

**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, September 8, 2010, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Hays, Robbins,
Taniguchi, and Chairperson Gilbert.

Absent: Commissioners Mayeda and Ning.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones,
Senior Business Manager Minter,
Recreation Services Manager Brunette,
Park Services Manager Carson, and
Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Ning for the September 8, 2010 Commission meeting. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Hays 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 Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2010

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved for the approval of the August 11, 2010 Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Mayeda and Ning).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

James Baker, Wayne Avenue, stated that leaves from the Sunnyglen Park eucalyptus trees blow into his backyard and pool and suggested replacing them with pine trees.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. APPROVAL TO LEASE A PORTION OF PROPERTY AT SUNNYGLEN PARK FOR A T-MOBILE CELLULAR SITE

Brian Sunshine, Assistant to the City Manager and Chair of the Land Management Team, presented a request from T-Mobile to construct and maintain a cellular antenna site at the southerly portion of Sunnyglen Park closest to Del Amo Boulevard. With the aid of a slide presentation, he described the proposal to construct a eucalyptus tree monopole with an underground vault and support structure with a visible hatch. He stated that the initial term would be for five years, with five options of five years each, and would generate \$29,400 annually. He advised that if the Commission concurs with the recommendation of the City Manager, City staff would begin to develop and negotiate a lease with T-Mobile and proceed with consideration for approval from the Telecommunications Committee and City Council.

Responding to Commissioner Hays' inquiries, Mr. Sunshine stated that \$29,400 per year is in the mid-to-high market rate range and that the Commission could recommend that funds generated go back into the Parks and Recreation fund.

At Commissioner Taniguchi's request, staff explained reasons why T-Mobile has hired an irrigation specialist to work out problems that resulted from the installation of its cellular tower at Sea Aire Park.

Commissioner Robbins pointed out that revenue generated from a cell tower at Victor Park was supposed to go to the Parks and Recreation Department but was transferred to the General Fund.

Community Services Director Jones explained that, during one of the last budget reductions, the revenue source from the cell tower was identified as a budget reduction instead of cutting other areas or services.

In response to Chairperson Gilbert's inquiry, Mr. Sunshine stated that, other than irrigation issues at Sea Aire Park, the only problems that have occurred with cell tower leases is some inconvenience during installation.

Responding to Commissioner Taniguchi's inquiries, he advised that residents within 500 feet were noticed about this meeting and that the Cell Phone Ordinance requires co-location wherever possible.

At 7:15 p.m., Chairperson Gilbert welcomed public input.

Howell Dyson, Tomlee Avenue, received clarification from staff that AT&T or Verizon could share the same tower and that there would need to be additional construction; however, T-Mobile is the only provider that has expressed interest. In response to his suggestion that a light pole at the West High School football field be

used, staff explained that cell providers, not the City, select sites that maximize coverage.

Jerry Katzen, Redbeam Avenue, voiced opposition to the proposal for a cell tower in a residential area, expressing concern about cancer risk, eyesore, and decrease in property value.

James Clark, Tomlee Avenue, distributed a map showing locations of approximately 200 cell towers in Torrance. He stated that the City needs to identify "dead zones" to determine what areas need service and to improve what is already there instead of adding more.

Jim Ecklund, Wayne Avenue, expressed opposition to the proposal due to health and safety concerns and urged the City to find revenue some other way.

James Baker, Wayne Avenue, stated that the tower would be visible from the window of his residence and that it does not belong in a park, adding that the Redondo Union High School baseball field would be a preferable location.

Christopher Wiley, Wayne Avenue, voiced concern about radiation output and stressed the need to monitor output levels. He expressed concern about additional vendors coming in and asked what residents could do to stop this proposal from proceeding.

Commissioner Robbins explained that the Commission is an advisory body to City Council and does not make decisions. He noted that this is only the third request for a cell tower in five to seven years, adding that he would like to hear from T-Mobile and have an environmental assessment conducted.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to postpone the item to a future Commission meeting when a representative from T-Mobile could be present and to recommend that an environmental assessment be conducted. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion.

Mr. Sunshine assured residents that no contract has been signed and that the Federal Communications Commission regulates radiation output. He added that a provider is required to show a need for cell site drop-off of service.

Jackie Ecklund, Wayne Avenue, pointed out that she uses T-Mobile cell service and has good reception and coverage.

Ernesto Calderon, Tomlee Avenue, voiced his concern about safety in the event of an earthquake.

Community Services Director Jones informed Commissioners that requesting an environmental assessment is not within the purview of the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins made an amended motion to postpone the item to a future Commission meeting when a representative from T-Mobile could be present. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Mayeda and Ning).

