

**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, November 12, 2014 in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: Commissioner Uchima.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to grant Commissioner Uchima an excused absence for the November 12, 2014 Commission meeting. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Reilly 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 Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2014

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of October 8, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. Bob Chiota and Joel Massa expressed their gratitude to the Commission for approving Open Space funding for the South Bay Bocce Courts Project at the October 8 Commission meeting.

6B. City Librarian Theyer provided information about a community-wide survey being conducted regarding Library services and future Library direction. She encouraged Commissioners to complete the five-minute survey that is available online and to encourage acquaintances to complete it. She distributed printed copies and bookmarks, noting that surveys would be collected until mid-December.

In response to Commissioner Reilly's inquiry, she stated that the Library reaches out to homeowners associations through its branch libraries.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. NEW LEASE AGREEMENTS WITH FOUR TORRANCE YOUTH BASEBALL ORGANIZATIONS FOR USE OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTIES

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background regarding lease agreements with Torrance American Baseball (TABB), Torrance Little League, Riviera Little League, and West Torrance Little League. He recommended that the Commission support new lease agreements (Attachments A through D) with these youth, non-profit organizations for use of City-owned facilities for a term of five years beginning January 1, 2015. He noted that current leases expire on December 31, 2014, adding that the leases include language that requires each league to pay a portion of their water costs. He stated that one proposed revision to the lease agreements is a requirement that each league identify their periods of field usage. He described the notification process for this meeting and called attention to supplemental materials received after agenda packets were prepared.

James Hurst, Doris Way, stated that he is a long time proponent of TABB but noted that they have not been the best of neighbors and do not follow Article 9 of their lease agreement. He expressed concern about drivers speeding down the alleyway in an unsafe manner, litter, and the City's enforcement of the agreement.

Jerry Lofstrum (no speaker card), Doris Way, former board member of TABB, maintained that board members work hard to provide a quality program, maintain fields, and address problems. He urged the Commission not to do anything to further restrict use of the fields and suggested appointing a neighbor as a community relations advisor.

Frank Asaro, Doris Way, former president of the TABB board, stated that it is a great league that is well run and has concern for the neighborhood. He noted that the addendum in Exhibit A, Special Condition to Lease, has created good harmony between the neighbors and the league. He suggested installation of speed bumps in the alley to prevent speeding.

Diane Kraus (no speaker card), Doris Way, received clarification from staff that language in Exhibit A regarding the North gate access during construction is no longer relevant and should be deleted.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Community Services Director Jones explained that the Exhibit A addendum was added 10 years ago in response to complaints from neighbors regarding noise, field time schedules, and parking. He noted that this addendum was not included in the last lease agreement but suggested that it be included in this one.

Commissioner Love questioned what options could be implemented to prevent speeding in the alley and Community Services Director Jones suggested that staff ask the City's Traffic Engineer to offer suggestions for speed mitigation techniques.

Commissioner Greenberg stated that the City of Redondo Beach is using rubber speed bumps and Commissioner Reilly suggested using temporary stop signs.

Chairperson Baxter pointed out redundancy in the language of the lease agreement regarding default. Responding to his inquiry regarding water usage, Senior Business Manager Minter explained that the average monthly usage was created based on usage by all four leagues. He described a slide of the Doris Way sump property and pointed out that not all of the lease agreements have parking or traffic plans.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved that the amended Exhibit A, Special Condition to Lease, be added to Exhibit 1, Torrance American Boys Baseball Parking/Traffic Plan, in the lease agreement between the City and Torrance American Baseball League, to direct staff to discuss options for speed mitigation techniques with the Traffic Engineer, and that the lease agreement is not contingent on discussions with the Traffic Engineer. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to support new lease agreements with Torrance Little League, Riviera Little League, and West Torrance Little League as presented. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

8B. DISCUSSION ON MAXIMIZING FIELD PLAYING SPACE AND DEVELOPING A RE-DESIGN OF THE WALKWAYS FOR COLUMBIA PARK

Community Services Director Jones provided background and discussed the goal to maximize field playing space for sport participants as well as to design and install safe, usable walking paths around the fields so the irrigation systems do not cause muddy pathways for walkers. He noted that the purpose of this meeting was to accept input from community members regarding these improvements before contracting a Landscape Consultant. He called attention to photographs of Columbia Park in the material of record and supplemental correspondence from Jim Tarvin.

Debra Corwin, Bulova Street, received clarification from staff that the Landscape Consultant would determine if there would be more soccer fields added and that non-profit youth organizations do not pay fees for practices and regular games.

