



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

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 735 ANACAPA STREET**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Beebe Longstreet called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the David Gebhard Meeting Room.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Beebe Longstreet

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners and Staff Present**

Chair Beebe Longstreet  
Vice Chair Nichol Clark  
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton  
Commissioner Tara Armbruster  
Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen (arrived at 4:05)  
Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna  
Parks Manager Santos Escobar  
Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey  
Parks Supervisor Ken Brown  
Administrative Analyst Mandy Burgess  
Business Manager Mark Sewell  
Executive Assistant Rose Nevarez  
Parks Administrative Assistant Terri Yamada

**Commissioners Absent**

Commissioner Ed Cavazos

Chair Beebe Longstreet welcomed new Commissioner Tara Armbruster.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Michael Cox

**YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:** None

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen reported on agenda items of the Arts and Crafts Committee.

Commissioner Clark reported on the Barger Creek Restoration Ribbon Cutting.

Commissioner Buxton attended the Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting.

Chair Longstreet attended and reported on the Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting and the Barger Creek Restoration Ribbon Cutting.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS:**

**1. Subject: Employee Recognition – Service Award Pins**

Director Jill Zachary recognized Outreach Coordinator Liz Smith for 10 years of service and Senior Grounds Maintenance Worker Steve Palacio for 30 years of service.

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

**2. Subject: Summary of Council Actions – For Information (Attachment)**

No comments.

**3. Subject: Minutes – For Action (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2016.

The Commission received the items.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Clark / Armbruster to waive the reading and approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2016.**

**Vote:**

**Unanimous voice vote (5/0)**

## **STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS**

Any action of the Parks and Recreation Commission made pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 15.20, Tree Planting and Maintenance or 15.24, Preservation of Trees, may be appealed to the City Council within ten days, pursuant to provisions of Section 1.30.050 of the Municipal Code.

### **4. Subject: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachments)**

#### Documents:

- Staff Report dated January 25, 2017
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff
- PowerPoint presented by Community Development Staff

#### Speakers:

- Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Public Works Department Supervising Civil Engineer Ashley Shue (item 3.A.1.)
- Community Development Project Planner Jessica Grant (item 3.A.1.)
- Public Speaker Dan McCarter (item 3.A.1.)
- Public Speaker Marilyn Wales (item 3.A.1.)
- Public Speaker Mary Scopatz (item 3.A.1.)
- Public Speaker Ken Balmy (item 3.A.1.)
- Public Speaker Paul Tonkin (item 3.A.1.)
- Public Speaker Shannon O'Bryan (item 3.A.1.)

#### Recommendation: That the Commission:

##### A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request:

1. The Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project – 114 various trees – Ashleigh Shue, Public Works Engineering

#### Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen asked for feedback from either Public Works Department Supervising Civil Engineer Ashley Shue or Community Development Project Planner Jessica Grant on the questions and concerns raised during public comment. Both Project Planner Jessica Grant and Supervising Civil Engineer Ashley Shue responded.

Chair Longstreet stated that the Commission previously received a complete presentation, along with the Creeks Advisory Committee, about this project. There was a lot of discussion and favorable comments at that time. She trusts that once the project goes through final design the number of trees required to be removed will be less than 114. She feels, and knows that the Commission would agree, that the number of trees removed should be as few as possible. She supports this project, feels it is a safety issue and very important community access project and hopes it will be able to prevent future accidents on Las Positas Road.

Vice Chair Clark agreed with much of Chair Longstreet's comment. She lives in the neighborhood and does not like to see trees removed, but the benefits of connectivity and the benefits to public health in this case outweigh her concern. She has personal experience with someone being struck by a vehicle while on the existing path on Las Positas. She believes this project is an essential component of the bike path and also trusts that the number of trees removed will be less than 114.

Commissioner Martinez Cohen asked if an attempt would be made to match the sizes of replacement trees to those removed in order to provide equal protection. Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey replied that the project was already proposing trees of various sizes, and that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommended some even larger sizes than proposed to address that issue and to maintain a natural look. They will work closely with the Public Works Engineering and Community Development to determine the best location for larger trees if they obtain approval.

The Commission received the report and the following action was taken.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Clark / Martinez Cohen to recommend that the trees be approved for removal on condition that replacement trees have diversity of size up to and including 60-inch box within the limits of the project and that the replacement trees focus on native species with the caveat that they minimize the trees that are removed to the extent possible and that no trees are removed until construction funding is guaranteed.**

**Vote:**

**Unanimous voice vote (5/0).**

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

2. 379 Canon Dr. – *Pinus pinea*, Italian Stone Pine – Peterson's Tree Care Inc.

Commissioner Comments:

Chair Longstreet mentioned that she visited the site and asked what kind of tree is proposed as a replacement and where would it be planted as there did not seem to be space available. Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey replied that a small flowering tree that can achieve a height of 25 feet is proposed and that it be planted in a more appropriate location on the property.

The Commission received the report and the following action was taken.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Clark to conditionally approve the removal based on a replacement tree with the potential to reach 25 feet (minimum height).**

**Vote:**

**Unanimous voice vote (5/0).**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**5. Subject: Director's Report – For Information (Attachment)**

Documents:

-Staff Report dated January 25, 2017

Speakers:

-Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of the various Parks and Recreation Department initiatives and activities.

The Commission unanimously received the report.

**6. Subject: Park Playground Program Report – For Information**

Documents:

-Staff Report dated January 25, 2017

Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff Speakers:

-Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

-Parks Supervisor Ken Brown

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report about the Parks and Recreation Department's Playground Program.

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

**7. Subject: Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Drought Response Plan Update and Water Rate Impacts – For Information (Attachment)**

Documents:

-Staff Report dated January 25, 2017

Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff Speakers:

-Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

-Administrative Analyst Mandy Burgess

-Business Manager Mark Sewell

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a status report on the Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Drought Response Plan and Water Rate Impacts.

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

**8. Subject: Santa Barbara Coastal Education and Outreach Project – For Information**

Documents:

- Staff Report dated January 25, 2017
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
- Administrative Analyst Mandy Burgess

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on the Santa Barbara Coastal Education and Outreach Project.

The Commission unanimously received the report.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**9. Advisory Committee Liaison Appointments – For Action (Attachment)**

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

Chair Longstreet advised the Commission she was informed earlier that day that Commissioner Wiscomb can no longer serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission as she is now serving on the Planning Commission and cannot serve concurrently on two commissions. Those liaison positions she held are now available.

Commissioner Martinez Cohen will continue to serve as liaison to the Arts and Crafts Show and Creeks Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Program Advisory Committees.

Commissioner Armbruster will serve as the liaison to the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Vice Chair Clark will continue to serve as a liaison to the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee and PARC Foundation and will now serve as the liaison to the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Lesner-Buxton will continue to serve as a liaison to the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Chair Longstreet will continue to serve as liaison to the Front Country Trails Task Group and the Neighborhood Advisory Council.

Committee Liaison Appointments will be revisited in June when a new Commissioner will be appointed.

Chair Longstreet thanked Ms. Wiscomb for her years of service on the Commission and noted she will be missed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:07 p.m., with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary  
Parks and Recreation Director