

**MINUTES OF AN 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, April 10, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

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

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Park Services Manager Carson, Administrative Analyst Orpe, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, Engineering Manager Dettle, and Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Commissioner Love led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Baxter moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2013**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hays moved to approve the March 13, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1**

None.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7A. APPROVAL OF TWO GROUNDWATER WELL SITES**

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Conceptual Approval of Well Sites in City Parks that would allow the City to

diversify its local resources. He stated that Torrance relies on imported water from Metropolitan Water District for nearly 85% of its potable supply, noting that imported water is unreliable and costs twice as much as local sources of groundwater. He explained that there are two types of groundwater: 1) fresh water wells, and 2) brackish water caused from seawater intrusion that occurred due to overpumping. He described the fresh water barrier that repels seawater and how brackish water is extracted to keep the plume from migrating further. He stated that the salt is removed through reverse osmosis at the Goldsworthy Desalter and the water is used as a potable supply.

He presented background information on Torrance Municipal Water (TMW) that serves approximately 80% of the City and has 26,500 accounts. He showed a slide of TMW's Facility & Service Area Map as well as water sources for Torrance that include State Water Project, Colorado River Aqueduct, and Local Supplies. He provided benefits of additional local water supply: enhance reliability, reduce dependence on imported water, lower long-term water costs, provide local supply during emergency, and stabilize water rates in the future.

Engineering Manager Dettle discussed site constraints for locating new wells, noting that the highest quality fresh water is in North Torrance. He pointed out the requirement for a minimum separation of 50 feet from sewer or storm drains, vehicle access, and a flat area. He shared plans for the Goldsworthy Desalter expansion to twice its current capacity and involves drilling three new pilot wells into the saline plume at the City Yard, Civic Center behind the Police Storage Unit, and Delthorne Park. He noted that, if successful, full-scale wells would be developed in early 2014 and would be funded by multiple sources. He showed a map of the proposed location of the desalter wells and a photograph of the well house building at McMaster Park, pointing out the benefits of having an enclosed building for housing a well. He showed a conceptual of a well house building at Delthorne Park and what it would look like without a building.

He described the Van Ness Avenue Groundwater Well Field proposal that involves drilling two pilot wells behind Hamilton Adult School and at La Carretera Park. He noted that the two potable wells would increase production by 4,000 to 5,000 acre feet per year. He stated that, if successful, full-scale wells would be developed and water from them would be pumped 3.5 miles down Van Ness Avenue to the existing Border Avenue Distribution and Treatment site. He reported that the pilot wells would be funded by the Water Enterprise Fund and would be drilled in early summer 2013. He showed photographs of the proposed well site at La Carretera Park and a conceptual of a 13' by 16' well house building, noting that the picnic tables and gazebo would need to be relocated. He showed the proposed well site adjacent to Hamilton Adult School on City owned property and the conceptual of a well house building.

Engineering Manager Dettle discussed the long standing working partnership between Public Works and Community Services Departments. He described several past joint projects and noted that, once the new well site adjacent to Yukon School is completed, the old water tank at McMaster Park would be dismantled and would provide additional park space. He stated that Public Works is committed to restoring, enhancing, and improving facilities at both parks and would minimize any inconveniences during construction. He requested that the Commission provide conceptual approval for the groundwater well sites at La Carretera Park and Delthorne Park.

Morton Jacobs, Osage Avenue, stated that he does not want a well at Delthorne Park adjacent to where children play or to have truck access at the cul de sac, suggesting that the well be drilled across the street on City land.

Engineering Manager Dettle explained that Exxon Mobil owns the land across the street and that the soil is contaminated. He added that there would not be a driveway approach into the park and that staff would walk through the cul de sac.

Tom Oyama, Purche Avenue, inquired about hours of drilling at Hamilton School, the possibility of methane gas pockets, and disruption during installation of the transmission line.

Engineering Manager Dettle responded that drilling is a 24-hour operation until the desired depth is reached, but noted that the sound barriers are effective. He stated that have no reason to believe there are methane gas pockets but there would be a geologist present, full time inspection, and soil sampling. He stated that there would be disruption during construction but that access to driveways is made possible by steel plates.

