

June 12, 2013

**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 7:07 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2013 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: Commissioner Uchima.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business Manager Minter, Park Services Manager Carson, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, Assistant to City Manager Sunshine, Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso, and Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt.

MOTION: Commissioner Greenberg moved to grant Commissioner Uchima an excused absence for the June 12, 2013 Commission meeting. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Baxter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Reilly moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2013

Commissioner Reilly asked that the May 8, 2013 minutes reflect that she requested an excused absence for that meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the May 8, 2013 Commission meeting minutes as amended. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1 - None.

8A. APPROVAL TO LEASE A PORTION OF PROPERTY AT VICTOR PARK FOR AN AT&T CELLULAR SITE

Items 8A, 8B, and 8D were taken out of order.

Senior Business Manager Minter requested that the Commission forward a recommendation to City Council to approve a proposal to locate a cellular site at Victor Park. He distributed supplemental material received after the agenda was posted, noting that this meeting was publicly noticed and is the first step in the review process. With the aid of slides, he showed the proposed locations for the tree type cell tower just north of the restroom building and equipment shed adjacent to the picnic shelter. He stated that the initial term is 5 years, with 5 options for 5 additional years, and \$36,000 annual rent to the Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund.

Marianne Harwood, representing AT&T, discussed inadequate cell service, attempts to place a cellular site in other locations, and the limited number of available commercial properties in the area. She noted that AT&T is willing to work with the City on a design and location at Victor Park that would be suitable to everyone.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, she stated that the equipment shed is 18' 9" by 12' and that it is possible to move it farther away from the antenna.

Chairperson Mayeda inquired about the tower base and Ms. Harwood stated that it is three feet wide, painted and textured, and could be fenced if so requested.

Manager Minter noted that staff selected a location for the shed that would not take away from sight lines or interfere with active areas, and the location of the tower was chosen to blend in with existing trees but still be in a required open area.

Neal Singleton, Onyx Street, distributed a photograph and recommended denial due to an existing noisy Sprint cellular facility in the park, aesthetics, and safety concerns, adding that the City should not lease park space for commercial purposes.

Lucy Gutierrez, Onyx Street, urged the Commission to find another location because of inconclusive health studies, expressing concern that the top is exposed on the existing tower while undergoing repairs.

Michael Kouyoumjren, Onyx Street, stated that he would move if the cellular site is constructed due to health concerns, lower property values, and aesthetics.

Denise Singleton, Onyx Street, voiced her opposition, noting that she has perfect reception with her AT&T cellular phone and that Victor Elementary would not support it.

Karin Berry, Asteria Street, stated that the income would be incidental and not worth the safety risks. She urged the Commission to find another location that is not in a residential area and to keep the park a safe place for children to play.

Sandra Avoian, Garnet Street, pointed out that there is also a nearby Catholic school and questioned if interference in her home is caused by the Sprint cellular facility.

Colleen Gonzales, Asteria Street, stated that she has perfect reception in her home with an AT&T micro cell.

Dolores Charroux, Reynolds Drive, expressed concern about the large population of children in the area and possible health hazards.

James Kotecki, Sara Drive, urged the Commission to deny the request due to inadequate notification, possible health hazards, and aesthetics.

In response to Commissioner Reilly's inquiries, Ms. Harwood explained that micro cells are used in homes in remote areas with poor coverage for data and computer usage. She further indicated that AT&T is willing to conduct a noise study and Manager Minter offered to bring back information provided by engineers at a recent community meeting regarding a Sur La Brea cellular facility proposal.

Assistant to the City Manager Sunshine stated that the Sprint tower was installed at Victor Park in 2007 and that they are in the process of changing out the antenna.

Chairperson Mayeda stated that he would not support the proposal because there is already a cellular facility at the park.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved for the Commission to recommend that City Council deny the proposal to lease a portion of property at Victor Park for an AT&T cellular site. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

The Commission was in recess from 7:59 to 8:03 p.m.

8B. COMMUNITY DISCUSSION ON MC MASTER PARK REDEVELOPMENT

Manager Minter presented an overview of the redevelopment of McMaster Park on Artesia Boulevard recently approved by City Council. He pointed out that the park provides a location for many City programs and non-profit organizations. He stated that the main features of the project are to improve access to the park, give it needed upgrades, and to give a better presentation to the Artesia Boulevard corridor. He introduced Philip Stevens and Michael Imlay, landscape architects with Land Concern, and Dan Canrardy, SCCG Architects.

With the aid of slides, he described improvements to the Recreation Building and Plaza, Community Center and Plaza, Police Community room, Artesia entry and roundabout, tot lot, group picnic area, restrooms, basketball court, landscaping, lighting, and field upgrades. He stated that the Park Building would be renovated but stay in its current location. He described plans to relocate the Herma Tillim Senior Center to the current preschool to allow for ingress and egress from Artesia Boulevard. He explained that the preschool would move to the location of the former after school program. He noted that the project would create multi purpose space for meeting rooms and rental opportunities. He stated that the roundabout could be used for a drop off point and access to the parking lot. He noted that the tentative start date is October or November, with completion expected in summer 2014. He advised that, with the exception of North Torrance Library, it would be necessary to close the park and facilities during renovation.

