



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

**REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 27, 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 735 ANACAPA STREET**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kathy McGill called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners and Staff Present

Chair Kathy McGill
Commissioner Sebastian Aldana
Commissioner Evelyn Feck
Commissioner Jacob Lesner-Buxton
Commissioner Beebe Longstreet
Commissioner Robin Unander-LaBerge
Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jazmin LeBlanc
Business Manager Tina Nelson
Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
Urban Forest Superintendent Nathan Slack
Nicole Morgan, Recreation Specialist
Administrative Assistant Rose Nevarez

Commissioners Absent

Vice Chair Nichol Clark

GENERAL BUSINESS

- A. Changes to the Agenda – None
- B. Written Communications – None
- C. Public Comment – None
- D. Youth Council Report

Youth Council members Kavya Suresh and Amelia Vander May presented a public safety announcement on Drug and Alcohol abuse created by the Youth Council in collaboration with Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

- E. Commissioner Committee Assignment Reports

Commissioner Longstreet attended the De La Guerra Plaza Surface Materials Subcommittee meetings.

Chair McGill attended the Chef Apprentice Graduation dinner, Ortega Park Mural Advisory Group meeting, a combined HLC and De la Guerra Plaza revitalization workshop on April 22, and is now a member of the De la Guerra Plaza Revitalization Design Advisory Committee Arts and Culture Subcommittee. Commissioner Aldana will attend future Ortega Park Mural Advisory Group meetings.

F. Commission And Staff Communications – None

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

1. Subject: Employee Recognition – Service Award Pins

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary recognized Walid Bdirat, Automotive/ Equipment Technician, and Carlos Cornejo, Tree Trimmer II, for five years of service.

CONSENT ITEMS:

2. Subject: Summary of Council Actions – For Information (Attachment)

3. Subject: Minutes – For Action (Attachment)

Recommendation: That the Commission waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2022.

Motion:

Commissioner Longstreet / Aldana to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2022.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

STREET TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ITEMS

Any action of the Parks and Recreation Commission made pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 15.20, Tree Planting and Maintenance or 15.24, Preservation of Trees, may be appealed to the City Council within ten days, pursuant to provisions of Section 1.30.050 of the Municipal Code.

4. Subject: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations – For Action (Attachments)

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 27, 2022
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Urban Forest Superintendent Nathan Slack
- Lisa Daniel (Item 4.D.1)

Recommendation: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following street tree removal requests:

1. 424 N. Milpas St. – *Ficus microcarpa*, Indian Laurel Fig – Tyler Benko

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Longstreet / Aldana to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and deny the removal without prejudice.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

B. Conditionally approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1319 E. Cota St. – *Cedrus deodara*, Deodar Cedar – Daniel Zandona

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Aldana / Longstreet to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and approve the removal on the condition one street tree be planted, as pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, principles of good forest management will be best served by the removal.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

C. Partially approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 5 Rubio Rd. – (2) *Schinus molle*, Pepper Trees, and (2) *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, King Palms – Amir Nashat

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner Longstreet / Feck to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and approve removal of the smaller Pepper Tree in the wall, as pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, principles of good forest management will be best served by the removal; and deny removal of the other Pepper Tree and both King

Palms, as no findings for their removal pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 were identified.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

D. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 3711 Modena Way – *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm – Lisa Daniel

The Commission received the report, listened to testimony, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:
Commissioner Longstreet / McGill to refer the application with new information back to the Street Tree Advisory Committee.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

E. Approve the following changes to the Street Tree Master Plan:

1. 100-1200 blocks of W. Micheltorena St. – co-designate several species – Staff

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:
Commissioner Longstreet / Feck to concur with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendation and designate *Tristanopsis laurina*, Water Gum, *Arbutus 'Marina'*, Marina Madrone, *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, Firewheel Tree, *Handroanthus chrysotrichus*, Golden Trumpet Tree, and *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak.

Vote:
Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND STAFF REPORTS

5. Subject: Director's Report – For Information (Attachment)

Documents:
-Staff Report dated April 27, 2022

Speaker:
-Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of the various Parks and Recreation Department initiatives and activities.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary reported on Summer Camp registration, State Trails Day on April 9, the Easter Egg Hunt at Santa Barbara Golf on April 19, and turf renovations.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

6. Subject: Parks and Recreation Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Budget – For Action (Attachments)

Documents:

- Staff Report dated April 27, 2022
- Staff PowerPoint presented by Staff

Speakers:

- Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary
- Creeks Manager Cameron Benson
- Business Manager Tina Nelson
- Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Jazmin LeBlanc
- Parks Manager Simón Herrera

Recommendation: That the Commission receive a presentation of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2023 Parks and Recreation Department Budget, including the General Fund, Creeks Fund, Golf Fund, Capital Program, and Fees and Charges Schedule, and provide recommendations to the City Council.

Parks and Recreation Director Jill Zachary gave an overview of the Department budget including Funds, staffing, and expenditures and revenue by Fund. She then gave General Fund program highlights, including priority projects, free programs and services, and program changes post COVID. Director Zachary then presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 General Fund budget, including projected expenses by category and division, projected total revenues and revenues by division, position changes, fees and charges, and departmental budget reductions. Lastly, she presented the General Fund Capital budget, with an overview of the Capital Improvement Program, and a list of FY 2023 Capital Projects and those underway that will continue in Fiscal Year 2023.

Creeks Manager Cameron Benson gave an overview of the Creeks Fund and gave program highlights, then reported on the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Creeks Fund budget, including revenue and expenses by category, expenses by program area, Capital projects, Capital improvement funding, and reserves.

Business Manager Tina Nelson presented an overview of the Golf Fund and program highlights and priorities, then presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Golf Fund

budget, including projected revenue sources, fee changes, expenditures by category, Capital projects, and reserves.

All Commissioners support the proposed budget and thanked staff for the presentation.

Commissioner Longstreet believes programs aimed at youth are vital, particularly those benefitting children in the community without access to other programming. She expressed concern about the ability to maintain parks with rising water rates and staffing costs, and believes there is a need to have a realistic vision of increasing costs going into the future. She believes the City must look at their commitment to the community and maintain open spaces, the importance of which only became clearer with the onset of the pandemic. These are spaces where families gather, and where many families in the community without other space celebrate.

Commissioner Lesner-Buxton stated that Department facilities are important assets, and he hopes City Council continues to invest in them, as they are vital to the community.

Chair McGill concurs with the importance of programming for youth, but believes support for the vulnerable adult and senior population is also vital. She agrees that investing in facilities is important, and believes ensuring we have safe, vibrant outdoor space for the community is essential. She emphasized that park maintenance is key and underinvested in, and funding should be increased and sustained.

The Commission received the report, their questions were answered, and the following action was taken:

Motion:

Commissioner McGill / Aldana to Recommend approval of the proposed FY23 Golf Fund, Creeks Fund, and General Fund Operating and Capital Budgets, including the proposed Fees and Charges Schedules.

Vote:

Unanimous voice vote (6/0)

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:42 pm, with no further business to be addressed by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Zachary,
Parks and Recreation Director