



**Staff:**

Rhonda Smiley, Assistant to the City Manager

**Committee Members**

Jacquie Sullivan, Chair  
Bob Smith  
Willie Rivera

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
of the City Council - City of Bakersfield

Thursday, January 9, 2014 – 12:00 p.m.

City Hall North  
1600 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
First Floor, Conference Room A

**A G E N D A**

- 1. ROLL CALL**
- 2. ADOPT OCTOBER 24, 2013 AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**
- 3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS**
- 4. DEFERRED BUSINESS**
  - A. Community Beautification Projects – Hoover/Rojas
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Discussion and Recommendation regarding the Possible Expansion of Mesa Marin Sports Complex, Phase 2 – Tandy
  - B. Discussion and Committee Recommendation Regarding Adoption of the 2014 Committee Meeting Schedule - Smiley
- 6. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**



/s/ Rhonda Smiley

Rhonda Smiley, Assistant to the City Manager

Committee Members:

Jacquie Sullivan, Chair  
Bob Smith  
Willie Rivera

## **AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, October 24, 2013  
12:00 p.m.

City Hall North  
First Floor - Conference Room A  
1600 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield CA 93301

The meeting was called to order at [12:00 P.M.](#)

#### **1. ROLL CALL**

Committeemembers Present:

Councilmember Jacquie Sullivan, Chair  
Councilmember Bob Smith  
Councilmember Willie Rivera arrived late, 12:12 p.m.

Staff Present:

Alan Tandy, City Manager	Dianne Hoover, Rec. & Parks Director
Rhonda Smiley, Asst. to the City Manager	Darin Budak, Asst. Rec. & Parks Director
Chris Huot, Administrative Analyst	David Stricker, Recreation Supervisor
Virginia Gennaro, City Attorney	Raul Rojas, Public Works Director
Richard Iger, Associate Attorney	Kevin Barnes, Solid Waste Director
Nelson Smith, Finance Director	Sal Moretti, Solid Waste Superintendent
Pamela Elisheva, Associate Planner	Luda Fishman, Solid Waste Business Manager

Others Present:

Amber Beeson, The Giving Tree Project	Theo Douglas, Bakersfield Californian
Jason Ackley, Member of the Public	Isaiah Crompton, Stop the Violence

#### **2. ADOPT MARCH 14, 2013 AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT**

Adopted as submitted

### **3. PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

None

### **4. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Aquatics and Athletic Programs Update – Hoover**

Recreation and Parks Director Hoover provided a brief report regarding the activities of the Aquatics and Athletic programs.

Ms. Hoover stated there was an increase in attendance at the City pools. Discounted swimming lessons were offered to children ages 0 to 5 and their parents through grants from First 5 Kern Make a Splash Program and USA Swimming Foundation. There was also an overall increase in donations from the community.

With the opening of the Mesa Marin Sports Complex, there was an overall increase to the number of participants in all the athletic programs. Several adoptive programs continue to be popular as well.

Ms. Hoover also thanked the volunteers and sponsors who donate their time and money to help make all the programs a success.

#### **B. Discussion and Recommendations Regarding Community Beautification Projects - Hoover**

Recreation and Parks Director Hoover stated Councilmember Maxwell requested the Committee discuss the concept of beautification projects within the City, and whether they can be funded in a cost-effective manner.

Ms. Hoover stated her department receives occasional requests to add landscaping, plant trees or paint murals in areas around the city where none currently exist, upgrade playgrounds, and add spray parks, skate parks, and dog parks in various locations. Each request received is reviewed carefully for costs and funding sources, water sources, hazards, impacts to surrounding structures, and other questions associated with the sustainability of the request over a long term.

Staff dedicated to tree maintenance collaborates with volunteers to plant trees and shrubs, trim and prune 4,485 trees throughout the City, and collects green waste. The City also has an annual contract with an approved tree service which is awarded through a public bidding process by the City Council.

