



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

REGULAR MEETING

April 20, 2022

Meeting Held Online

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lori Gaskin called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Chair Lori Gaskin, Penny Owens, Lee Heller, Chris Cline, Sofia Silva, Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino

Committee members absent: Betsy Weber

Liaison members present: Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Sneddon

Liaison members absent: Parks and Recreation Commissioner Evelyn Feck, Planning Commissioner Sheila Lodge

Staff present: Creeks Division Manager Cameron Benson, Creeks Administrative Specialist Jen Hollywood, Creeks Research Coordinator Jill Murray

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion:

Committee Members Heller/Cline to approve the minutes of the special meeting of February 16, 2022.

Vote:

Voice vote 4/0. (Weber, Silva, Rizo-Centino absent)

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

COMMITTEE MEMBER AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Benson announced upcoming Earth Day activities to the committee, and reported that the Budget Subcommittee met on March 15, 2022, and the Education & Outreach Subcommittee met on April 12, 2022.

Sofia Silva arrived at 5:41 pm

Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino arrived at 5:49 pm

BUSINESS ITEMS

a. FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET - For Action

Recommendation:

That the Committee recommend approval of the proposed Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2023 Budget to the Parks & Recreation Commission and the City Council.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2022
Power Point Presentation – April 2022

Speakers:

Cameron Benson, Creeks Division Manager

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions regarding increases in salaries, decreases in Measure B funding due to the pandemic; and, general fund use of Measure B funds.

Mr. Benson reported that the increase in staff salaries is due to increases directed by Council, that although TOT revenue decreased during the pandemic, forecasts show it is currently increasing; and, that usage of funds from Measure B are restricted by the Municipal Code and the funding guidelines of the Division.

Motion:

Committee members Heller/Silva to recommend approval of the proposed Creeks Division Fiscal Year 2023 Budget to the Parks & Recreation Commission and the City Council.

Vote:

Voice vote 6/0. (Weber absent)

b. SOUTHERN COASTAL SANTA BARBARA CREEKS BIOASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND 2021 REPORT – For Discussion

Recommendation:

That the Committee receive an update on the Southern Coastal Santa Barbara Creeks Bioassessment Program and a summary of the 2021 report.

Documents:

Staff Report – April 2022
Power Point Presentation – April 2022

Speakers:

Jill Murray, Creeks Research Coordinator
Jeff Brinkman, Ecology Consultants

Committee Questions/Discussion:

Committee members asked questions related to an increase in trash due to the pandemic and the impact of different types of trash on water quality, regional watershed collaboration.

Mr. Brinkman reported that although there may be additional sources for trash due to the pandemic, a significant increase was not noted, that while all forms of trash negatively affect water quality, organic pollution can affect oxygen levels which are harmful to aquatic habitats; and, that city and county collaboration combined with private landowner access

have benefitted the program greatly over the years.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Gaskin adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "B".

Cameron Benson
Creeks Restoration/Clean Water Manager