

**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 7:03 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cook, Robbins*, Smoot, Tookey, and Chairperson McGee.

Absent: Commissioners Perkins and Taniguchi.

Also Present: Recreation Services Administrator Jones, Park Services Administrator Wilson, and Senior Project Leader Orpe.

*Commissioner Robbins arrived at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Smoot moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Taniguchi for the March 8, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner Tookey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Perkins and Robbins).

3. FLAG SALUTE

Park Services Administrator Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Tookey moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Smoot seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Perkins, Robbins, and Taniguchi).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 8, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Cook moved for the approval of the February 8, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tookey and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioners Perkins, Robbins, and Taniguchi)

6. OLD BUSINESS

6A. FOLLOW-UP TO COMMISSION INQUIRY RE: FARMERS MARKET ACTIVITY

Commissioner Robbins arrived at 7:05 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Robbin's inquiry regarding petition circulation at Farmers Market, Recreation Services Administrator Jones reported that the City Attorney's office advised that Farmers Market is a free speech zone and, as long as individuals are not obstructing market operations, they are within their rights.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. APPROVAL OF DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB DONATION

Recreation Services Administrator Jones introduced the item and requested that the Commission accept a \$800 donation from the Dog Obedience Club and that Chairperson McGee send a letter of appreciation to the organization.

Chairperson McGee received clarification that a letter of acknowledgement was sent to the Dog Obedience Club on February 22, 2006.

Responding to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that both City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission have recognized the organization.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to accept the \$800 donation from the Dog Obedience Club. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tookey and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioners Perkins and Taniguchi).

7B. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

Senior Project Leader Orpe reported that the City is entering its Capital Budget Development Phase and provided a list of closed, current, and future capital projects included in the material of record. He requested that the Commission review and approve the list as presented and funding strategies as indicated.

He discussed capital projects that are completed and now considered closed, noting that there are remaining funds from the Delthorne Park and Roller Hockey projects. He stated that there were still upgrades that could be made at the two parks to utilize the remaining funds and would recommend that the projects be moved to the "Ongoing Projects" list.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, staff explained that the installation of rubberized walkway at Delthorne Park cost \$156,000, with approval for a \$100,000 grant for completion of both Delthorne Park and Sur La Brea Park. They explained that only \$80,000 of the requested \$100,000 was used, and that the State might reclaim the \$20,000 balance. They stated that there might be future grant funding opportunities to install a rubberized walkway at Sur La Brea Park.

Referring to ongoing capital projects, Senior Project Leader Orpe discussed the Columbia Park Master Plan, Lago Seco Park, and Torrance Park redevelopment. He stated that the Lago Seco Park grand opening at Lago Seco Park would be this spring

and clarified that the area west of the baseball diamonds would be the community gardens.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones provided information about the McMaster Park redevelopment project and funding sources, pending results of the State Bond for Libraries measure in June 2006. He discussed proposed site enhancements, noting that Artesia Boulevard would be the entry corridor into McMaster Park.

Senior Project Leader Orpe noted the importance of starting the project as soon as possible due to increasing materials and labor costs.

Responding to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, staff provided information about the Auto Phone Registration project and explained that residents would be able to register for classes via the telephone or online after initially verifying residency.

Senior Project Leader Orpe described future projects that include the Wilson Park Landscape Project, park bathroom upgrades, renovation of Benstead Plunge facilities, replacement of El Nido Park's sports field lighting, Pueblo Park Project, and Park Security Lighting Project. He noted that staff would like to add Replacement of Tables and Benches at parks, with upgraded equipment that would require less maintenance.

Referring to the completed Red Car Refurbishment project, he stated that staff wanted to place it under future projects in case there are future development possibilities.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, Recreation Services Administrator Jones clarified that existing projects have funding attached and that future projects do not, and that the Commission would have the opportunity to decide how any residual Open Space and Facilities funds are used.

