



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

MINUTES

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb (Chair)
Commissioner Chris Casebeer (Arrived at 4:05 pm)
Commissioner Jim Heaton
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Olivia Uribe
Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez
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
Recreation Program Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Program Manager Judith McCaffrey
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Golf Course Superintendent Simon Herrera
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna
Sr. Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Sr. Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor Mark Alvarado
Administrative Analyst Mark Sewell
Marketing Coordinator Summers Case

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara

Liaisons Present

Sheila Lodge, Planning Commission Liaison

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No one wished to speak.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION

1. Recognition of Presidio Sports – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 26, 2014

Speakers:

- Staff: Sr. Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna
- Members of the Public: John Dvorak

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Presidio Sports for their financial support of the Santa Barbara Junior Lifeguard program.

The Commission unanimously received the report and recognized Presidio Sports.

2. Recognition of Key Volunteers from the Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 26, 2014

Speakers:

- Staff: Sr. Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
- Members of the Public: Tony Cunningham, Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club President

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Dale Jackson, Lucille Jackson, Carol Smith, Jess Jessum, and Lee Schmedes for their volunteer service at the Santa Barbara Lawn Bowls Club.

The Commission unanimously received the report and recognized the volunteers.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Youth Intern Rodriguez provided this report.

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 talked about the Magic on the Urban Wine Trail PARC Fundraising scheduled for Sunday, April 27th, 2-5pm at the Carrillo Recreation Center. She said proceeds will fund Parks and Recreation Programs.

Commissioner Casebeer said that he attended the Youth Council Leadership Conference on Monday, April 21st. He said he was very impressed with the event and that it reflected the student population from all ends of the spectrum. Mr. Casebeer briefed that the young people who were in attendance are not afraid to voice their opinions on issues they will face in the future. Mr. Casebeer then reported on the activities of the Arts and Crafts Show Advisory Committee and the Youth Council. He said he attended the City Council meeting on April 22nd, where they talked about the Gang Injunction, but as a citizen. He said he was heartened on the

importance of investing in the youth. Mr. Casebeer said he attended the 7th Annual Parque de los Niños Easter Egg Hunt. He said it was a well-attended and wonderful event. Finally, Mr. Casebeer recognized Jill Zachary who participated in the Boston Marathon.

Chair Wiscomb reported that she attended the Chase Palm Park play area informal opening ceremony, as did Commissioner Casebeer, and said the park looks great. She said she attended the City Council meeting on April 8th where the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) was adopted, and lobbied for funding. Ms. Wiscomb then reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. 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 said she asked staff from Public Works Water Resources to come to the Commission in May to provide a Drought Update. She said this will precede the Department Drought Strategy presentation.

Ms. Rapp briefed that the Department is playing a larger role with the South Coast Gang Task Force, and Mark Alvarado has been involved with the Service provider group. She said she asked Saul Serrano, South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs, to provide an update on that item, in either May or June.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

3. Summary of Council Actions – For Information
4. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting (site visit) of March 25, 2014, and the minutes of the regular meeting of March 26, 2014.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting (site visit) of March 25, 2014, and regular meeting of March 26, 2014.

Absent: Ferrara

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 April 26, 2014
 - PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by StaffSpeakers:
 - Staff: Urban Forest Superintendent Tim DowneyRecommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request:
1. 154 Romaine Dr. – *Araucaria columnaris*, Cook Pine – Denise Platt-Maginn

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the removal of the Araucaria columnaris, Cook Pine, at 154 Romaine Drive.

Absent: Ferrara

- B. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal request:
1. 121 Terrace Vista Ln.– (2) *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*, White Ironbark – Jason M. Bock

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Uribe, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to partially approve the removal request allowing the removal of one Eucalyptus leucoxylon, White Ironbark, for 121 Terrace Vista Lane.

