

**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, December 12, 2012, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Gilbert, Greenberg,  
Hays, Taniguchi, and Chairperson Mayeda.

Absent: Commissioner Ning.

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved to grant Commissioner Ning an excused absence for the December 12, 2012 Commissioner meeting. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Baxter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert 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 NOVEMBER 14, 2012**

Commissioner Gilbert offered the following correction to the minutes: Page 4, line 4: "...and expressed concern that clients are being priced out."

**MOTION:** Commissioner Gilbert moved to approve the November 14, 2012 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ning).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 None.**

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7A. WILSON PARK POND UPDATE**

Park Services Manager Carson provided the background and status of the Wilson Park Pond. He reported that a short-term solution to repair the pond floor was developed in order to refill it for the Centennial Celebration and that the water is clear. He reported that two of three pumps have been shut down because their pipes run under the shotcrete liner. He reported that staff have reviewed options for a long-term solution for the plumbing and have determined the best solution is to re-install the piping on the floor surface, eliminating the possibility of broken pipes under the floor in the future. He stated that Park Services anticipates doing this in March 2013 at the approximate cost of \$6,500.

In response to Commissioner Gilbert's inquiry, he stated that it would be a City expense because the warranty has expired.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8C. RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF 2012-2013 NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES GRANTS**

This item was taken out of order.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso reported that 16 applications were received and that the Grants Committee conducted interviews on October 25 and deliberated on November 7, 2012. He presented the Committee's recommendation that the Commission approve grant funding for the 2012-2013 Grant Program for 15 non profit social services agencies as follows: Beacon House (\$1,000); Behavioral Health Services (\$1,500); Cancer Support Community—Redondo Beach (\$1,500); Casa de los Angelitos (\$1,500); Children's Dental Center (\$1,000); Harbor Interfaith Services (\$1,000); Pediatric Therapy Network (\$1,500); Pregnancy Help Center (\$850); Project Needs (\$1,500); Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of South Bay—RSVP (\$1,500); South Bay Children's Health Center (\$1,150); South Bay Literacy Council (\$2,000); Su Casa—Ending Domestic Violence (\$1,500); Switzer Learning Center (\$1,500); and Torrance-South Bay YMCA (\$1,000), for a total of \$20,000.

Responding to Commissioner Greenberg's inquiry, Commissioner Gilbert stated that partial funding of requests is often necessary but that they try to grant enough funds so that a project can proceed.

In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Hays, Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso stated that, even though Elwyn Inc. was unable to attend the grant hearing, they were not disqualified from receiving funds.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso expressed his appreciation to Grant Committee members Commissioners Gilbert, Mayeda, and Ning for a job well done

**MOTION:** Commissioner Baxter moved to recommend approval of grant funding for the 2012-2013 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Services Agencies as presented. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ning).

**8A. STATUS OF CITY'S 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER BUDGET REVIEW**

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that the City Council Finance and Governmental Operations Committee met on December 4, 2012 for the First Quarter Budget Review, noting that the Executive Summary was included in Attachment A. He stated that there was an overall shortfall but that it was covered by not filling vacant positions. He noted that there is optimism that we are coming out of the economic slump and that unemployment numbers are decreasing.

Responding to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, he stated that the Department is continuing to hold vacant positions but that the Library was able to fill two positions.

**8B. AYSO 2014 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT**

Community Services Director Jones reported that a year ago the City put in a proposal to host the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) 2014 National Tournament. He announced that last May AYSO awarded the National Games to two host venues, Torrance and Riverside. He noted that it is a major economic development opportunity for the City and is expected to generate \$15 million. He stated that 240 teams are expected to participate from June 29 to July 6, 2014 and that Columbia Park would be the main park used for the event. He noted that a City team has been assembled to work with AYSO to plan the tournament and improvements to the sports turf may be considered.

Chairperson Mayeda raised the possibility of installing artificial turf at Columbia Park and Park Services Manager Carson stated that it is cost prohibitive and requires vigilant monitoring. He explained that maintenance is minor, it can be played on 24 hours a day, it provides 10 to 12 years of use, the drainage system is underneath, and irrigation is basically used to cool it down in summer months.

Community Services Director Jones expressed his hope to redesign the layout of the west end of Columbia Park with artificial turf and improved lighting someday.

In response to an inquiry from Chairperson Mayeda, he explained that the property at 555 Maple is on a month-to-month lease agreement and there are no funds available to develop it.

**9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE** Has not met.

**9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE** Previously discussed in Item 8C.

**9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE** Has not met.

**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 November 2012 was included in agenda packets. He stated that there was a wedding at Miramar Park on Thanksgiving Day and informed the Commission that Verizon representatives met with community members to address concerns about the proposed cell tower at Sur La Brea Park. He stated that he is working with Program Coordinator Parr to present the fourth quarter registration numbers at the February 2013 Commission meeting. He discussed some of the challenges facing the Home Improvement Program that include prioritizing jobs and the loss of redevelopment funding.

**10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for November 2012 was included in agenda materials. He announced that the sports court resurfacing project would begin on December 17, with 16 ½ courts being resurfaced at 12 different parks. He reported that award of contract to Bennett Landscape is going to City Council on December 18 for the Sea Aire Golf Course irrigation project, with completion expected in early March 2013. He explained the bidding process and stated that all the netting at Sea Aire would also need to be replaced. He described a large void that was discovered underneath the restroom at Lago Seco Park, possible causes, and different options being considered to remedy the situation.

**10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for October 2012 was included in agenda packets. He expressed appreciation to Chairperson Mayeda for successfully starting the Turkey Trot Fun Run.

**11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2**

**11A.** Commissioners and staff thanked each other for a successful year of working together and wished each other a happy holiday season.

**11B.** Senior Business Manager Minter stated that he was grateful to receive recognition from Mayor Scotto for the boy's youth soccer team that finished the season in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

**11C.** Community Services Director Jones stated that there are currently 1,800 youth enrolled in Youth Basketball and that the new season begins in January 2013. He discussed the agreement with Torrance Unified School District for use of their facilities, the new increased charge for required custodial and site supervisor services at every site, and ongoing negotiations with Superintendent Dr. Stabler. He stated that staff is exploring alternative gyms in Torrance that might be available on Saturdays.

**11D.** Community Services Director Jones encouraged Commissioners to attend the Citizen Development and Enrichment Committee meeting on December 17 regarding the City's subsidy levels.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:10 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to January 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Mayeda so ordered.

Approved as Amended January 9, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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