



**City of Santa Barbara
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Joint Meeting of
June 27, 2007**

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Conner called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Commissioner Forsell

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners & Staff Present

Commissioner Ada Conner
Commissioner Steve Forsell
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall

Parks & Recreation Director Nancy Rapp
Asst. Parks & Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Recreation Programs Manager Sarah Hanna
Recreation Programs Manager Judith Cook
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Parks Manager Santos Escobar
Urban Forest Superintendent Timothy Downey
Street Tree Inspector Randy Fritz
Facilities & Registration Coordinator Susan Jang-Bardick
Recreation Supervisor Rich Hanna
Executive Assistant Karla Megill
Administrative Specialist Liz Smith
Landscape Architect Billy Goodnick
Information Systems Manager Tom Doolittle
Webmaster Scott Nelson
Computer Training Coordinator Maryanne Knight
City Councilmember Helene Schneider

Commissioners & Staff Absent

Commissioner Arnoldo Gonzalez

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ken Loch addressed the Commission.

COMMISSIONER COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT REPORTS:

Commissioner Longstreet reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force, Creeks Advisory Committee, and the Douglas Family Preserve Technical Advisory Committee.

Ms. Longstreet further reported on the PARC Foundation and Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) Event which is going to be held on July 28th and 29th, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., at La Arcada Plaza, Santa Barbara, CA.

Commissioner Forsell reported on the activities of the Front Country Trails Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force. He said the group hopes to have some resolutions to the trails issues by the end of the year.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that the Finance Committee and the Council approved to be included in the budget, almost \$175,000 in new funding to expand youth programs geared to reach elementary and high school youth and a youth employment program. Ms. Rapp said that Council approved the recommendation to make changes to the Resident Discount Program. She further said that Council provided funding for a half-time grounds maintenance worker, and the Department proposed to Council that if they would do that, the Department would provide the rest of the funding from hourly salaries to make that position a full-time position.

Ms. Rapp commented that staff has submitted a grant application for the Mobile Recreation Program. She further said that staff worked with a community collaborative to submit a \$1.1 million grant application through the Workforce Investment Board for a Youth Employment Program that could potentially serve 150 to 175 youth, both in school and out of school. Ms. Rapp said that the partners are SAR, Santa Barbara Housing Authority, Santa Barbara School Districts, Santa Barbara City College, and possibly Casa de la Raza. She further said that the Chamber of Commerce has also offered support.

Ms. Rapp briefed the Commission that the City is working closely with the Southern California Artists Painting for the Environment (SCAPE) which does two major art shows per year. She said that this year, 40 percent of the

proceeds from the art show in July will go to the Friends of the Douglas Family Preserve (DFP) to help fund restoration projects and other park improvement projects. Ms. Rapp further said that the PARC Foundation, City Parks and Recreation, and the SCAPE group are hosting a preview reception on Friday, July 27th, at the Faulkner Gallery, which will be a ticketed event and a fundraiser for the DFP maintenance fund.

YOUTH COUNCIL REPORT:

Ms. Rapp advised that there will be a new Youth Intern at the September Commission meeting.

1. **Summary of Council Actions** – There were no comments.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 21, 2007, and the regular meeting of May 23, 2007.

Commissioner Forsell asked that the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2007, be amended to reflect that the meeting was called to order by Chair Forsell as Ms. Conner was not present at that meeting. Ms. Conner, referring to the last line of page 3 of the minutes of the same meeting, asked that the word "San Mercan" be corrected to "Sanmarkand".

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 4/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 21, 2007.

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 3/0 that the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2007, as amended.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION:

3. **Volunteer Recognition - Fred Cook**

Recommendation: That the Commission recognize Fred Cook for his hard work and commitment to the Pony League Youth Baseball Program in Santa Barbara.

The Commission recognized Fred Cook for his hard work and commitment to the Pony League Youth Baseball Program in Santa Barbara and presented him with a certificate of recognition.

4. New Staff Introductions

Ms. Zachary introduced Mr. Cameron Benson, Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager. She highlighted his background and experience and said that the Department is very pleased to have him on board.