Absent: Ferrara

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS

6. Parks and Recreation Recommended Fiscal Years 2014-2015 Budget – For Action

Documents:

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

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy L. Rapp, Director; Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager; Mark Sewell, Administrative Analyst

Recommendation: That the Commission recommends City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Parks and Recreation Department Budget, including the General Fund, Creeks Fund, Golf Fund, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges.

Commission Comments:

Chair Wiscomb commented that delaying the increase in fees until January 2015 is an excellent idea; golf has challenges as an industry, as does the Golf Course, and things need to settle down.

Chair Wiscomb said she supports the delay in the equipment purchases to help offset the water costs; that is the proactive approach to take.

Chair Wiscomb commended Mr. Herrera on the maintenance cost per round on the drought, saying there are a lot of challenges with the course right now.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that we need more enhanced park maintenance.

Commissioner Casebeer commented that he is excited to see the position of Park Volunteer Coordinator; he encouraged staff not to forget about the youth volunteers. He said he is happy we are upgrading the signage. Mr. Casebeer said he is happy about the possible addition of a Park Ranger.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that it is wonderful to see things restored. She said it is exciting to see the Capital Program receive funding, but we need to keep in mind that we are still in the hole. Ms. Longstreet said she was glad to see Council refer to the Infrastructure Financing Task Force Report. She said we still have buildings and parkland in need of help. Ms. Longstreet commented that it is exciting to see service levels come up and customer service being restored at various locations. She said that the Cabrillo Pavilion Arts Center is not easy to get to; the 620 Laguna Street Customer Service Desk being restored to its previous strength is great. Ms. Longstreet said she appreciates the thoughtfulness of the budget and the new revenues.

Commissioner Heaton commented that the budget is clear and thorough. He said the measurable objectives and those being met shows there is a need out there.

Commissioner Uribe asked whether the Volunteer Coordinator will coordinate all volunteer activities in the Department. Ms. Zachary said the focus will primarily be the volunteer work in the parks. She said the Coordinator would also work in tandem with other staff to ensure we are supporting other efforts. Ms. Rapp said ideally, the Department would like to have a full-time volunteer coordinator; departments that do, have a robust program. She said the Department has struggled to get a Park Volunteer Coordinator, and a Department Volunteer Coordinator would be ideal.

Commissioner Uribe commented that the new Medians, Parkways, and Contracts program is excellent and a good way to consolidate. She said the way it is funded is very effective.

Commissioner Uribe said regarding the Volunteer Coordinator, in an effort to reach out, it seems appropriate to fund the Community Outreach and Education Program.

Commissioner Uribe commented that she has followed the Department for years, and it is interesting seeing the cuts. She said that now seeing a positive budget its exciting and interesting, but cautioned staff to see how things go. Ms. Uribe said the adjustments are appropriate given the time and history of the Department.

Chair Wiscomb concurred with Commissioner Uribe regarding the Parkway, Medians and Contract Program. She said she thought the recommendations for the allocations for additional funds were great; very well thought-out. Ms. Wiscomb said that the \$9,000 for the Youth only clinic at the Skate Park to ensure the young kids get to use it is great. She commented that the Inclusion Program allocation is very appropriate. Ms. Wiscomb said special events and picnic site rentals are up, which is why it is important to maintain our parks. She said she was pleased by tennis; more group lessons than projected, more tennis passes than projected sold, and more youth lessons than projected.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Chair Heaton, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Creeks Operating and Capital Budget, subject to the recommendation of approval of the Creeks Advisory Committee.

Absent: Ferrara

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Chair Uribe, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Golf Operating and Capital Budgets and Fees and Charges.

Absent: Ferrara

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Parks and Recreation Department Budget including the General Fund, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges along with the Commissioners comments.

Absent: Ferrara

Commission Comments Regarding Additional Funding Considerations:

Commissioner Casebeer stated that he supports Youth Employment, Youth Programs, Neighborhood and Outreach Services, and said he believes Council will as well.