Amber Beeson with The Giving Tree Project Benefit Corporation provided the Committee with letters of support from various organizations supporting sustainable community gardens. Ms. Beeson also provided a brief summarization of The Giving Tree Project Benefit Corporation and its history in developing and maintaining community gardens, with the support of Keep Bakersfield Beautiful, local and nonlocal sponsors, and volunteers. Ms. Beeson encouraged the idea for City owned vacant lots to be made available for planting community gardens. She would like to be involved as a consultant to such projects.

Committee Chair Sullivan thanked Ms. Beeson for her presentation and her hard work and efforts in educating individuals throughout the communities to participate in community gardens.

Committee member Smith stated he liked the idea of installing more community gardens in the vacant lots throughout the City. He also asked for clarification regarding Councilmember Maxwell's request to partner with The Giving Tree Project Benefit Corporation. Mr. Smith also requested that staff check the feasibility of expanding the Adopt-A- program to include beautification efforts as another option.

City Manager Tandy stated procurement/employment procedures in a civil service environment require that proposals, such as Ms. Beeson described, must be addressed in a legal and ethical manner through a public bidding process and/or request for proposal process.

Committee member Rivera also thanked Ms. Beeson for the information she provided. Mr. Rivera also stated the community volunteers make such a program a success. He also suggested that the community gardens already in place be monitored to evaluate their long-term feasibility and success.

Committee Chair Sullivan requested a report be prepared elaborating on the current programs available through the Solid Waste Division of Public Works and Keep Bakersfield Beautiful which may be expanded to include beautification efforts.

## **5. COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

Committee member Rivera stated that Keep Bakersfield Beautiful Committee had organized a cleanup on Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 7:00 a.m. at Martin Luther King Park.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at [1:47 P.M.](#)

cc: Honorable Mayor and Council



## Department of Recreation and Parks

**DATE:** December 20, 2013

**TO:** Community Services Committee

**FROM:**   
Dianne Hoover

**SUBJECT:** Community Garden Projects

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At the previous Community Services Committee meeting, reports were provided regarding the two current Community Garden projects: one at 4<sup>th</sup> and Eye, and the other one at Jonah & Langston. Volunteers from KBB and staff from Solid Waste Division reported that both gardens are now complete and are being maintained by volunteers. The produce from the gardens are able to be used by the surrounding community.

In addition, a proposal was put forward to continue installing community gardens on City owned lots in various parts of the City. After some discussion, this issue was tabled until the next Community Services Committee meeting.

Although the two gardens are functioning with volunteers, payment of water bills has become an issue. Garden adopters originally agreed to reimburse the City for water bills. The 4<sup>th</sup> and Eye garden did so for only the first two months, and no payments have been received for the Jonah garden. There is currently enough funding left from a garden start up grant to cover the City's water bills through the winter. Staff is seeking sponsors to donate funds to cover water costs for the gardens to continue.

It is staff's recommendation at this time to continue to monitor the progress of the two existing gardens for at least two more growing seasons before adding more community gardens in any vacant City properties.



**B A K E R S F I E L D**  
**CITY OF BAKERSFIELD**  
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Alan Tandy, City Manager  
**FROM:** Raul Rojas, Public Works Director   
**DATE:** November 1, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Keep Bakersfield Beautiful (KBB) Summary of Initiatives

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At the Community Services Committee meeting of October 24, 2013 staff was requested to report on Keep Bakersfield Beautiful (KBB) initiatives to show the magnitude of volunteer and staff involvement in the community. As you can see, the list is quite lengthy. All of these efforts are a result of cooperation between volunteers working with staff and the board. A project is chosen generally because a member of the committee or of the community is interested in a project and willing to commit time and effort freely. The project is evaluated by staff and the KBB Committee for feasibility, and then staff supports these initiatives as appropriate with the goal being to support community beautification efforts at the least cost to the City.