Mr. Escobar introduced Mr. Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent. He highlighted his background and experience and said that the Department is happy to have Mr. Downey on the team.

Ms. Hanna introduced Kimmie Coley, Recreation Specialist. She highlighted her background and experience and expressed that the Department is thrilled to have Ms. Coley on board full-time.

5. Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

Recommendation: That the Commission deny the following Street Tree and Setback Tree removal requests.

A. STREET TREES

1. 519 San Onofre Rd. - David Morse - *Quercus virginiana*

Commissioner Beebe Longstreet moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the request of David Morse to remove the *Quercus virginiana* tree located at 519 San Onofre Road.

Mr. Fritz provided a background on this item. He said he investigated the cracks in the floor at Mr. Morse's garage did not believe they were caused by the tree.

Mr. Fritz said staff will prune the tree and come back in the fall to do remedial root trimming along the driveway at Mr. Morse's house.

B. SETBACK TREES

2. 3710 State St. - Fred Fourouzandeh - *Washingtonia robusta*

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall, and passed 4/0 that the Commission concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to deny the request of Fred Fourouzandeh to remove the *Washingtonia robusta* tree located at 3710 State Street.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS:

6. Implementation of Video Streaming of Park and Recreation Commission and Creeks Advisory Committee Meetings

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a presentation on the implementation of streaming video for Park and Recreation Commission and Creeks Advisory Committee meetings.

Mr. Tom Doolittle and Mr. Scott Nelson provided a presentation on the implementation of video streaming of the Park and Recreation Commission and Creeks Advisory Committee Meetings. Mr. Doolittle provided a demonstration of the Video Streaming for the Commission.

7. Aquatics Section Program Report

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the Aquatic Section Beach Lifeguard Service and the new Lifeguard Towers, Junior Lifeguard program and Junior Lifeguard State Championships, and the summer Learn to Swim program.

Mr. Hanna provided an update on Aquatics Section Programs.

Commissioner Longstreet said the Learn to Swim Program is very important and said she is pleased with the grant program.

8. Report of City Celebration of July 4th

Ms. Susan Jang-Bardick provided an overview of the 4th of July Celebration events.

Mr. Don Katich, Sparkle, provided an overview of what his organization provides to the 4th of July event.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked whether there is anything in the festivals that is not militaristic.

Mr. Katich responded saying that not all of the music will be centered on military issues.

Commissioner Forsell expressed his opinion that the military is a big part of the 4th of July and he commended Sparkle for having the military as a part of the event.

Commissioner Longstreet asked whether there is a parade this year.

Ms Bardick said yes, but staff is not involved so she does not have many of the details.

9. Update on Concerts in the Parks Program 2007

Recommendation: That the Commission hear a report from staff regarding the Concerts in the Parks series starting Thursday, June 28, 2007, in Chase Palm Park.

Ms. Judith Cook provided a presentation on the Concerts in the Parks Program 2007.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

10. Franceschi Park Advisory Committee Interviews and Appointment

Recommendation: That the Commission interview four applicants and make one appointment to the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee.

The Commission interviewed and considered the following applicants for appointment to the Horticultural position on the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee. Mark Kyriaco Sheridan Stanton Keith Park Betsy Collins

Commissioner Steve Forsell moved, seconded by Commissioner Beebe Longstreet, and passed 3/0 that the Commission appoint Betsy Collins representing the Horticultural community to the Franceschi Park Advisory Committee for a term ending December 31, 2009.

Commissioner Longstreet commented that there is only one position, but the three remaining applicants are certainly encouraged to become involved in the Friends of Franceschi or become involved in other volunteer areas.

11. Elings Park Phase III Preliminary Review

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation and make comments on the proposed development plans for Elings Park.

Mr. Billy Goodnick introduced Mr. Steen Hudson, Executive Director, Elings Park; Bruce Giffin, Past President, Elings Park Foundation, Trish Allen, Suzanne Elledge Planning & Permitting Services, Inc., Allan Zimmer, Architects West, Rick Arlen, George Girvin Associates, Inc., and April Verbanac, Dudek Engineering & Environmental.

