

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2009, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cook, Gilbert, Hazell, Orpe, Robbins, Taniguchi, and Chairperson Ning.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, Senior Business Manager Minter, and Acting Park Services Manager Centofanti.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Cook led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2009

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved for approval of the June 10, 2009 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Tim Brothers, Acacia Avenue, President, Southern California Live Steamers, announced that the 300th ride will take place on August 15, 2009 at Wilson Park and that he anticipates a total of 40,000 rides this year. He expressed appreciation to staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission for its continued support and encouraged them to attend the event.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. SUMMER '09 CONCERTS AND MOVIES IN THE PARK UPDATE

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that a report was included in agenda materials. He stated that this is the first year that all three concerts are being held in the same venue and at the same time and, as expected, audience attendance has been higher than in past years.

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that there is still one movie and one concert left this summer, with the showing of "Ratatouille" on August 15 at Greenwood Park and a performance by Lil' Mo & the Dynaflo's on August 30 at Columbia Park.

7B. STATUS OF WILSON PARK POND RESTORATION PROJECT

Community Services Director Jones provided background on the material of record and reported that, during the clean-up of debris on the pond bottom, a great deal of the clay surface was displaced. He stated that this has impacted the integrity of the bottom surface and staff is now re-evaluating if natural clay or cement should be re-installed. He advised that staff is working with Public Works Department and experts in the field to determine which bottom surface would provide minimum maintenance for the pond at a reasonable cost. He reported that the August 23, 2009 Torrance Symphony "Concert in the Park" has been relocated to the south/east corner of the softball fields and that more status reports would be coming forward.

Responding to Chairperson Ning's inquiry, he advised that resurfacing the bottom would probably require more than the \$67,000 currently budgeted for.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. PELICAN PRODUCTS DONATION

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that Pelican Products hosts a picnic for its employees at Wilson Park each year but that this year it needed to cancel the permit for its picnic scheduled for August 15, 2009. He announced that the business has generously offered to donate all fees and security deposit in the amount of \$1,425 to the City to be used to support youth and family programs.

8B. MANA MEDIA LA DONATION

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that ManaMedia LA is donating \$2,000 to the City to be used to support youth programs sponsored by the Community Services Department. He stated that the donation is being made to compensate for displacement of the Day Camp program during filming of a television commercial at Wilson Park Sports Center in late July 2009.

8C DOG COURT PROPOSAL FROM CHRISTINE WOLF

Senior Business Manager Minter introduced the item and welcomed Christine Wolf.

Christine Wolf, West 191st Street, provided a power point presentation on her proposal for dog courts in City parks. She introduced her family and shared information

about her personal background and reasons for her proposal. She stated that a dog court is similar to a basketball or tennis court, surrounded by a six-foot chain link fence and with sand, bark or other low-maintenance surface. She explained that one group of two to three dogs could play a game of ball off-leash, with a 15 minute time limit when others are waiting.

She compared dog courts versus dog parks, noting that a dog court utilizes a neighborhood use approach. She discussed benefits of a dog court that include reduction of incidents of off-leash dogs, risk of injury to people and dogs, and spread of canine communicable disease. She presented maps and potential locations at 15 City parks as well as a list of proposed rules. She proposed using Entradero Park as a test-case scenario as it is already fenced and being used for dog agility classes.

In response to Commissioner Cook's inquiry, staff advised that a cost analysis has not been done, adding that it would require minimal capital outlay to use Entradero Park as a test case.

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the City's Municipal Code requires all dogs to be leashed in parks and would need to be modified in order to proceed with any type of a dog court.

Commissioner Robbins stated that the proposal merits further investigation but expressed concern about capital investment.

Community Services Director Jones recommended assigning the issue to the Open Space Committee, consisting of Commissioners Gilbert, Hazell, and Orpe, who would be responsible for reviewing the proposal and evaluating potential resident impact.

Responding to Commissioner Ning's inquiry, Senior Business Manager Minter stated that he did not know how many licensed dogs there are in the City but would find out.

