

**MINUTES OF AN 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, March 13, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Park Services Manager Carson, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, Senior Business Manager Minter, Assistant to City Manager Sunshine, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Baxter 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 Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Chairperson Mayeda noted that the date on the footer of pages 1-5 should be changed to February 13, 2013.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to approve the February 13, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Uchima abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Greg Wood, Placerville, expressed his appreciation for Seaside Heroes Park but noted that it was developed for South Torrance residents. He stated that his son, Sergeant Brian Wood, was the first Torrance resident killed in Operation Iraqi Freedom

in 2004. He requested consideration to rededicate a park in West Torrance to honor the heroes who came from that area as well.

Sue Siani, West 234th Street, stated that bicyclists use the walking path at Wilson Park and asked the Commission to consider restricting it to pedestrians only.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. APPROVAL TO LEASE A PORTION OF PROPERTY AT SUR LA BREA PARK FOR A VERIZON WIRELESS CELLULAR SITE

Commissioner Love recused herself from this item on advice from the City Attorney's office and left the room.

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background on the proposal, continued from the October 10, 2012 Commission meeting. He recalled that the Commission directed staff to assist Verizon in hosting a community meeting to answer questions. He stated that the meeting took place on November 28, 2012 at Sur La Brea Park. He noted that health and safety information from the American Cancer Society was included in attachments. He advised that notification fliers of this meeting were mailed to all residents within 500 feet of Sur La Brea Park as well as to Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association.

Commissioner Hays received clarification from staff that the City has not received any more comments from citizens since November 2012.

David Serrato, 235th Place, stated that a majority of residents at the community meeting voted against the proposal and urged the Commission to keep the beautiful park as it is.

Andy Grieco, Cabrillo Avenue, inquired if an Environmental Impact Report should be conducted as well as a risk management assessment because of the possibility of people climbing the structure. He expressed concern about decreased property values and questioned the need for a cell tower in the area.

Sue Siani, West 234th Street, stated that she did not object to a cell tower itself but suggested installing it near the oil wells instead of behind the clubhouse.

Lowell Hardison, West 236th Street, pointed out that there are 248 tower structures and 658 antennas within a four-mile radius of Sur La Brea Park. He stated that he would support the proposal if income generated from it is allocated to make improvements at the Park.

Jim Piatt, West 236th Street, concurred with Mr. Hardison that income generated should go to Sur La Brea Park.

Assistant to City Manager Sunshine stated that an environmental assessment would be conducted once a lease is actually in process and that they have not had any attractive nuisance problems at current tower locations. He pointed out that proposed sites are based on need and that micro cell sites could go on Southern California Edison poles with no revenue going to anyone. He suggested that the Commission direct

Verizon look at alternate areas in the park before making a recommendation to City Council.

In response to Commissioner Baxter's inquiry, Community Services Director Jones stated that there are 33 City parks and limited funds to maintain them, noting that the preference would be for the income to go to the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund. He indicated that income could be identified to benefit Sur La Brea Park for a certain number of years if the Commission recommended it.

Responding to Chairperson Mayeda's inquiry, Robert Perez, Verizon, stated that they would send engineers and an architect to the Park to find the best location if the proposal moves forward. He indicated that there is flexibility but they need to consider parameters that include elevation and trees. With the aid of slides, he showed the location being proposed but noted that the antenna tree and equipment facility could be up to 200 feet apart.

Commissioner Hays inquired about justification for the proposal and Mr. Perez maintained that the signal is poor and is one of the worst areas for coverage in the County.

Dee Hardison, West 236th Street, discussed the development of Sur La Brea Park and urged the Commission not to support placement of the equipment facility attached or near the La Casita meeting room.

Community Services Director Jones noted the list of cost estimates for potential improvements at Sur La Brea Park totaling \$150,000 in Attachment C.

Assistant to City Manager Sunshine stated that the lease would have an initial five-year term with options, and that the five years of guaranteed income would be approximately the same amount as the total for potential improvements. He noted that it would allow staff to develop a five-year capital budget with a guaranteed funding source.

When Commissioner Reilly questioned the effect this might have on existing cell sites, Assistant Sunshine explained that the current policy is to direct funds to the Revolving Fund for various improvements of parks and would not change any of the revenue directions from the other leaseholds.

Chairperson Mayeda and Commissioner Greenberg voiced support for providing the income for five years to make improvements at Sur La Brea Park.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to concur with staff's recommendation to recommend approval to relocate a cellular site at Sur La Brea Park and that the revenue from the initial five year term of the lease be directed toward Sur La Brea Park improvements. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Love absent).

Chairperson Mayeda urged residents to voice their concerns regarding location of the equipment facility when City Council considers the item.

At Assistant Sunshine's suggestion, the Commission directed Mr. Perez to bring back alternate site locations for the equipment facility at Sur La Brea Park at the April 10, 2013 Commission meeting.

The Commission was in recess from 7:57 to 8:05 p.m.

Commissioner Love rejoined the meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. INFORMATION ON PILOT WATER WELL SITES IN VARIOUS CITY PARKS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided a PowerPoint presentation on Proposed Pilot Well Sites in City Parks. He presented background information on Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) that serves approximately 80% of the City and relies on imported water for nearly 85% of its potable supply. He showed a slide of water sources for Torrance that include State Water Project, Colorado River Aqueduct, and Local Supplies. He showed a pie chart of Water Use by Customer Type, noting that the largest users are residential customers.

