

I N D E XCity Council - March 8, 1971SUBJECT:PAGEOPENING CEREMONIES:

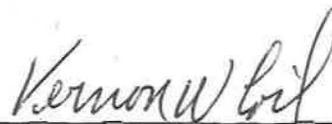
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|----|---|---|
| 1. | Call to Order | 1 |
| 2. | Roll Call | 1 |
| 3. | Flag Salute | 1 |
| 4. | Invocation | 1 |
| 5. | Dispensation with Regular Order of Business | 1 |

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 6. | To ascertain public feeling toward the recommendations of the Griffenhagen-Kroeger Report on the Park and Recreation and other Capital Improvement Programs for Torrance. | 1-5 |
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Adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

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Vernon W. Coil, Clerk of the
City of Torrance, California

APPROVED:



Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

OPENING CEREMONIES:

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Torrance City Council convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting on Monday, March 8, 1971, at 7:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present were Councilmen Brewster, Johnson, Surber, Uerkwitz, Wilson, and Mayor Miller. Absent: Councilman Sciarrotta.

Also present: Assistant City Manager Scharfman, City Attorney Remelmeyer, Director of Recreation Van Bellehem, and Deputy City Clerk Moss.

3. FLAG SALUTE:

Mr. Chris Andrews, at the request of Mayor Miller, led in the salute to the flag.

4. INVOCATION:

The invocation for the meeting was provided by Sr. Recreation Supervisor Jorgenson.

5. DISPENSATION WITH REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Councilman Uerkwitz moved to dispense with the regular order of business; his motion was seconded by Councilman Brewster, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

6. PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING:

To ascertain public feeling toward the recommendations of the Griffenhagen-Kroeger Report on the Park and Recreation and other Capital Improvement Programs for Torrance.

A welcome to the large audience was extended by Mayor Miller, on behalf of the Council -- the events to date were recited by the Mayor, this project now having reached this point of public hearing.

Those desiring to speak were invited to come forward at this time.

The vice president of the Torrance Tennis Club, Mr. Randall Maus, 25203 Weston Road, stated that the G-K Report had been reviewed by this group and that they approve, in principle, the bond issue; they strongly support the implementation of same. Particularly noted

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was the recommended use of recreational facilities within the School District, a recommendation concurred in by the Tennis Club.

Mr. Maus added that his group is particularly pleased with the recommended 44 tennis courts -- he labelled the 7-court complex at the reservoir a #1 priority; next would be the resurfacing and lighting of tennis courts at high schools; and the lowest priority was placed on tennis facilities at parks. It was their recommendation that there be a minimum of four tennis courts in any park facility. In conclusion, Mr. Maus indicated that the Torrance Tennis Club would unqualifiedly support the bond.

Next to speak was Mrs. James Pierson, 5620 Bartlett Drive, representing the League of Women Voters, who stated that they appreciate the thoroughness of the G-K Report and compliment the Bond Steering Committee on its careful research and guidance. Mrs. Pierson noted that the League Survey, taken approximately one year ago, revealed that most people felt that parks and swimming pools were the first priorities; the G-K Report showed that parks are still of prime importance. There is an obvious overwhelming interest in preserving open space, Mrs. Pierson continued, and the League feels there is a great urgency in acquiring park land as quickly as possible. In these days of increasing higher density, open space becomes a necessity rather than a luxury.

The League is in agreement with Griffenhagen-Kroeger, Mrs. Pierson continued, as to the location and the amount of land that should be acquired -- open space in the City of Torrance is a present and a prime need, as well as a future insurance for Torrance citizens.

In conclusion, Mrs. Pierson reported that the League is of the opinion that bonding is the best way of acquiring these necessities. Any money becoming available from other sources can reduce the total bond sales thereby reducing the cost to the City and the taxpayers. Finding additional money to finance existing programs, as mentioned in the Report on Page 46, appears to be an important part of the Council's decision as to bonds. The climate appears to be right for park land acquisition at least; some thought needs to be given to practical and economic factors, as well as ideal solutions. Based on the League's past planning and tax structure studies, they support bonding for park land acquisition, according to Mrs. Pierson.

Mr. Richard Hall, president, Riviera Homeowners Association, stated, on behalf of the Executive Board, that they have reviewed the report and are in general agreement with it -- they specifically favor the proposed development of Los Arboles Park (more spending in the Riviera area would be preferred); in any event, they would request hillside development at Los Arboles with landscaping and lighting to connect the upper level park with a proposed vest pocket park on Via el Chico -- further, there is a great need for a field house somewhere on the park site so located as to not impair the open area. The Executive Board further favors the covered swimming

pools at the four high schools, as well as the four community centers to accommodate both teenager and senior citizen activities. The location of the center for the south end of town was especially favored by the Board. In conclusion, Mr. Hall stated that the Board did not favor the omnibus package -- the bond issue should be separated into individual items, and it would seem easier to sell a solely park and recreation bond issue.

Mrs. Bernice K. Platt (?), 25 Skyline Park #19 (a mobile home park) stated that no children under 18 are allowed in this park, and while it is the current belief that senior citizens vote down school issues, park and recreation issues, fire center issues, this is not true in that every single school bond issue has been passed by their mobile home park while failing in other areas of the City.

Next to speak was Mrs. Jackie Andrews, 117 Via Pasqual, who indicated total concurrence with the bond issue, and stated that this is the only chance to pass such a bond -- it is now or never.

