



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

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 Lesley Wiscomb (Chair)
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara (Departed at 5:55 p.m.)
Commissioner Jim Heaton
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Olivia Uribe
Parks and Recreation Director Nancy L. Rapp
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Golf Course Superintendent Simon Herrera
Parks Supervisor Ken Brown
Recreation Supervisor Jeff Smith
Marketing Coordinator Summers Case
Airport Maintenance Superintendent Jeff McKee

Commissioners Absent

Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Ms. Rapp called the Commission's attention to the fact that Item 5, New Pocket Park at Bath and Ortega Streets, is time certain for 5:00 p.m., and said that the agenda items will need to be worked around that item.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Speakers: Ken Loch

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT - NONE

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting. She also reported on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation. Ms. Longstreet said she attended the site visit last night for the Bath/Ortega Pocket Park.

Commissioner Uribe also reported on the activities of the Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Ferrara reported that he was unable to attend the IPM meeting and that the Creeks Advisory Committee meeting was cancelled.

Commissioner Casebeer reported that he attended the site visit last night for the Bath/Ortega Pocket Park. He said he was riding his bicycle through Alice Keck Park and he met Beverly who introduced him to several other people who are part of the Alpha Resource Center. He recognized their outstanding efforts.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She said she also attended the Neighborhood Meeting for the New Bath/Ortega Pocket Park on March 13th. Ms. Wiscomb reported that she attended the Semiannual Advisory Group meeting attended by the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the various advisory groups held on March 19th, and hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Wiscomb talked about the Magic on the Urban Wine Trail PARC Fundraising event scheduled for Sunday, April 27th, from 2-5 PM, at the Carrillo Recreation Center, and encouraged participation.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp provided a brief overview of the State of the City Mayor's presentation to the Chamber of Commerce, as it related to Parks and Recreation Programs. She said the video will be made available on the City's website, and encouraged the Commissioners to view it.

Ms. Rapp briefed that the Parks and Recreation Department Spring/Summer Guide is posted on the City's website.

Ms. Rapp advised that the City will host Eggstravaganza on Saturday, April 19th at 10AM. She said the event will be held at two sites: Parque de los Niños and Chase Palm Park.

Ms Rapp reported that there is a new playground at Chase Palm Park, and the mural has been repainted courtesy of SB Arts Alliance. She encouraged the Commissioners to check it out.

Ms. Rapp briefed that the Urban Forest Management Plan went to HLC today, and will be on the City Council agenda on April 8th. Chair Wiscomb encouraged the Commissioners to be present at Council to speak in support of the Plan implementation and funding.

Ms. Rapp talked about the Commission vacancy and said the recruitment will open in April.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 26, 2014.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 26, 2014.

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.

2. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated March 26, 2014
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Members of the Public: Lisa Burns, Upper East Association

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 1208 Quinientos St. – *Sequoia sempervirens*, Coastal Redwood – Lindsay Weinberg

Commissioner Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the setback tree removal request for 1208 Quinientos Street.

B. Consider the following change to the Street Tree Master Plan:

2. 2200-2400 blocks of Garden St. (odd side) – species designation – Fred L. Sweeney

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Heaton, to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for the *Alextryon excelsus* for the 2200-2400 blocks of Garden Street.

Chair Wiscomb asked Commissioners Longstreet and Heaton if they would agree to specify that the change pertains to the “odd side” of the 2200 – 2400 blocks of Garden Street. They both concurred. The amended motion is as follows:

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Heaton, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for the *Alextryon excelsus* for the *odd side* of the 2200-2400 blocks of Garden Street.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

3. Joint Use Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement – For Information

Recommendation: That Commission receive a report on the City Parks and Recreation and Santa Barbara Unified School Districts revised Field Scheduling and Monitoring Agreement.

Documents:

- Staff Report dated March 26, 2014

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director
- Members of the Public:

The Commissioner unanimously received the report and their questions were answered.

OLD BUSINESS - NONE

NEW BUSINESS

4. Integrated Pest Management 2013 Annual Report – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2013 Annual Report and forward the report to City Council.

