



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

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

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 Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb (Chair)
Commissioner Nichol Clark
Commissioner LeeAnne French
Commissioner Jim Heaton
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Youth Intern Andrew Rodriguez
Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Parks Manager, Santos Escobar
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Recreation Manager Rich Hanna
Recreation Supervisor Tony Sholl
Associate Planner Justin Van Mullem

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Mark Rincon-Ibarra

City Councilmembers Present

Gregg Hart

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

Parks and Recreation Director Nancy Rapp

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: None

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

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

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She briefed that she attended the Planning Commission meeting on January 15th and spoke in support of the Department's proposed Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Wiscomb reported on the activities of the PARC Foundation, specifically the Magic on the Urban Wine Trail Event, which is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th at the Carrillo Recreation Center. She also briefed that she attended the Finance Committee meeting on January 27th and spoke on the Commission's comments regarding the Golf Course discussion.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Introduction of New Aquatics Supervisor – For Information

Speakers:

- Staff: Recreation Manager Rich Hanna; Recreation Supervisor Tony Sholl

Ms. Rapp advised that City Council received a report yesterday from the Infrastructure Council Subcommittee and decided to move forward as the Committee recommended with hiring a professional to come in and do a poll on options the City might consider for funding some of the infrastructure needs. She said there was a very good presentation on the work of the Committee and encouraged the Commission to watch the City Council video on the City's website. Ms. Rapp stated that Parks and Recreation facilities were high on the list, but highest on the list were public safety issues, streets, and sidewalks.

Ms. Rapp provided a brief that staff made a presentation to the Finance Committee yesterday and provided the Commission with a brief overview of that discussion and outcome.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. Approval of Minutes – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2014.

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Heaton, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 22, 2014.

Absent: Rincon-Ibarra

Abstained: French

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.

5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated January 28, 2015
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Member of the Public: Jennifer Richardson, Agent of Owner

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal requests:
1. 2212 De La Vina St. – *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda – Wilifred Alire, Trustee

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and passed 6/0 to approve the recommendation to approve the removal of the tree at 2212 De La Vina St.

Absent: Rincon-Ibarra

1. 402 Vista De La Playa Dr. – (2) *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine – Diane Barrickman

Commissioner Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Casebeer, and passed 6/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to approve the setback tree removal request at 402 Vista De La Playa Drive with the condition the applicant replace them with four *Ficus benjamina*, 15-gallon minimum trees.

Absent: Rincon-Ibarra

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

4. Cabrillo Ball Park Renovation Project – For Discussion

Documents:

- Staff Report dated January 28, 2015
- PowerPoint presentation prepared and made by Staff

Speakers:

- Staff: Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary; Recreation Manager Rich Hanna; Associate Planner Justin Van Mullem
- Members of the Public: Sharon Byrne on behalf of the Blue Sands Inn and Fess Parker Doubletree Hotel; Councilmember Gregg Hart

Recommendation: That the Commission receives a presentation on the conceptual park improvements for the Cabrillo Ball Park Renovation Project and provides recommendations on renovation options for further evaluation and preliminary design.

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

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Casebeer commented that all five of the proposed uses have their place—this community needs activities. He said that a segment of our community that is oftentimes overlooked is our youth, and the Lower Eastside teenagers that love to play basketball need a place to play. Mr. Casebeer stated that this would be a fantastic opportunity to open up the community to this segment of the community. Mr. Casebeer suggested that the Neighborhood Advisory Council or Neighborhood and Outreach Services be included in the discussion.

Ms. Zachary indicated as part of evaluating this park site, staff took into consideration the recommendations that came out of the Franklin Neighborhood Committee, and are planning to involve the Neighborhood Advisory Council as the project moves forward.

Mr. Casebeer said that with the improvements to the Milpas Corridor and the 101 Freeway, the new Cacique Street underpass will allow easier access to this area, and certainly our youth by skateboard, bicycle, or by foot can get to the area. Mr. Casebeer stressed that as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner, he needs to promote the use of available opportunities for the youth.

Commissioner Clark commented that the off-leash dog area seems to be a better fit at Dwight Murphy. She concurred with Commissioner Casebeer about the basketball courts for the teens in that neighborhood; they need to be served and would have easy access. She said she understands the concerns of the hotel owners and said she expects significant opposition if the basketball courts are pursued. Ms. Clark said that a youth skatepark, as much as it would be her first choice, is not suitable for the site because of the proximity to the streets, and the fact that there is not a lot of parking in the area for parents who would drive their children there. She said she would like to explore other options for the youth skatepark.

Commissioner French expressed concern about the fencing. She said the area is a beautiful open space right now, but imagining six-foot fencing at the edge of the outfield, it is going to be substantial and will break the eye flow and flow and usage across the field. She further said that looking at the alternatives that will require even more fencing, she is less inclined toward it. Ms. French said the dog park is exciting, but the six-foot fencing is not appealing. She commented that the Tucker's Grove dog park has a four-foot fencing and suggested that might be a viable alternative. She said that at this point she would be more inclined toward the adult fitness type activities that do not require fencing and a basketball court area if it can be done without fencing. Ms. French said that this is a historic baseball field and suggested that maybe there is a way to celebrate baseball in that site with some support activities that would go hand in hand with that group.

Commissioner Heaton said he likes all of the options; the circular path is a great improvement, cutting the corners and adding more space and creating a parkway on Puerta Vallarta is double benefit; it separates the space and provides more greenery and screening for the hotel. He said a curb extension is worth exploring for improving the pedestrian flow on the sidewalk and adding a buffer for the circular path, if possible. Mr. Heaton said he views the park as an active park; uses that are active are compatible and consistent with what is going on there. He acknowledged the concerns of hotel owners, but, the slope down from Puerta Vallarta, improved screening, and actual amount of frontage may mitigate those concerns. Mr. Heaton said he likes the basketball option, youth skatepark, given the open views to the area. He suggested it may work well with respect to drainage areas if they are tied in with the storm drains; if engineered right, they may be a benefit and direct the water flow. He further said that hardscapes may be an improvement. Mr. Heaton commented regarding the adult fitness equipment that for this area he envisions something that allows more activities to be done, rather than simply stretching as was proposed at the Bird Refuge.

Commissioner Longstreet said it is exciting to see the project back, and she wants to see it completed. She said she does not think it is an appropriate site for a skateboard park because of traffic and the issues we have had at the skatepark at Cabrillo Boulevard. Ms. Longstreet said does not see compatibility for a dog park in this area or

a childrens play area. She commented regarding the adult fitness equipment that she sees its use as starting at teen age and thinks it would be good for this area. She suggested simple equipment that is versatile. Ms. Longstreet said there has been a huge weight loss emphasis on the Eastside. She said she likes a basketball court idea as well, and, a circuit area. Ms. Longstreet said she would like to to be respectful of the hotels, but she does not think we can be completely driven by them.

Chair Wiscomb said this is not an appropriate site for a child's play area; there is a new one at East Beach and other areas and it is not needed, additionally, it would need to be fenced for safety. She agreed with Commissioner French's comments regarding fencing. She said this area, the Chromatic Gate, is a gateway to the City, and a fence would detract from the beauty of the City. Ms. Wiscomb said this area is not a suitable site for a dog park; she agreed with Commissioner Clark that we should look at Dwight Murphy. She said the area is too small for an off-leash dog area, and the fencing would be a deal breaker for her. Ms. Wiscomb said she appreciated the thoughtfulness given to walking paths and landscaping. She expressed that a youth skate area is not needed in the waterfront area; it should be located inland. She said there are certain dangers and safety concerns in locating it in this area. Ms. Wiscomb said she appreciated the landscape thoughtfulness, especially on Calle Pueta Vallarta; it is important to upgrade that area. She said she appreciate the Eastside Plaza punctuated by the Palm trees, because it is a gateway. Ms. Wiscomb commented that she likes the landscape improvements in general, and asked that the irrigation is updated, as well. Ms. Wiscomb commented, in terms of basketball, that she understands the comments from the surrounding hotels, but she thinks it would be a colorful addition. Ms. Wiscomb concurred with Commissioner Heaton saying it is an active park, and basketball could show some vibrancy. She concurred with Commisisoner Longstreet regarding the adult fitness equipment, saying maybe it should not be called "adult" fitness equipment, because teens and tweens can use it as well. She suggested that staff look into equipment that accommodates 6-12 year olds that would normally go to a 6-12 year old playground. Ms. Wiscomb stated that the basketball court and adult fitness equipment are two things that require further study. She expressed that they would be great uses there, but thinks there would be challenges with the basketball court that maybe make it not the best site, related to drainage. Ms. Wiscomb commented that maybe a half court could be installed. She said the area should remain active and vibrant and hopefully not fenced. Ms. Wiscomb said that hopefully it can be maintained as an arrival point in Santa Barbara and keep the Waterfront vibrant looking.

Commissioner Heaton commented regarding a basketball court, that by not lighting it, it would less likely to be used at night. He said he does not believe that noise from a basketball court in that area would be much of an Impact. Mr. Heaton said he appreciates the ideas of combining a basketball court and fitness equipment. He suggested a lawn area buffer be explored.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Advisory Committee Liaison Appointments – For Action

Documents:

- Staff Report dated January 28, 2015

Speakers:

- Staff: Parks & Recreation Director Nancy L. Rapp

Recommendation: That the Commission review and consider advisory committee liaison appointments.

This item was deferred to February 25th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:56 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks & Recreation Director