith McCaffrey
Recreation Manager Rich Hanna

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Ms. Zachary advised the Commission that item 5, Proposal to Rename the Westside Neighborhood Center, has been formally withdrawn by the applicant. She further recommended that the Commission take item 6, Local Coastal Program (LCP) Update, after the Street Tree Advisory Committee items. The Commission concurred.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

None

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

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

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Commissioner Brown reported on the activities of the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Chair Wiscomb reported attending the semiannual meeting of the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Advisory Committees and that all of the committees are very busy. She reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation. Ms. Wiscomb talked about the 90+ Birthday scheduled for October 23rd at noon at the Carrillo Recreation Center. Ms. Wiscomb said she also attended the Haley Street Youth Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and said it was a nice celebration with many children in attendance.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Zachary reported that staff will be going to City Council on November 4th with a status report on the Cabrillo Bathhouse and Pavilion project, and also a request that Council in its roll as a Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency, approve some additional contracts for technical studies related to biological and archeological resources. She advised that also on November 4th, staff hopes to take the construction contract for the Bath Street Pocket Park to City Council/Successor Agency for approval. She said that assuming that moves forward, staff anticipates to break ground on project construction the following week. Ms. Zachary said that on November 11th, staff will return to City Council with the geotechnical study contracts, which should position staff to complete all of the preliminary technical work necessary to submit the development application. Ms. Zachary briefed that today was the fourth concept review with the Historic Landmarks Commission (HLC) for the Cabrillo Pavilion and Bathhouse project;. She said that staff has received favorable comments on a number of key aspects of the project and a significant amount of progress has been made through HLC, which gives the ability to move forward to Planning Commission and then return for additional design review at a future date.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Summary of Council Actions – For Information
2. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 24, 2014 and the special meeting (site visit) of October 11, 2014.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 24, 2014, and the special meeting (site visit) of October 11, 2014.

Absent: Casebeer

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 dated October 22, 2014
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Members of Public: Courtney J. Miller, Landscape Architect

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request:

1. 1330 Chapala St. – (5) *Platanus racemosa*, California Sycamore – Courtney J. Miller, Landscape Architect

Commissioner Heaton moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to conditionally approve the removal of the street trees located at 1330 Chapala Street 6, 24” Brazilian Cedar Wood trees.

Absent: Casebeer

NEW BUSINESS

4. Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 – 2021 Capital Improvement Program – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated October 22, 2014
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary; Parks Manager Santos Escobar; and Recreation Manager Rich Hanna

Recommendation: That the Commission review the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 – 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), provide recommendations on capital project priorities for FY 2016 and FY 2017, and recommend that the CIP be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council.

The Commission received a detailed presentation on the project and their questions were answered.

Commission Comments and Priorities:

Commissioner Heaton said regarding the median and parkway landscape renovation, that designing, planning, and creating standards makes sense; he suggested that be highlighted in the support documents. Mr. Heaton said he would like the City to explore the skatepark project – not just a skate park, but a roller park for entry level and youth, that complements the one we have and offers opportunities for better use of both. Mr. Heaton commented that he would like to see it explored as a project, if not planned for funding, similar to what is being done with off-leash dog areas—try to identify areas and open the discussion.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that it will be interesting to explore the off-leash area—what the concepts are and what can be conceived in an economical and timely manner, as it is important to a segment of the population that uses the parks. She said she would rate the Ortega Park Pool Renovation quite highly; Santa Barbara is a water community, yet we have no place for young children swim lessons other than Ortega Park or for older people to recreate. She said that Los Baños is kept at a lap swim temperature and its in a very cold area. Ms. Longstreet stated that there is a need to have a facility for ages at both ends of the spectrum and for people with disabilities. Ms. Longstreet expressed that all of the Park infrastructure safety programs are important. She said regarding parking lots, that we need to look at opportunities for conservation, and going to as many lots as possible that are permeable. Ms. Longstreet asked that the Chase Palm Park Historic Carousel be retitled as “Potential Acquisition or Reuse of the Building.” She said she thinks it is something for which a business plan is needed and that we need to determine whether it makes sense to even do it, as the time and place for that may have passed. She encouraged staff to take a look at possible uses or whether it could be another rental space.

Commissioner Brown said that Ortega Park is a big area for families and that the Ortega Park Pool Renovation should be a priority.