Documents:

- Staff Report dated March 26, 2014

Speakers:

- Staff: Santos Escobar, Parks Manager; Simon Herrera, Golf Course Superintendent; Jeff McKee, Airport Maintenance Superintendent

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Chair Wiscomb, and passed 6/0 to accept the Integrated Pest Management 2013 Annual Plan and forward the report to City Council.

Absent: Commissioner Ferrara

5. New Pocket Park at Bath and Ortega Streets – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission review the proposed pocket park conceptual design and recommend that the Parks and Recreation Department finalize the design to include a playground for either 2-5 year-old children or 5-12 year-old children.

Documents:

- Staff Report dated March 26, 2014

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Santos Escobar, Parks Manager; Ken Brown, Parks Supervisor
- Members of the Public: Tim Milham, Mark Rincon, Michelle Mesique, Teresa Vaughan, Rick Frickman

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Casebeer said he concurs with Commissioner Longstreet that older children could play on a structure designed for younger children. He said he endorses the playground designed for the 2-5 age-group. Commissioner Casebeer suggested a wall that neighborhood children can put their handprint on (a Founder's Wall) be placed in the park, to give them a sense of ownership of the park. He commented that the plans to not reflect

trash cans and recycling cans. He suggested that the benches and tables be constructed of a more holistic material, not plastic. Mr. Casebeer said it is important when landscaping the park, to maintain open vision into the park, so that people cannot hide behind trees; shade would be nice, but the park needs to be visible and open to the street. He said he concurs with the comment regarding interpretive signage; it would enable children to learn what is in the creek and how to preserve it.

Commissioner Ferrara said that he too endorses the playground designed for the 2-5 age-group, saying parents or older siblings will take these children to the park; it will create a sense of community and safety. He commented that he wants to make sure the park is properly patrolled by either the Park Rangers or the Police to ensure there are not people sleeping there.

Commissioner Uribe said that she concurs with the playground designed for the 2-5 age-group, because there are a lot of young families in the lower eastside.

Commissioner Heaton said he is impressed with the outreach and the community involvement. He said he has security concerns as does everyone. Mr. Heaton said he concurs that the playground designed for the 2-5 age-group makes more sense. He said it also makes sense to keep the creek's habitat there, and agrees that native species should be a focus. Mr. Heaton said he likes the idea of finding a home for the Steelhead Trout statue. He commented that he likes the idea of interpretive signage, saying it could be educational or interactive with photos. Mr. Heaton concurred with Commissioner Casebeer's idea regarding the "Founders Wall" and the comments about keeping the view of the park open. Mr. Heaton commented that he likes seeing the greenery as well. He asked if the staff maintain it.

Commissioner Longstreet said that the park will give the neighborhood a focus. She said she would like to see the Steelhead statue put in the area behind the fence by the creek. She expressed that she believes there is a good chance of having a stop sign on Bath Street; it is the safe passage way to the Downtown area on the Westside. Ms. Longstreet expressed support for the playground designed for the 2-5 age-group. She said she would love to have both playgrounds and the adult fitness equipment there, but the younger children need a place to be outside; they don't have a yard to play in, and it would give parents and grandparents a place to congregate. Ms. Longstreet stated that the design supports the theories we use throughout the park system. She said she is interested in keeping as much greenery as possible in the neighborhood.

Chair Wiscomb said she is convinced that the 2-5 year old concept is the way to go based on the neighborhood demographics and other Commissioner comments. She said she appreciates the Founders Wall concept, and it would be wonderful to have a small piece of community art to acknowledge the sense of community ownership. Ms. Wiscomb commented that she would love to see the Steelhead there as a reminder of where they are. She said that she appreciates the comments about the plant pallet and keeping them native. She agreed that interpretive signage would be great; it could be combined with some kind of artwork. Ms. Wiscomb said that she appreciates the comment about the Mut-Mitt dispensers.

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 6/0 to adopt the playground concept designed for the 2-5 age-group for the Bath/Ortega Street Pocket Park.

Chair Wiscomb took a moment to honored Nick Johnson, Parks and Recreation, Aquatics employee, who passed away Monday, March 24, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:20 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks & Recreation Director