

**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, August 9, 2006, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners McGee, Robbins, Smoot, Taniguchi, and Vice Chairperson Tookey.
Absent: Chairperson Cook.
Also Present: Recreation Services Manager Jones, Park Services Manager Wilson, and Senior Project Leader Orpe.

MOTION: Commissioner Smoot moved to grant an excused absence to Chairperson Cook for the August 9, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

Due to the absence of Chairperson Cook, Vice Chairperson Tookey led the meeting.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Dylan Tookey led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved for the approval of the June 14, 2006 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Smoot seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Cook and with Commissioner Robbins abstaining).

5B. MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved for the approval of the July 10, 2006 Joint Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission and Library Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Cook).

6. OLD BUSINESS

6A. COLUMBIA PARK MAINTENANCE SERVICES UPDATE

Park Services Manager Wilson reported that the contractor retained by United States of America Ladies Soccer Organization (USALSO) and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has scalped, leveled, and top seeded Field 3 at Columbia Park. He stated that next week staff would meet with representatives from the organizations to discuss future maintenance.

In response to Commissioner Robbins' inquiry, Park Services Manager Wilson noted that the organizations are primarily responsible for scheduling and making sure that teams do not use the field when it is wet.

He reported that a fertigation system would be installed that dispenses a repellent during irrigation to discourage gophers.

Recreation Services Manager Jones added that the repellent was expensive, and that USALSO and AYSO have committed to provide an additional tournament each year to help offset the cost. He mentioned that activity on the field would begin around Labor Day.

Commissioner Smoot emphasized the importance of educating players about overuse of the fields.

6B. LAGO SECO PARK UPDATE

Senior Project Leader Orpe invited Commissioners to attend the grand opening ceremony at Lago Seco Park on August 26, 2006. He reported that the Community Gardens were open and as July 27, 2006 61 plots have been rented. He reported that staff was in the process of hiring an assistant to help with the Gardens and discussed issues that include soil quality, gate modification, signage, and parking/loading. He provided an update on the new play equipment and mentioned that there was an act of vandalism on August 8, 2006.

Responding to Vice Chairperson Tookey's inquiry, he stated that security lighting would operate from dusk to dawn.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. DOG OBEDIENCE CLUB DONATION

Recreation Services Manager Jones requested that the Commission accept the generous contribution to the Department from the Dog Obedience Club, noting that its total donations since 1958 to date are \$31,385.

MOTION: Commissioner Smoot, seconded by Commissioner Tookey, moved to accept the \$1000 donation to the Community Services Department from the Dog Obedience Club; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Chairperson Cook).

Chairperson Tookey initiated a brief discussion centered on the possibility of operating a dog park in the City.

In response to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, Recreation Services Manager Jones reported that staff was considering the prohibition of dogs at special events.

7B. PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE

Park Services Manager Wilson presented a Playground Equipment Replacement Schedule and stated that installation of play equipment has been completed at Lago Seco Park and La Romeria Park. He noted that the next replacement of play equipment will be at El Retiro Park.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Recreation Services Manager Jones distributed a list of Standing Committee assignments for the year 2006-2007, noting that next year the Open Space Committee will be responsible for planning the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Awards Dinner. He commended the Facilities Committee for their leadership in planning the July 19, 2006 event and thanked the Commission for its involvement.

8A. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

No report.

8C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

9A. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Wilson reported that it has been an extremely busy summer. He mentioned that vandalism usually drops in summer months and that there have been no more problems at the Wilson Park tree house since the first week it was open.

Commissioner McGee noted the abundance of pine quills at Hickory Park.

Recreation Services Manager Jones discussed combined efforts with Park Rangers and umpires to stop softball league players from drinking alcohol at Wilson Park.

9B. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Jones noted the high attendance at Wilson Park and reported on pyrotechnical problems at the Fourth of July celebration. He reported that the Park Ranger program was being moved to the Administrative Services Division and discussed its increased asset to the City. He mentioned that there would be a new after school site at Arnold Elementary.

9C. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Project Leader Orpe reported that there were 3,681 June enrollments for summer programs and classes translating to \$224,007 in net revenue as well as 1,591 in July translating to \$203,855 in net revenue. He recognized Program Coordinator Debbie Parr and Facility Reservation Specialist Patsy Beahan.

In response to Vice Chairperson Tookey's inquiry about net revenue, staff discussed Enterprise and General Fund subsidy as well as the Department's fee structure.

10. ORALS

10A. Recreation Services Manager Jones distributed fliers and VIP passes for the 51st Annual Aquacade Swim Show on August 18-19, 2006.

10B. Commissioner McGee stated that he enjoyed the Annual Awards Dinner and received clarification that the Facilities Committee's recommendation regarding Pueblo Park would be presented at the September Commission meeting.

10C. Commissioner Robbins apologized for not being able to attend the Annual Awards Dinner.

10D. Commissioner Smoot extended her regrets for being unable to attend the Annual Awards Dinner, commended the Park Ranger program, and stated that she shared information about the universally accessible tree house.

10E. Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she enjoyed the Annual Awards Dinner and thanked Commissioner Robbins for the tablecloths.

10F. Vice Chairperson Tookey welcomed guests Dylan and Evan Tookey and stated that he enjoyed the food and meeting new Council members at the Annual Awards Dinner. He stated that Park Rangers were very professional and that the program should be recognized.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:00 p.m., Commissioner Smoot moved to adjourn the meeting to September 13, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Vice Chairperson Tookey so ordered.

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