



City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chair Wiscomb

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Lesley Wiscomb
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall
Commissioner W. Scott Burns
Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Youth Intern Michael Yi
Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Parks Manager Santos Escobar, Jr.
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Neighborhood and Outreach Services Supervisor Susan Young

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Chris Casebeer
Commissioner Rocky Jacobson

Ms. Young introduced Michael Yi, newly appointed Parks and Recreation Commission Youth Intern and provided an overview of the Youth Intern Program.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Speakers: Billy Goodnick, Cathy Murillo, and Karen Christman

ATTACHMENT 3

Chair Wiscomb suggested it is appropriate for the Commission to consider the issue of maintenance and new projects by the Parks and Recreation Department, and, possibly some Integrated Pest Management recommended changes that might go forward to City Council as part of maintenance.

Commissioner Longstreet suggested the items could be addressed during the budget process.

Commissioners Ferrara concurred with Chair Wiscomb and Commissioner Longstreet stating the importance of maintenance of the parks.

Commissioner Burns concurred and suggested it be addressed by some sort of blue ribbon committee.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall suggested the Commission not wait until they address the budget to discuss some of the items. He stressed the Commission should not discuss the items without keeping the budgetary issues in mind, particularly because of the public nature of the issue; he said to totally separate the issues would be irresponsible. Commissioner Larimore-Hall said, however, at the same time there are citizen engaged discussions, proposals, etc., that are not only budget issues that he would be happy to see on the agenda next month and, further, to have the opportunity to respond to some of the things said in public comment.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the February meeting agenda is full and suggested the Commission talk about the items closer to the budget, but before the budget as a separate item.

Ms. Rapp said staff will evaluate workload and what would be involved in bringing a report back to the Commission. She said the February agenda is full, but staff will look at bringing a report back to the Commission in March.

Chair Wiscomb commented that Ms. Christman brought up smoothing out some of the administrative policies regarding the tree ordinances.

Ms. Rapp said staff would review them, but administrative policies would not be approved by the Commission.

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION:

1. Recognition of Dave Everett for his volunteer service to the Front Country Trails Program

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Dave Everett for his volunteer service to the Front Country Trails Program.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

ATTACHMENT 3

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
- Members of the Public: Dave Everett

The Commission presented Mr. Everett with a Community Service Certificate in recognition of his volunteer service to the Front Country Trails Program.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Ferrara reported that the Integrated Pest Management Advisory has not met; therefore, he has nothing to report.

Commissioner Burns reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force and the Parks and Recreation Community (PARC) Foundation.

Chair Wiscomb reported on the activities of the Street Tree Advisory Committee. She further reported on the Golf Advisory Committee. Chair Wiscomb reported on the rose pruning event.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp reported that there are 31 applicants to the Neighborhood Advisory Council, and interviews will be conducted on February 3rd and 8th, with appointments being made in March. She further stated that staff will ask the Commission to appoint up to two liaisons to that Committee at the February meeting.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT: Youth Intern Yi provided this report.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

2. Approval of Minutes - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 15, 2010.

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 15, 2010.

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS:

1. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission:

- A. Deny the following Setback Tree removal requests.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent.

1. 320 Cooper Rd. – Quercus agrifolia, Coast Live Oak – Peter Hornemann

Mr. Downey briefed that the applicant's reasons for removal are that the tree roots are damaging the retaining wall; the removal of the tree would benefit an adjacent tree on the property; and he has already had to make repairs to utility lines that run under the tree trunk. Mr. Downey further said the applicant has concerns that additional utility lines will be damaged.

Mr. Downey indicated the Street Tree Advisory Committee determined that the tree could be preserved and the wall repaired with a combination of root pruning and wall construction techniques. He said they further determined that the other tree is in decline and would not really benefit from the removal of the tree.

Mr. Downey advised that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommended the request be denied because the reasons for the request do not justify the removal.

Commissioner Ferrara asked whether there is any way to determine if there are utility lines that would be impacted, other than the television cable lines already replaced by the applicant.

