

**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 9, 2015 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: Commissioner Uchima.

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

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Love led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda 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 NOVEMBER 18, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of November 18, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Torrance Youth Council members Rita Lake, Euvyn Lee, and Daniel Chae introduced themselves.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

7A. **COLUMBIA PARK SPORTS TURF AND WALKING PATH COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND DESIGN SUMMARY**

Community Services Director Jones provided background on the item and introduced Doug Grove, RHA Landscape Architects Planners, Inc.

Mr. Grove presented a PowerPoint report on the planning process to maximize field play space and redesign the walkways at Columbia Park. He reported that consultants received input at the October 1 and 22 community workshops as well as through the project Facebook Page, noting that community comments were listed in Attachments B and C. He described the existing field layout, CBS radio towers, and walkways. He presented two options for the recommended concept: decomposed granite trails or asphalt trails. He noted that the project increases the trail length by 2,000 feet and includes a concrete plaza. He discussed how the current irrigation system makes the walkways wet and muddy, and he recommended making all the walkways colored asphalt with concrete curbs.

Jim Tarbin, Bailey Drive, requested consideration to add an additional parking lot on 186th Street to support increased soccer activities and longer soccer season. He stated that on weekends 500+ vehicles simultaneously converge on Columbia Park, parking in red zones, blocking sidewalks and driveways, and jeopardizing pedestrian safety. He noted that the City's plan to add marked parking spaces along the easement area between 186th Street and the north side of the park would help but not alleviate all the parking and traffic problems. He commended Director Jones for his efforts; however, he pointed out that enhancing the fields would contribute to more parking demands.

Director Jones stated that staff is looking at one way in and one way out flow on 186th Street to relieve congestion at the western mouth. He noted that he is working with Southern California Edison to develop a parking lot running north/south under the easement in the park, connecting 186th Street with 190th Street. He added that he was also able to open up a few parking spaces on 190th Street that were unused fire lanes.

Allen Deshler, Amie Avenue, expressed concern about the deteriorated sidewalk on the north side of 186th Street; staff offered to relay his concern to Public Works.

Judy Robelotto, Regina Avenue, received clarification from staff that all walking paths in the west side of the park would be asphalt.

Responding to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Director Jones stated that 38 new parking spaces are being added, plus another 10 from implementing parallel parking. He added that the two new soccer fields are just being designated, that they are already being used, and that parking demand should not increase.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved for conceptual approval of the asphalt plan as presented by the consultant, with the request that staff continue to look for additional parking. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

7B. AD-HOC COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR NOMINEE ALEX MAINVIELLE'S INCLUSION INTO THE TORRANCE YOUTH SPORTS "WALL OF HONOR" RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Commissioner Mayeda reported that the Youth Sports "Wall of Honor" Ad Hoc Committee met on November 18 to review the nomination of Alex Mainvielle for Honor Wall placement. He stated that the nominee is a 7th grader at Madrona Middle School, lives in Torrance, and has achieved several national accomplishments in Track and Field. He presented the Committee's recommendation that Alex Mainvielle be formally inducted into the "Wall of Honor" Recognition Program.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to induct Alex Mainvielle into the Torrance Youth Sports "Wall of Honor" Recognition Program. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION REGARDING THE USE OF ENTRADERO SENIOR BASEBALL FIELD

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background on the Entradero Basin/Park and its Senior Baseball Field that is currently vacant and in disrepair. He stated that the City is interested in finding a group to utilize the field, cover maintenance costs, and develop it into an amenity that can be used for that age group. He stated that staff sent out requests for formal letters of interest and received two proposals that include specific criteria established in the request. He noted that staff summarized the proposals to City Council and were directed to begin negotiations with the organizations. He stated that representatives are present and asked that the Commission receive comments from community members regarding the use of the baseball field.

At Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Director Jones explained that the West Torrance Babe Ruth program vacated the field two years ago and that there is a Babe Ruth league operating out of Torrance Park.

In response to Commissioner Mayeda's inquiry, Manager Minter stated that the organizations would be responsible for all maintenance and operating costs, including renovation of the infield, dugouts, backstops, fencing, bleachers, and snack bar, as well as scheduling of baseball activities on a year-round basis. He noted that there would be a revenue sharing agreement, with the City receiving a portion of the revenues as compensation for use of the field.

Bill Gross, Ronald Avenue, stated that he supports baseball and reutilizing the field but expressed concern about field rentals and tournaments, parking, dust, and litter. He cautioned them not to go too big too fast, noting that he does not want the current maintenance issues to worsen.