Mr. Steen Hudson introduced Bruce Giffin.

Mr. Giffin provided an overview of the Elings Park Phase III Project.

Ms. Rapp stated that this plan does still show a pathway from the Las Positas Tennis Courts parking to the Park, which is supported by the City's Transportation Division and the TCC. She said from the perspective of providing connectivity throughout the City, staff would agree that it has some potential positive benefits, but staff will be talking about concerns, which are the impacts to the parking lot for the tennis users. Ms. Rapp said that impact needs to be mitigated.

Commissioner Forsell asked whether this Phase has been in process for the past four or five years. He further indicated his recollection that the size of the recreation building was a concern. Mr. Zimmer said the building has changed, but it was never designed to be two stories. He said it is to be sited where it will not be seen from Las Positas because of the slope of the hill.

Commissioner Forsell said he does not recall that there was to be a putting green or batting cages in the original design. Mr. Giffin said that Mr. Johns had proposed that the Elings Park Foundation have a business plan drawn up. Mr. Giffin said that when the plan was developed it was suggested that those things be included in the development.

Commissioner Longstreet commented there will be an intensity of use, and asked what will happen with traffic safety.

Mr. Giffin said that a stoplight is crucial, and the City's long-time plan of making the Las Positas Valley a slower road, more pastoral road is crucial to the success of that. He said it is a concern.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall asked why Elings Park did not decide to put a Skate Park in. Mr. Giffin said that management of the skate park was a concern.

Chair Conner asked regarding the steps leading from the parking lot to the tennis courts, whether they are there to provide extra parking for people to access the park.

Chair Conner asked whether there is an existing MTD bus stop and whether it is near the steps. Mr. Giffin said there is an MTD bus stop there. Ms. Conner said it is past the entrance near the beach.

Mr. Giffin responded saying that the Park has no position on the steps and path to the tennis courts and other facilities in the park. He said that Parks and Recreation and Transportation had such a dialog about it in their responses, so it was left in the plan. Mr. Giffin stated that if both parties agree to take it out, it will be removed; if both parties agree to leave it in, it will be left in.

Public Speakers: Michael Fauver, Elings Park Foundation; Carolyn Brown; Executive Director, Boys & Girls Club; Dale Bowers, President & Track Director, Santa Barbara BMX

Commissioner Comments:

Commissioner Longstreet said she is pleased to see access from the Westside.

Commissioner Longstreet said she is happy to see different kinds of recreation activities that the City cannot provide. She said that Elings Park is a different kind of park and we need both types in the community.

Commissioner Longstreet expressed support for the project.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall concurred with Commissioner Longstreet that there is a lot of potential at Elings Park for programming that is not appropriate at other places. He said he would like to see a list of organizations and leagues that already program there as well as internal discussions about expanding that list.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall expressed that as we move ahead with planning and programming in this park, that we need to make sure the park will serve the diverse needs of the different segments of our community. Mr. Larimore-Hall further stated that he wanted to be sure that bus access is afforded on site. He said he wants to make sure bus access is afforded onsite.

Commissioner Larimore-Hall requested information regarding how green the park is now and how green the plans are for the future. He suggested a skate park be considered for development. Mr. Larimore-Hall said he would like to see raw data in terms of outreach to youth with respect to programming.

Commissioner Forsell said he likes the elements of the project and asked if there is going to be a Phase IV. Mr. Giffin said that as more people arrive it will be their decision as to whether there will be a Phase IV.

Commissioner Forsell stated that the fact that additional fields are being added is positive.

There is a significant shortage of field space in the South Coast area. The addition of three lighted sports fields, with synthetic turf, will greatly benefit many community youth and adult sports leagues.

Chair Conner said she is excited about a possible skate park in the future and a dog area in the future. Ms. Conner also proposed an aquatic facility.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Daraka Larimore-Hall moved, seconded by Commissioner Steve Forsell, and passed 4/0 that the Commission adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy L. Rapp". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy L. Rapp
Parks and Recreation Director