Mary Kisaka, Kornblum Avenue, stated that she is excited about the upgrades and suggested adding an additional walking path.

Community Services Director Jones was pleased to inform her that plans for a walking path are anticipated as part of Phase 2 after the water tower is removed.

Glen Terry, West 175th Street, expressed concern about the impact on parking availability on West 175th Street and staff advised that current plans do not include additional parking spaces but it may be possible to add more spaces once the water tower is removed.

In response to a resident's (no speaker card) concern about safety measures for the roundabout and preschool, Mr. Stevens indicated that the roundabout is a traffic calming feature that is for drop off only and that a fence would enclose the tot lot.

When Roseanne Estea, West 175th Street, voiced concern about traffic cutting through the park to Yukon Avenue, staff stated that the roundabout would make cut through traffic less appealing and that it may be possible to add additional measures.

Edward Hydro, Cranbrook Avenue, related his situation in trying to determine ownership and responsibility of the fence and property line between his residence and the park. Staff assured him that a L.A. County title search and survey would be conducted during the construction process.

Greg Raizk, Center Street, El Segundo, was informed that his softball league would not be able to use the field during renovation but that the result would be an even better softball field than it is today.

Dan Canrardy, SCCG Architects, stated that their primary goals were to create community pride, meet the needs of seniors, and celebrate former Fire Chief John McMaster.

Mary Miller, West 176th Street, received clarification that the gate in the courtyard between the preschool and the Community Center would be for emergency exit only.

8D. ACCEPTANCE OF RIVIERA GARDEN CLUB DONATION

Park Services Manager Carson provided background and requested that the Commission accept the generous donation of \$4,980 for a succulent garden at El Retiro Park. He stated that the donation would cover the purchase of sod, fencing, and installation of fencing for the area west of the tennis courts.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to accept the Riviera Garden Club donation of \$4,980. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. APPROVAL OF GROUNDWATER WELL SITE AT DELTHORNE PARK

Senior Water Services Supervisor Berndt provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the groundwater well site at Delthorne Park approved by the Commission on April 10. He showed a proposed alternate well site and presented two options: 1) a partially submerged well; or 2) an above ground well with building enclosure. He noted that a 4' to 4.5' high submersible well would be less visually intrusive; however, there would be six to eight control panels mounted against the retaining wall. He advised that well construction is scheduled for September, with completion by year end.

In response to Commissioner Hays' inquiry, Community Services Director Jones stated that staff would prefer the lower level installation.

Commissioner Love inquired about the panels and Supervisor Berndt stated that they would try to make them at fence level or build a cinder block wall behind them.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to approve Option 1, a partially submerged well configuration, for the proposed alternate groundwater well site at Delthorne Park. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

7B. APPROVAL OF NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES 2011-2012 FINANCIAL AND NARRATIVE STATEMENTS

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso provided background and reported that the Grants Committee met on May 8 to review 13 of 14 Financial and Narrative Statements. He presented the Committee's recommendation to approve 13 Statements for grant recipients and to prohibit grant recipient New Life Advocacy from applying for any future grant funds, noting that they appear to be out of business.

MOTION: Commissioner Love moved to concur with the Grants Committee's recommendation to approve 2011-2012 Financial and Narrative Statements for grant program recipients and to prohibit New Life Advocacy from applying for any future grants, pending reimbursement of funds. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Uchima).

8C. APPROVAL OF JULY IS PARKS AND RECREATION MONTH PROCLAMATION

Community Services Director Jones presented a draft 2013 Proclamation to celebrate July as Parks and Recreation Month. Commissioner Hays indicated that he would attend the June 25 City Council meeting when the Proclamation is adopted.

8E. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Community Services Director Jones recommended that the Commission follow past practice and consider nominating Commissioners by seniority.

Commissioner Baxter nominated Commissioner Hays for Chairperson for 2013-14; Commissioner Hays was elected Chairperson by unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Hays nominated Commissioner Baxter for Vice-Chairperson for 2013-14; Commissioner Baxter was elected Vice-Chairperson by unanimous voice vote.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE – No report.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Grants Committee met on May 8 to discuss Financial and Narrative Statements for 2011-2012 for grant recipients and to plan the July 10 Awards dinner.

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE – No report.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE – No report.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for May 2013 was included in agenda packets.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for May 2013 was included in attachments. He reported that the Columbia Park turf renovation process is going well and the soccer fields will be fenced off until October 1.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

The Recreation Services Division Report for May 2013 was in agenda materials.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Manager Minter announced the first Movie in the Park “Willy Wonka” at Victor Park on June 29.

11B. Community Services Director Jones expressed his appreciation to Commissioners for investing their time to listen to community members this evening.

11C. Commissioner Greenberg stated that she is looking forward to participating on the Youth Council selection committee later this week.

11D. Commissioners and staff expressed their gratitude to Chairperson Mayeda for his years of service as Chairperson.

12. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:17 p.m., Chairperson Mayeda adjourned the meeting to Wednesday, August 14, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall and, hearing no objection, he so ordered.

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Approved as submitted August 14, 2013 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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