

**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 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cook, Perkins, Robbins, Smoot, Taniguchi, and Chairperson McGee.

Absent: Commissioner Tookey.

Also Present: Recreation Services Administrator Jones, Park Services Administrator Wilson, and Senior Administrator Analyst Witzansky.

**MOTION**: Commissioner Taniguchi, seconded by Commissioner Cook, moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Tookey for the January 11, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Senior Administrative Analyst Witzansky led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION**: Commissioner Smoot 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 (absent Commissioner Tookey).

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2005**

**MOTION**: Commissioner Cook moved for the approval of the December 14, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smoot and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Tookey).

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

6A. None.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

## **7A. WILSON PARK SKATEBOARD PARK UPDATE**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones provided an update on the Wilson Park Skateboard Park and its recent closure to replace the infrastructure of the most heavily used ramps. He reported that the park reopened to the public on December 19, 2005 and experienced a high rate of participation over Winter School Break. He commended Park Services for rebuilding 85% of the park over a two-week period, noting that the ramp sections in the southwest corner were still fenced off until a determination is made whether to repair or remove them. He stated that staff was conducting an informal survey of skaters to determine if those ramps were an important element of the park. He discussed the cost for repair and maintenance as well as alternative uses for the area that include a shade structure area.

Administrative Analyst Witzansky added that the restricted area represents 15% of the area of the park but less than 10% from a use standpoint, and that it may not be beneficial to continue to maintain the structures.

Responding to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that staff was still evaluating the importance of the ramps to the users and that a determination would be made by spring. He noted that skaters wanted the park to be open more days and hours and discussed a recent interest in using the ramps for bicycles. He discussed a possible long-range goal to trade out the existing wood structures to concrete to accommodate bicycles as well as the need to evaluate how the rainy season affects the improvements.

## **7B. CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Administrative Analyst Witzansky provided an update on improvements at Lago Seco Park, noting that there was a job walk with the contractor on January 10, 2005. He reported that the community gardens and irrigation system are near completion and that construction completion was expected late February or early March 2006, with another 90 days for landscape germination.

Referring to the Wilson Park universally-accessible tree house, he reported that the third platform was currently being constructed and that March 2006 was the anticipated opening date.

He stated that the Columbia Park fire truck has been moved away and that a new play structure would take its place.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquiry about the public response, he advised that the area has been fenced off for almost four years and that they did not expect a negative reaction.

Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she visited the tree house site on January 11, 2006 and was looking forward to seeing the finished project.

## **8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**8A. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

No report.

**8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Taniguchi reported that she attended the Pueblo Park community meeting in early December 2005 concerning the park development. She stated that at an earlier meeting residents provided the architect with several suggestions and that at this meeting he presented revised plans.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones added that staff has received the final draft of the revised plans in black and white form. He suggested that the Facilities Committee schedule a date within the next 10 days to review them and provide input.

A brief discussion centered on cost estimates and fundraising opportunities to develop and maintain the project that includes grants and corporate sponsorship.

**8C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

No report.

**9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**9A. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

In response to an inquiry at the November 2005 Commission meeting, Park Services Administrator Wilson advised that a gardener under contract with General Services maintains the Japanese gardens at the Cultural Arts Center on a weekly basis.

**9B. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that December was very busy and informed the Commission that the Torrance Rose Parade float won an award for Best Volunteer Decorated Float. He stated that 2,000 participants will begin youth basketball on January 14, 2006.

**10. ORALS**

**10A.** The Commission welcomed Torrance Youth Council members Vickie Hsieh, Susan Kwak, and Jennifer Chen who invited Commissioners to attend Youth Council meetings.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones noted that the Youth Council raised approximately \$15,000 from the Winter Boutique and recently approved a grant for \$27,000 to assist with completion of the ATTIC project.

**10B.** Commissioners and staff wished each other a Happy New Year.

**10C.** Commissioner Perkins received clarification that the ATTIC was the only teen center in the City.

**10D.** Commissioner Perkins inquired about the roller hockey area at Columbia Park. Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that it was still there but closed off and not being used.

**10E.** Commissioner Perkins stated that he participated in a three-day senior trip to Laughlin and thanked Betty and Linda for being outstanding hosts.

**10F.** Commissioner Robbins requested that staff provide an update on the status of the budget.

**10G.** Commissioner Taniguchi congratulated Commissioners Cook and Tookey for their reappointments and stated that this is the Year of the Dog on the Asian astrological calendar.

**10H.** Commissioner Cook requested that tonight's meeting be adjourned in memory of Torrance residents Allison Dewart and Michella Fincannon who passed away on January 7, 2006.

**10I.** Chairperson McGee congratulated Commissioners Cook and Tookey for their reappointments and stated that he was looking forward to successful activities in 2006.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 7:36 p.m., Commissioner Cook moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting in memory of Allison Dewart and Michella Fincannon to February 8, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Perkins and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

Approved as Submitted February 8, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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