



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

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 24, 2018
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 735 ANACAPA STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Beebe Longstreet called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Beebe Longstreet

ROLL CALL

Commissioners and Staff Present

Chair Beebe Longstreet
Vice Chair Nichol Clark
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton
Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen
Commissioner Kathy McGill
Commissioner Roger Perry
Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
Recreation Manager Judith McCaffrey
Senior Recreation Supervisor Emily Fox
Recreation Coordinator Julie Thomas
Executive Assistant Rose Nevarez
Public Works Project Engineer Alex Ubaldo

Commissioners Absent

Commissioner Tara Armbruster

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Item 5.A.1 will be delayed as applicants are attending another hearing. Item 7 was taken in advance of Item 6.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: None

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Perry attended the Arts and Crafts Advisory Committee meeting.

Commissioner Martinez Cohen attended and reported on the Creeks Advisory Committee meeting on January 17th.

Vice Chair Clark attended the Street Tree Advisory Committee on January 4th, and the PARC Foundation Board meeting earlier today.

Chair Longstreet attended and reported on the Neighborhood Advisory Committee meeting.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

CEREMONIAL ITEMS:

1. Subject: Employee Recognition

Director Jill Zachary reported that Grounds Maintenance Assistant Robert Funai was recognized by the Santa Barbara Independent as a Local Hero for 2017 for his dedication to the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden at the Santa Barbara Mission.

2. Subject: Kiwanis Club Recognition (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize the Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara for their commitment, hard work, and leadership of the Annual Adapted Programs Thanksgiving Luncheon.

Documents:

-Staff Report dated January 24, 2018

Speakers:

-Senior Recreation Supervisor Emily Fox

-Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara President Anita Ho

-Kiwanis Club Lieutenant Governor Ed Cue

-Kiwanis Club of Santa Barbara Member Lisa Godschan

Senior Recreation Supervisor Emily Fox recognized the Kiwanis Club for hosting the Annual Adapted Programs Thanksgiving Luncheon for the past 39 years, and extended the Department's gratitude for their dedication and commitment, and for providing engaging activities for individuals with disabilities.

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary recognized that City Council awarded the construction contract for the Cabrillo Pavilion, a project started in 2011, on November 14, with the knowledge that there was still fundraising to be done. She also reported that City Council awarded the construction contract for the Cabrillo Ball Park on January 23.

Chair Longstreet stated she watched the presentation and the Cabrillo Ball Park project came out of meetings with the East Side Advisory Committee years ago. Many items in the plan came directly from the residents of the east side. The project has been vetted over a long period of time and addresses requests by the residents of Santa Barbara. She is happy to see it moving forward, and asked if there is a timeline.

Department Director Zachary said that it was likely a 3 to 4 month construction process, then a waiting period for the turf to establish and be in a position for people to withstand play. It will be closed for about 8 months. The Department is making sure that programs that would have taken place at the Cabrillo Ball Park can be moved to another location, as well as those that would have taken place at the Pavilion.

4. Subject: Minutes – For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2017.

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Perry to waive the reading and approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2017.

Vote:

Majority voice vote (5/0/1) (Abstain: McGill)

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.

5. Subject: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachments)

Documents:

- Staff Report dated January 24, 2018
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Public Works Project Engineer Alex Ubaldo (Item 5.A.1)
- Consultant James Faber, T.Y. Lin International (Item 5.A.1)
- Public Speaker Zoe Carlson (Item 5.C.1)

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal requests:

1. 1700 block of E. Cabrillo Blvd. – (10) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palms – Alex Ubaldo, City of Santa Barbara Public Works Engineering

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / McGill to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to approve the removals on the condition that replacement trees with the different height designations as noted in the staff report be planted.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

B. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal requests with conditions:

1. 414 Chapala St. – (2) *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, King Palms – Jessica Harlin, Barefoot Design

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Clark / Martinez Cohen to approve removal of the King Palm closest to the driveway on the condition two replacement Jacaranda trees be planted.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

C. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 726 N. La Cumbre Rd. – (10) total trees – Zoe Carlson, Dudek, Owner Agent

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, they heard testimony, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Perry to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to approve the removals on the condition they be replaced on a one-to-one ratio on private property, and the design of the roadway accommodate at least six street trees.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

D. Approve the following change to the Street Tree Master Plan:

1. 600 block of Anacapa St. – consider co-designation – Arcadia Studio

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

Motion:

Commissioner Clark / McGill to approve the change of the Street Tree Master Plan for the 600 block of Anacapa Street to include *Magnolia grandiflora*, Southern Magnolia.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

2. 100 E. Ortega St. – consider co-designation – Arcadia Studio

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / McGill to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the co-designation of the *Markhamia hildebrandtii*, Markhamia.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

3. 100 block of E. Sola St. – consider *Handroanthus impetiginosus*, Pink Trumpet Tree, for designation.

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner McGill / Perry to approve the designation of the *Handroanthus impetiginosus*, Pink Trumpet Tree, as the designated tree for the 100 block or East Sola Street and remove the *Pittosporum*.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

4. 1200 Blanchard St. - consider adding *Prunus cerasifera*, Purple Leaf Plum, as the co-designated tree for the 1200 block of Blanchard St. – Kate Oberjat

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Perry to approve the *Prunus cerasifera*, Purple Leaf Plum, codesignation for the 1200 block of Blanchard Street.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

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

Documents:

-Staff Report dated January 24, 2018

Speakers:

-Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

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

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary reported on the Chase Palm Park Carousel Carnival, the Annual Rose Pruning at A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden, the Santa Barbara Golf Club 60th Anniversary, and the ribbon cutting for the renovation of Kids World.

