

**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, October 8, 2014 in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: None.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Love 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 roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of September 10, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. John Merriman, Redondo Beach, Little League Board of Directors, stated that 700 participants practice on the fields on Ocean Avenue between Sepulveda and Lomita Boulevards and play 70 games per year at South High School. He stated that they do not have a snack bar or bathroom at their current location. He asked the Commission to consider a proposal to install lights on the minor and major fields that will enable them to play one game per night. He noted that they would make sure the neighbors had no objections before moving forward and asking the Commission for approval.

6B. Dale Korman, Paseo de Los Tortugas, Cultural Arts Commissioner, expressed concern about City Council's approval to use wood chips or sand for play equipment surfacing. She stated that wood chips can be hazardous and sand presents a problem with flea infestation. She asked the Commission to research alternatives before moving forward and expressed hope that the two Commissions can meet in the near future to discuss mutual interests.

6C. Torrance Youth Council members Julie Kaplan, Okoduwa Aborsalos, Ryota Nishishiba, and Kevin Kang introduced themselves.

7. OLD BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA LADIES SOCCER ORGANIZATION REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF FEES

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background regarding the partnership between the City, AYSO Region 16, and United States of America Ladies Soccer Organization (USALSO). He presented USALSO's request that their payments for the Eco-Fertigation system be applied as a credit to their permit fees. He called attention to the letter from Linda Valentine, President of USALSO, included in Attachment A. He recommended that the Commission direct staff to develop an agreement providing credit to USALSO for field rental fees at Columbia Park based on donations for the Eco-Fertigation system on an annual basis.

Linda Finn Valentine, President of USALSO, stated that they paid \$500 per month from January 2014 through June 2014 during preparation for the AYSO National Games. She stated that they did not use the soccer fields during this time and requested that the monthly fee they pay towards Eco-Fertigation be offset for their field usage fee.

At Commissioner Reilly's request, Park Services Manager Carson explained that Eco-Fertigation involves using the existing irrigation system to distribute fertilizer and nutrients to the fields.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to support staff's recommendation and to forward an agreement to City Council for consideration. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8B. OPEN SPACE AND FACILITIES FUNDING REVIEW

Community Services Director Jones provided background and asked the Commission to review new projects that have been brought to the attention of the Department and may be addressed with existing Open Space and Facility funds. He noted that Attachment A shows current projects and allocated Open Space and Facilities funds. He presented two elements at Columbia Park for the Commission's consideration: Walking Paths and Bocce Courts.

He requested that the Commission consider using existing funds in FEAP 148, the Columbia Park Redevelopment Project, to reconfigure the existing walking path system in the west portion of the park as shown in Attachment B. He stated that walkers have complained for several years that the pathways are constantly muddy and wet due to the irrigation system spraying the paths. He noted that they would like to engage a consultant to design a new field layout to maximize playable space as well as to explore ways to improve the pathway system.

Commissioner Mayeda's stated that it is nice to have a meandering pathway system and, in response to his inquiry, Community Services Director Jones stated that decomposed granite is an economically based product that does not fair well when wet.

In response to Commissioner Greenberg's inquiry about trees, Community Services Director Jones explained that when Columbia Park was developed in the 1970s trees and shrubbery were not allowed due to the radio towers.

Bob Chiota, South Bay Bocce Courts Project, introduced Joel Massa and provided a PowerPoint presentation on their mission to find funds to build three state-of-the-art, disabled accessible, bocce courts at Columbia Park. He stated that they joined Friends of Torrance Exceptional Athletes to obtain 501c3 status. He noted that have been endorsed by Louis Zamperini, senior citizens, and Kristina Rapatti and discussed their fundraising efforts and grant requests. He distributed and entered into record an October 6, 2014 letter from Annette M. Genova M.D.

He described the project to install three bocce courts in the area that is now the sand volleyball court. He stated that the project includes installation of regulation-sized courts that would attract bocce tournaments, using Astro Turf for the playing surface and decomposed granite for the surrounding area. He explained how individuals in wheelchairs could access the courts and how the surface would require minimal maintenance. He stated that not only the general public would benefit from the project but also recovering first responders, Wounded Warriors, and Exceptional Athletes. He stated that the estimated project cost is \$70,000 and that they have raised \$21,850.

In response to Commissioner Reilly's inquiry, Mr. Chiota stated that there is sufficient space around the perimeter of the courts for spectators.

Community Services Director Jones stated that the volunteers have worked diligently for three years to raise funds for the project. He noted that the sand volleyball court is lightly used and that Columbia Park is an ideal location for this kind of activity. He suggested that the Commission consider funding \$80,000 because of the prevailing wage requirement beginning in January. He stated that, if funded, staff would take the item to City Council for approval and then put it out to bid for a design element.

Commissioners expressed their support for the project and Chairperson Baxter thanked Mr. Chiota for the excellent presentation.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to approve the expenditure of funds in FEAP 148 for the landscape design of new pathways at Columbia Park and to approve \$80,000 in Open Space funding to be allocated to the Columbia Park Bocce Project. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE - No report.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hays reported that the Grants Committee met on October 8, 2014 and are in the process of scheduling interviews with non-profit agencies for the Grants Program later this month.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE - No report.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - No report.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for September was included in agenda packets.

In response to Commissioner Love's inquiry about the September 21 Pacific Sports Triathlon, Community Services Director Jones stated that it was extremely well run, Torrance Police did an excellent job, and that there were 1,500 to 1,800 participants. He stated that they have sent out postcards to impacted residents asking them to complete an online survey and plan to report findings back to City Council. He expressed appreciation to Chairperson Baxter for attending the event.

Responding to Commissioner Greenwood's inquiry, he stated that the renting out of the turf area at Las Canchas is going well.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for September 2014 was included in attachments. He reported that an RFP was put out for weed abatement services at 22 parks, two more than last year, and received a bid for \$22,000 that was less than anticipated.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for September 2014 was included in agenda packets. He distributed fliers for the Halloween Carnival on October 31 at Wilson Park and announced that Sony Pictures has offered to show a free movie "Hotel Transylvania" at the event.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Senior Business Manager Minter reported that slurry sealing of the parking lot at Wilson Park is near completion and will allow 40 additional parking spaces. He stated that on October 9-11 the streets around the Toyota Sports Complex will be slurry sealed.

11B. Community Services Director Jones announced a Commissioner Certification Training on October 29.

11C. Community Services Director Jones stated that construction continues at Pueblo Park and that a grand opening is scheduled for December 13.

11D. Community Services Director Jones announced the 35th Turkey Trot on November 27 and confirmed that Chairperson Baxter would fire the starting pistol. Commissioner Mayeda challenged fellow Commissioners to participate in the run.

11E. Commissioner Reilly discussed her participation in the National Public Lands Day at Madrona Marsh.

11F. Commissioner Hays announced the Torrance Historical Society's Historical Homes Tour on October 11-12.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:30 p.m., Commissioner Mayeda moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Baxter so ordered.

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Approved as submitted November 12, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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