



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES**

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING – SITE VISIT

August 19, 2015

Parks & Recreation Office, 620 Laguna Street

CALL TO ORDER

Parks and recreation Commission Chair Lesley Wiscomb called the meeting to order at 5:48pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Danielle De Smeth, Vice Chair Lee Moldaver, Paul Bullock, Natasha Lohmus, Betsy Weber, Penny Owens, James Hawkins

Committee members absent:

Liaison members present: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Jim Heaton

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner June Pujo, Council Member Gregg Hart

Parks and Recreation Commission members present: Chair Lesley Wiscomb, Vice Chair Mark Rincon-Ibarra, Beebe Longstreet, Jim Heaton, LeeAnne French, Ed Cavazos

Parks and Recreation Commission members absent: Nichol Clark

Staff present: Acting Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary, Creeks Restoration and Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Restoration Planner George Thomson, Parks Manager Santos Escobar

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None

1. SITE VISIT

Potential Acquisition of Vacant Land Along Lower Arroyo Burro (Former Veronica Meadows Development Site) – For Action

Recommendation:

That the Commission and Committee:

- A. Hear presentations from the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and City staff on the potential acquisition of vacant land along lower Arroyo Burro,

- B. Recommend that City Council appropriate up to \$2.7 million from the Creeks Fund Reserve to pay for a portion of the \$4 million purchase price; and
- C. Recommend that City Council accept title to the property from TPL for future creek restoration and open space park purposes.

Documents:

Staff Report – August 2015

Speakers:

Alex Size - Trust for Public Land
Cameron Benson - Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager
Jill Zachary – Acting Parks and Recreation Director

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members and Commissioners asked questions regarding the length of time the contract with TPL was valid, the previous purchase price of the parcel, if corporate sponsorship is a possibility, whether TPL will take a commission from the purchase, how the purchase will affect the Creeks Fund Reserve, whether a new restoration plan will be established, whether the purchase of this property would affect the Division's ability to respond to future emergencies; and whether there was any organized opposition to the purchase.

Mr. Size reported that if TPL does not purchase the property, within months the property would need to be placed back on the market, that the property was purchased 16 years prior for an unknown amount, that only public funds had been solicited at the time; and, that TPL receives no commission.

Mr. Benson stated that the Creeks Division has reserve funds available for this purchase and has surplus funds budgeted to replenish the reserve to target levels by the end of FY 17, that the existing restoration plan will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary, that the Creeks Division will continue to have funds to provide repair of any Division projects which might sustain damage during an emergency; and, that there has been no organized opposition to the acquisition.

Public Comment:

Steve Boner from Stonecreek Home Owners Association spoke in favor of the acquisition.

Dan McCarter from Friends of Arroyo Burro Creek spoke in favor of the acquisition.

Parks and Recreation Commission Motion:

Longstreet/Cavazos to recommend that City Council appropriate up to \$2.7 million from the Creeks Fund Reserve to pay for a portion of the \$4 million purchase price, and accept title to the property from TPL for future creek

restoration and open space park purposes.

Voice vote: 6/0 (Clark absent)

Creeks Advisory Committee Motion:

Moldaver/Lohmus to recommend that City Council appropriate up to \$2.7 million from the Creeks Fund Reserve to pay for a portion of the \$4 million purchase price, and accept title to the property from TPL for future creek restoration and open space park purposes.

Voice vote: 6/1 (Bullock opposed)

ADJOURNMENT

Parks Commission Chair Wiscomb adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager