

January 8, 2014

**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 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Love, Mayeda,  
Reilly, Uchima, and Chairperson Hays.

Absent: Commissioner Greenberg (previously excused).

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

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Mayeda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Reilly moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2013**

Minutes were not available.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Baxter moved to postpone approval of the December 11, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes to the February 2014 Commission meeting. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Greenberg).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

The Commission welcomed Torrance Youth Council members Jillian Free from South High School, Debbie Park and Timothy Harvey from Torrance High School, and Arielle Stephenson from El Camino College.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. PROPOSAL FROM LACA TO CONDUCT BATTING PRACTICE FOR THE GAME OF CRICKET AT EL NIDO**

Community Services Director Jones presented a proposal from Los Angeles Cricket Association (LACA) for use of the El Nido Park softball field to conduct batting practice for cricket players (Attachment A). He reported that he has been working with LACA to introduce the game of cricket into Torrance park sites. He noted that several residents play cricket but need to travel long distances in order to play the game. He stated that staff has been unable to find a safe park location that could be used to play cricket but was able to identify the softball field at El Nido Park for conducting batting practice only, with 14 conditions being required. He noted that his primary concern is safety of park users and neighboring residents and is willing to consider a trial period. He recommended approval of batting practice on a three-month conditional use period and to return to the Commission with findings following the review period.

Dr. Rahmat Khan, Entradero Avenue, described the game of cricket and pointed out that the game offers youth the opportunity to participate in a healthy sport and could potentially bring business to Torrance by hosting tournaments. He stated that there are more than 30 active players in Torrance who currently practice and play in leagues in Orange County, Van Nuys, and Corona and that the age bracket of players is 18 and above.

In response to Commissioners' inquiries, Community Services Director Jones stated that home plate to the 20-foot fence at El Nido Park is 230 feet, balls are hard but are caught with bare hand, is doubtful that a ball could be hit over the fence or fly over the backstop, and does not see it as dangerous as baseball.

Commissioner Mayeda pointed out that signs are posted on some park backstops that no hard ball playing is allowed, and staff explained that this is a Department recommendation and can be superceded by permit.

Recreation Services Manager Brunette stated that Tyler Sports allows cricket batting practice in their enclosed tunnels.

Community Services Director Jones stated that El Nido Park is not appropriate for cricket games that require 450 feet by 450 feet. He stated that staff would observe the batting practice and would stop it during the three-month period if it is determined to be unsafe.

Commissioner Love expressed interest in learning more about the game and staff offered to inform her when practice takes place.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Reilly moved to approve the proposal from Los Angeles Cricket Association (LACA) for use of the El Nido Park softball field to conduct batting practice for cricket players for a three-month conditional use period. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Greenberg).

**8B. STATUS ON THE MULTI-USE SPORTS FIELDS**

Community Services Director Jones provided an update on construction activity at 555 Maple Avenue since the ground breaking in November. He reported that turf has been delivered and sports fielding lights installed, with the grand opening ceremony expected to take place in March 2014. He distributed pamphlets offering donor wall sponsorship opportunities.

**8C. COMMISSION MEETING DATE FOR FEBRUARY 2014**

Community Services Director Jones informed the Commission that the February 12, 2014 Commission meeting coincides with the holiday for Lincoln's birthday. He asked Commissioners to consider going dark in February or meeting on February 19, 2014 in the Nakano Theatre.

Commissioner Love moved to adjourn the January 8, 2014 Commission meeting to February 19, 2014 in the Nakano Theatre. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Greenberg).

**9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE** – No report.

**9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE** – No report.

**9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE** – No report.

**9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE** – No report.

**10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for December 2013 was included in agenda packets. He reported that they are making upgrades to the website and reminded Commissioners that people need to update their accounts for their new software system.

**10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for December 2013 was included in attachments. He stated that staff is clearing weeds and walking paths in preparation for the AYSO National Tournament.

**10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for December 2013, as of December 23, was included in agenda materials.

**11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**11A.** Youth Council members Arielle Stephenson and Timothy Harvey discussed a video that a Youth Council committee made for the Library Commission promoting services that the Library has to offer to teens.

**11B.** Commissioner Reilly inquired about Park Ranger patrols at libraries and Senior Business Manager Minter responded that they patrol branch libraries Monday through Thursday afternoons.

**11C.** Community Services Director Jones discussed Torrance's float in the Rose Parade and funding efforts for next year's float

**11D.** Chairperson Hays stated that he enjoyed attending the Rose Float Association's Official's Night.

**11E.** Commissioners and staff wished Senior Business Manager Minter a happy birthday.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:00 p.m., Commissioner Uchima moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nakano Theatre at Torrance City Hall and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hays so ordered.

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Approved as amended February 19, 2014 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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