Marshall Holladay, Haas Avenue, expressed concern that La Carretera is such a small park and the well would take up a large section of it. He suggested drilling the well at the far east end of the park.

Engineering Manager Dettle stated that they would install new park benches and gazebo and that staff determined that a well at the east end would take away from open active space.

Community Services Director Jones stated that the project provides an opportunity to enhance the park and that the picnic area would be rebuilt closer to the play area.

Rami Radi, Roslin Avenue, maintained that Delthorne Park is for children and recommended looking for another place to drill a well, or at least closer to Madrona Avenue. He also expressed concern that the building may cause a nuisance.

Senior Water Service Supervisor Berndt stated that the proximity near Madrona Avenue would be too close to the well at the City Yard.

Responding to Commissioner Reilly's inquiries, Engineering Manager Dettle stated that there would be someone on site 24 hours per day, that total footprint would be approximately 1% of Delthorne and 5% of La Carretera Park, and that the building would have alarms and cameras wired to the Police Department. He added that there have not been any problems with the well house building at McMaster Park.

In response to Chairperson Mayeda's inquiry, he stated that the pilot well project would take three to four weeks and, if successful, a full design would take approximately one year.

Commissioner Greenberg expressed her support for having local control and access to water supplies.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Hays moved that the Commission concur with staff recommendation to provide conceptual approval for the groundwater well sites at La Carretera Park and Delthorne Park. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

The Commission was in recess from 8:00 to 8:05 p.m.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. MID YEAR 2012-2013 CITY BUDGET UPDATE**

Community Services Director Jones reported that the City Council Committee on Finance and Governmental Operations met on April 9 for the mid-year budget review. He stated that the Finance Director commented that there are no big surprises as all departments are within budget and that revenues and expenditures are tracking below budget. He noted that home prices, sales tax, hotel tax, and retail revenues are increasing and that gas prices are still fluctuating, which impacts discretionary spending of consumers. He announced budget hearings for 2013-2015 on May 14 and 21, 2013.

Responding to Commissioner Reilly's inquiry, Administrative Analyst Orpe stated that revenue from utility users tax has decreased.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Community Services Director Jones stated that he does not foresee further budget cuts for the next budget cycle. He noted that consumer confidence is high and that unemployment rate in Torrance is 5.4%.

**9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE** No report.

**9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Baxter reported that the Grants Committee met on April 10 to begin planning the July 10, 2013 Parks and Recreation Commission Awards banquet. He stated that it will be held at the Cultural Arts Center and encouraged Commissioners to solicit nominations for individuals, organizations, and staff.

**9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE** No report.

**9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE** No report.

**10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Administrative Analyst Orpe noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for March 2013 was included in agenda packets. He announced that the Sea Aire Park building will reopen this weekend following irrigation repairs. He informed the Commission that Park Ranger Supervisor Fujimori has taken a temporary appointment as Recreation Supervisor.

**10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for March 2013 was included in attachments. He reported that the sports court resurfacing project is nearing completion and that Sea Aire Golf Course will reopen on April 13. He stated that the Wilson Park Pond has been drained and re-piping on the floor of the pond will be completed in two to three weeks. He discussed the Columbia Park turf renovation project and the need to use a surveyor to find where to replace 400 irrigation heads.

**10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for March 2013 was included in agenda packets.

**11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2**

**11A.** Commissioner Hays stated that the Easter egg hunt at El Prado Park was well attended.

**11B.** Commissioner Greenberg stated that she attended the Pancake Breakfast at the Attic.

**11C.** Commissioner Love expressed appreciation to staff for providing monthly written reports.

**11D.** Community Services Director Jones stated that the sports facility at 555 Maple Avenue will open in January 2014 and that Commissioners will be involved in the naming process.

**11E.** Chairperson Mayeda stated that he enjoyed the Pancake Breakfast and participating on the Beat the Odds scholarship selection committee.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:32 p.m., Commissioner Uchima moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Mayeda so ordered.

Approved as Submitted May 8, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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