



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

**Parks Division
IPM ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, July 26, 2022
Shoreline Park Picnic Site
9 a.m.**

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Chittick at 9:08 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Voting Members:

Present: Greg Chittick, Kristen LaBonte, Larry Saltzman

Staff Present: Jazmin LeBlanc, Caitlin Lam, Nathan Slack, Joe Gonzales, Simón Herrera, Scott Walwyn, Monique O’Conner, Steve Biddle, Lyn Burich, Andrew Bermond

Also Present:

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

N/A

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Chittick reported that he received email correspondence from a member of the public who expressed their concerns about the use of all pest control materials and their impacts on public and environmental health.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded (Chittick/LaBonte) to approve the minutes of March 3, 2022. The motion passed (3/0).

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Staff update on the confirmed presence of the Invasive Shot Hole Bore (ISHB) in City of Santa Barbara – Nathan Slack

Nathan Slack reported that ISHB has a confirmed presence in Hidden Valley, Stevens, and Oak Park. Its presence has also been confirmed in street trees, particularly Albizia julibrissin, Persian Silk Tree. Trees can survive the pest, but

more often they die quickly as presence of the ISHB effects a tree's vascular system. This will be a long-term issue in the City and treatment is moderately effective. There are about 60 species that the ISHB can live in and only a few that it can reproduce in, including Sycamore and Coast Live Oak. Issues are often found in the upper canopy, which can be pruned out. Only 6-8 City street trees have been removed so far. An issue that complicates the removal of trees is the inability to properly dispose of the wood chips, which requires solarization to a certain temperature. There is a location in Oxnard that can take the affected wood, but Nathan mentioned it would be very helpful to have a location in Santa Barbara County.

B. Staff update on plans for FY 2023 gopher trapping and recordkeeping in Parks – Simón Herrera

Simón Herrera reported that gophers are a year-round issue in the City and that it is very difficult to determine a pest control action threshold because we don't know how many are underground. For example, during the renovation of La Mesa Park, staff predicted that there were about 30 gophers but trapped a total of 117 during the renovation. Simón has scheduled gopher trapping trainings and staff will start submitting data on a weekly basis so that Parks can report to the IPM Advisory Committee at regular meetings.

Simón would like to have one or two dedicated staff members just for pest management and has not found success with contract labor in large part because it is difficult to determine thresholds. Jazmin LeBlanc mentioned that during the past two years of the pandemic Parks has had to keep positions vacant and that within the last six months we have been able to fill 12 positions. She also said that Parks and Recreation staff will continue to advocate for adequate funding to manage gophers and other pests.

Simón mentioned that owl boxes will be installed at Chase Palm Park and maybe La Mesa and Shoreline Park. Monique O'Conner confirmed that the owl boxes would be deployed before January and that they may be placing an owl in one.

Chair Chittick asked that staff prepare a Gopher Trapping Policy similar to the City Ant Policy. Jazmin agreed to present the policy and trapping report at the Fall meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Review and approve the FY 2022 IPM Annual Report – FOR ACTION

Jazmin LeBlanc presented the Annual Report to the committee. Member LaBonte noted that there is a significant increase in use of pest control materials in FY22 and requested that we add a paragraph explaining this. Chair Chittick noted that without the fumigation it was not an unusual year for red materials and made a

request for a few other edits. Member LaBonte moved to approve with edits; Chair Chittick seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

B. Review and approve the FY 2023 IPM Annual Plan – FOR ACTION

Jazmin LeBlanc presented the Annual Plan, noting that we didn't make any major changes and that this fall we will have an internal staff review of the plan to remove unneeded materials for the next Annual Plan. Chair Chittick moved to approve with the distinction that the Annual Plan is informational and does not grant any exemptions; Member LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

C. Annual Programmatic Exemption Requests from the Airport Department – FOR ACTION

Andrew Bermond presented these programmatic exemption requests, explaining that the Roundup is to keep runways clear of vegetation and that being able to use a chemical application is much safer for maintenance staff as this is a very dangerous area to work in. He also noted that trapping is used to control ground squirrels but that Ditrac may be needed as a supplement, especially because they are a food source for raptors which creates safety issues for the planes landing on runways. Chair Chittick motioned to approve; Member LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

D. Programmatic Exemption Request from the Santa Barbara Golf Club for use of fungicides, herbicides, and insecticides for use on Golf Course Greens and Fairways – FOR ACTION

Scott Walwyn presented programmatic exemption requests which include new materials that combine multiple chemicals in one application and reduce the amount of applications needed. He also explained that he needs to rotate through a variety of products to prevent the targeted organisms from building resistance. Chair Chittick motioned to approve with the specifications that Primo Maxx could be used on fairways up to 12 feet from the greens and not at all near the school; Member Saltzman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

E. Exemption Request for one-time use of Vikane and Chloropicrin for fumigation of 132 Harbor Way Building and 125 Harbor Way Building – FOR ACTION

Lyn Burich presented an exemption request for the fumigation of 125 Harbor Way. The Waterfront Division decided to remove 132 Harbor Way from their request due to the difficulty of moving staff out of that building for an extended period of time. Lyn also mentioned the need to seal holes throughout the building. Chair Chittick explained the importance of fencing around the building and patrolling the building to control entry. Lyn confirmed that there would be frequent patrol as Harbor Patrol works in the building next door. Chair Chittick motioned to approve the fumigation of only 125 Harbor Way; Member LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

F. Programmatic Exemption Request for use of Subdue Maxx Fungicide on Moreton Bay Fig Tree – FOR ACTION

Nathan Slack presented this programmatic exemption, explaining that there would be three treatments at most: a pre-Winter treatment, a Spring treatment, and possibly a follow up treatment depending on rainfall. Nathan mentioned that it is difficult to determine efficacy of the treatment but that the tress has stayed stable. However the leaves grow smaller than normal and the tree cycles its leaves faster than normal. Chair Chittick motioned to approve; Member LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

G. Exemption Request for use of Change Up and SpeedZone Southern to control weeds at Cabrillo Ball Field – (Attachment) – FOR ACTION

Steve Biddle presented this exemption request. He explained that the quality of the turf at Cabrillo Ball Field has declined in the last five years mainly due to the heavy use of cleats for sports, being at only 8 feet above sea level, and having poor, salty soils to begin with. He noted that compaction and salt are the worst issues and that staff have tried a variety of control methods with little to no success. Steve explained that applications would be done with 8 weeks in between and overseeing to promote turf growth. The applications will only be done inside of a fenced area with no play that day or the next, which is a longer waiting period than required. Simón Herrera mentioned that it is a safety issue to play sports on the types of weeds on the field which can be slippery and/or wiry and pointed out that although the field needs to be aerated regularly, staff are discouraged to do so because it brings up new seeds from the seed bank. Jazmin LeBlanc pointed out that this would be a one-time exemption and that the park's PHAER designation would need to change in order for an exemption to be programmatic. Chair Chittick motioned to approve one cycle of applications with the specification that the material be applied within 6 feet of the inside of the fence; Member Saltzman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

H. Programmatic Exemption Request from Public Works Facilities for use of Advion products and Navigator in City buildings as needed – FOR ACTION

Joe Gonzales presented this exemption request. Chair Chittick asked if Lenz had tried any green materials such as eucalyptus oil and Joe confirmed that no green materials had been recommended by Lenz. Chair Chittick motioned to approve with the specification that Lenz try green products this year; Member LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.