MOTION: Commissioner Cook moved to approve the list of capital projects and funding strategies as submitted, with FEAP-407 Red Car Refurbishment and Replacement of Park Tables and Benches added to the list of Future Projects. Commissioner Smoot seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Perkins and Taniguchi).

Responding to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, Senior Project Leader Orpe stated that future grant applications should include language within parameters that allows broadening a project if needed.

7C. LIVE STEAMERS UPDATE

Senior Project Leader Orpe reported that on February 7, 2006 City Council accepted the \$12,500 donation from Southern California Live Steamers, Inc. and appropriated \$17,500 from the Open Space Fund to pay for the balance of the project. He stated that staff met with representatives from Live Steamers to discuss lighting and the planter surrounding the clock, and that the manufacturer has verified the cost of the project at \$24,780. He advised that the clock would be ordered and stored until installation of the planter, with implementation expected by summer 2006.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

8A. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Recreation Services Administrator Jones informed the Committee that the Parks and Recreation dinner has been scheduled for July 12, 2006.

8C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Smoot reported that the Programs Committee met with the Library Commission ad hoc committee to discuss joint programming opportunities. She stated that they discussed sharing their Commissions' Annual Reports with the entire Commissions in order to formulate questions and explore opportunities.

It was decided that the Parks and Recreation Commission would attend the July 10, 2006 Library Commission meeting.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

9A. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

No report.

9B. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Administrator Jones reported that basketball leagues have waiting lists and that a new youth wrestling class has been successful.

Responding to Commissioner Robbins' inquiry regarding conduct at basketball games, he stated that individuals have apologized to staff members and children, and that more extensive training for officials was planned for next year.

9C. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Administrator Jones reported that this was a new monthly report that outlines functions in the Recreational Services Division that include registration and facility bookings.

Commissioner Smoot initiated a brief discussion on the growth of the Parks Ranger Program and suggested that the Commission recommend the program for commendation.

10. ORALS

10A. Joan Waddell, Project Coordinator, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/South Bay, distributed brochures and gave a presentation on making Torrance Beach smoke free. She reported that she has received a grant from Los Angeles County to encourage Torrance City Council to adopt an ordinance banning smoking on Torrance Beach. She noted that the majority of Los Angeles County beaches have already become smoke free, with ordinances passed in the last two years. She discussed harmful effects of second hand smoke and noted that cigarette butts are the primary source of litter on beaches.

When Chairperson McGee expressed concern about invading smokers' rights, Ms. Waddell responded that smokers have no constitutional rights to smoke. She stated that the proposal was for the sand area to be smoke free and that smoking would be permitted in the parking lot.

Commissioner Tookey initiated a brief discussion on authority and enforcement. It was clarified that Torrance Police Department was responsible for enforcing laws on beaches and that the scope of the grant was to encourage adoption of an ordinance, not enforcement.

When Commissioners expressed support for the recommendation, Recreation Services Administrator Jones advised that they could not take action at this meeting and offered to bring the item back to the next Commission meeting.

Chairperson McGee requested that staff discuss the item with the City Attorney's Office.

10B. Torrance Youth Council member Cheiny Shiau shared information about the Beat the Odds scholarship program, the ASB joint meeting, and topics of debate for the Youth Forum.

10C. Chairperson McGee asked for volunteers to serve on the selection committee for Beat the Odds scholarships on April 20, 2006. Commissioner Tookey indicated that he would participate, with Commissioner Smoot offering to serve as an alternate.

10D. Chairperson McGee encouraged Commissioners to attend a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser on April 1, 2006 at the ATTIC.

10E. Commissioner Smoot reminded Commissioners to attend the Special Olympics Awards banquet on March 10, 2006.

10F. Commissioner Smoot shared information about the annual Arts Awards dinner on March 13, 2006 at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:23 p.m., Commissioner Robbins moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to April 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smoot and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

Approved as Submitted June 14, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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