

**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 14, 2015 in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**

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

Absent: None.

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

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Reilly 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 Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2015**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hays moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of September 9, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

Torrance Youth Council members Julie Kaplan and Kimberly Osbern introduced themselves.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7A. MCMASTER PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE**

Senior Business Manager Minter provided a slide presentation on the McMaster Park Improvement Project. He described architectural renderings and aerial views of McMaster Park, noting the three main buildings: North Torrance Library that is not being

changed, Community Center West, and Community Center East. He stated that Community Center West will house the Early Education Program and park building and Community Center East will be the new Tillim Senior Center. He noted that the main focus of the project is the new driveway off Artesia Boulevard that will alleviate congestion on Yukon Avenue. He described renovated sports fields and parking lot improvements as well as a new basketball court, picnic area, restrooms, kitchens, lighting, sidewalks, and playground equipment with a fire theme.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS**

### **8A. APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH TORRANCE AMERICAN BASEBALL (TABB) FOR USE OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY AS BASEBALL FIELDS**

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background and recommended that the Commission approve proposed modifications to a lease agreement with TABB for use of property in the Doris Way Sump youth baseball fields. He stated that TABB is one of four leagues using City facilities and that the lease would expire on December 31, 2019. He discussed modifications requested by TABB, additions recommended by the City, and concerns raised by residents. He noted a revised Exhibit 1 to the agreement in Attachment D identifying the Period of Operation and Field Time Schedules sections and defining "Play Activities." He stated that the homeowners association and Torrance residents within 500 feet of the facility were notified of this meeting, and he noted that staff's goal is to be a conduit between both TABB and residents to resolve issues.

He called attention to the original 5-year lease agreement with TABB in Attachment B, noting that nothing has been changed except Exhibit 1. He pointed out that that the Exhibit defines "Play Activities" as any TABB sponsored practice, batting cage use, warm-up, or game, and "Field Preparation" as the watering, chalking, and dragging of the fields prior to an organized game. He reviewed the revised Period of Operation that states that fields will be used for play activities during March through July, noting that proposed modifications clarify that a total of six play activity days are allowed in January and February for tryouts, scrimmages, and a hit-a-thon fundraiser. He stated that Field Time Schedules have been modified to extend play activities to 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays, and allowing them to begin at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Joe Gaffney, TABB President, Haas Avenue, stated that TABB met with neighborhood residents and agreed on the majority of Exhibit 1. He requested that Saturday and Sunday end times be changed to 7:30 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m. and added that TABB has also committed to limiting the All Star season in July to one week.

Responding to Commissioner Baxter's inquiry, Mr. Gaffney stated that play activities would begin at 11:00 a.m. but games do not officially start until noon.

Referring to 2.d, Commissioner Reilly pointed out that field preparation could begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Commissioner Mayeda suggested changing "play" to "play activities" in 2.d for more precise clarification.

Debbie Ellis, Doris Way, expressed concern with TABB's sense of entitlement, noting that TABB has never consulted her. She stated that metal bats are noisy, they

cannot sleep in on weekends, and that there are parking and littering problems. She requested that TABB be more considerate to neighbors and suggested that the league establish regular meetings with them.

Dr. Richard Ellis, Doris Way, stated that he is having difficulty getting any information from the City or TABB. He indicated that issues with the neighborhood also include balls in yards and blocked driveways.

Tig Sribour, Doris Way, stated that parents yell loudly, his driveway has been blocked, parking is an issue, and people do not leave the fields when games are over.

Mark Forney, Sharynne Lane, recommended limiting hours rather than expanding them. He noted that TABB is growing, people are parking farther away, and that players are coming in from Norwalk, Pacific Palisades, and Los Alamitos. He asked staff to research how much TABB has grown and determine how many Torrance players are involved. He noted that the notification did not say what this meeting is about.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that 16. Annual Reports was previously added to lease agreements requiring leagues to report their number of activities, attendance reports, any complaints received, and their responses. He called attention to the meeting notification map in Attachment E, and noted that staff tries to find ways to engage the public.

Sabrina Terzian, Doris Way, expressed concern about robberies in the neighborhood and raised the possibility of having placards on cars to identify their association with TABB. In response to her inquiry, staff advised her to direct complaints to a TABB representative, adding that she could also call Torrance Police Department.

James Hurst, Doris Way, stated that he wants to see a good relationship between TABB and neighbors and urged TABB to be more proactive in reaching out to residents. He pointed out that the property is a sump, homes are in close proximity, and that dragging the field at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings is not acceptable.