Mrs. Carol Sussman, 3904 West 234th Place, president, Torrance Gymnastics Club, who pointed out the need for facilities and equipment for a Citywide gymnastics program -- the great interest in gymnastics was also described by Mrs. Sussman in the hope that part of the bond issue would favor the building of gymnasiums as recommended in the Griffenhagen-Kroeger report, with elimination of any proposed outdoor equipment.

On behalf of the Torrance Craftsman Guild, Mrs. Mary Ogawa, 22947 Felbar, emphasized the importance of the passage of this bond issue and that their group is behind this endeavor -- there is a need for culture in the community, with the need for creative arts especially important; this would be a fine time to make Torrance one of the cultural centers of the South Bay. An expansion of the Joslyn Center is most important, according to Mrs. Ogawa.

Mr. Henry E. Platt, 2550 Pacific Coast Highway, stated that he is presently a landscape architect but was formerly a member of the Los Angeles Planning Department and has worked closely with Mr. Hjelte, and would concur that the acquisition of land is extremely important -- also of importance is the development of the schools to supplement recreational needs.

Speaking on behalf of 146 Firefighters, Mr. Richard DeArmitt, 5102 Pacific Coast Highway, stated that they are in favor of the bond issue -- it is felt that to do a proper job it would take about 23 million dollars, and that is what should be sought.

Mr. Red Mockin (?), District 27, Little League Baseball, and the Youth Council for soccer, Little League, and football, stated that all youth organizations in the City of Torrance support the proposed bond issue -- there is a need, and they are behind it all the way.

A spokesman for the Torrance Chapter, American Association of University Women, indicated their support of the bond issue for the sums mentioned in the Griffenhagen-Kroeger Report.

Mr. Ted Baciu, chairman of the Budget Review Committee, Chamber of Commerce, speaking on behalf of the Committee (not the entire Chamber) pointed out the economic impact on the City of Torrance, and furnished the Council with a written report in this regard (a matter of record) titled "PROPERTY TAX LEVY NEEDED FOR PARK, RECREATION AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOND." There is a need for in-depth study regarding the financial obligations which may occur to the property owner, in Mr. Baciu's opinion, not only from the standpoint of the bond issue but from what it takes to operate the City.

The next presentation was made by Mr. John Schmidt on behalf of the Manufacturers Council of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce, this written report being a matter of record, pointing out the financing problems to be faced and commenting: "If we contemplate adding new services or increasing the level of a present service we must consider the possibility of paying for it by eliminating an existing service or reducing the level of some other existing service. We must face up to the fact that our resources are limited. We must establish priorities and make value judgments as to how much of those resources we allocate to the various needs of our people. Otherwise, the Griffenhagen-Kroeger Report total package, desirable though it may be, will cost a 50% increase in City property tax rate by 1976."

Mr. Bill Roberts, 3937 West 188th Street, questioned the total amount of the exemption given to industry in 1970, and was advised that the amount was \$500,000; as to the City's contribution to the Chamber of Commerce, he was advised that this amount was \$41,000.

Next to speak was Mr. Hugh Carmichael, 317 Via el Chico, who first commented on City services provided industrial development in the City, and the fact that there are those who think the City of Torrance has been a patsy for the Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers Council for years as far as tax forces are concerned. Mr. Carmichael would support the recommended swimming pools, and added that the amount of the bond should not startle the voters in that Torrance is some 10 to 15 years behind, and one must always pay for his mistakes.

Mrs. Meri Jo McMullen, 23725 Cabrillo, former chairman of the Goals Sub - Committee on Parks and Recreation -- the report of this subcommittee very closely parallels the report of the consultant. Mrs. McMullen would agree that the first priority would be the acquisition of land -- if the land is not obtained now, it simply will not be available later; the second priority would be facilities for the children. A bond issue will spread the cost of these facilities into the future; the people who will be using the facilities in the future will be participating which is considerably more fair than a "pay as you go" basis.

Mr. Bill Roberts returned to ask if there are any other cities in California that have the utility users tax, and was advised that most Charter Cities have levied such a tax -- as to any other cities that give the exemption, Mr. Roberts was advised that the City of Los Angeles has done so.

Mayor Miller referred to the tremendous attitude of cooperation evidenced by the Torrance School Board, and invited comments from Mrs. Polly Watts, present in the audience.

Mrs. Watts, speaking as an individual, referred to the Board's participation with the Bond Issue Steering Committee and Council representatives, and the fact that they are very eager to cooperate in every way possible to improve recreational facilities in Torrance. Mrs. Watts further commented on the importance of proceeding with a bond issue to obtain these recreational facilities for the young people -- with the ever increasing density, it must be done now or the land will not be there.

It was added by Mrs. Watts that she would urge support by the Chamber of Commerce -- if not as a tax measure then in principle as a community contribution.

Speaking at this time, Mrs. Katy Geissert first introduced the Bond Issue Steering Committee members present, and explained that the role of the Committee was to gauge support for certain facilities, to try to determine community needs, and then assume that the people of the City could afford to support what they were willing to support. The Committee's efforts were warmly commended by the Council.

There being no one else who wished to be heard, Councilman Wilson moved to close the hearing. His motion was seconded by Councilman Surber, and roll call vote was unanimously favorable (Councilman Sciarrotta absent).

The meeting was regularly adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

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Vernon W. Coil

Vernon W. Coil, Clerk of the
City of Torrance, California

APPROVED:

Ken Miller

Mayor of the City of Torrance

Ava Cripe
Minute Secretary

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