

**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 12, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: Commissioner Greenberg.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business
Manager Minter, Recreation Services Manager
Brunette, Nature Center Manager/Naturalist Drake,
and Recreation Supervisor Craig.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to grant Commissioner Greenberg an excused absence for the October 12, 2016 Commission meeting. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Greenberg).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of September 14, 2016 as presented. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Greenberg).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. Recreation Supervisor Garrett Craig introduced himself.

6B. The Commission welcomed Torrance Youth Council member Torrey Park.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. STATUS OF THE BOCCE BALL COURTS AT COLUMBIA PARK

Community Services Director Jones provided an update on construction of the Bocce Ball Courts at Columbia Park. He stated that demolition, excavation, and grading have been completed as well as installation of most of the sub grade drains and fabric liner. He stated that the project was delayed a couple of weeks due to a problem with the footings for one of the sports light poles and that completion is now expected in mid-November, with a grand opening on December 3 or 10.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. ENTRADERO SOUTH TRAIL CLOSURE

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background on the Stormwater Basin Enhancement Project and closure of the south portion of the trail at Entradero Basin due to potential liability. He described aerial views of the Basin and trail included in Attachment A. He reported that this section of the trail will remain closed until additional geotechnical analysis and a risk analysis are completed.

Commissioner Mayeda stated that he observed the signage and fenced off portion of the trail, noting that people are able to walk around it regardless of the closure.

Senior Business Manager Minter responded that staff are working on enhancing and widening the fencing.

Dan Patton, Bulova Street, expressed frustration that a determination about risk is taking so long. He distributed a petition with over a 100 signatures asking that the trail be reopened.

Bill Gross, Ronald Avenue, questioned why they did not fix the slope when it became an issue and cautioned them from calling it dangerous when it has not been determined that it is.

Rick Crump, Entradero Avenue, stated that the trail was used as a West High School cross country course and objected to the installation of a fence at the baseball field where races used to start from.

Senior Business Manager Minter thanked residents for speaking and stated that developing a scope of work and evaluating it may be a time consuming process.

8B. BRINGING PICKLEBALL TO TORRANCE

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background and described the sport of Pickleball. He noted that a packet of information about Pickleball and its benefits is included in Attachment A, B, and C as well as proposed court dimensions in Attachments D and E. He reported that participants have requested that the City paint additional lines on the two paddle tennis courts at Wilson Park as well as for help in creating new Pickleball opportunities at other City parks. He recommended that the Commission support the addition of service lines to the courts at Wilson Park, adding

that it would cost less than \$1,000. He noted that staff are willing to explore opportunities at other parks; however, they would focus attention on parks with multiple tennis courts as opposed to single court locations. Additionally, staff are willing to explore the creation of a City-sponsored Seniors Pickleball Program that could make use of the tennis court at Walteria Park.

Commissioner Mayeda received clarification from staff that Pickleball is not a brand name.

Community Services Director Jones voiced support for exploring opportunities for any multi-use space in City parks that improve the quality of life for citizens. He stated that painting four lines is a low risk opportunity and, if Pickleball turns out to be a fad, the lines can be painted over.

Decker, Rancho Palos Verdes (no speaker card), stated that Pickleball is 51 years old, is not a fad, and will be more popular than tennis one day.

Valerie Pierce, Hermosa Beach, stated that Pickleball is becoming very popular and has numerous health and social benefits.

Christine Massa stated that Pickleball is not limited to seniors, is great physical fitness fun, and that hosting tournaments would be a financial benefit for the City.

John Hillebrand, San Pedro, stated that Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America, anyone can play, and has social and health benefits.

Debbie Martin, 170th Street, stated that the Pickleball lines do not bother tennis players.

Paula Fochesato, Michigan, expressed appreciation to staff for considering recreation opportunities and stated that she travels all over the United States to play Pickleball.

Lois Tuey, Hermosa Beach, stated that she started the Pickleball program in Manhattan Beach and discussed the sport's health benefits.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to support staff's recommendation to add service lines to the two paddle tennis courts at Wilson Park. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Greenberg).

9. COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Chairperson Reilly reported that the Grants Committee met on October 12 and would present its recommendation for grant funding to the Commission at its November 9 meeting. The next Committee meeting is January 11, 2017.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for September 2016 was included in agenda packets. He reported that staff hosted three community meetings at Wilson Park to discuss design options for play equipment and would present its recommendation at the November 9 Commission meeting.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Manager Drake reviewed the Park Services Division Report for September 2016 included in agenda packets. She discussed construction work at the Nature Center at the Madrona Marsh Preserve and showed a photograph of a migrating chestnut-sided warbler.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Monthly Report for September 2016 was included in agenda materials. He discussed the Halloween Carnival at Wilson Park and Commissioner Love volunteered to help judge the pumpkin carving contest.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMISSION REVIEW - None.

12. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

12A. Commissioner Mayeda challenged fellow Commissioners to race him at the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot at Wilson Park.

12B. Commissioner Uchima thanked the Commission and staff for sending the condolence card for the passing of his father.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:20 p.m., Commissioner Love moved to adjourn the meeting to November 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected approval.

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Approved as submitted November 9, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
