



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: May 25, 2022

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Director's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

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

DISCUSSION:

Ortega Park Swimsuit Drive

Every summer, the Department offers free recreational swim at Ortega Park. Unfortunately, many children are turned away and unable to enjoy the pool due to the lack of a proper swimsuit. Cut-off shorts are not allowed as the fibers can damage the pool system. This year the Department Lifeguard staff is accepting donations of new swimsuits or cash donations through the PARC Foundation to purchase them. Swimsuits will be distributed at the Ortega Park Pool to children without swimsuits so that everyone, regardless of need, can enjoy a fun summer in the water. The Audacious Foundation, which has provided scholarships for swimming lessons for a number of years, donated \$4,800 to purchase swimsuits. The PARC Foundation received an additional \$575 in private donations for a total of \$5,375 that will be used to buy 269 swimsuits.

SB Summer Nights

The Parks and Recreation Department is partnering with the Santa Barbara Unified School District and other community agencies to offer a six-week community program at La Cumbre Junior High. The opening day ribbon cutting and kick-off is on June 8 at 4:00 pm. This program aims to combat youth violence and give teens a fun place to hang out in the evenings. The program will run every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The program is for all ages, but will target Junior High youth and their families. There will be a variety of activities in which to participate, including: multiple sports (kickball, dodgeball, basketball, soccer, and more); yoga; Zumba; self-defense classes; art murals; music jam sessions; flat-ground skate competitions; community garden project; Aztec dance; poetry workshop; and educational components.

Oak Park Dance Floor

Renovation of the Oak Park Dance Floor was complete May 13. The project, with an estimated total cost of \$125,000, included:

- Removing and replacing all visible framing including, sheeting, perimeter skirting, benches and handrail/guardrails.
- Evaluating lumber for damage, and replacing as needed.
- Creating a 1% pitch on the new dance surface to aid water run-off.
- Sealing all plywood seams and hardware penetrations and waterproofing the entire surface to match existing color.
- Replacing and securing benches to the perimeter fencing and cantilevering with steel armature to minimize standing water.
- Replacing dance floor, stair fascia and ramp past and handrails.
- Comprehensive waterproofing of the entire structure.

Originally built in 1926 for the Campbell family of Goleta to serve as a dance floor for a gala honoring England's Prince George, the dance floor was purchased in 1941 at auction by a local farmer, Peter Irvine, and transferred to Oak Park, where it has been ever since. The well-loved Dance Floor hosts a diverse array of dance and fitness programs every week. A ribbon cutting event will be scheduled for June.

Thousand Steps Repair Project

The repair of the Thousand Steps beach access is currently underway. The project includes replacing the bottom section of the stairs and adding ten new concrete steps. The new steps will extend down below the sand for better access during seasonal changes to the sand level. In addition, new handrails will extend the entire length of the stairs and a new concrete guardrail will be placed at the middle landing. Drainage improvements will also redirect water and reduce the growth of algae on the stairs.

APPROVED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director