Donna Cessor, West 183rd Street, urged the Commission to be fair to everyone, not just soccer players. She recommended looking at parking and restroom facilities if additional soccer fields are added. When she suggested removing the gate between the west and east sides of the park, staff explained that the gate was a requirement of the CBS Tower agreement.

Sonya Akutagawa, West 184th Place, stated that she prefers a meandering walkway and pointed out that the bridge needs resurfacing; Community Services Director Jones offered to bring the concern to Public Works Department's attention.

Judy Robelotto, Regina Avenue, stated that the walkways are wet all the time, but indicated that it is not necessary to water so much. She noted that soccer fields limit the area for picnics and their games, and that the drinking fountains and port-a-potties are in need of more frequent servicing.

Laura Rubio, West 177th Street, stated that the only time she can walk is during the summer and that the whole section was closed off last summer. She expressed concern that the re-design is being done to bring in more revenue and that the space should be shared with walkers. She stated that the storage unit is often left open and that the trash is overflowing on weekends.

Allen Deshler, Amie Avenue, maintained that cars park on both sides of 186th Street on weekends and that it is not fair to residents. He urged them to provide adequate parking if they are going to increase the number of soccer fields.

Community Services Director Jones explained the Turf Management Program and the attempt to have sustainable turf throughout the year. He stated that organized groups need permits to use the fields but walkers are not restricted from using them.

7C. UPDATE OF THE USE OF OPEN SPACE AND FACILITIES FUNDS FOR BENSTEAD PLUNGE AND TORRANCE PARK SIDEWALKS

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background and reported that City Council awarded additional Open Space and Facility funds for the Benstead Plunge Renovation (\$41,102) and Torrance Park Sidewalks project (\$2,175). He explained that bids came in higher than expected and that it was not possible to bring the request for additional funding to the Commission before the projects were due to begin.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, he explained that the Benstead Plunge Renovation is being funded primarily by Los Angeles County Proposition A grant funds, noting that the contingency was built in and was included in the additional \$41,102.

7D. APPROVAL OF 2014-2015 GRANT FUNDING FOR NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Grants Committee Chairperson Hays reported that the Committee conducted interviews with 17 agency representatives on October 23 and held deliberations on October 28. He noted that there was \$84,250 in requests and \$20,000 available for grant allocation. He presented the recommendations of the Grants Committee for the funding of nine non-profit social service agencies for the grant program.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to approve requests from non-profit social service agencies as follows: Beacon House (\$1,000); Behavioral Health Services (\$2,000); Casa de los Angelitos (\$1,500); Family Crisis Center (\$2,000); Health Elder Law Program (H.E.L.P.) (\$1,000); Pregnancy Help Center (\$2,000); South Bay Children's Health Center (\$2,000); Switzer Learning Center (\$3,500); and Torrance Lomita Meals on Wheels (\$5,000), for a total of \$20,000. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

8A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE - No report.

8B. GRANTS COMMITTEE - Previously discussed in Item 7D.

8C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE - No report.

8D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

9A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for October 2014 was included in agenda packets. He attributed the \$72,028 revenue from Toyota Sports Complex to late payments and delays in invoicing. He estimated average revenue from the sports complex to be \$35,000 per month.

Commissioner Greenberg suggested switching over to LED lighting; Senior Business Manager Minter stated that security lighting has changed to LED but that sports field lighting is not compatible yet.

9B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for October 2014 was included in attachments. He read Georgia Leynert's letter dated November 11 thanking Park Services for the wonderful job of keeping Columbia Park clean and manicured.

9C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for October 2014 was included in agenda packets. He expressed appreciation to Commissioners Love and Reilly for participating in pumpkin judging at the Halloween Carnival, noting that there were approximately 2,500 attendees.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

10A. Recreation Services Manager Brunette announced the 35th Turkey Trot on November 27 and Christmas Boutique on December 14.

10B. Commissioner Greenberg requested that an item be placed on next month's agenda to discuss having a joint meeting with City Council. She proposed that one talking point would be for the Commission to ask City Council to provide additional funds for the Grants Program. Commissioners concurred, and staff offered to check City Council's availability after the first of the year.

10C. Community Services Director Jones encouraged Commissioners to attend the grand opening of Pueblo Park on December 13.

10D. Commissioner Love stated that she enjoyed participating at the Halloween Carnival and was impressed with the pumpkins.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:05 p.m., Commissioner Mayeda moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Baxter so ordered.

###

Approved as submitted December 10, 2014 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
--