Ms. Wolf related her observation that Park statistics for two months indicate that, after skateboarding and alcohol/disruptive behavior, off-leash dogs are the third highest violation.

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved to assign the proposal for dog courts in City parks to the Open Space Committee to study and report back to the Commission. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

In response to Recreation Services Manager Brunette's inquiry, Ms. Wolf stated that she does not know of any cities that have dog courts.

8D. APPROVAL OF 2008 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved to approve as submitted the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report for July 2008 to June 2009. Commissioner Cook seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE – GRANT PROGRAM

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the Grants Committee has not met but that grant applications are due September 16, 2009.

Commissioner Taniguchi reported that she monitored the five agencies that she was assigned to: H.E.L.P., Pediatric Therapy, RSVP of South Bay, Torrance Historical Society Museum, and Torrance/Lomita Meals on Wheels. She stated that during her on-site visits she reviewed their programs and objectives and reminded them that they will be required to submit financial narrative reports.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for July 2009 was included in agenda packets. He noted that the first day of walk in registration is August 18, 2009 and that he is looking forward to a busy fall season.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Community Services Director Jones introduced Acting Park Services Manager Centofanti and noted that the Park Services Division Report for June and July 2009 was included in supplemental materials.

Acting Park Services Manager Centofanti reviewed the report and discussed a rash of vandalism at some of the parks, with the subsequent arrest of several vandals at Torrance Park. He stated that at El Nido Park wooden tables were replaced with rubber-coated in-ground tables.

Community Services Director Jones commended Riviera Garden Club for replanting the planter in front of El Retiro Library, discussed the goats that were effective in weeding the hillside area at Las Canchas, and provided information about the small fire at Madrona Marsh.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for June and July 2009 was included in agenda packets.

Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she had the pleasure of representing the Commission on the selection committee for the 2009-10 Torrance Youth Council. She stated that 41 applicants were interviewed and that 18 were selected.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Commissioner Orpe stated that he enjoyed the July 15, 2009 Awards Banquet, wished everyone a happy Labor Day, and congratulated Chairperson Ning for successfully leading his first meeting as Chairperson.

11B. Commissioner Robbins related his observation that the West High School fields are being marked for soccer, that a former design studio is being turned into an indoor soccer training facility, and that Farmers Market finished the year 8% higher in revenues than last year.

11C. Commissioner Taniguchi expressed appreciation to Commissioner Orpe for serving as Chairperson, congratulated Chairperson Ning and Vice-Chairperson Hazell on their elections, and thanked the Grants Committee and staff for the successful Awards Banquet.

11D. Chairperson Ning commended staff for making the Awards Banquet such a successful event.

11E. Chairperson Ning discussed peak oil and what may happen to suburbs in the future, pointing out that Torrance is unique in that it has commercial, industrial, and residential.

11F. Community Services Director Jones stated that he has received positive feedback about the Awards Banquet, gave credit to Recreation Services Manager Brunette, Senior Business Manager Minter and Milette for planning it, and challenged the Facilities Committee to “raise the bar” next year.

Senior Business Manager stated that planning the event was a team effort and expressed appreciation to staff and Commissioners for their support.

11G. Community Services Director Jones thanked Commissioner Taniguchi for serving on the Youth Council selection committee.

11H. Community Services Director Jones encouraged Commissioners to attend the August 24, 2009 meeting of a City Council ad hoc committee meeting to discuss possible consolidation of City Commissions.

Chairperson Ning stated that it is important for the Commission to continue to be proactive.

11I. Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that staff is working with a new Babe Ruth baseball program at Entradero Park.

11J. Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the Live Steamers work with preschools to have special run days during the week.

11K. Acting Park Services Manager Centofanti stated that this meeting was informative and interesting and that he plans to attend more.

11L. Commissioner Robbins announced a Commissioner Training in Manhattan Beach on September 12, 2009.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:24 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to September 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Hazell seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Ning so ordered.

Approved as Submitted September 9, 2009 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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