Dr. Ellis asked if the City is aware that it is providing recreation to youth from other cities; Community Services Director Jones responded that there is no discrimination in the City's open recreational space and that TABB has a different regional boundary because it is a Pony League.

Commissioner Reilly voiced her support for the addition of 16. Annual Reports but indicated that it is still early to see how that information plays out. She inquired if there are times when complaints are not adequately reported or addressed and Community Services Director Jones advised that residents could e-mail staff with their complaints if they do not trust the league to report them.

Commissioner Mayeda urged TABB to work on having a good relationship with neighbors and Mr. Gaffney explained that this is the first year the Pony League has opened up its borders and that teams from other cities play in the All Star Tournament.

Commissioners Baxter and Greenberg recommended changing 2.c Field Time Schedules to Sundays: No play activities before 12 Noon.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hays moved to recommend approval of modifications to the lease agreement with Torrance American Baseball, including the revised Exhibit 1, with amendments as follows: 2.b) “Saturdays: No play activities before 9:00 a.m. and all play activities must end by 7:30 p.m.” 2.c) “Sundays: No play activities before 12 Noon and all play activities must end by 7:30 p.m.” and 2.d) “All field preparation may begin approximately 1 hour before play activities are scheduled to begin...” Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**8B. RECOMMENDATION TO CREATE AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW AN APPLICANT FOR THE TORRANCE YOUTH SPORTS “WALL OF HONOR” RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

Recreation Services Manager Brunette provided background on the Torrance Youth Sports “Wall of Honor” Recognition Program. He stated that staff has received a nomination for an individual for potential placement on the Wall of Honor (Attachment D). He requested that the Commission consider forming an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate the application to determine if the nominee meets the program criteria and to provide a recommendation to the Commission for approval or denial.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hays moved to create an Ad Hoc Committee to evaluate a nomination for the Torrance Youth Sports “Wall of Honor” Recognition Program. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Hays disclosed that he knows the nominee. Commissioners Love, Mayeda, and Uchima volunteered to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee.

**8C. ACCEPT A DONATION OF LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT FROM PALOS VERDES GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY**

Recreation Services Manager Brunette reported that the Bartlett Center has had a lapidary program since the 1980’s. He stated that Palos Verdes Gem and Mineral Society provided the lapidary equipment on a long-term loan basis and its members have since supervised the program, including collection of a \$5 monthly fee from participants. He stated that it was decided that the Society would donate the equipment and the City would take over the operation, still utilizing Society volunteers. He noted that Bartlett Center staff would assume responsibility of the workshop and that participants would pay \$2 per person per visit. He requested that the Commission support acceptance of the equipment with an estimated value of \$9,890 (Attachment A), noting that the Commission on Aging voted to approve this recommendation.

Commissioner Greenberg inquired about equipment replacement or repair needs and he advised that collected fees would help offset any necessary costs.

Lynette Vandever, Redondo Beach, Palos Verdes Gem and Mineral Society, stated that the program is self-contained, the equipment is good quality, and participants are safety conscious. She expressed concern that the City will discontinue the program, and staff explained that it is the City’s intent to work closely with the Society.

Peggy Hill, Rancho Palos Verdes, Palos Verdes Gem and Mineral Society, stated that she has assisted running the program for the past 24 years. She discussed how participants are instructed, supervised, clean up, and safety measures taken.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Uchima moved to support acceptance of a donation of lapidary equipment from Palos Verdes Gem and Mineral Society. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

**9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**9A. GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Baxter reported that the Committee met on October 14 to discuss guidelines and the role of Committee members in reviewing 2016 Grant proposals. He stated that nine proposals were submitted for the 2016 Grants Program and that results would be determined at their next Committee meeting on November 18.

**10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for September 2015 was included in agenda packets.

**10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for September 2015 was included in agenda packets.

**10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Recreation Services Manager Brunette highlighted the Youth Flag Football and Adult Basketball programs as well as the September 16 Open House at the ATTIC. He noted that the bulkhead at the Plunge was replaced and discussed a recent visit by Congresswoman Waters to the Bartlett Center.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMISSION REVIEW – None.**

**12. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**12A.** Recreation Services Manager Brunette asked Commissioners to consider volunteering to help judge the pumpkin contest at the Halloween Carnival at Wilson Park. Commissioners Reilly and Love indicated that they would participate.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 9:02 p.m., Commissioner Reilly moved to adjourn the meeting to November 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Room. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted November 18, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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