



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

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 25, 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 735 ANACAPA STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Nichol Clark

ROLL CALL

Commissioners and Staff Present

Chair Nichol Clark
Commissioner Cory Baker
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton
Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen
Commissioner Roger Perry
Recreation Manager Rich Hanna
Parks Manager Matthew Parker
Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson
Parks Supervisor Steve Biddle
Public Works Principal Engineer Adam Hendel
Human Resources Analyst Christie Lanning
Executive Assistant Rose Nevarez

Commissioners Absent

Vice Chair Kathy McGill
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Item 5 to be taken after Item 3.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Youth Council Member River Proulx-Kelly reported the recruitment period for vacancies has closed and applicant interviews will take place on October 4 and 7. The Youth Council participated in the Day of Caring project at the Yanonali Community Garden on September 14. Current Youth Council projects include an anti-vaping public service announcement and a candidate forum to be held on October 28 at the Louise Lowry Davis Center.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Lesner-Buxton attended the Youth Council meeting and retreat.

Chair Clark attended the Street Tree Advisory Committee meeting, and participated in the Day of Caring painting project at Skater's Point.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: None

CEREMONIAL ITEMS:

1. Subject: Trails Volunteers Recognition (Attachment)

Parks Manager Matthew Parker gave an overview of the Santa Barbara front country trails system, role of City Staff, and a list of the trail volunteer organizations. Those recognized at this meeting are Sage Trail Alliance (formerly Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers), Montecito Trails Foundation, and Dave Everett (Multi-Use Trails Coalition).

Parks Supervisor Steve Biddle discussed the role of the volunteers in monitoring, maintaining, and enhancing the trails. Maintenance of the front country trails would not be possible without these devoted volunteers. Many trails were hard hit and closed due to the Thomas fire in December 2017 and mudslides in January 2018. Approximately 95% of the trails have been restored due to the assistance of these highly trained and dedicated volunteers.

CONSENT ITEMS:

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

The Commission received the report.

3. Subject: Minutes – For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2019.

Motion:

Commissioner Perry / Martinez Cohen to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 28, 2019.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (5/0)

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

Any action of the Parks and Recreation Commission made pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 15.20, Tree Planting and Maintenance or 15.24, Preservation of Trees, may be appealed to the City Council within ten days, pursuant to provisions of Section 1.30.050 of the Municipal Code.

4. Subject: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachments)

Documents:

- Staff Report dated September 25, 2019
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey
- Public Speaker Mark Shields (Item 4.C.2)

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following street tree removal request with conditions:

1. 820 Lowena Dr. – *Dracaena draco*, Dragon Tree – Matthew Firestone

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Clark / Martinez Cohen to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and approve the removal on the condition a replacement tree that can achieve 20 feet in height be installed at 915 E. Anapamu Street in the Lowena Drive setback fronting unit 20.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (5/0)

B. Approve the following setback tree removal request with conditions:

1. 2435 State St. – *Pittosporum undulatum*, Victorian Box – Maureen Needham

The Commission received the report and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Perry to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and approve the removal on the condition a replacement tree with the potential to achieve 20 feet in height be planted, as pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, the character of the immediate neighborhood would not be materially affected and the

removal and replacement follow principles of good forest management.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (5/0)

C. Deny the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 825 Roble Ln. – *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Kent Mixon

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:
Commissioner Clark / Baker to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and deny the removal as no finding for its removal pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 was identified.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (5/0)

2. 411 E. Padre St. – *Viburnum odoratissimum*, Sweet viburnum – Mark Shields

The Commission received the report, listened to testimony, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:
Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Perry to postpone a decision and refer the application back to the Street Tree Advisory Committee to review additional information.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (5/0)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. **Subject: City of Santa Barbara Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy – For Information**

Speaker:
-Human Resources Analyst Christie Lanning

Human Resources Analyst Christie Lanning distributed copies of and gave an overview of the City's Nondiscrimination and Harassment Policy and Employee Complaint Procedure.

The Commission received the procedures.

6. Subject: Director's Report – For Information (Attachment)

Documents:

-Staff Report dated September 25, 2019

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 Jill Zachary reported on participation in the Annual Day of Caring projects at the Yanonali Community Garden and Skater's Point, including the donation of paint by Dunn Edwards Paint of Santa Barbara. Director Zachary also informed the Commission the Department's application for a Coastal Conservancy Grant for the purchase of two beach wheelchairs was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

7. Subject: Ortega Park Master Plan Progress Report And Street Tree Removal Application – For Action (Attachment)

Documents:

-Staff Report dated September 25, 2019

Speakers:

- Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson
- Public Speaker Aaron Goldschmidt
- Public Speaker Sean Bolis (departed – comment read by Chair Clark)
- Public Speaker Sebastian Aldana
- Public Speaker Duke McPherson, Street Tree Advisory Committee Member
- Public Speaker Jose Gallegos

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Receive a presentation on the status of the Ortega Park Master Plan;
- B. Concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve all street tree removals for 604 E. Ortega Street as proposed with the exception of the four large Italian stone pines;
- C. Remove the Italian stone pines from consideration for removal; and
- D. Make the finding that a reasonable and practical development of the property on which the trees are located requires their removal.

Capital Projects Supervisor George Thomson reviewed the Ortega Park Master Plan project, then gave an update and reported on the changes made to the master plan since the last presentation to the Commission, including refinements to the swimming pool and skate park. The project went to the Architectural Board of Review on October 9. Next steps include focused technical studies and submission to the Development

Application Review Team in October and to the Planning Commission in early 2020. The project will be brought back to the Commission for review prior to the Planning Commission hearing. A final design contract for construction documents will be taken to City Council for approval in 2020. Construction is not currently funded, and future steps include fundraising and construction phasing strategy.

The Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed tree removals at their September meeting. Staff is consulting with the City Historian regarding the four Italian Stone Pines adjoining Santa Barbara Junior High School to determine if they are of historic significance. No trees will be removed until construction begins.

Comments from the public were supportive, but included requests for expanding the skate park, incorporating more street elements in the skate park, a larger pool, improved lighting, make all parking reverse angle, ensuring lighting is not intrusive on neighbors, eliminating the park perimeter fencing, and preserving all the stone pines on the property, not only the 4 referenced.

The Commission received the report, listened to testimony, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Perry to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee to approve all street tree removals for 604 E. Ortega Street as proposed with the exception of the four large Italian Stone Pines, as pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, a reasonable and practical development of the property requires their removal, and remove the Italian Stone Pines from consideration for removal.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (5/0)

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Clark congratulated Urban Forest Superintendent Tim Downey on his impending retirement and thanked him for the legacy he has left to the Santa Barbara urban forest.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:48 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