Linda Mele, Halison Street, stated that she is pleased to see the field used for baseball again as long as there is enforcement of existing lease rules, security, and courtesy. She discussed problems with the gate being left open, people driving on the fields, enforcement of cars that are supposed to enter on Halison Street and exit on Towers Street, 7:30 a.m. games on Sundays, and P.A. system announcements.

Manager Minter stated that the lease would restrict artificial lighting and amplified sound equipment without a permit. He offered to follow up with West Torrance Little League that currently leases five of the fields and assured her that the City's primary goal is for the new lessee to be a good neighbor.

Martin Hoover, Sturgess Drive, received clarification from staff that the proposals would be available to the public when the item goes before City Council and that one of the proposals is requesting the opportunity to provide non-baseball related activities.

Shane Schumaker, owner of Torrance Refinery Baseball and Softball Training Center, stated that he hopes to rebuild and maintain the field and make it the nicest baseball field in the City. He noted that there are 1,000 youth in the program and that they are in dire need of field usage for practices. He stated that they would like to offer camps as well as to give West High School the opportunity to play there.

Aaron Karsh, California Pro Sports, stated his goals to rebuild the West Torrance Babe Ruth program, renovate the field and get the community back playing on it, and give West High School a place to play freshman baseball. He noted that his proposal also requests the opportunity for lacrosse activities that are not allowed in many parks.

Murphy Sua, Anza Avenue, speaking on behalf of Mr. Schumaker's Training Center, shared his passion for baseball and importance of youth programs.

Manager Minter stated that there would be more interviews before making a final decision and beginning negotiations, adding that staff hopes to have a proposed lease agreement ready for City Council review in early January 2016.

Responding to Chairperson Greenberg's inquiry, he stated that parking is not part of this proposal; however, organizations will be asked to provide parking plans.

8B. LAS CANCHAS TENNIS CENTER LEASE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Commissioner Reilly, member of Las Canchas Tennis Team, excused herself for this item due to potential conflict of interest.

Manager Minter provided background and requested that the Commission host a public discussion regarding the operation of Las Canchas Tennis Facility. He reported that the current lease agreement with South Bay Tennis Center (SBTC) for the operation of the facility expires on December 31. He stated that staff is negotiating with SBTC to amend the agreement to extend the term and may have to continue on a month-to-month basis until details are finalized. He stated that, should the community bring forward complaints or concerns, staff could incorporate them into the agreement.

Courtney Hance, SBTC, expressed appreciation to the City and discussed their recent renovation of the office/pro shop, community support, and plans for future upgrades to make it a state of the art tennis center.

In response to Chairperson Greenberg's inquiry about parking, she stated that there are three parking lots totaling 44 parking spaces and that parking is not a problem.

8C. CONCEPT FOR RE-PURPOSING THE WILSON POND

Director Jones reported that in September Park Services emptied and fenced the Wilson Park pond due to State water conservation requirements. He stated that staff began exploring options to re-purpose the existing pond footprint that would minimize the maintenance impact it creates for staff. He stated that Nature Center Manager Drake found that utilizing a bio-filter system in a smaller pond concept could improve water quality and require less maintenance, with draining needed only every three years. He added that the waterfall would still function and explained how water would be circulated. He stated that, once staff decided they wanted to maintain a sustainable pond, they began exploring other types of amenities to complement it.

He presented staff's proposal to implement a 3,000 square foot water splash pad play zone on the south end of the existing pond footprint and re-purposing the middle narrow section to be a hardscaped spectator's area or plaza. He stated that the splash pad would be open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He announced that on October 22 Los Angeles County Supervisor Knabe offered grant funding in an amount up to \$300,000 for park amenities, and it was confirmed that use of these funds would be eligible for implementing a splash pad. He noted that a conceptual layout of the pond is included in Attachment A and that funding for the project would be addressed in Item 8D.

Commissioner Love stated that she loves the idea and that children would enjoy it during the summer. She added that it is a good opportunity to solve all the problems with the pond as well as be responsible about water conservation.

Commissioner Reilly inquired about safety and increased liability, and Director Jones stated that the splash pad would have a colored cement bottom with a rough finish and that liability would be no different than park play equipment.

8D. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SPLASH PAD GRANT AT WILSON PARK

Administrative Analyst Orpe reported that in October Supervisor Knabe announced the availability of grant funding of up to \$300,000 from Proposition A. He stated that funds could be used to develop, restore, rehabilitate, or improve existing parks and recreational facilities. He indicated that the grant would only be used for the splash pad, the estimated cost is \$510,000, and \$210,000 would come from Open Space Funds. He noted that the Prop A Grant Application, Splash Pad Design Concept, Grant Scope and Cost Estimate, and Open Space/Facilities Fund Report were included in Attachments A - D. He stated that the grant requires the amenity to be open by December 2016 and that they are bringing the proposal to City Council on December 22.

