



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 22, 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:

Expo de Eventos

"Find everything you need for your Baptism, First Communion, Wedding, or Quinceañera all in one place," was the idea behind the City of Santa Barbara's "Expo de Eventos," on April 28, 2019. Geared toward the Spanish-speaking population, this Expo featured 11 local vendors specializing in everything from catering and cakes, to music and photography, and hair and makeup services. Each vendor was ready to offer information, giveaways, and pricing in English and Spanish for their services. The Expo took place at the Westside Neighborhood Center and was staged by Santa Barbara Party Rentals to capture a fiesta atmosphere. Participants got a chance to try out a photo booth, sample delicious food and cakes, hear about all of Parks and Recreation's indoor and outdoor venues, and enjoy lively music. Over 40 prospective customers stopped in throughout the day, and in some cases booked services for upcoming events. A great time was had by all and vendors were eager to participate in next year's event!

Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration Ribbon Cutting

On Wednesday, May 1, approximately 45 community members, neighbors, and local press joined Mayor Cathy Murillo for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of Phase I of the Arroyo Burro Open Space Restoration Project. In addition to City staff, consultants, and contractors who worked on the project, representatives from the City's Parks and Recreation Commission and Creeks Advisory Committee joined in the celebration. Rachel Couch of the California Coastal Conservancy, which provided grant funds for the acquisition of the property as well as the restoration project, was in attendance. Attendees also included County Supervisor Gregg Hart and representatives from both State

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and State Assemblymember Monique Limon's office. Following the ribbon cutting, Creeks Division staff led a brief tour of the restoration site, where over four acres of creek side habitat was restored. Non-native vegetation and concrete and debris were removed from the creek, eroding creek banks were stabilized, over an acre of floodplain habitat was created, and 7,500 local native plants were installed, including over 600 trees.

The Creeks Division is hosting a community meeting at the site on Thursday, May 16 at 5:30pm to discuss Phase II of the Restoration Project.

FY2020-21 Budget Presentation to Council

The Department presented the recommended FY 2020-21 operating and capital budgets and fee changes to the City Council on May 8. The presentation included all four funds. Commissioner Longstreet made remarks on behalf of the Commission and Commissioner McGill submitted a comment letter. Council questions and discussion focused on the need and options for improving park safety, including an additional Park Ranger, private security services, community service workers, park improvements, security cameras, and additional park programming options. Mayor Murillo and Councilmembers asked that the Department prepare cost estimates and implementation strategies for further evaluation during the budget review process. Staff will also share this information with the Commission.

Ortega Skate Park Community Workshop

On Saturday, May 11, the Department held an interactive community workshop for users to share ideas, suggestions, and favorite images to help guide the development for a new skate park as proposed in the Ortega Park Master Plan.

The workshop began with a presentation of various skate park designs and features in California, including Ojai and Solvang. Participants were then tasked with identifying the design features they would like incorporated at Ortega Park through a variety of interactive methods, including sketching, sharing on-line images, and even modeling with clay. Finally, each participant was provided two stickers and asked to rank the following traditional skate park styles: street, transition, or a hybrid approach. The workshop was well attended, with forty-three (43) stakeholders in attendance, including some neighbors.

Information gathered from the workshop will further refine the skate park plan. A preliminary park plan will be presented during a community workshop in July.

National Trails Day

On June 8th, 2019, 50 to 75 volunteers are expected to participate in a National Trails Day Volunteer Event on the Cold Springs Trail. Work will include the cleanout, reconstruction, and construction of water drainage features, trail repairs, and removal of

rock, small boulders and annual grasses and brush in the trail corridor. The Department is very appreciative of the continued collaboration by Dave Everett to monitor, map and report trail conditions, as well as the Montecito Trails Foundation, Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers, Los Padres Forest Association, and other volunteer groups who participate and help us make these trails safe and enjoyable. It has taken a major work effort to reopen and recover from the fire, mudslide, and heavy rains.

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