Commissioner Clark said she appreciates the fact that the Department listened to the community regarding the off-leash dog park and adding a skatepark and repurposing the current one for advanced skaters and possibly bicyclists. She commented that she likes that the plan emphasizes a warm-water pool in the renovation of the aquatic facility. Ms. Clark expressed concern that other than that, she would like to see more elderly needs addressed in the plan. Ms. Clark said she is intrigued by a North State Street or a Central Recreation Center and would like to hear more about it. She further suggested that Ortega Park should be a priority; it is a great afterschool destination for both junior high and high school kids.

Chair Wiscomb commented regarding the six-year capital improvement plan, saying that in order to plan and implement plans that benefit us in the future, the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which is identified in the two-year plan, is essential to better enable the Department to respond when opportunities come up. She said with the Facilities Master Plan, the Department would be in a position to better do that. Ms. Wiscomb said that is a top priority; there are changing recreational needs in the City and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan will go a long way towards guiding the Department when opportunities do arise. Ms. Wiscomb further stated that she supports the ongoing annual programs such as the Park Infrastructure Program, Irrigation System Renovation, Park Restroom Renovation Program, Playground Replacement Program, Median and Parkway Landscape Renovation Program. She said these programs are important and will allow the Department to chip away at the infrastructure deferred maintenance backlog.

Chair Wiscomb commented regarding the two-year capital improvement plan and said it emphasizes upgrades and replacements, rather than the big picture of expansion and new facilities. Ms. Wiscomb said she groups these projects in to three categories: public safety, deferred maintenance or infrastructure repairs or improvements, or neighborhood improvements. She stated that public safety is the number one priority, so the Park Infrastructure Program, Playground Replacement Program, and the Thousand Steps Renovation are all projects are of the highest priority. She said a large number of the projects in the two-year plan are related to infrastructure improvements; the Department has been playing catch-up after the losses in the General Fund the Department incurred

during the economic downturn, and she thinks it is important to continue to address those infrastructure needs to enhance services and improve the Department's position to respond to recreation demands and needs. Ms. Wiscomb said that in some cases, as with the Chase Palm Park Renovation project and even the Carrillo Ballroom air conditioning, there are opportunities to increase revenues; that needs to be emphasized, and revenue increasing opportunities need to be kept in mind. Ms. Wiscomb commented that the City's historic resources need to be preserved; the Carrillo Gym Renovation is a great example of that; there are lost opportunities at this facilities as well, due to its age and lack of upgrades. Ms. Wiscomb said she would personally like to see the off-leash dog area evaluation—possibly initiate the public discussion in Fiscal Year 2016, because there is community interest. Ms. Wiscomb expressed the belief that the Median and Parkway Landscape Renovation funding as an on-going annual program is essential, not only to keep the City looking good, but it helps us make environmentally responsible decisions during the drought cycles and beyond. Finally, she said regarding the Urban Forest Management Plan, that the update of the Street Tree Master Plan is timely and important; the City's trees are some of its most precious resources and the Street Tree Master Plan will go a long way in helping us manage those trees and also, manage some of our infrastructure, and prioritizing where funds are spent to make repairs.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and passed 5/0 to recommend that the FY 2016 and FY 2017 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 – 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council as proposed.

Absent: Casebeer

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Proposal to Rename the Westside Neighborhood Center – For Action
ESTIMATED TIME: 5:30 PM
- A. Receive a presentation by staff on the naming of public facilities;
 - B. Receive a presentation from Word of Life Santa Barbara regarding their proposal to rename the Westside Neighborhood Center after Mr. Louis Urzua; and,
 - C. Make a recommendation to City Council on the proposal to rename the facility, and, include as appropriate findings consistent with the City of Santa Barbara Municipal Code, Section 22.48, Naming of Public Facilities and Private Streets.

Documents:

- Staff Report dated October 22, 2014

This item was removed from the agenda.

6. Local Coastal Program (LCP) Update – For Action

Speakers:

- Staff: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary; Project Planner Liz Limon,

Recommendation: That the Commission form a sub-committee for the Local Coastal Program Update.

Ms. Zachary provided an background on the LCP. Ms. Limon provided more comprehensive information regarding the LCP, the Commission's role, and the timeline, Ms. Limon answered the Commission's questions.

Nichol Clark, Carolyn Brown, and Lesley Wiscomb were appointed to the sub-committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:57 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