



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, August 22, 2018  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 735 ANACAPA STREET**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Nichol Clark called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

**Parks and Recreation Commissioners Present**

Chair Nichol Clark  
Vice Chair Roger Perry  
Commissioner Tara Armbruster  
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton  
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen  
Commissioner Kathy McGill

**Neighborhood Advisory Council Members Present**

Chair Brittany Heaton  
Vice Chair May O'Mahoney (5:40)  
Sebastian Aldana  
Sally Foxen  
Beebe Longstreet  
Stacey Lydon (5:37)  
Don Perkins  
Rehman Qadri

**Neighborhood Advisory Council Members Absent**

Jacqueline Barrios  
Susan Lafond  
Beverly Perkins  
Hector Sanchez  
Eve Sanford

**Staff Present**

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna  
Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson  
Executive Assistant Rose Nevarez

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Subject: Ortega Park and Dwight Murphy Field Conceptual Master Plans – For Discussion (Attachments)**

Documents:

- Staff Report dated August 22, 2018
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
- Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna
- Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson
- Principal Landscape Architect Jeff Ferber, RRM Architects (Consultant)
- Public Speaker Jose Gallegos
- Public Speaker George Nagai
- Public Speaker Naren Porter-Kasbati
- Public Speaker Molly Kemper
- Public Speaker Meghan Salas
- Public Speaker Asthton Pelly
- Public Speaker Oliver Pelly
- Public Speaker Ivan Pelly
- Public Speaker Luis Alcaraz
- Public Speaker Abbey Fragosa
- Public Speaker Bill Strong
- Public Speaker Jesus Landeros
- Public Speaker Lalo Lopez

Recommendation: That Commission and Neighborhood Advisory Council:

- A. Receive a presentation on the conceptual master plans for Ortega Park and Dwight Murphy Field; and
- B. Provide guidance on further development of Ortega Park Master Plan “Alternative Concept B” for review by the Architectural Board of Review; and
- C. Provide guidance on further development of a Dwight Murphy Field Master Plan preferred concept for review by the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary recognized the community involvement in this process and stated this is an exciting time for the Department and community to be able to vision opportunities for the two parks. Ortega Park was designated as public space in 1902, and a park in 1930. Dwight Murphy Field was designated a park in

1925. Both have served the community for many, many decades and both are in need of refurbishment and a plan for the future.

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna reported on the Master Plan process for both parks. Ortega and Dwight Murphy Field are two of oldest and largest active recreation parks in Santa Barbara and their designs no longer function today. The facilities were evaluated and different ways to identify park improvements were reviewed, including new recreation trends, features, and elements, safety features, and parking circulation. The goal is to develop comprehensive visions and renovation plans with the ability for phasing of construction if funding is not all available at one time, while keeping a cohesive park design that works for everyone now and into the future. Public input was solicited through stakeholder interviews, two community workshops per park at nearby locations and at different times of day, and an online survey.

Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson began with Ortega Park, recognizing there were issues that will be unable to be solved through design, as the park is in the context of a neighborhood. Mr. Thomson presented an overview of the feedback received at the first community meeting, both on big picture items and new features. He then went over the two proposed alternative plans for Ortega Park in detail, and the reactions and preferences expressed for the plans at the second community workshop and from the online survey.

George Thomson then reported on Dwight Murphy Field, presenting an overview of the feedback received at the first community meeting, both on big picture items and new features. He then went over the two proposed alternative plans for Dwight Murphy Field in detail, and the reactions and preferences expressed for the plans at the second community workshop and from the online survey.

The Police and Public Works Departments also reviewed the plans for both parks and gave recommendations.

Mr. Thomson noted that the projects are lined up for the next stage of design and a single plan must be developed and decided upon to take before the Architectural Board of Review for approval for Ortega Park, and the Historic Landmarks Commission for Dwight Murphy Field.

Questions from Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Neighborhood Advisory Council members were answered and they received comments from various community members. Community members expressed support for the renovation of both parks, including the universally accessible playground and retention of softball/youth baseball and soccer fields at Dwight Murphy Field, and the skate park, splash playground and soccer fields at Ortega Park. There was support for and opposition to proposed fencing at Ortega Park, and support for lighting improvements and artificial turf at both locations. Concerns regarding park misuse were mentioned, and a request made to include skate parks at more locations and provide adult swim opportunities at Ortega Park. The need for revitalization of the parks was recognized,

and a belief expressed that all interested parties can work together to satisfy competing desires for the space.

Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Neighborhood Advisory Council members expressed support for the projects and thanked community members for their participation in the process and for attending this meeting. They asked that concerns and suggestions expressed by community members be taken into consideration as the projects progress. Ortega Park Concept B received support as having a larger skate park and playing fields, and receiving the highest support from the community. Some supported perimeter fencing, citing children's safety reasons, while others were in opposition. Dwight Murphy Concept A was recognized as being the most flexible, but many suggested a third alternative be developed to address remaining concerns expressed by community members. It was suggested that an alternative that will serve the greatest number of user groups, not necessarily number of people, should be chosen.

Additional suggestions mentioned for Ortega Park were to consider angled parking on alternate streets, test the effectiveness of improved lighting on reducing park misuse before adding fencing, and isolate the splash pad to allow its use without lifeguards present. Suggestions for Dwight Murphy Field were to include an outdoor music venue, explore incorporating a roundabout to mitigate zoo traffic, keep the playground by the athletic field to allow its use by families watching a game, and locate parking close to the playground.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary stated there will be more public meetings in the process specific to the design of the parks. The Department will take input from Commissioners and Council Members and public comments into consideration in reviewing the design concepts, and will then determine how to reach out to the community again before taking the next steps. Director Zachary appreciated everyone's participation in the meeting, and the Department will make sure to inform community members who expressed interest in the projects.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:37 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