



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
CREEKS RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 2011

David Gebhard Public Meeting Room, 630 Garden Street.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bullock called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Bullock, Lee Moldaver, Natasha Lohmus, Betsy Weber, Leeanne French, Danielle De Smeth (5:34 p.m.)

Committee members absent: None

Liaison members present: Councilmember Michael Self (5:36 p.m.)

Liaison members absent: Planning Commissioner Michael Jordan, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Chris Casebeer

Staff present: Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Planner George Thomson, Creeks Supervisor George Johnson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee Members Moldaver/Lohmus to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 16, 2011.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

Mr. Bullock announced that applications are being accepted for positions on the Creeks Advisory Committee; applications are available on the City of Santa Barbara Website (www.santabarbaraca.gov) on the home page of the City Clerk's office; and, the deadline to submit applications is May 16, 2011.

Ms. De Smeth arrived at 5:34 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one wished to speak.

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Moldaver announced that a training class for Board, Commission, and Committee Members will be held at the Faulkner Gallery of the City Public Library on April 25, 2011 at 4:30 pm; and, will cover topics including the Brown Act and City policies on conflicts of interest.

Councilmember Self arrived at 5:36 p.m.

8. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Southern Coastal Santa Barbara Creeks Bio-Assessment Program and 2010 Report

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Southern Coastal Santa Barbara Creeks Bioassessment Program and a summary of the 2010 Report.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2011
Bio-Assessment Executive Summary – 2010
Power Point Presentation – April 2011

Speakers:

Jeff Brinkman, Ecology Consultants, Inc.

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding the most interesting or surprising finding of this year's study.

Mr. Brinkman reported that both the severe fires and the significant rains of the past years impacted the study greatly; and, there are natural events that can cause changes in the scores and impact trends over time.

Committee members asked questions regarding access to the creeks for the study; if there were any creeks where access was not granted; and, whether the creeks tested were perennial or seasonal.

Mr. Brinkman reported that permission and/or permits were granted for all sites which were not already on public land; although there are areas which were not tested, approximately 20 – 25 sites were tested; and, of these sites, all were perennial.

Committee members asked questions regarding what effect the recent fires had on the results; and, what is meant by a "watershed" approach to water quality improvements.

Mr. Brinkman reported that fires cause a loss of vegetation and an influx of sediment in the watershed and creeks, as well as suffocation of substrate and chemical changes due to ash and burn runoff; and, that a “watershed” approach takes into consideration what can be done within each watershed to improve water quality rather than just focusing on the creek itself.

Councilmember Self left at 5:57 p.m.

b. Recommended Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Budgets

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommend approval of the proposed Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2012 and 2013 Budgets to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2011
FY 2012/2013 Budget
Power Point Presentation – April 2011

Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Mr. Moldaver noted that the Creeks Division is continually able to leverage both outside funding for projects through grants and other government sponsored programs, as well as business and community partnerships; and, every dollar of Measure B funds allocated to the Creeks Division is being very carefully managed.

Mr. Bullock asked questions regarding beach and creek cleanups; and, what is currently being done with these programs.

Mr. Benson reported that there have been substantial increases in funding to these programs in the last four years; efforts are being made to prevent trash from reaching the creeks and beaches, including catch basin screens on storm drains; the Parks Department handles grooming and clean up on the dry areas of the beaches, while the Creeks Division does weekly cleaning of the lagoons and shoreline; and, that a pilot program which began last Spring to hand remove trash weekly from the waterline from Laguna Street to Ledbetter Beach, has been made permanent.

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Weber to recommend approval of the proposed Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget to the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City Council.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Committee members Moldaver/Webber to adjourn.

Chair Bullock adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Benson', written in a cursive style.

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager