



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

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, November 14, 2018  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 735 ANACAPA STREET**

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Nichol Clark

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners and Staff Present**

Chair Nichol Clark  
Commissioner Tara Armbruster  
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton  
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Commissioner Kathy McGill  
Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna  
Recreation Programs Manager Judith McCaffrey  
Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson  
Executive Assistant Rose Nevarez  
Interpreter Carlos Cerecedo

**Commissioners Absent**

Vice Chair Roger Perry  
Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:** None

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:**

Youth Council members Paola Padilla and Stephany Jimenez-Cortes informed the Commission that from this meeting forward, there will be two representatives from the Youth Council reporting each month on a rotating basis, in order to become familiar with the Commission and gain experience in public speaking. Ms. Padilla and Ms. Jimenez-Cortes reported on various topics involving the Youth Council, including their attendance at the National League of Cities Summit in Los Angeles, applications received for membership in the Youth Council, a Women’s Summit on November 16th, and leadership training on November 19th.

**COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:**

Commissioner Longstreet attended and reported on the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee meeting. The Adaptation Plan will be released on November 26th via the City of Santa Barbara website, and there will be a workshop on December 5th at the Louise Lowry Davis Center.

Chair Clark attended and reported on the November Street Tree Advisory Committee meeting, the Police Station Relocation Public Meeting on November 7th at the Faulkner Gallery, and the Ortega Park Master Plan community meeting on November 8th.

**COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS:** None

**CONSENT ITEMS:**

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

The Commission received the report and their questions were answered.

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

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2018.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner McGill / Longstreet to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2018.**

**Vote:**

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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS**

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

Documents:

- Staff Report dated November 12, 2018

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 Zachary reported on the Children's Garden Work Day on November 3rd.

### **4. Subject: Ortega Park Master Plan – For Action (Attachment)**

Documents:

- Staff Report dated November 12, 2018
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Rich Hanna
- Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson
- Public Speaker Sebastian Aldana
- Public Speaker Rubayi Estes
- Public Speaker Greg Jeray
- Public Speaker Sean Bolis
- Public Speaker George Nagai
- Public Speaker Kathleen Volpi, Action Roofing

Recommendation: That the Commission review the Ortega Park Master Plan and recommend to City Council that the Department proceed with advancing the preliminary design of the proposed park improvements.

Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish was available for this Item, and an interpreter was present to translate for public speakers if needed.

Assistant Director Rich Hanna gave an overview of the steps taken on the project since it was last brought before the Commission in August. An additional community meeting was held at Ortega Park after the Special Joint Meeting in August and input from both meetings was used to refine the Master Plan. The Plan went before the Architectural Board of Review in October, and another community meeting was held on November 5th. Existing components and amenities will remain, and others added. Details of the components will be developed as the design is refined. Considerations to be further evaluated and refined in advancing the proposal include: management

to meet the increased need for recreation space while providing equitable access to new facilities; the use of artificial turf; minimizing the impact on the neighborhood, including lighting, noise, and parking; and retaining Ortega Park as a cultural space.

Supervisor George Thomson discussed neighborhood compatibility issues, such as parking, park entries, neighborhood connection, noise mitigation, fences and gates. He then spoke about the project budget and the need to maintain the community significance and neighborhood identity.

The Master Plan will be presented to City Council in January. Once Council gives direction to advance the plan, the Department will focus on parking, access to and within the park, site specific technical studies, and further analysis of the preliminary designs for the various amenities. Key considerations will be community access, permitting requirements, feasibility, and cost.

Questions from the Commissioners were answered, then comments were taken from the public. Public speakers expressed support for the project, but some voiced concerns with parking and some requested a larger skate park area.

Commissioner Longstreet would like the parking timed during the day for park users and available for the neighborhood after hours. She does not believe a larger skate park is feasible at this location, but would like to see more skate parks at other locations in future. She believes we should keep the splash pad and implement artificial turf to minimize field closures. She advocates for phasing the construction and believes that access improvements are important. She strongly supports this project and thanks everyone for their hard work.

Chair Clark attended last week's community meeting and commended Mr. Hanna and Mr. Thomson for their responsiveness to the comments received at the meeting, and being actively engaged in the resident's concerns of wanting to maintain a sense of community, which she believes the design will do. She believes that increasing desired programs and activities will bring in the community. She commends everyone and is completely in support of the project.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Longstreet / McGill to recommend to City Council that the Parks and Recreation Department proceed with advancing the preliminary design of the proposed park improvements at Ortega Park.**

**Vote:**

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

**5. Subject: Proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2025 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Program – For Action (Attachment)**

Documents:

- Staff Report dated November 12, 2018
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speaker:

- Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

Recommendation: That the Commission review the proposed General Fund and Golf Fund, FY 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Program (CIP), provide recommendations on capital project priorities for FY 2020 and FY 2021, and recommend that the CIP be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary gave an overview of the Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program and reported on the projects proposed for Fiscal Year 2020 and 2021. The projects were chosen due to feasibility of implementation, community need and support, and, in some cases, the urgency to maintain or replace Department facilities due to deterioration.

The CIP for the entire City entire will be reviewed by the Planning Commission in January 2019 and forwarded to the City Council for review in March 2019. City Council will make funding decisions in June 2019.

Commissioner Longstreet would like the Commission to be able to review the Parks maintenance budget in relation to the Capital projects. She believes the Commission would benefit by seeing the details of how the parks are currently maintained, and would like to see it before the next budget process. She is excited about the potential for improving Plaza Vera Cruz as, though it's small, it is historic and in a dense area. Commissioner Longstreet would like to see it made safe and reclaimed for use by a cross-section of the population. She is also pleased to see park safety aspect projects included every year.

Chair Clark was surprised how other Department lists were so small compared to that for Parks and Recreation, and wondered if that had been the case in the last decade. She also noticed that the drivers behind the majority of the projects were "maintain infrastructure," "modernize City facilities," and "ongoing maintenance."

Director Zachary replied that yes, the Parks and Recreation list has been quite long within the last decade, mainly due to aging infrastructure. Also, there was a Citywide effort a number of years ago to more accurately capture infrastructure needs and include what was needed to take the City into the next century, not just fixing what it has.

Commissioner Armbruster is excited to see the West Beach Splash Playground and splash pad area in Ortega Park as she believes these are new features that our community can really utilize, and she hopes they get funded.

Commissioner McGill asked for clarification on how the priority designations (high, medium, low) were selected for the different projects, and Director Zachary explained there is not a clear criteria applied in the same manner for each project. The designation is dependent on various factors, including community need/priority, available funding, City Council interest, feasibility of implementation, and the number of people that would benefit.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Longstreet / Armbruster to recommend to that the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2025 Parks and Recreation Department Capital Improvement Program be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council.**

**Vote:**

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

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 5:59 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