

**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, September 10, 2014 in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Park Services Manager Carson, Senior Business Manager Minter, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, and Senior Recreation Supervisor McClelland.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Greenberg 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 Mayeda seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF AUGUST 13, 2014

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of August 13, 2014 as submitted. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (Commissioner Uchima abstaining).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. Joel Massa, Anza Avenue, representing South Bay Bocce Courts Project, requested that an item be placed on the October 8, 2014 Commission meeting agenda in order to provide a formal presentation regarding the Project and its goals.

6B. Youth Council members Debbie Park, Cindy Takigawa, Adhil Addanki, Justina Breen, and Kevin Kang introduced themselves.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. PUEBLO PARK RENOVATION PROJECT UPDATE

Community Services Director Jones provided background on the Pueblo Park Renovation Project. He reported that improvements are underway and include walkways, restroom, turf play area, smart controller irrigation system, security lighting, low maintenance landscaping and trees, benches, and tables. He stated that the completion date is expected to be the end of November, with a grand opening in early December. He noted that the neighborhood is ecstatic about the improvements and that he has invited them to the next Commission meeting.

Responding to Commissioner Mayeda's inquiries, he stated that the pedestrian crosswalk west of the Park is signalized and that the restrooms would be secured with a timing system, automatically locking at 10:00 p.m. and reopening in the morning.

7B. GREENWOOD PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background on the item continued from the May 14 Commission meeting. He reported that staff hosted an open public meeting at Greenwood Park and approximately 15 residents attended. He presented the four different options that attendees were shown, estimated at the same basic cost: A) All rubber surfacing, minimum play value; B) All engineered wood chips, maximum play value; C) All engineered wood chips, alternative play value; and D) Part rubber surfacing, part wood chips, medium play value. He noted that the overwhelming majority ranked option B first, with option D being second.

He reported that additionally staff hosted a meeting with the teachers and supervisor of the City's year-round Early Childhood Education Program at Greenwood Park and the majority favorite was again option B, with option D ranked second. He called attention to supplemental correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared. He recommended that the Commission support option B, and allow staff to move forward with the project. He added that there would be some savings with option B because there are already wood chips at Greenwood Park.

In response to Commissioner Uchima's inquiry, Senior Business Manager Minter stated that sand does not meet ADA requirements and, if used, there needs to be rubber paths to each play element.

Eric Huber, Dave Bang Associates, representing Playworld Systems, explained that the engineered wood chips they use come from trees from Colorado and are designed specifically for the playground industry.

Judy Briggs, Cranbrook Avenue, asked the price difference between rubber surfacing and wood chips, and Mr. Huber responded that it is approximately ten times the cost. He added that both meet safety criteria but there are less long bone injuries with wood fiber. He added that wood chips require less maintenance than rubber.

Alma Howell, Fern Avenue, received clarification that there are color options and that there would be no price difference; Mr. Huber showed an example of tan, green, and more natural color play equipment.

Rebecca Chapman, Fern Avenue, stated that wood chips are better than sand and expressed interest in having the play equipment include some upper body components; Mr. Huber responded that an overhead activity could be included in the configuration.

Chairperson Baxter gave Mr. Huber some wood chips that he obtained from a park in Mammoth Lakes, noting that they seem to be smoother.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to support option B in concept for Greenwood Park playground equipment. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. SUMMER 2014 "MOVIE IN THE PARK" REVIEW

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that the 2014 Movies in the Park series was successful, noting that approximately 350 guests were in attendance to watch "Bolt" at Wilson Park on August 30. He stated that the three movies were tied in to the Library's Summer Reading Program theme of "Paws to Read!"

Commissioner Greenwood relayed a neighbor's comment about noise late in the night from the first movie event at DePortola Park and Manager Minter stated that they make a conscious to finish by 10:00 p.m.

8B. YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM PARTICIPANT PLACEMENT ON TEAMS

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that his written report was included in agenda materials. He provided background and discussed an operational change in policy that allows private and home-schooled Youth Basketball participants to register on open division teams at which the school coach picks them. He noted that these participants would only be allowed on the team of the school they would have attended geographically if they attended a TUSD school.

Responding to Commissioner Mayeda's inquiry, Senior Recreation Supervisor McClelland described the differences between the recreation-oriented leagues and the "open" more competitive division teams.

MOTION: Commissioner Greenberg moved to concur with staff recommendation to continue the revised Youth Basketball program participant placement policy. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8C. ACCEPT A DONATION FOR ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING CONTROL BOX AT VICTOR SCHOOL

Park Services Manager Carson requested that the Commission accept the West Torrance AYSO Region 14 donation of material and labor in the amount of \$7,685 for

the Victor School playfield area lighting control box. He called attention to Attachment A that describes the conditions under which lights are to be installed, operated, maintained, and supplied with electrical power. He stated that the hinges on the control box rusted off and that Region 14 has offered to pay for a new enclosure.

Rick Nievaesh, 191st Street, representing AYSO Region 14, discussed the need to replace the control box enclosure and stated that they are also working with TUSD to improve the fields.

Commissioner Hays expressed his appreciation for the contribution.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to accept the donation of \$7,885 and to recommend that staff request approval from City Council. Commissioner Love seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8D. APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ELECTION OF CHAIR TO GRANTS COMMITTEE

Director Jones reported that, with Commissioner Mayeda's term having expired in August, it is time to rotate the most senior Commissioner into the Grants Committee. He further requested that Commissioners review Committee assignments and make any changes. He stated that the responsibility to coordinate the 2015 Annual Parks and Recreation Commission Awards Dinner rotates to the Open Space Committee. Following a brief discussion, committee members were assigned as follows:

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Love
Commissioner Reilly
Commissioner Greenberg

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Reilly
Commissioner Uchima
Commissioner Love

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hays
Commissioner Mayeda
Commissioner Love

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hays
Commissioner Greenberg
Commissioner Baxter

It was decided that the Chair of the Grants Committee would be selected at the Committee's next meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to approve standing committee member assignments as selected. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE - No report.

9B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that grant application deadline is September 18, 2014

9C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE - No report.

9D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE - No report.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for August was included in agenda packets. He pointed out that the revenue for August from the Toyota Sports Complex is not indicative of the amount of usage. He stated the Complex is operating at almost full capacity and is facilitating four AYSO regions and three soccer clubs. He briefly discussed the responsibilities of the Park Rangers.

Commissioner Hays inquired about smoking violations and Manager Minter stated that the high number might be because there are more man hours in parks during summer months.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for August 2014 was included in attachments. He shared information about the acorn woodpecker and announced that Nature Center Manager Drake is the third ranked naturalist in the State.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for August 2014 was included in agenda packets.

11. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

11A. Senior Business Manager Minter suggested evaluating the validity for the Commission's standing committees at the next Commission meeting.

11B. Senior Business Manager Minter stated that storage containers at Wilson Park were moved into the Park Services building to allow for slurry sealing of the parking lot on September 28. He noted that this would open up an additional parking area on the east end.

11C. Community Services Director Jones distributed information about the first Pacific Sports Triathlon on September 21 and provided background about Torrance Beach and the parking lot.

11D. Commissioner Greenberg announced the Rotary Club's Bike Tour at Rat Beach on September 27.

11E. Commissioners Reilly and Love volunteered to participate in the Halloween pumpkin judging contest on October 31 at Wilson Park.

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:36 p.m., Commissioner Uchima moved to adjourn the meeting to Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Love seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Baxter so ordered.

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Approved as submitted
August 10, 2014
s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk