



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

February 17, 2016

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street

CALL TO ORDER

Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Lesley Wiscomb called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

ROLL CALL

Parks and Recreation Commission members present: Chair Lesley Wiscomb, Vice Chair Mark Rincon-Ibarra, Beebe Longstreet, Jim Heaton, LeeAnne French, Ed Cavazos, Nichol Clark

Parks and Recreation Commission members absent: None

Committee members present: Chair Lee Moldaver, Vice Chair Penny Owens, Paul Bullock, Natasha Lohmus, Betsy Weber, James Hawkins

Committee members absent: Danielle DeSmeth

Liaison members present: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Heaton

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner June Pujo, Council Member Gregg Hart

Staff present: Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary, Creeks Restoration and Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood,

PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Mc Carter from Friends of Arroyo Burro spoke regarding oak tree care on the former Veronica Meadows property.

James Hawkins spoke reminding interested parties of the February 18, 2016 Planning Commission meeting regarding a proposed project at 251 South Hope Avenue.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None

1. Subject: Transportation, Creek Restoration and Open Space Projects in the Las Positas Valley – For Review

Recommendation:

That the Commission and Committee:

- A. Receive an overview of the various transportation, creek restoration and open space projects in the Las Positas Valley; and,
- B. Review and provide comments on the Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project and Las Positas Creek Restoration Project.

Documents:

Staff Report – February 2016

Speakers:

Cameron Benson - Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

Ashleigh Shue – Supervising Civil Engineer

Jessica Grant – Project Planner

Derrick Bailey – Transportation Engineer

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members and Commissioners asked the following questions:

Mr. Hawkins asked whether the existing Class II bike lane will remain on both sides of the roadway.

Ms. Shue stated that the existing bike lane is part of the shoulder which is required on both sides of the roadway for safety.

Ms. Lohmus asked about the setback from the creek, if any part of the project will take place within the banks of the creek, if the multiuse path is within the banks/riparian zone; and, if there will be mitigation for any loss of riparian area.

Mr. Bailey responded that portions of the project are within the 100 year flood plane and the coastal zone, mapping of the riparian zone along the length of the project is currently in progress with a consultant; and, that the goal of their design is to avoid encroaching on the riparian zone as much as possible.

Mr. Bullock asked if traffic lanes will be narrowed as part of the project; and how much more narrow the bike lanes will be.

Mr. Bailey responded that vehicle lanes will be narrowed in some areas but capacity will not be reduced; and, that vehicle lanes will narrow in areas where traffic speed is slower, however 6 ½ feet wide Class II bike lanes will be maintained on both sides.

Mr. Moldaver asked whether any bus lanes and stops will be affected.

Mr. Bailey responded that there are currently only a few bus stops included in the project and they will work with MTD to update them to be ADA accessible.

Mr. Rincon-Ibarra asked whether there would be a crosswalk across Las Positas Road at Meadows Lane.

Mr. Bailey responded that there may be a median refuge island for pedestrians in that location.

Ms. Lohmus stated that she supports taking as much of the project out of the riparian zone as possible; and, adding garbage receptacles along the path as

well as discouraging vehicles dumping garbage along the creek.

Mr. Hawkins asked if it is common to have a bike path next to a bike path and if there are instances where it would not work; and, could the multi-use path be brought further from the creek if the existing bikeway was removed.

Ms. Grant responded that it is similar to the multi-use path along the beach on Cabrillo Blvd, that they are attempting to be inclusive of young kids as well as adults; and, that some bicyclists may not feel comfortable riding along the faster roadway.

Mr. Bailey stated that the shoulder that is used as the roadway bike path must be maintained for safety.

Mr. Moldaver asked if it was anticipated that some of the project would be funded by Measure A grants.

Mr. Bailey responded that they anticipated the project would be split into 3 phases and they intend to apply for Measure A Funds; and, they have already been awarded RTP funds from the State, so they will also pursue additional State funding for implementation planning.

Ms. Longstreet commented that she feels the safety improvements are great on Las Positas, that access from the west side on Veronica Springs would increase safety, likes that families can bike to the beach safely from the westside neighborhood; and feels it is wonderful to see the portion of Las Positas Creek being restored.

Ms. French asked how the project would impact the intersection at Las Positas and Modoc Roads.

Mr. Bailey stated that although areas of the intersection are included in the project, it would not impact the vehicle capacity of the intersection.

Mr. Cavazos commented that he was supportive of the project, however he had concerns with the multiple the bike paths.

Mr. Heaton stated that he supports the multiuse path project, and can see people getting a lot of use from the new path.

Ms. Clark commented that she lives in the area, loves the idea of using the trail to the beaches; and, understands the concept of separating the shoulder from the multiuse path.

Ms. French asked if there would be any access to the newly acquired Veronica Meadows property with the multiuse pathway project.

Ms. Zachary stated that the City will consider access from Las Positas Road to the new open space property once the design process moves forward on the

new property.

Mr. Benson mentioned that some of the State grant funding used to acquire the property at Veronica Meadows requires a conservation easement and one of the allowed items is a multiuse path in the area.

Chair Wiscomb stated that the project looks great, as a cyclist she uses and would continue to use the shoulder once the multi-use path has been completed as there will likely be strollers, runners, and other users on the multi-use path, that she would like to see some pull outs for emergency situations; and, that she has concerns about shade trees and potential droppings that could be a safety issue for bikes, strollers, and other wheeled vehicles.

Ms. Lohmus asked if the multi-use path would include equestrian use.

Mr. Bailey responded that there is currently no plan to prohibit equestrian use but he didn't feel that the concrete path would be ideal for horses.

Ms. French expressed gratitude towards the City departments for working together to design the projects.

Public Comment:

Daniel Mc Carter from the Urban Creeks Council spoke in favor of the Multi-use path so long as the design is to compliment rather than interfere with the creek restoration.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wiscomb adjourned the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Zachary
Parks and Recreation Director