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. APPROVAL OF DESIGN CONCEPT FOR SEASIDE HEROES PARK MEMORIAL PLAQUES

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background on the material of record and recommended that the Commission select a design concept for the Seaside Heroes Park memorial plaques honoring the three fallen soldiers Joseph Anzac, Matthew Ferrara, and Micah Gifford. He presented a slide presentation and described three design concepts included in Attachment A (dedication plaques), Attachment B (park benches), and Attachment C (walkway lights). He suggested selecting option B or C in addition to the dedication plaques at the entrance as shown in Attachment A. He stated that staff is working with the landscape architect to allow for future names to be incorporated into the plan if it becomes necessary. He noted that the architect does not recommend utilizing a hand crafted tile mural proposed by several residents.

Commissioner Robbins stated that the proposals are appropriate for the park and recommended using anti-graffiti coating and center arm rests for benches.

Maintenance issues were briefly discussed and Park Services Manager Carson described the possibility of installing sleeves into the concrete and setting the pedestals into the sleeves.

Commissioner Taniguchi stated that the plaques in front of benches at Wilson Park are very durable and, responding to her inquiry, Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the dedication plaque is included in the project budget. He added that options B or C would cost an additional \$2,000 per plaque and would require Open Space funds or donations.

At Commissioner Hays' request, Community Services Director Jones explained City Council's direction at the August 10, 2010 City Council meeting and advised that Commissioners could in theory select option A, options A and B, or options A and C.

Commissioner Robbins stated that the spirit of the park came from residents of the area, that cost is not the issue, and asked to hear input from community members.

Melissa Wright, Moresby Drive, expressed support for A but stated that she did not like options B or C. She stated that a tile project on a free-standing, monument type wall would be more community friendly, that tiles can last as long as 20 years, and that the project would be donated by community members.

June Lee, Vanderhill Road, stated that she was also in favor Attachment A but feels that plaques on the ground or on benches are disrespectful. She recommended a free-standing, cement block pillar covered by tiles depicting the history of the three soldiers. She noted that the tiles would be donated and offered to personally donate \$1,000 for the project.

Linda Ferrara, Mayor Drive, mother of Matthew Ferrara, expressed appreciation for all the effort that has gone into the project. She stated that the park should be a child-friendly location and concurred that a history lesson in tile would be more meaningful than bronze plaques.

Commissioner Hays, with concurrence from Commissioner Baxter, stated that they should be able to accommodate the tile project with the goal of making the park feel like it is part of the community.

Commissioner Taniguchi expressed support for Attachment A with additional tiles inside the park.

Barbara Clutter, Reese Road, received clarification from staff that the names of the three fallen soldiers would be on one of the dedication plaques at the entrance.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the tile project would need plans drawn up that meet all structural specifications.

A brief discussion centered on the potential to add additional names in the future if need be.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to select the dedication plaques as shown in Attachment A, not to select Park Benches (Attachment B) or Walkway Lights (Attachment C), and to direct staff to work with community members to develop a tile story project. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Mayeda and Ning).

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Gilbert reported that grant applications are currently being accepted with a deadline date of September 15, 2010. She encouraged Committee members to continue monitoring their assigned agencies.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hays stated that that Committee met, began discussing types of facilities to be included in non-smoking areas, directed staff to explore ordinances passed in other cities including the City of Manhattan Beach, and that they plan to meet again in two to three weeks.

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 August 2010 was included in agenda packets. He reported that the fall registration period was successful, with approximately half of registrations being online sign-ups.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for August 2010 was included in agenda materials.

In response to Commissioner Robbins' inquiry, he stated that leaf matter falling into the Wilson Park Pond is a natural occurrence and that it eventually soaks and settles.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for August 2010 was included in agenda packets. He reported that currently revenues for Torrance Certified Farmers' Market have decreased on Saturdays but increased on Tuesdays.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

11A. Commissioner Baxter stated that he enjoyed the Aquacade as well as the Torrance Symphony concert at Wilson Park.

11B. Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she enjoyed the Wilson Park Pond dedication event.

11C. Commissioner Robbins requested that staff provide a Commissioner attendance report.

11D. Community Services Director Jones expressed appreciation to Commissioners for attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Wilson Park Pond and for their support over the past two years during its renovation. He particularly recognized Park Services Manager Carson and Park Services Supervisor Simoneau for their efforts and stated that he is looking forward to a new Wilson Park Amphitheater in the future.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:48 p.m., Commissioner Hays moved to adjourn the meeting to October 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Gilbert so ordered.

Approved as Submitted October 13, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
