

**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 7:04 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cook\*, Guyton, Smoot, Taniguchi, Tookey, and Chairperson McGee.

Absent: Commissioner Robbins.

Also Present: Acting Community Services Director Barnett, Park Services Administrator Wilson, Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso, and Administrative Analyst Witzansky.

\*Commissioner Cook arrived at 7:06 p.m.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Guyton moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Robbins for this meeting. Commissioner Tookey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Park Services Administrator Wilson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tookey moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Guyton seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Commissioner Cook arrived at 7:06 p.m.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2005**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Cook moved for the approval of the January 12, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tookey and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Robbins, with Commissioner Taniguchi abstaining).

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6A. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Acting Community Services Director Barnett introduced the item in the material of record and noted that Chairperson McGee's term would expire on January 15, 2009.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tookey moved to nominate Commissioner Cook as Vice-Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guyton and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

**6B. RECONSTITUTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

It was determined that Commissioners Robbins, Tookey, and Chairperson McGee would remain on the Open Space Committee, that Commissioners Cook, Robbins, and Smoot would remain on the Programs Committee, and that Commissioner Taniguchi would fill the vacancy on the Facilities Committee with members Chairperson McGee and Commissioner Guyton.

**6C. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION HONORING COMMISSIONER DEAN MAYEDA**

A Resolution honoring retiring Commissioner Dean Mayeda for his years of service on the Parks and Recreation Commission was distributed for signature, to be presented to Mr. Mayeda at his retirement dinner on March 7, 2005.

**6D. REPORT OF 2004 LIVING TREE DONATIONS**

Acting Community Services Director Barnett requested that the Commission recommend that City Council accept the 2004 Living Tree Dedication report included in the material of record.

In response to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, Park Services Administrator Wilson stated that the program was publicized by brochures located at public counters at City Hall.

He explained to Commissioner Tookey that donors were able to select the park, the location within the park, and the species of tree.

Responding to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, he stated that records were kept in Park Services and that he would look into his suggestion to post the names of donors.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Guyton moved to recommend that City Council accept the Living Tree Dedication report for January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004. Commissioner Tookey seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7A. WILSON PARK ROLLER HOCKEY, BATTING CAGE AND SKATE PARK UPDATE**

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso presented the material of record regarding upgrades for the Batting Cage, Roller Hockey, and Skateboard Park facilities at Wilson Park. Referring to the Skateboard Park, he reported that improvements include vandal proof signage, ongoing ramp repairs, and a quarterly newsletter. Enhancements at the Roller Hockey Rink include the replacement of overhead lamps and modifications to the rain gutter system. He stated that the Batting Cages have undergone improvements to commence with the youth baseball and adult softball seasons. Improvements include new signage and a token machine with a built-in discount service. He stated that a total of 4,000 free tokens have been distributed to teams within the City to introduce the facility, noting that a 60% turnout was anticipated. He stated that the South Bay Sports Academy has added an "iron mike" pitching machine and that staff may look into installing these machines in the future.

Commissioner Guyton noted that the South Bay Sports Academy utilized the Skateboard Park after hours to better their program.

**7B. RETIREMENT DINNER PLANNING**

Commissioner Guyton reported that the March 7, 2005 dinner honoring Dean Mayeda would be at 6:30 p.m. at "The Loft," with a Hawaiian theme.

**7C. NAMING OF VEST POCKET PARK**

Administrative Analyst Witzansky advised that at their January 25, 2005 meeting City Council requested that the Commission provide additional options for the naming of the new park at 226<sup>th</sup> Street and Ocean Avenue.

In response to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, he stated that diseased and overgrown Brazilian pepper trees at the park are being replaced with California pepper trees.

Commissioner Guyton commented that Mayor Walker stated that this was the first and only wheelchair-accessible park in the City.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Tookey moved to forward the following naming options for Vest Pocket Park to City Council for their consideration: Discovery Park, Pepper Tree Park, Opportunity Park, Ability Park, and Whispering Tree Park. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Guyton and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Robbins).

**8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**8A. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

No report.

**8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

No report.

**8C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

In response to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, Acting Community Services Director Barnett advised that the final draft of the Madrona Marsh Management Plan would be presented at the March Commissioner meeting.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**9A. CULTURAL SERVICES DIVISION**

Acting Community Services Director Barnett reported that Phase I of the Joslyn Gallery renovation was near completion, that plans for Phase II were currently in the Community Development Department in review, and that the grand opening would be later in the year after both Phases were complete.

**9B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Administrator Wilson announced that at the February 8, 2005 meeting, City Council authorized the purchase of new play equipment for Walteria and Guenser Parks. He stated that Los Angeles County would be restoring the sidewalk at Miramar Park and that the Myers box would be relocated to the perimeter of the park. He advised that play equipment and sidewalks have been installed at Ocean Avenue and 226<sup>th</sup> Street, with completion expected mid-March 2005.

Administrative Analyst Witzansky reported that the architect for Lago Seco Park would be submitting a bid specification and plan package in two weeks, with awarding of the contract expected by the end of April 2005. He added that there would be a four to five month timetable once construction begins.

At Commissioner Guyton's request, he described enhancements of the new community garden and the open playfield at Lago Seco Park.

In response to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, he advised that the City was not awarded grant funding for the North Torrance Library and Community Services Center application. He discussed future funding possibilities for the project if the bond measure passes in 2006.

**9C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

No report.

**10. ORALS**

Acting Community Services Director Barnett advised that interviews were being conducted for concessionaires for the Las Canchas Tennis complex.

Acting Community Services Director Barnett reported that Library and Parks and Recreation Departments were having their budget review meeting on February 17, 2005, and that City Council was expected to approve the organization structure of Community Services on March 1, 2005

Acting Community Services Director Barnett advised that City Council unanimously concurred with the Commission's recommendation to place the universally-accessible tree house in Wilson Park.

Torrance Youth Council members Jennifer Chen from West High School and Catherine Lloyd from El Camino College introduced themselves.

Acting Community Services Director Barnett welcomed new Commissioner Taniguchi.

Commissioner Tookey welcomed Commissioner Taniguchi and congratulated Chairperson McGee and Vice-Chairperson Cook.

Commissioner Guyton thanked staff, welcomed Commissioner Taniguchi, and commended the South Bay Sports Academy.

Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she was impressed with tonight's meeting and that she was looking forward to being on the Commission.

Commissioner Smoot welcomed Commissioner Taniguchi and thanked Youth Council members for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Cook welcomed Commissioner Taniguchi and thanked the Commission for nominating him for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

Chairperson McGee congratulated Commissioner Cook and stated that he enjoyed the Rose Bowl Association award dinner. He encouraged Commissioners to attend the Special Olympics dinner.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 7:56 p.m., Commissioner Tookey moved, with a second by Commissioner Smoot, to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Approved as Amended March 9, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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