



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

**Parks Division
IPM ADVISORY COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, November 1, 2022
Parks Building Break Room
402 E Ortega St
Santa Barbara, CA
9:00 A.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chair Chittick at 9:02 A.M.

ROLL CALL:

Voting Members:

Present: Greg Chittick, Kristen LaBonte, Larry Saltzman

Staff Present: Jazmin LeBlanc, Caitlin Lam, Simón Herrera, Monique O'Conner, Tina Nelson, Nathan Slack, Lyn Burich, Andrew Bermond, Erin Markey, Joe Gonzalez, Scott Walwyn

Also Present: Dale Shreve, Lenz Pest Control

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Item B of the Member and Staff Communications was presented before Item A as staff needed time to prepare presentation.

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT:

N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made and seconded (Chittick/LaBonte) to approve the minutes of July 26, 2022. The motion passed (3-0).

COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Staff report on application of Change Up at Cabrillo Ballfield – Steve Biddle

Parks Supervisor Steve Biddle reported on the effects of applying ChangeUp at Cabrillo Ballfield on October 19, 2022. A total of 4 pints were applied on 2 acres by a contractor. Steve shared before and after photos of problem areas and said it

was difficult to even find large bare areas. ChangeUp is slow-acting and the effect will change over time. Steve will be doing a more detailed renovation of the field in July 2023 with increased monitoring levels on weed growth and turf health. The goal is not to apply anymore herbicide, but he may need to request another application for spot treatment. The field was closed for two days after application. Chair Chittick mentioned wanting a longer closure time, he did not specify for how long.

B. Report on new gopher control material IGI CO2 – Dale Shreve, Lenz Pest Control

Dale Shreve reported on a new technology to control burrowing mammals including gophers and ground squirrels using carbon monoxide. He has not used this product or machinery before and would be purchasing it for the first time. This product would be totally non-toxic and would not require an exemption. The committee members were happy to hear that this option was available. Dale indicated that he would move forward with purchasing the equipment and be in touch with Parks Manager Simón Herrera for trial treatment.

C. Staff report on FY 2023 Q1 gopher trapping – Simón Herrera

Parks Supervisor Simón Herrera reported that in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023, Parks staff caught 191 gophers. This was mostly in the Downtown and Waterfront parks. Chair Chittick congratulated staff on the good work and asked that staff send an email to the committee members each quarter with numbers of gophers trapped and time spent.

D. Staff report on Staff IPM Committee meeting – Jazmin LeBlanc

Assistant Director Jazmin LeBlanc reported that she and Caitlin Lam held a Staff IPM Committee meeting to explain the purpose of IPM, how the program works, and what they are responsible for as IPM Coordinators. There were some changes to the program to improve process. For example, staff feedback included adding an exemption category that was more true to the definition of programmatic by spanning multiple years and including more long-term planning. Vice Chair LaBonte mentioned that we could start by trying a programmatic pilot for two years.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Exemption Request for use of Fipronil (Termidor SC) and Dinotefuran (PT Alpine Foam) at 117 Harbor Way – FOR ACTION

Lyn Burich presented Items A & B at the same time. She explained that the applications would all be spot treatments, that the buildings could be barricaded while the product dried, and that they would also be having the contractor seal off entry points. Chair Chittick asked if they had tried boric acid or heat treatment. Lyn replied that they had, but because these insects already live in a very high-salt

environment, they are tolerant of salt-based treatments. Chair Chittick moved to approve; Vice Chair LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

- B. Programmatic Exemption Request for use of Dinotefuran (PT Alpine Foam) at various Waterfront buildings – FOR ACTION

See description and motion under Item A.

- C. Programmatic Exemption Request for use of Glyphosate (Roundup Custom or equivalent) and Imazapyr (Polaris, Habitat, or equivalent) at various locations in Arroyo Burro Creek, Lower Mission Creek, and Lower Sycamore Creek – FOR ACTION

Erin Markey explained that Arroyo Burro Creek requires some retreatment of small stands of Arundo and the Creeks team would be starting treatment in Mission Creek and Sycamore Creek. She explained that Arroyo Burro is very close to being done and that it has taken longer than expected, but the treatments are working. One challenge is property owners along the slopes not allowing treatment on their properties. She also explained that Imazapyr stays in the soil longer than Glyphosate, so would not be used in areas with trees. Chair Chittick moved to approve; Member Saltzman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

- D. Exemption Request for use of Glyphosate (Roundup Custom or equivalent) on Las Positas Road – FOR ACTION

Erin Markey reported that the Creeks Division did not apply any Glyphosate after receiving their previous exemption as it did not fit into staff work schedule. Some large plants have re-established and require treatment. Chair Chittick moved to approve, Vice Chair LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

- E. Exemption Request for use of Mono- and di-potassium salts of Phosphorous Acid (Reliant Systemic Fungicide) at the Moreton Bay Fig Tree – FOR ACTION

Nathan Slack reported that a plant pathologist recommended treating the fig tree with staggered applications of more than one material to avoid the tree building a tolerance to the fungicide that has been used for many years, Subdue Maxx. The requested material is very similar to Subdue Maxx and would potentially be applied in the fall and again in the spring if needed. In addition, the Forestry team continues to refine cultural practices and is working with Public Works to discuss reducing the amount of asphalt covering the roots of the tree. The soil environment of the tree could be greatly rehabilitated by this action, opening up about 2/3rds of the dripline on the street side. Chair Chittick moved to approve, Vice Chair LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