He discussed the Business Plan, 2011 Water Rate and Infrastructure Plan, and Supply Diversification Plan that includes developing four additional freshwater wells, expanding the Groundwater Desalter, and maximizing use of recycled water. He provided benefits of additional local water supply: enhance reliability, reduce dependence on imported water, lower long term water costs, and stabilize water rates in the future. He noted that in the future TMW hopes to have a more balanced supply of water and showed the economic benefits of new wells, with a 5:1 benefit to cost ratio.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich presented the proposed groundwater Desalter expansion that involves drilling three new pilot wells into the saline water plume at the City Yard, Civic Center behind the Police Storage Unit, and Delthorne Park. He noted that, if successful, full-scale wells would be developed in early 2014. He showed photographs of the Desalter at the City Yard, explained how brackish water occurred, and offered Commissioners an opportunity to tour the facility.

He described the Van Ness Avenue Groundwater Well Field proposal that involves drilling two pilot wells at Hamilton School and La Carretera Park. He stated that, if successful, full-scale wells would be developed and water from these wells would be pumped to the existing Border Avenue Distribution and Treatment site. He noted that, once the new well site adjacent to Yukon School is completed, the old water tank at McMaster Park would be dismantled and would provide additional park space.

Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt presented more information about the proposed new well facilities and pointed out site constraints for locating new wells, noting that the highest quality fresh water is in North Torrance. He showed photographs of the well house building at McMaster Park, the Border Avenue Treatment facility, and the proposed pilot well site at La Carretera Park. He stated that the well house would be 13 by 16 feet and could be any type of structure.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Reilly, he stated that all sites have security entrance alarms at doors and roof hatches.

Responding to Commissioner Greenberg's inquiry, he explained that the life span of a well is up to 50 years, with rehabilitation necessary every 10 to 15 years.

Supervisor Berndt showed the proposed well site and conceptual well house building at Delthorne Park, and Community Services Director Jones raised the possibility of finding a location for the well house that would not take away from open space.

Supervisor Berndt pointed out the requirement for a minimum separation of 50 feet from sewer or storm drains, vehicle access, and a flat area. He stated that they would construct a smaller building if possible and would work closely with Community Services to ensure that mutual objectives are met.

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich asked for conceptual approval for drilling pilot wells at La Carretera Park and Delthorne Park and there were no objections.

Community Services Director Jones pointed out that this was an information item only and asked that TMW representatives return to the next Commission meeting for the Commission's conceptual approval.

8B. APPROVAL OF 2012 LIVING TREE DEDICATION PROGRAM REPORT

Park Services Manager Carson presented the 2012 Living Tree Dedication Program Annual Report and requested that the Commission recommend to City Council to accept and file it. He noted that since the program's inception in 1992, a total of 348 living dedication trees have been planted throughout various parks. He stated that in 2012 an additional nine trees were planted at eight different parks.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to recommend to City Council to accept and file the 2012 Living Tree Dedication Program Annual Report. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8C. APPROVAL OF THE PARK BENCH DEDICATION PROGRAM

Senior Business Manager Minter presented a Park Bench Dedication Program that the Department can offer to the public to replace current benches with new wrought iron benches and an 8 by 10 inch bronze plaque installed in the concrete pad commemorating the donation. He distributed a draft application and noted that the goal of the program is the replacement of benches, not the addition of new benches. He stated that the proposed cost is set at \$3,500.

In response to Commissioner Baxter's inquiry, staff advised that the plaques would last a long time but that the City would not be responsible if damaged or stolen.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to recommend approval of the Park Bench Dedication Program and Application form. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8D. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ELECTION OF CHAIR TO GRANTS COMMITTEE

Community Services Director Jones noted that vacancies on standing committees have occurred with the retirement of Commissioners Gilbert, Ning, and Taniguchi and requested that the Commission fill these vacancies. He explained the responsibilities of each committee and how committee members are rotated onto the Grants Committee based on seniority. Committees were determined as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Open Space Committee: | Commissioners Reilly, Hays, and Greenberg. |
| Facilities Committee: | Commissioners Love, Greenberg, and Baxter. |
| Programs Committee: | Commissioners Love, Reilly, and Uchima. |
| Grants Committee: | Commissioners Hays, Baxter, and Mayeda. |

Commissioner Mayeda was appointed chair of the Grants Committee.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chairperson Mayeda reported that contracts have been signed and checks distributed for the 2013 Grants for Non Profit Social Service Agencies. He stated that two agencies have not yet submitted their Financial and Narrative Statements for 2012.

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 February 2013 was included in agenda packets.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for February 2013 was included in attachments. He reported that the sports court resurfacing project is nearing completion and that the Sea Aire Golf Course irrigation project is expected to be complete on March 22. He stated that the wooden bridge at Delthorne Park will be replaced next week and provided an update on replacement of the Pueblo Park play equipment.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for February 2013 was included in agenda packets. He announced that the Torrettes Dance and Drill Team scored first overall in the NRG dance competition. He reported that Sea Aire Golf Course is reopening soon and that funding is available for the 2014 Tournament of Rose Parade float. He announced a Pancake Breakfast at the ATTIC on April 6 and Spring Boutique at Wilson Park on March 25.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Commissioners and staff welcomed new Commissioners Love, Reilly, and Uchima.

11B. Commissioner Uchima commended Chairperson Mayeda for a job well done at the retirement dinner for Commissioners Gilbert, Ning, and Taniguchi.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:17 p.m., Commissioner Love moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, April 10, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Mayeda so ordered.

| |
|---|
| Approved as Submitted April 10, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk |
|---|