Commissioner Casebeer commented regarding Cabrillo Boulevard Maintenance around the Andree Clark Bird Refuge, that there will be a significant institution in that location, and that parkway is an embarrassment now, but it could be a jewel. Ms. Zachary said the Parkway, Median, and Contracts Program does include that area. She said staff is sensitive to that area, but any work in that area does not include new plantings. Commissioner Casebeer suggested that it not just be a Parks project, but that the Museum and Santa Barbara Beautiful be involved as well. He also suggested that the Department do some fundraising. Mr. Casebeer suggested instead of a Park Ranger, that two Parks Maintenance workers be added; they could be in the Park improving the quality of the parks; they have radios, and if they see something they could report it.

Commissioner Longstreet said she would support more Parks Maintenance staff for the parks, saying if more City workers are doing the jobs that need to be done in the parks and are present, the problems are being addressed in a different manner. She said she sees more benefits from someone cleaning up the park, rather than having a police officer pull someone out of the bushes. Ms. Longstreet said that the public has abandoned the parks because of what is occurring in them. She said the issue needs to be addressed from more than one direction.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed concern about the Program Director for the Youth Apprentice Program. She said that a salary of \$16,000 does not afford you buy-in from the type of person you want. Ms. Longstreet said the Department needs to invest in a person and provide a position that is valued.

Commission Longstreet commented that the UFMP should be implemented.

Commissioner Heaton commented that the expansion of youth programs and the youth jobs program is important in light of the need for prevention and of engaging our youth, and the safety zone atmosphere. He said these are better ways to reach out and engage them. Mr. Heaton further said that Camp Scholarships are important and should be made available to more youth.

Commissioner Heaton concurred with Commissioner Longstreet regarding the implementation of the UFMP.

Commissioner Heaton said that the addition of a Park Ranger sparks a concern; on the surface it sounds great, but they are engaged in the downtown, semi police work. He said he would not like to see it tied to the gang injunction, safety zone, and it be seen as a wedge. He urged caution so as not to create a divide.

Commissioner Uribe commented regarding youth violence saying that whenever there is a flareup, City Council seems to commit funding to the problem, but as soon as it is resolved, the funding goes away. Ms. Uribe stated that Youth Jobs Program funding should be a priority. She stated that expanding the Summer Drop-in program and restoring summer camp scholarships are important; these programs strengthen communities to prevent flareups. Ms. Uribe said these things should be programmic funding for the budget, not additional funding considerations.

Commissioner Uribe concurred with Commissioner Longstreet regarding Parks Maintenance staff. She said it is important to think outside the box on how to bring people back to parks. Ms. Uribe suggested and explained her idea of a contest that brings about activity in the parks.

Chair Wiscomb concurred with Commissioner Longstreet on maintenance and said she thinks most of the community agrees the City has failed in that area for a long time. She said it enhances resources to have an increased maintenance budget and begins to address deferred maintenance.

Chair Wiscomb agreed that the Youth Jobs Program, and that other youth programs should be a high priority. She said they impact children of all ages.

Chair Wiscomb said that the restoration of Summer Camp Scholarships addresses younger children who would not be addressed in other programs and keeps them actively engaged in positive activities.

Chair Wiscomb commented that a great deal of time was spent on the UFMP; she stressed the need to remember that the Urban Forest is a valuable resource that needs to be managed. She said the UFMP sets out the steps to do just that. Ms. Wiscomb said it is entirely appropriate, given that it was just adopted that some funding go towards it whether for the Street Tree Master Plan or community education. Ms. Wiscomb said

that the Urban Forest is a community resource, trees are not only pretty, but provide shade and have immense health benefits.

Chair Wiscomb reiterated that the Commission's priorities were youth jobs/programs, park maintenance, and the UFMP.

Commissioner Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council approval of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Parks and Recreation Department Budget including the General Fund, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges along with the Commissioners comments.

Absent: Ferrara

Chair Wiscomb advised staff that she would like the Commission to have a discussion at some point in the future, regarding an off-leash dog park on the Eastside or in the foothills.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS – NONE

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:01 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks & Recreation Director