- F. Exemption Request for use of Glyphosate (Roundup Custom) at the Douglas Family Preserve – FOR ACTION

Monique O'Conner explained that very little management had been done to the Douglas Family Preserve for many years and that invasive woody species, primarily acacia, are choking out young oak trees. Chair Chittick expressed concerns about the heavy use of the space by people and dogs and would like to have specific locations of application. Vice Chair LaBonte asked if there was any plan to fence and post signage around the treated areas, recommending that this be done a few weeks in advance. The details of the request and potential treatment were debated and ultimately Chair Chittick moved to deny; Vice Chair LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0. Chair Chittick recommended doing mechanized removal and then reporting back and bringing another request in January if Monique felt glyphosate was still needed.

G. Exemption Request for use of Glyphosate (Roundup Custom) at Parma Park –
FOR ACTION

Monique O'Conner described the trail maintenance work that will be done at Parma Park according to the Sustainable Trails Plan. She has surveyed the area and found that native plant populations are quite well-established except for in areas that were the most disturbed in the Thomas Fire. Part of the trail work includes disturbance to an area next to a trail and Monique would like to be permitted to use glyphosate to reduce the establishment of invasive species in those disturbed areas. Chair Chittick expressed concern about the extent of this request, noting that there are invasive species throughout Parma Park and other City parks. After some debate, Chair Chittick moved to approve the use of glyphosate along the trail maintenance in the first phase of work as long as the trail was closed for 7 days after and on the condition that Monique provide pictures and maps of the area to be treated; Member Saltzman seconded. The motion passed 3-0. Member Saltzman suggested a field visit after the trail work in the spring.

H. Programmatic Exemption Request for use of Glyphosate (generic) around Golf Course tree wells – FOR ACTION

Scott Walwyn requested the use of glyphosate to control regular weed growth in tree wells, explaining that he does not have enough staff to manage these areas. Chair Chittick asked Simón Herrera to speak about his time as the Superintendent. Simón described the County program that supplied 3-4 temporary staff people at no cost to the Golf Course and that these staff spent lots of time on weed control. This County program no longer exists. Chair Chittick moved to deny; Member Saltzman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

I. Emergency Exemption Request for use of Lambda-cyhalothrin (Scimitar) on Golf Course Greens – For Action

Scott Walwyn described the emergency use of Scimitar on the greens, stating that it was only used on four of the greens and at the lowest rate possible. Crows were tearing up the greens feeding on the grubs of a beetle he has not encountered before. The treatment was successful and the crows stopped the unwanted

behavior. Chair Chittick moved to approve, Vice Chair LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

J. Exemption Request for use of Sulfuryl fluoride (Vikane) and Cholorpicrin at Airport Building 321 – FOR ACTION

Andrew Bermond noted that the address was listed incorrectly, that it should be Building 312. He explained that the Airport has been doing heat treatment on the building and will assess whether or not the chemical treatment is actually needed. Chair Chittick moved to approve; Vice Chair LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

K. Exemption Request for use of Halosulfuron-methyl (SedgeHammer) in planter beds at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden – FOR ACTION

Jazmin LeBlanc informed the members that she tasked both the previous and current Park Managers to focus on improving the planter beds at Alice Keck. She was happy to report that it's looking a lot better than past few years and that Parks has been able to devote quite a bit of our landscape maintenance contractor time there. She's hoping to bring back the planter beds that no longer have any perennial plants. Chair Chittick said that in his experience SedgeHammer is not very effective and that the only way to get rid of nutsedge is to completely remove the soil. He also mentioned needing to select plants that are both shade and drought tolerant. Jazmin responded that this site has an approved planting plan and it would be quite a long process to change it. Chair Chittick also pointed out that there is a lot of nutsedge at the Mission Rose Garden and that it will eventually take over all of those beds as well. Jazmin suggested that staff come back with a more detailed plan at the next meeting. Chair Chittick agreed to this suggestion and moved to deny; Vice Chair LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

L. Review and approve the Parks Gopher Trapping Policy – For Action

Simón Herrera presented the gopher trapping policy. Chair Chittick requested additions to the policy including trigger levels, monitoring, contractors, the use of the new CO2 applications, and owl boxes. Chair Chittick moved to approve on the condition that the additions be made and presented at the next meeting; Member Saltzman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

M. Review and approve the Parks Turf Management Policy – For Action

Simón Herrera spoke on the difficulties and strategies of turf management. The group discussed the challenges of overuse due to the lack of sports fields, the importance of field reservations to the functioning of Recreation programs, and the current efforts to locate additional sports fields and raise funding for the installation of artificial turf fields. Chair Chittick requested additions to the policy including trigger levels and monitoring. Chair Chittick moved to approve on the condition that

the additions be made and presented at the next meeting; Member Saltzman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

N. Review and approve changes to the Tiered Materials List – For Action

Jazmin LeBlanc presented the request to change the Tiered Materials List. Chair Chittick identified three materials he believes are important to staff and the public and asked that these be retained on the list. He also asked that we revisit the list at the next meeting and earlier on when more staff are present. Chair Chittick moved to approve on the condition that we retain the materials he identified and revisit the list at the next meeting; Member LaBonte seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

MEETING ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 A.M.