**Keep Bakersfield Beautiful Activities Highlights Apr. 1, 2012 – Nov. 1, 2013**

- **Great American Cleanup - annual year round cleanup culminating in April picnic**
- **Freeway Cleanup Program**
  - Instigated and coordinated homeless center crews to cleanup State and City right-of-ways
  - Regular weeding and litter cleanup at Bakersfield gateways signs along Highway 99
  - Regular weeding and litter cleanup of highway ramps with Kern County Youth Probation
  - Regular litter cleanup and coordination of highway ramps with Retirees Pickup
  - Monthly volunteer support for Mayor Harvey L. Hall's Highway Litter Cleanups
- **Ongoing Highway Tree Planting Project**
  - Currently in Maintenance Phase – 500 trees along Highway 99
  - Planning underway for next planting on State and/or City right-of-ways via \$5,000 grant
- **Adoption Programs**
  - Adopt A Highway (volunteers clean up litter on City streets)
  - Adopt A Mailbox (volunteers clean up graffiti on federal community mailbox clusters)
  - Adopt A Neighborhood (litter and graffiti cleanups, beautification projects)
  - Adopt A Block (volunteers clean up litter – Downtown)
- **Ongoing Adoption of Chester Avenue from California Avenue to Garces Circle and Garces Circle**
  - Garces Circle renovation added irrigation, trees, flowers, spotlights via grants and sponsors

- **Regular Community Cleanups (Litter and Graffiti)**
  - Weekly cleanup with Compass Rose Staffing volunteers – downtown
  - Weekly cleanup with Stop the Violence, Isaiah's Sober Living Home, and others – MLK area
  - Weekly cleanup with South Oswell Neighborhood Watch
  - Weekly cleanup with Garden Pathways and Flood Ministry
  - Weekly cleanup with Kern County Youth Probation
  - Weekly cleanup with Retirees Pickup – City right-of-ways
  - Quarterly cleanup with Councilmember Russell Johnson & Golden Valley High School
  - Cleanups with Councilmember Willie Rivera
  
- **Gardens**
  - Opened the Seeds of Inspiration Community Garden via grants, sponsors, with COB support on city-owned land adopted by The Giving Tree Project Benefit Corp., 405 Eye St.
  - Opened the Greenfield Walking Group Garden with a grant and with sponsors and COB support on city-owned land adopted by The Greenfield Walking Group, 5224 Jonah St.
  - Periodically helps A Fresh Start Garden with volunteers and in-kind goods, 407 MLK Blvd. – city-owned land leased to Stop the Violence by Community Development
  - Periodically helps MLK Park Community Garden with volunteers and in-kind goods
  - Biannually helps Chavez Science Magnet School garden with volunteers and in-kind goods
  - Coordinates donations of compost and mulch for other community and school gardens
  
- **Other Special Projects**
  - Kern River bank cleanup with COB Code Enforcement and County of Kern
  - Chester Avenue Bridge cleanups with volunteers from Bakersfield and Oildale
  - Provide more than 40 cigarette butt containers to decrease litter via a grant
  - Provide 50 hand-painted cigarette butt containers to decrease litter via grants
  - Mural project underway for the Bakersfield Play Center via sponsorship
  - 10 utility box murals for Downtown and Mill Creek to increase beauty and decrease graffiti
  - Flower planting at City Hall – South
  - Tree plantings – various public locations
  - Helped an Eagle Scout put a sand volleyball court at NOR Polo Community Park
  - Regular community outreach booths, presentations, public service announcements, etc.
  
- **Other Special Programs & Events**
  - Amgen Tour of California LOC member - route cleanup, beautification, media relations
  - PG&E Earth Day project (litter and graffiti cleanup, flower planting)
  - CA Parks Foundation Earth Day project (tree planting, litter, graffiti and park cleanup)
  - Flower plantings at Bessie Owens Primary School
  - Litter cleanup for Bakersfield Christmas Parade
  - Coordinate public recycling drop off events (other than blue cart recyclables)
  - Provide do it yourself event recycling and trash services for community special events
  - Ongoing enhancement of school recycling programs
  - Annual Make A Difference Day (litter/ graffiti cleanups, flower and tree plantings, recycling)
  - Annual Greater Bakersfield Green Expo
  - Annual Back to School Anti-Litter Week
  - Annual Liberty Bell flower planting for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July with the Kern County Heritage Commission



**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
MEMORANDUM**

January 3, 2014

**TO:** Community Services Committee  
Jacquie Sullivan, Committee Chair  
Willie Rivera, Committee Member  
Bob Smith, Committee Member

**FROM:** Alan Tandy, City Manager *AT/al*

**SUBJECT: Mesa Marin Sports Complex**

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Background

In June, 2011, Mesa Marin Sports Complex opened with four modern softball fields, restrooms, concessions, and related amenities.

