



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

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 735 ANACAPA STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Nichol Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Chair Nichol Clark

ROLL CALL

Commissioners and Staff Present

Vice Chair Nichol Clark
Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen
Commissioner Ed Cavazos
Commissioner Tara Armbruster
Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna
Recreation Manager Judith McCaffrey
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Business Services Manager Mark Sewell
Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
Senior Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan
Associate Planner Kathy Frye
Public Works City Engineer Brian D'Amour
Executive Assistant Rose Nevarez

Commissioners Absent

Chair Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Item 8 was taken in advance of Item 5.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: None

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Armbruster was not able to attend the Golf Advisory Committee meeting but reported that they discussed the player's club improvements that have been installed on the course.

Vice Chair Clark attended the Street Tree Advisory Committee meeting on May 4, where they visited and discussed all of the trees on the agenda, and on May 10 she attended a local Coastal Program Joint Subcommittee meeting. The local Coastal Program is a planning tool used by local government to guide development in the coastal zone in partnership with the California Coastal Commission. Santa Barbara's local Coastal Program was created in the 1980's and is due for a revamp which the City's Planning Department has been working on since 2014. They are making a lot of progress and we can expect a draft of the Local Coastal Program for public review this fall.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

CEREMONIAL ITEMS:

1. Subject: Review of the 27th Annual 90-Plus Birthday Party and Recognition of Event Sponsors – For Information (Attachment)

Documents:

- Staff Report dated May 24, 2017
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Senior Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the 27th Annual 90-Plus Party and recognize the ten event sponsors.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Jason Bryan gave a brief review of the party and recognized the following: Presenting Sponsor Hub International, Silver Sponsors Sharon Kennedy Estate Management, Union Bank, Easy Lift Transportation, Santa Barbara Foundation, and Nancy Rapp; Table Sponsors: Montecito Bank & Trust, Voice Magazine, Bryant & Sons, and the Santa Barbara Firefighters Association, and event emcee Drew Wakefield.

Commissioner Cavazos congratulated staff on a great event for which he has enjoyed volunteering in the past.

Vice Chair Clark thanked everyone involved as she serves that population as a cardiac nurse and feels they are an integral part of our community that are often forgotten.

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 April 26, 2017.

Director Jill Zachary recognized there was a paragraph missing from Item 4, Director's Report on page 5. Other items reported on included the EGGstravaganza, new pickleball courts and the SB Foresters. She stated staff would make those changes.

Motion:

Commissioner Cavazos / Martinez Cohen to waive the reading and approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 26, 2017 with the inclusion of the adjustment as discussed by Director Jill Zachary.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (4/0)

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 May 24, 2017
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Public Speaker Thomas Banigan (Item 4.C.1.)

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request:

1. 150 S. La Cumbre Rd. – *Afrocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine – LMA Architects, Jeff Gorrell Agent for Conserv Fuel Gas & Mini Mart

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

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Armbruster to approve the Committee's recommendation to remove the tree conditional upon the applicant replacing with a 24-inch box tree as proposed on the application.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (4/0)

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 1824 San Pascual St. – *Tipuana tipu*, Tipu – Carolyn Rice and Rodney Edwards

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

Motion:

Commissioner Armbruster / Cavazos to approve the removal on the condition the applicant replace with a tree that can achieve 20 feet in height.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (4/0)

C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 636 Ricardo Ave. – *Calocedrus decurrens*, Incense Cedar – Thomas and Cheryl Banigan

The Commission received the report, listened to testimony from the applicant, their questions were answered and the following action was taken.

Motion:

Commissioner Clark / Cavazos concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and deny the removal.

Vote:

Failed to pass voice vote (1/3) (Nay: Armbruster, Cavazos, Martinez-Cohen)

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Armbruster to refer the application back to the Street Tree Advisory Committee for further review based on new information provided at this meeting by the property owners and to discuss alternatives for the removal.

Vote:

Majority voice vote (3/1) (Nay: Clark)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Subject: Director's Report – For Information

Documents:

-Staff Report dated May 24, 2017

Speaker:

-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.

Director Jill Zachary reported on the annual employee breakfast and awards, 2514 Castillo Street tree appeal, Smoking Ordinance, and ribbon cutting ceremony to take place on June 22nd at Santa Barbara Junior High School.

The Commission unanimously received the report.

6. Subject: Parma Park Sustainable Trail System Plan – For Information (Attachment)

Documents:

-Staff Report dated May 24, 2017

-Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

-Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

- Associate Planner Kathy Frye

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Parma Park Sustainable Trail System Plan.

Associate Planner Kathy Frye gave an overview of the Parma Park Sustainable Trail System Plan. The purpose of the plan is to create a recreationally satisfying and safe experience while protecting environmental and cultural resources and to provide a plan to support trail maintenance. Sustainable trails are ones that have a minimal impact to the environment, produce minimal erosion, accommodate existing uses, and require minimal maintenance.

Jill Zachary explained the work done at Parma Park is made possible by Parma Park Trust. The Parma family donated the property to the City for public open space and trail use, and created a trust for its maintenance.

Vice Chair Clark asked which organizations submitted proposals for trail improvements. Director Jill Zachary responded that the information could not be made public until a recommendation is submitted to City Council. Vice Chair Clark asked if past work would be checked during the selection process to ensure it was sustainable. Associate Planner Kathy Frye responded that references would be checked.