The Commission received the report.

OLD BUSINESS:

7. Advisory Committee Interview and Appointment – For Action (Attachments)

Documents:

-Staff Report dated January 24, 2018

Speakers:

-Larry Saltzman

Recommendation: That the Commission hold an interview and make an appointment to the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee.

The Commission interviewed the applicant and made the following motion.

Motion:

Commissioner Perry / Clark to reappoint Larry Saltzman to the Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee in the Pesticide Awareness Committee category.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

8. Franceschi House Options – For Action (Attachment)

Documents:

- Staff Report dated January 24, 2018
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Receive a presentation on the various options for Franceschi House; and
- B. Recommend that the City Council direct staff to further explore the feasibility and develop conceptual plans for the development of an interpretive pavilion.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary reported on the background of the Franceschi House, its current condition, past Council action and the various options explored for the site and their estimated costs. These options included a full rehabilitation of the house (interior and exterior), stabilization of the house interior with foundation upgrades or replacement, and deconstruction of the house and creation of an outdoor interpretive pavilion that integrates certain elements from the house, such as the medallions and stained glass windows. All options would include a variety of site improvements. Director Zachary discussed the feasibility of each option, current maintenance and costs, and possible revenue generation.

Upon reviewing the viability of all options, the Department recommends that the City further explore the feasibility of developing an interpretive pavilion as the preferred option for Franceschi House. This recommendation has the support of both the Pearl Chase Society and the Riviera Association.

Chair Longstreet reported the interior of the house is not salvageable in her opinion, and the Commission voted in the past to recommend to City Council that the house be demolished because of the condition, the limited use and limited access. She believes Dr. Franceschi's legacy is horticultural. He only lived in the house for nine years and it was substantially modified over the years. She believes

the window for saving the house was 35-40 years ago, and it saddens her that they were not able to move forward at that point with the horticultural aspects of the park when it was salvageable. At this stage, it is the most realistic to look at the removal of the house, for safety reasons and aesthetics.

Vice Chair Clark is leaning toward supporting the staff recommendation due to safety and budgetary concerns, but is worried about over-sanitizing parks and playgrounds in our city. Although she understands that for budget and safety reasons the house probably needs to be removed, there's a lot to be said for ramshackle mystery, and that's what the house represents for her family.

Commissioner McGill stated that although being relatively new to Santa Barbara, she has spent time at Franceschi Park and it is beautiful and quite a gift. But looking at it objectively, she is afraid that budget and money will always be an issue, there will always be limited use, and is concerned that the history and emotional ties will always allow for good money to be thrown after bad because it will never quite get to the resolution that everyone would like. She is not opposed to the interpretive pavilion, but thinks even that may be too much, and that going back to the horticultural legacy might be more feasible.

Commissioner Perry believes Dr. Franceschi's legacy is already spread throughout and deeply rooted in our city and preservation of that is important. He visited the park fairly frequently in the early 1970's and saw the disrepair. It's not really been touched and not really an asset, and a bit of a liability. He also has fond memories, but feels the house was almost a secondary item. He asked if the stairs to Alameda Padre Serra are included in the restoration. Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary replied that part of the park has not been addressed, the focus has been on the area of the vicinity of the house. That does not mean that it couldn't be addressed in the future, because access and passive use of Franceschi Park is the highest priority. Commissioner Perry asked if a greenhouse has been considered, since the legacy is horticultural. Director Zachary stated that it had been discussed, but new structures are not planned for the park due to management issues. The goal is to not intensify the use, yet make it a more friendly and useful space for park going public.

Commissioner Martinez Cohen asked if the Structure of Merit designation means it's a historical property. Does it have historic architectural design elements? Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary replied that it does have historical significance and that is one of the challenges that will be faced as the project moves forward if it includes putting something different within the site. An environmental impact report will need to be done focused on historic resources, and an update of the historic site structures report done, based on a concept plan to evaluate the extent to which the proposal mitigates the loss of that resource. There are steps to be taken under the Secretary of the Interior Standards when a resource can't be restored or retained. That will be a significant undertaking to get to the next step no matter what changes are pursued. Our approach is to envision what it will be

vs what it's not and what will go away, so that we can move toward something that will receive more community support.

Chair Longstreet believes it is time to move forward again, and to at least start the planning phase. She is happy to see this moving forward in this way. It was stalled in the fundraising phase for so long, and every winter brings more deterioration, even though the roof was replaced. She believes our resources need to be used for creating something useful to the community.

Motion:

Commissioner McGill / Martinez Cohen that the Commission support the staff recommendation to explore the feasibility and develop conceptual plans for an interpretive pavilion

Discussion:

Vice Chair Clark stated that by voting in favor of the recommendation, it does not mean that she is in favor of demolition at this time. She just agrees with moving forward with a feasibility plan and the development conceptual plans for an interpretive pavilion.

Vote:

Majority voice vote (5/1) (Nay: Perry)

NEW BUSINESS: None

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:43 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