



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting**

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL

Commissioners, Staff, & Liaisons Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Rocky Jacobson
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commission Intern Michael Yi
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Water Quality Research Coordinator Jill Murray
Assistant City Administrator Paul Casey
City Councilmember Grant House

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Rapp requested that the time for item 6, Cabrillo Ball Field Improvements be changed from 5:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., due to a disparity in the time on the agenda and the time in the email notification to stakeholders.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chuck Rose, Santa Barbara Youth Baseball, addressed the Commission.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS

Commissioner Burns reported that the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force meeting is next Wednesday, March 2, 2011, at City Council Chambers. He acknowledged the work of the trail volunteers.

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation.

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

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Golf Advisory Committee. She reviewed their core strategies. Ms. Wiscomb also reported on the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Chair Wiscomb acknowledged Councilmember Grant House who was in attendance at the meeting.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Rapp acknowledged that Councilmember Grant House, the newly appointed liaison to the Parks and Recreation Commission was in attendance at the meeting. She said staff looks forward to his involvement with the work of the Commission.

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that Daraka Larimore-Hall notified her that he will be resigning from the Parks and Recreation Commission due to additional professional commitments.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation for Commissioner Larimore-Hall's viewpoints and thoughtful consideration of the issues. They acknowledged his efforts and said that he will be missed.

Chair Wiscomb asked that the election of a Vice Chair be placed on the agenda for action for the March meeting.

Ms. Rapp reviewed the timeline for the appointment of a Parks and Recreation Commissioner to the position vacated by Daraka Larimore-Hall.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT

Commission Youth Intern Yi provided this report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Summary of Council Actions - For Information

Ms. Rapp reminded the Commissioners they were provided a copy of the letter send to Dr. Cooper notifying him of City Council's decision regarding his appeal of the Commission's action to deny the removal of a setback tree located at 1704 Mission Ridge Road. She further advised the Commission that another appeal of the Commission's action regarding a setback tree removal has been filed and is scheduled for March 22, 2011.

2. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2011; and
- B. Waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 11, 2011.

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2011, and the special meeting of February 11, 2011.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

3. **Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations - For Action**

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent.
- Members of the Public: None

A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request.

- 1. 3179 Lucinda Ln. - Liquidambar styraciflua, American Sweetgum - Ben and Kathryn Marrs

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation for 3179 Lucinda Lane.

B. Postpone the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 125 State St. - (2) *Metrosideros excelsus*, New Zealand Christmas Tree - Van Atta Associates on behalf of the Children's Museum of Santa Barbara

Commissioner Longstreet said she was on the Commission when the lower end of State Street was improved. She said she feels strongly that it is a major entry way into the City. Ms. Longstreet said the Commission spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the downtown area and said this area deserves the same amount of consideration. She expressed that there is a need cohesive planting plan along the entire street. Ms. Longstreet said that she does not think the removal request has an impact on the project at all, and agrees action could be postponed, thereby allowing time to look at the whole area.

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 6/0 to postpone a decision on the street tree removal request at 125 State Street until the Street Tree Advisory Committee can review the proposed landscape plan for La Entrada across the street and other adjacent projects.

Commissioner Burns stated that he hopes, as this moves forward, and it does not look like there is any rush to move it forward quickly, that it does not get bogged down.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed her believe that the street tree planning would not affect the development, and, further that she is happy to see things moving forward in that area. Ms. Longstreet said there are several projects moving forward in that area, but there needs to be a coordinated effort.

Commissioner Longstreet suggested that a site visit with the Street Tree Advisory Committee would be appropriate, and also that another committee or commission might also need to be involved to ensure continuity in direction.

Chair Wiscomb commented on her recollection that Community Development suggested the applicant come early to the Street Tree Advisory Committee with the application for tree removal and replacement. She said that she believes there is time for a thorough review.

Commissioner Longstreet mentioned the Santa Barbara State Street Hotel project and the Bebop project and said they need to fit in with what the Commission has already approved for La Entrada. She said that is important.

Ms. Rapp acknowledged that previous Commissioners spent a great deal of time reviewing the landscape plan for La Entrada, and there is a significant change between how that area looks now, and how it looked then. She said staff will determine what needs to be brought back to the Commission, understanding that the Commission wants to ensure that the area has a consistent look.

C. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 222 E. Constance Ave. - Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palm - Joy Kuntz/Action Tree

Commissioner Chris Casebeer moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding 222 E. Constance Avenue.

2. 1730 Garden St. - (5) Pyrus kawakamii, Evergreen Pear - Grant Castleberg

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Rocky Jacobson, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding 1730 Garden Street.

D. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 915 W. Mission St. - Pinus thunbergiana, Japanese Black Pine - Don Glasgow

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Scott Burns, and passed 5/1 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding 915 W. Mission Street.

E. Approve the following changes to the Street Tree Master Plan

1. 1100, 1200, and 1400 blocks of Chapala St. - consider change to designated species

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and co-designate the Brazilian Cedar Wood and Chinese Flame Tree as the designated species for the 1100, 1200, and 1400 blocks of Chapala Street.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Creeks Division Program Update - For Information

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Cameron Benson, Creeks Manager; Jill Murray, Water Quality Research Coordinator

6. Cabrillo Ball Field Improvements - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the background and current use of Cabrillo Ball Field and discuss potential improvements.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director; Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Santos Escobar, Parks Manager; and James Pflodging, Police Lieutenant
- Members of the Public: Sam Kieser, SB Youth Baseball (via email); Matthew LaVine; Sebastian Aldana; Theresa Pena; Curt Pickering; Anthony Giovanacci; Terry Tyler; Sharon Byrne; Beatriz Molina; Steven Romanowsky; John Dixon

Comments from the Public:

Sam Kaiser submitted his comments via email. He expressed that the Cabrillo fence seems to be meeting its intended purpose and it is nice to play on a field that does not contain human excrement and trash. Mr. Kaiser stated that Santa Barbara Youth Baseball intends to be an active participant in proposed upgrades and improvements at the Cabrillo Ballfield with the vision of fully returning it to a safe and welcoming environment for use by law abiding members of the community.

Matthew LaVine, Fess Parker Double Tree Hotel, said he agrees with continuing the fencing along the area and adding a playground to encourage family use. He suggested that in the area of the Chromatic Gate, something historic reflective of Old Santa Barbara be put in to encourage tourism. Mr. LaVine said he would like to see RV parking prohibited around the entire ballfield area and along Cabrillo Boulevard.

Sebastian Aldana said he did a survey about what people wanted in the Cabrillo Ballfield: ten people wanted a basketball court; seven wanted a track; nine wanted a farmers market; six an outdoor gym; seven a handball court; eleven a children's playground similar to Kids World; there was talk of a concession stand, nine people wanted a dog park, a hot dog cart/coffee cart. Mr. Aldana said during September an informal survey was conducted at the Franklin Center, where interest was expressed for a basketball court, outside track, and a handball court.

Theresa Pena suggested basketball courts would enhance the Cabrillo Ballfield area. She also suggested that a jogging or walking track be put in around the perimeter of the ballfield that is slightly lit so as not to disturb the neighbors. Ms. Pena said the Chromatic Gate could be removed and relocated, and a play water feature for small children similar to what is at Disney Land put in its place.

Curt Pickering suggested basketball courts be installed, saying that the beachside area provides for over 19 sports, but there is no provision for the sport of basketball. He said he has contacted some people in town, and the project would be at no cost to the City.

Anthony Giovanacci spoke on behalf of the Santa Barbara Youth Football (SBYF) League. He said the City has an opportunity to help out the youth in town that have excelled at a state and national level. Mr. Giovanacci said that each year the SBYF Board struggles to find a place for the youth to practice and a place to play. He urged the Commission to deliberate on that and to think about the opportunity they have.

Terry Tyler suggested the unused outfield area of the Cabrillo Ballfield be turned into a "Kids World" like park for eastside neighborhood children.

Sharon Byrne suggested a handball court be installed at the Cabrillo Ballfield, saying it could bring revenue to the City by hosting tournaments.

Beatriz Molina advocated for sister cities and spoke in favor of preserving Calle Puerto Vallarta and keeping the Cabrillo Ballfield safe and healthy. She recommended lighting along Milpas Street and agreed with the other recommendations.

Stephen Romanowsky spoke in favor of installing basketball courts near the beach and urged the Commission to consider doing so. He offered to assist in fundraising.

John Dixon, Tri-County Produce, thanked staff and the police department for current improvements and the patrol presence in the area, saying things have changed for the better. He said he believes Cabrillo Ballfield can become a very

vibrant well-used park. He commented on the flooding issue, saying that when the roundabout was installed about ten years ago, he wrote a letter to the City questioning the manner in which the drainage pipes were installed. He said he was informed that the Cabrillo Ballfield was part of the solution to the flooding problem. Mr. Dixon concurred with the RV parking issue.

Chair Wiscomb acknowledged written communications from Celeste and Ken Barber and another email from a member of the public.

Commission Comments:

Commissioner Casebeer said he is excited for residents of the Lower Eastside. He said he has been involved with youth athletics for many years, and feels the City has the opportunity to maximize the use of the field. Commissioner Casebeer said is an advocate for the basketball courts, but open to adding other uses.

Commissioner Casebeer departed at 6:26 p.m.

Commissioner Longstreet agreed it is exciting. She said that although the City does not have the resources to complete projects at this time, she believes that once there are plans in place you are ready to go when funding is available. Ms. Longstreet said that the Cabrillo Ballfield needs to be programmed all times; she said she doesn't see it changing from a softball field, but it should also be able to accommodate soccer and youth football. She said that the use of the triangle area should be able to be maximized, no matter what it turns out to be. She said there have been several proposals over the years, but until some of the grading and other issues are worked out, we won't know what will be able to fit in the area. Ms. Longstreet stressed that maximizing the use of the field is what is important. She stated that she is intrigued by the idea of a walking path around the exterior of the field. Ms. Longstreet questioned what would need to be done to make that happen and whether it could be a quick and inexpensive fix. She said that nothing is quite ruled out yet, but she does have concerns about activities next to streets and said that safety needs to be addressed, specifically with regards to playgrounds.

Commissioner Burns asked Lt. Pflodging to explain what they did to make such a big impact to the Cabrillo Ballfield area. Lt. Pflodging outlined the strategy that was implemented.

Commissioner Jacobson expressed excitement about the project. She said she likes the idea of basketball courts, a water play feature for kids, a walking path around the field, and opening up the area at Milpas and Cabrillo so it is more inviting.

Commissioner Ferrara acknowledged that what ends up happening at the Cabrillo Ballfield will be based on funding, and suggested that a couple different

plans should be developed. Mr. Ferrara said he would like to see something put in that involves women and young girls. He suggested looking at the feasibility of hosting Women's National Pro Fast Pitch and possibly hosting a local team. He said it would be a great way to generate revenue and attract many tourists. He said that during the off season, the men's team could use the field. Mr. Ferrara said if the City did something like that, Cabrillo Ballfield could really be upgraded. He also suggested a sports center where various sporting events could be organized.

Commissioner Burns commented that if the light fixtures are 35 to 40 years old, they will need to be upgraded. He said he appreciates the comment regarding Sister Cities and suggested that where the Chromatic Gate is, or on the other side at Cabrillo and Milpas, some sort of art feature could be put in. He agreed that a basketball court or handball court would be appropriate. Mr. Burns suggested a beginner skateboard park also be installed, but said that some type of low fencing would be needed. He suggested the possibility of putting in a soccer or football field in the middle of the ballfield to make it more of a multi-use field. Mr. Burns said he liked the comment regarding lighting along Milpas Street and suggested it might make sense to extend it around the field.

Commission Intern Yi expressed enthusiasm about the ideas presented by the public. He said he is in favor of a basketball court, particularly if it is at no cost to the City. Mr. Yi further suggested that any programming in this area be geared towards youth activities such as football and handball. He said he is pleased that the transient population has migrated away from the Cabrillo Ballfield area, thereby making the area safer and more fun.

Chair Wiscomb agrees that the strategy should be to have plans in place in order to be ready to move forward when funding is available. She said the ideas brought forward by members of the public are fantastic. Ms. Wiscomb said she agrees with Ms. Longstreet regarding looking into programming the fields to maximize the use of the fields. She said that youth football is intriguing and should possibly be looked at in terms of programming the fields. Ms. Wiscomb said public safety is a key consideration, referring to the proximity of a play area to the street. She said the area is a busy area and a plan that includes a playground is pursued, it will need to be thought out very carefully. Ms. Wiscomb said she agrees the water feature is a really good idea, as is a mini skate board obstacle. She stated that handball is an interesting idea and should be explored. Ms. Wiscomb agreed that a walking path could be easily incorporated as part of some other improvements, and the historic elements idea is very intriguing and suggested that some history on the Chromatic Gate might even be interesting.

Chair Wiscomb stated that she thinks the lighting and the drainage, but primarily the drainage, because it might involve re-grading, before anything is done.

Commissioner Burns asked staff to ask Public Works what happened with the drainage in the area.

Ms. Zachary responded saying that staff is aware and the Commission understands that solutions to drainage need to be identified before any investments in the ballfield can be made. She said, however, that there are some investments that can be made, for example, lighting. She said staff will look at the surrounding storm drain infrastructure where water flows, how it drains, and what options are available to tie into or improve the connection to existing drain systems. Ms. Zachary said staff has already been working with Public Works staff on the issue.

5. Advisory Committee Liaison Appointments - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission consider advisory committee liaison positions appointments.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director;

Ms. Rapp indicated this item is being brought back to the Commission so the Commission can appoint up to two liaisons to the newly formed Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Commissioners Ferrara and Longstreet volunteered to serve as liaisons to the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:54, with no further business to be addressed by the Commission,

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director