Mr. Downey said he is unsure as to whether the City Mapping system contains a complete representation of all utility lines.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked how one determines if cable or electrical lines are there and being impacted if the City mapping system is not 100% reliable in terms of the location.

Mr. Downey responded saying that trees are not typically approved for removal due to the presence of utility lines; the applicant is stating the trees could potentially damage utility lines. He said he is not reporting any existing damage. Mr. Downey informed the Commission of a service called "Dig Alert" that could be retained to determine if utility lines are present. He said he does not believe that has been done in this case.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the applicant expressed concern in his letter that continued growth of the tree will negatively affect underground utilities.

ATTACHMENT 3

Ms. Zachary added that the City's mapping system shows where there are water and sewer lines; there are no water and sewer lines underneath this tree. She said that if there are any other utilities, they would be under the jurisdiction of Edison or Cox, etc. Ms. Zachary said a property owner could call "Dig Alert" and have utility lines drawn out. She said that was not done as part of this tree removal application.

Commissioner Burns indicated he looked at the tree and saw the Cox cable box. He commented that there have been times when a tree has grown around a cable box and there has even been a time when the Commission has recommended a Palm tree be cut down because it was surrounding an Edison box. Mr. Burns said that in this case, the box is three to four feet from the base of the tree; it could be an issue in the future.

Commissioner W. Scott Burns moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and staff and deny the removal of the Quercus agrifolia, Coast Live Oak, at 320 Cooper Road.

1. 434 E. Valerio St. – Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm - Santa Barbara Real Estate & Investment Corp.

Mr. Downey briefed that the applicant's reasons for removal are that the palm fronds are falling from the tree; the skirt on the tree is creating a space where rats could nest; and they are concerned about the proximity of the tree to the building.

Mr. Downey advised that the Street Tree Advisory Committee determined that the skirt of the tree could be trimmed through regular maintenance, alleviating two of the concerns, and the tree is quite a distance from of the structure, thus it is unlikely that it is causing any damage. Mr. Downey advised that the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommended that the request be denied.

Commissioner Ferrara stated that he made a site visit to the tree and that it does not seem close to the unit at all; it looks to be 10 to 15 feet from the unit.

Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation to deny the removal of the Washingtonia robusta, Mexican Fan Palm, at 434 E. Valerio Street.

- B. Approve the requests to co-designate the following species to the Street Tree Master Plan

1. 4100 block of San Martin Way – change designation

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 5/0 to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation regarding the Street Tree Master Plan change for the 4100 block of San Martin Way.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS:

4. Tree Preservation Ordinance Enforcement - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a status report on Tree Preservation Ordinance Enforcement.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Jill Zachary, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent.

Chair Wiscomb commented that the Commission should look at the amount of staff time Tree Ordinance Violation cases take when considering the budget.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked that staff provide a multi-year report with the numbers of cases and pending cases and some sense of how staff found out about the violation, keeping privacy in mind, in order to gauge the effectiveness of outreach.

5. Twelve35 Teen Center Update - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive information on the Twelve35 Teen Center participation and activities.

Documents:

- Staff Report

Speakers:

- Staff: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager

6. Fiscal Year 2011 Golf Six-Month Rounds and Revenue Report - For Information

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a report on rounds and revenue at the Santa Barbara Golf Club for the first six months of Fiscal Year 2011.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Nancy Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director, and Nancy Woods, Administrative Analyst

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Proposal to Allow Alcohol at Carrillo Recreation Center - For Action

Recommendation: That the Commission recommend to City Council that Resolution No. 08-057, regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain City-owned public areas, be modified such that consumption of alcohol is allowed in the Carrillo Recreation Center.

Documents:

- Staff Report
- Staff PowerPoint

Speakers:

- Staff: Sarah Hanna, Recreation Programs Manager, and Nancy Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 5/0 to recommend to City Council that Resolution No. 08-057, regarding consumption of alcoholic beverages in certain City-owned public areas, be modified such that consumption of alcohol is allowed in the Carrillo Recreation Center.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Nicolas Ferrara, and passed 5/0 to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director