



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

**REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, October 28, 2020  
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Nichol Clark called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Commissioners and Staff Present**

Chair Nichol Clark  
Vice Chair Kathy McGill  
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton  
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet  
Commissioner Andria Martinez Cohen  
Commissioner Roger Perry  
Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary  
Recreation Manager Rich Hanna  
Street Tree Supervisor Brett Volpi  
Capital Projects Supervisor Andrew Bermond  
Marketing Coordinator Summers Case  
Public Works Transportation Planning and Parking Manager Rob Dayton  
Administrative Assistant Rose Nevarez

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- A. Changes to the Agenda – None
- B. Written Communications – None
- C. Public Comment – None
- D. Youth Council Report

Youth Council Member Davis Flanagin reported the Youth Council is participating in the SB Police Activities League Trunk or Treat event from 5:00-8:00 pm on October 30. Youth Council members Julia Minor & Laila Goodman will be participating in the National League of Cities City Summit, being held online November 18-20, and are members of the Summit's Youth Delegate Committee.

- E. Commissioner Committee Assignment Reports

Commissioners Longstreet attended and reported on the Sea Level Rise Adaptation Plan Subcommittee.

Commissioner Martinez Cohen reported on the Creeks Advisory Committee meeting.

Commissioner Lesner-Buxton attended and reported on the Youth Council meeting.

F. Commission And Staff Communications – None

**CEREMONIAL ITEMS:**

**1. Subject: Employee Recognition – Service Award Pins**

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary recognized Administrative Specialist Araceli Hernandez for 5 years of service.

**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 September 23, 2020.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Perry / Clark to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 23, 2020.**

**Vote:**

**Unanimous voice vote (6/0/1) Abstain: Baker**

**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 October 28, 2020
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Street Tree Supervisor Brett Volpi
- Raymond Ochs (Item 4.A.1)
- Elvia Rivero (Item 4.B.1)

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Partially approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 116 Santa Cruz Blvd. – (1) *Ficus benjamina*, Weeping Fig, (1) *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese Elm, and (1) *Schinus molle*, Pepper Tree – Raymond Ochs

The Commission received the report, listened to testimony, and the following action was taken:

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Martinez Cohen / Perry to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and approve the removal of the Weeping Fig and Chinese Elm on the condition they be replaced with 2 broadleaf evergreen trees that can achieve 25 feet in height, and deny the removal of the Pepper Tree.**

**Vote:**

**Unanimous voice vote (7/0)**

B. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 514 E. Alamar Ave. – *Erythrina caffra*, Southern African Coral Tree – Elvia Rivero

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

**Motion:**

**Commissioner McGill / Longstreet to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and deny the removal, as pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, no findings for removal were identified.**

**Vote:**

**Majority voice vote (6/1) Nay: Perry**

## ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

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

Documents:

- Staff Report dated October 28, 2020

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.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary reported on the reopening of the Arts and Crafts Show and the start of construction on the sub-surface storm water treatment project and additional renovations at Bohnett Park.

**6. Subject: Westmont College Acorn Woodpecker Study – For Information (Attachments)**

Documents:

-Staff Report dated October 28, 2020  
-PowerPoint presented by Westmont College students

Speakers:

-Seth Wilmoth, Westmont College  
-Kendra Dayton, student, Westmont College

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation from Professor Amanda Sparkman and students Seth Wilmoth and Kendra Dayton, of Westmont College, of the results of their 2020 summer research of the changes in behavior and social organization in acorn woodpeckers on an urban-wild gradient.

Westmont College students Seth Wilmoth and Kendra Dayton reported on the effects of urbanization on daily activity patterns and reproduction in Acorn Woodpeckers.

**7. Subject: Rental Facility Video Tours – For Information (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation of one of the Department's newly-produced rental facility virtual tours: the Cabrillo Pavilion.

Speaker:

-Marketing Coordinator Summers Case

Marketing Coordinator Summers Case reported on the recently produced videos giving virtual tours of the Cabrillo Pavilion, Casa Las Palmas, Chase Palm Park Center, and Carousel House. The Department expects video tours of the neighborhood centers to be completed by the end of the year. The Commissioners watched the video for the Cabrillo Pavilion.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**8. Subject: Thousand Steps Repair Project – For Action (Attachment)**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Thousand Steps Repair Project and recommend to the Planning Commission that the project be submitted to the California Coastal Commission for permitting under a consolidated Coastal Development Permit.

Documents:

- Staff Report dated October 28, 2020
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Capital Projects Supervisor Andrew Bermond
- Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
- Public speaker Raymond Ochs

Supervisor Bermond reported on the history of the steps; safety issues and proposed improvements; planning issues, including historic and coastal resources; and next steps.

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

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Clark / Longstreet that the Planning Commission recommend that the project be submitted to the California Coastal Commission for permitting under a consolidated Coastal Development Permit.**

**Vote:**

**Unanimous voice vote (7/0)**

**9. Subject: Proposed Municipal Code Amendments Pertaining to Special Events in the City of Santa Barbara – For Information (Attachments)**

Recommendation: That the Commission receive the attached information for an update on the proposed ordinance amendments pertaining to Special Events in the City of Santa Barbara.

Speaker:

- Recreation Manager Rich Hanna

Manager Hanna gave a brief update of the proposed changes. At the meeting on October 27, the Ordinance Committee requested further outreach to community groups take place prior to the item being taken before City Council. The item is now scheduled to be heard at the City Council meeting on December 15.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**10. Subject: Visioning the Future of Downtown State Street – For Discussion (Attachment)**

Documents:

- Staff Report dated October 28, 2020
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speaker:

- Public Works Transportation Planning and Parking Manager Rob Dayton

Recommendation: That the Commission discuss and provide the State Street Subcommittee with recommendations regarding the future contributions and community outcomes of a redesigned State Street.

Manager Dayton discussed the history of State Street, current milestones and actions, and examples of streets designed for various uses throughout the United States and Europe.

Commissioners gave their feedback on reasons for redesigning State Street at this time, what kind of experience a redesigned State Street would provide, the role a redesigned State Street would play in the vitality of Downtown, and goals for State Street.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:50 pm, with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill E. Zachary  
Parks and Recreation Director