Commissioner Martinez-Cohen remarked that she enjoys the park, has been many times and is excited to see some renovation happening.

Vice Chair Clark appreciates the investment in making the trails sustainable.

7. Subject: Santa Barbara Golf Club and Santa Barbara Police Activities League Golf Programming – For Information (Attachment)

Documents:

- Staff Report dated May 24, 2017
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Business Manager Mark Sewell
- Randy Shannon, General Manager, SB Golf Club
- Officer Kerr, Police Activities League Golf Program

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the partnership between Santa Barbara Golf Club and Santa Barbara Police Activities League (SBPAL) offering local teens access to free golf instruction and an upcoming Golf Tournament.

Business Manager Mark Sewell gave an overview of the instructional programs at the Santa Barbara Golf Club and its objective to grow the game of golf. The partnership between the Golf Club and SB PAL began in 2015 and is free for all participants. Sessions are from eight to ten weeks. The goal is to make it fun and enjoyable and teach golf skills, but also golf etiquette, teamwork and respect. A tournament, where team members are paired with community members, takes place at the end of the session and includes prizes and a dinner. A SB PAL fundraising golf tournament will take place on Friday, June 2nd at the SB Golf Club.

Ed Cavazos asked how many spots were available in the fundraising tournament, the cost, and start time. Officer Kerr responded there were four foursome worth of spots left and \$125 per golfer or \$500 per foursome. Start time is at 1:00 pm.

Vice Chair Clark asked if Ms. Esparza was the young woman who, through participation in the program, gained the skill and confidence to try out for her school golf team. Officer Kerr responded that she was.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary thanked SB PAL on behalf of Parks and Recreation for holding the fundraising tournament at the Municipal Golf Course and for their partnership in this great program.

8. Subject: Presentation of Infrastructure Repair and Community Service Needs – For Discussion

Documents:

- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
- Public Works City Engineer Brian D'Amour

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the City's unfunded infrastructure repair and community service needs and provide input on a possible sales tax measure.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary gave a brief introduction of the subject, referencing recent presentations to the Commission on the Capital Improvements Program and infrastructure needs of the Parks and Recreation Department. This needs assessment was done within the context of the City Council initiating another effort to look at the feasibility of some sort of ballot measure to raise funds to address Citywide infrastructure and other needs

Public Works City Engineer Brian D'Amour then presented an overview of City infrastructure repair and central community service needs. City staff worked with the finance committee and compiled a list of department needs over a 20 year period that could be funded with an estimated \$25 million per year generated by a 1 percent sales tax increase ballot measure under discussion. The increase would put Santa Barbara in line with a majority of California coastal cities. A polling effort identified priority projects and preferred conditions of fund use. Information on City infrastructure and community service needs can be found on the main page of the City's website and includes an email address for questions and suggestions.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary informed the Commission that this report will be taken to other City committees, councils and commissions. It is an opportunity for City staff to get their input and report back to City Council regarding their priorities and considerations.

Commissioner Cavazos completely supports funding of the projects discussed in the Parks and Recreation infrastructure needs report and Capital Improvement Plan but knows it's a challenge to raise funds. He believes there may not be support for a sales tax increase and there should be more foresight and planning for infrastructure needs.

Commissioner Martinez Cohen recognizes it has been a struggle to find replacement revenue streams since the Redevelopment Agency, a major source of funding, was closed in 2012 and that a new source must be created. She took the survey and responded in support of a 1% sales tax increase. She does not want to pay higher taxes but does want things fixed and recognizes there is no other funding source available. She will be interested in seeing the funding priority list. Obviously, safety issues will be the highest priority but she is curious about the process for prioritizing other projects. She believes that the selection of projects funded will have the most influence on public opinion, since if projects they consider a priority are not funded it could lead to backlash against higher taxes. The Commissioner then asked about the provision requested by those polled that the funds be spent locally, specifically if there is a process that includes contractors. City Engineer Brian D'Amour responded that consultants and contractors are typically local, within a short drive, due to our distance

from more densely populated areas where more projects are located so most of the money stays local. But there are no restrictions prohibiting projects from going to consultants or contractors if they provide a low bid.

Vice Chair Clark asked if City Engineer Brian D'Amour could respond to Commissioner Martinez Cohen's question regarding the prioritization of projects. Engineer D'Amour stated feedback received from focus groups identified public safety, streets & sidewalks as the highest priorities, with interest in other General Fund infrastructure projects including a number of those in Parks and Recreation. A full one percent increase in the tax rate should be enough to fund projects other than those of the highest priority. They are hoping to have one quarter of the additional revenue be allocated for infrastructure improvements. The selection process would probably be similar to the one currently used to determine funding for capital projects each budget cycle.

Commissioner Armbruster commented that when the Commission made a tour of Parks and Recreation facilities the need for improvements was clear. They are very valuable assets to the community and need to be restored and maintained.

Vice Chair Clark asked if the PowerPoint presentation was also available to view online. She believes it would be beneficial for people to be able to see the different examples of infrastructure needs and their costs, particularly the difference in cost to maintain a street by slurry sealing every few years and that of a full repave, which becomes necessary when streets are not regularly maintained due to lack of funds.

Vice Chair Clark commented that she reviewed the Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Plan previously provided to the Commission and all had valid and necessary reasons for their implementation and many include aspects of public safety such as adequate lighting. She encourages everyone to go to the City's website and look at the information provided.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:36 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