Commissioner Baxter expressed concern that there has been no community input, and Director Jones explained that Wilson Park is a regional park and there is not a specific community to reach out to. He added that the public can give input at the December 22 City Council meeting and that the community was heavily engaged about the pond a few years ago.

Chairperson Greenberg stated that there have been problems with the pond for a long time and that a good alternative has been presented.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to 1) Approve the Splash Pad Concept for implementation at Wilson Park; 2) Authorize use of \$210,000 in Open Space Funding for the project; and 3) Recommend that City Council approve the Los Angeles County grant application for funding the Splash Pad Project. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

8E. NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES GRANTS AWARDS

Grants Committee Chair Baxter presented a recommendation to approve grant funding for six Non-Profit Social Services agencies. He reported that in October the Committee reviewed the rating process and criteria and were given three weeks to individually rate the nine proposals. He commended Administrative Analyst Orpe for all of his assistance during the process. He noted that the Committee submitted their rating sheets to staff on November 6 who compiled them into the Grant Rating Sheet. He explained that ratings were broken into four categories: Human Services, both \$5,000 and \$2,500; and Health Services, both \$5,000 and \$2,500. He stated that only one application was received for the \$2,500 grant award level for Health Services and recommended awarding a third \$2,500 grant in the Human Services category. Based on ratings provided at the November 18 Committee meeting, the Committee recommended:

1. Reallocate a \$2,500 grant from the Health Services category for use in the Human Services category.
2. Recommend that grants be awarded to the following organizations:
Health Services: Cancer Support Community (\$5,000); and
South Bay Children's Health Center (\$2,500).
Human Services: H.E.L.P. (\$5,000);
South Bay Literacy Council (\$2,500);
Switzer Learning Center (\$2,500); and
Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels (\$2,500).

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to concur with the Grant Committee's recommendation to approve grant funding under the year 2016 Grant Program as outlined. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

8F. STATUS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARK & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Director Jones reported that Proposition A is sunseting in 2016 and that Proposition P, the 2014 Safe Neighborhood Parks Tax Measure, failed to pass. As a consequence, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors directed the L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a needs assessment in order to evaluate parks, recreation, and open space needs within the County. He noted that, following comprehensive data collection, a Tool Kit was developed for communities to share with their residents in order to gather their needs in these areas.

He presented staff's proposal to host two workshops each within the North and South areas of the City, with Torrance Boulevard as the boundary. He announced the following workshops: North - Victor Elementary School on January 6 and McMaster Park on January 21; and South - Walteria Elementary School on January 7 and Dee Hardison Sports Center on January 18. He stated that, at the conclusion of these workshops, staff would assemble the data and bring it forward to the Commission on

February 10 and then to City Council on February 23 for final approval. He noted that the timeline is critical as the deadline date to submit an approved report is February 29.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. GRANTS COMMITTEE - Previously discussed in Item 8E.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for November 2015 was included in agenda packets. He reported that the annual Thanksgiving AYSO soccer tournament was successful. In response to Commissioner Baxter's comparison of registrations in November 2015 and November 2014, he explained that 2015 totals did not include After School Club, League, and Senior Tours registrations.

Director Jones suggested adding an approximate estimate of monthly registrations on future Reports.

At Chairperson Greenberg's request, Manager Minter explained that four-hour permits for weddings at Miramar Park are \$250 for residents and \$500 for non-residents.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for November 2015 was included in agenda packets. Referring to Hickory Park, he reported that crew poured new footings around the rocket ship, painted the nose cone, and welded bars. He added that there is rubber surfacing and a new drinking fountain. Manager Minter commended Park Services crew for their hard work.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Monthly Report for November 2015 was included in agenda materials. He expressed his appreciation to Commissioners for participating in the successful Turkey Trot.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMISSION REVIEW – None.

12. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

12A. Director Jones distributed a photograph of Chairperson Greenberg firing the starting pistol at the Turkey Trot and wished all a happy holiday season.

12B. Manager Minter expressed appreciation to the Grants Committee members and extended best wishes and happy holidays.

12C. Chairperson Greenberg requested an excused absence for the January meeting.

12D. Commissioners expressed appreciation to staff members for a productive year and wished each other a safe and happy holiday season.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 9:46 p.m., Commissioner Mayeda moved to adjourn the meeting to January 13, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted January 13, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
