



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 24, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Director's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

State Trails Day

Work to repair front country trails damaged from the January 2018 Thomas Fire Debris Flow continues. On April 6, 2019, 90 volunteer participants worked at the annual State Trails Day Volunteer Event for the Hot Springs Trail and Romero Fire Road and Trail corridors. Work included new construction and reconstruction of water drainage features, trail repairs, and removal of rock, small boulders, annual grasses and brush from trail treads within these corridors. The Department, in partnership with Santa Barbara County and United States Forest Service, is very appreciative of the continued collaboration by Dave Everett to monitor and report trail conditions, as well as the efforts of the Montecito Trails Foundation, Montecito Fire Department, Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers, Bucket Brigade, Los Padres Forest Association and other volunteers.

Chef Apprentice Graduation

The 2019 Chef Apprentice graduation was held on Saturday, April 6. A total of 30 students attended the class this year, 15 from the Franklin Community Center and 15 from the Westside Community Center. This year's class had the most diverse representation from local schools, including Dos Pueblos High School, San Marcos High School, Santa Barbara High School, Garden Street Academy, Alta Vista, Inspire Charter, Trivium Charter, Bishop Diego, and La Cuesta, and several home schooled students.

The goal for this second graduation and fundraising event was to exceed the 95 attendees from the previous year. The students succeeded, selling 135 tickets to family and friends, and raising a little over \$3,000. The Westside Center had a full house on graduation night for the second straight year.

With great excitement, the students prepared appetizers and a full meal for their parents, sponsors and friends. They sold tickets, cooked, set up the room, made centerpieces, produced a slide show, and served the meal. Guests raved about the international theme of 12 different appetizers, Chicken Marsala, French beans, scalloped potatoes, dinner rolls, and chocolate and carrot cake. All were made from scratch by the students, led by their chefs.

During the graduation ceremony, the students received a certificate of recognition and a binder containing the 40 recipes they used during the class. The audience were moved by the inspirational stories of success; several have already been hired by the chefs for their businesses, and several students plan to return next year to hone their skills and help the first year students.

The final success story is that, at the end, the students understand why their program was provided at no cost to them. The chef jackets they proudly wore and the food they used was funded by the students who worked the 2018 fundraiser. Now these 2019 students are proud that they can "pay it forward" and raised funds for the students of the 2020 class.

This Parks and Recreation Department program is co-sponsored by Jolly Brothers Catering Company and coordinated by Chef Donald Hardin and Anita Dominocielo-Ho. Additional volunteer chefs are Martin Renteria, manager of Cody's Restaurant, and Troy Peters, a chef in town and a graduate of the SBCC Culinary Arts Class.

Earth Day Celebration

Every year, the Parks and Recreation Department participates in Santa Barbara Earth Day at Alameda Park. This year on April 27 and April 28, the Department will be located in the Public Square section at the City of Santa Barbara booth. This year's theme is tackling climate change. The Department's story includes celebrating the City as a certified Bee City USA, community, healthy people/healthy environment, and the protection of the City's creeks and ocean. Information will be provided on Parks, Forestry, Recreation, and Creeks Division programs. Highlights will include information on bees and pollinators and Recreation camps and classes, games for children, and Creeks water quality related activities, information, stickers, and buttons. Bee there at Public Square!

Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration Ribbon Cutting

The community is invited to join the Creeks Division in celebrating the completion of Phase One of the Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration on Wednesday, May 1, at 10:00 am. The project is designed to improve creek water quality and habitat conditions, and included the restoration of floodplain habitat, stabilization of eroding creek banks, removal of non-native vegetation, and the installation of 600 native trees and over 6,900 native plants. The park is located at the end of Alan Road where street parking is limited, and carpooling is encouraged.

PREPARED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director