



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 26, 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:

National Trails Day on the Cold Spring Trail

On June 8th, 2019, 58 trail volunteers worked on a National Trails Day Volunteer Event on the Cold Springs Trail. Work included the cleanout, reconstruction, and construction of water drainage features, trail repairs, and removal of rock, small boulders, annual grasses, and brush in the trail corridor. There was also significant progress made in repairing the trail section damaged near the trailhead with some skilled stone work. The Department is very appreciative of the continued collaboration by trail volunteer Dave Everett, the Montecito Trails Foundation, Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers, Los Padres Forest Association, Santa Barbara County Parks staff, and USFS Engine crew, as well as other volunteer groups who participate and help make these trails safe and enjoyable. It has taken a huge amount of work to reopen and recover from the fire, mudslide, and heavy rains following the Thomas Fire and Montecito mudslide.

MacKenzie Off-Leash Dog Area

The Off-Leash Dog Area at MacKenzie Park is scheduled to open this month, bringing a new type of park space to the City of Santa Barbara parks system. At State and De La Vina Streets, MacKenzie Park was selected as the optimal Santa Barbara park location for an enclosed off-leash dog area through an extensive study and community engagement process. The off-leash area provides for both large and small dog enclosures, is centrally located, and adjacent to an area of the park where there are canine training classes. Positioned at the eastern end of the park, the new space features the addition of new benches, a drinking fountain, enhanced landscaping, and a new park

plaza near the Calle Palo Colorado crosswalk. Further improvements to the restrooms at MacKenzie Park are scheduled later this year.

Bohnett Park Neighborhood Meetings

The Department is submitting a grant proposal, due August 5, 2019, for the Bohnett Park Renovation Project through the Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. To support the grant proposal, the Department is hosting community meetings with residents of the neighborhood to discuss and receive input regarding the layout, design, and amenities of the project. The first meeting was held Thursday, June 6 at the park, and 15 local residents attended. They provided positive feedback on the layout and features, such as the new turf and expanded basketball court. Additional refuse receptacles and lighting along the creek trail were two common remarks among the attendees. The next meetings will be held on two Saturdays, June 29 and July 13, 11:00 a.m. at Bohnett Park.

City Council Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget Adoption

On June 18, 2019, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget. With budget adoption, Council increased funding to the Parks and Recreation Department by \$136,616 in FY 2020 and \$110,193 in FY 2021. The additional funds will support a new Park Ranger position and safety improvements for Chase Palm Park and MacKenzie Park.

Confetti Outreach

Due to the growing issue of confetti use at parades and festivals in Santa Barbara, the City has launched an outreach effort to remind community members that confetti tossed and left on the ground is litter. Staff prepared a press release, posters, flyers, a short video, and social media posts aimed at those celebrating in Santa Barbara, asking them to choose paper confetti rather than plastic materials such as shiny metallic (Mylar) confetti, sequins, and glitter, and to use it sparingly. Informational flyers aimed at vendors were also created and posted in the City's Business Licensing office, discouraging the use of plastic materials and the sale of bags of confetti. A webpage was also created at www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Confetti with additional information.

Concerts in the Park – Summer 2019

The City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department's Concerts in the Parks program will kick-off its 20th summer of free concerts on opening night, Thursday, July 11, 2019, featuring Area 51, Santa Barbara's favorite rock, pop, funk, and soul dance band. Approximately 25,000 people attended last year's concert season, and this year's lineup

is sure to bring in large audiences. The series will consist of five concerts, all held on Thursday nights in July and August from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in Chase Palm Park. Additional concerts include:

- Thursday, July 18, Pop Gun Rerun (80s Music Experience)
- Thursday, July 25th, Captain Cardiac and the Coronaries (50s and 60s Rock n' Roll)
- Thursday, August 8th, Lightnin' Willie (Biggest Little Blues Band on Earth)
- Thursday, August 15th, the Blue Breeze Band (Motown and Rhythm and Blues)

The concert program is funded in part by the City of Santa Barbara, donations from concert attendees, and sponsorship from local businesses. The 2019 Sponsors include: The Forster Group at Morgan Stanley, Village Properties Realtors Jan Banister and Andy Katsev, the Santa Barbara Independent, KLITE, KTYD, the Santa Barbara Ski Club, the Santa Barbara Blues Society, and Voice Magazine.

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