The complex has been an enormous success, with 185 local teams playing at the park. Additionally, there have been an average of 20 regional tournaments per year held there, drawing another 15,000 participants and fans, culminating with an estimated economic value of \$2,115,893 to the City.

Future Plans

Contained in the FY 2013-2014 Adopted Budget is an allocation to begin expanding the facility. The \$1.8 million that was budgeted should be considered a starting point, with the exact improvements and the associated costs to be identified over time.

Additionally, Vice Mayor Weir referred the matter to the Community Services Committee on December 11, 2013, as follows:

*"I have a referral to make this evening. I'm not sure that everybody is aware, but we have a very, very, very successful set of softball diamonds out at Mesa Marin. It's been received very well. It is busy as it can be, and we have the opportunity to possibly expand that park to make it a 65-acre regional sports center through a land swap, with the approval of certain residents, and I'd like to refer that to Community Services."*



### Long-term plan

Mesa Marin Sports Complex has a great potential to serve residents of Northeast Bakersfield, and the City as a whole, and to be an expanded attraction for regional and statewide events. It is located at the junction of two State Highways, 178 and 184, and has a view of the mountains as an attractive backdrop. Two new schools are under construction across from the site on Bedford Green Drive.

The physical expansion of the park would afford a longer-term potential, and we believe that 20 additional acres could be acquired next to the current park area. Long-term, the addition of that acreage could provide land for eight softball fields, five soccer fields, playgrounds, restrooms, wet playground, dog park, skate park, and picnicking areas.

Across State Route 178, is the City in the Hills residential development. That neighborhood has double the amount of normal park acreage, which consists of 10 acres that are currently developed, and 10 acres located almost immediately adjacent to the first 10 acres that are not developed. The original developer dedicated the acreage with the intention that one site would be a park, and the other was to be an "Italian Garden" with fountains, walking trails, etc. That developer, however, disappeared during the recession, leaving no current plan for the second 10-acre site. It is not needed for the neighborhood, based on customary City standards.

### Potential Shift of Acreage

If the City in the Hills residents are amenable, the undeveloped 10 acres could be shifted through a land exchange to help pay expansion costs for the 20 acres available at Mesa Marin. Single-family housing could be constructed on the City in the Hills site for lots and homes identical in size and value to the surrounding neighborhood.

Park functions that are not suitably located immediately adjacent to single-family homes could then be placed at Mesa Marin Sports Complex. These functions include major sports fields, a dog park, and a skate park, among others.

Since Mesa Marin Sports Complex's full build-out requires phasing, a land trade to reduce the capital costs allows for the next phase to include more amenities than it would otherwise.

### Recommendation

- Receive Committee comments on the draft Master Plan for the expanded facility, and adjust it accordingly.
- Have the elected representative from Ward 3, along with staff, meet with City in the Hills residents to discuss the concept and find out if they are amenable, and under what conditions, etc.
- If they prove to be agreeable, proceed with the land trade/purchase discussion.
- Identify more precisely, with neighborhood input, what amenities are desirable and affordable for the next construction phase.

# Community Services Committee Calendar

January 2014 Through December 2014

All meetings will be held at City Hall North, First Floor, Conference Room A

Adopted: DRAFT



Community Services Committee Meetings  
12:00 p.m.



City Council Meetings  
3:30 Closed Session  
5:15 p.m. Public Session



Holidays - City Hall Closed

JANUARY						
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League of California Cities Annual Conference - September 3-5, 2014