

**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, December 14, 2011, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Baxter, Gilbert, Greenberg,
Hays, Mayeda, and Chairperson Taniguchi.

Absent: Commissioner Ning.

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

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Ning for the December 14, 2011 Commission meeting. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Hays led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011

MOTION: Commissioner Gilbert moved to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting as submitted. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ning).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. APPROVAL OF 2011-2012 GRANT FUNDING FOR NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso reported that 24 applications were received for the Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Services Agencies. He stated that City

Council allocated \$20,000 for the 2011-2012 Grant Program but also approved the re-allocation of \$1,000 unused 2010 grant funds, making the total funding of \$21,000 available. He reported that the Grants Committee, consisting of Commissioners Gilbert, Mayeda, and Ning, conducted interviews with agency representatives on November 10, 2011. They met again on November 17, 2011 to deliberate and formulate their recommendation to the Commission for grant funding for 14 agencies. He noted that a table summarizing the amount requested and funding recommendation was included in the material of record.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to approve grant funding for the 2011-2012 Grant Program for 14 Non-Profit Social Services Agencies as follows: Behavioral Health Services (\$1,000); Cancer Support Community (\$2,000); Casa de los Angelitos (\$1,250); H.E.L.P. (\$1,250); New Life Advocacy (\$2,000); Pediatric Therapy Network (\$2,500); Pregnancy Help Center (\$800); RSVP (\$600); South Bay Literacy Council (\$2,000); St. Paul's United Methodist Church (\$3,000); Su Casa (\$600); Switzer Learning Center (\$500); Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels (\$2,500); and Torrance-South Bay YMCA (\$1,000), for a total of \$21,000. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ning).

Community Services Director Jones congratulated Committee members and Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso for a job well done.

7B. DISCUSSION ON THE NAMING OF THE CENTENNIAL PROJECT

Senior Business Manager Minter provided background and noted that conceptual design plans for the Centennial Project at El Prado Park was included in Attachment A. He asked the Commission to open the discussion on selecting an official name for the Project and take input from the public, keeping in mind that discussion should be limited to the naming of the plaza and not the design or layout of the Project. He pointed out that residents and businesses within 500 feet of the park were notified, as well as Old Torrance Neighborhood Association and Torrance Historical Society.

Laurie Love, Chair of the Centennial Committee, presented the Committee's recommendation to name the project Torrance Centennial Plaza. She stated that it is what the project has been called all along, represents the vision for a gathering spot, and recognizes the importance of the Centennial.

Dee Hardison, West 236th Street, Vice-Chair of the Centennial Committee, requested that the Commission seriously consider including the word "Torrance" in the naming because of its special significance of the Centennial to the City.

Janet Payne, Engracia Avenue, discussed the history of El Prado Park designed by Frederick Olmstead Jr. in 1912. She proposed that signage be installed at the park during the Centennial stating the designer and year of design of the Park. She noted that on December 13, 2011 Councilmember Barnett suggested that the Historical Society provide input regarding El Prado Park. She distributed copies of a plaque that was installed at Miramar Park due to its historical significance when it was redone and dedicated in 1984. She stated that the Centennial would be the logical time to honor the park's history and requested that the Commission support her proposal.

Community Services Director Jones, with Commissioners' concurrence, offered to place an item on a future agenda for discussion at a later date.

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to recommend the name Torrance Centennial Plaza for the Centennial Project. Commissioner Baxter seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ning).

8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

8A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Commissioner Mayeda reported that the Facilities Committee met on December 14, 2011 to discuss the honor program at Seaside Heroes Park and will meet again in February 2012.

8B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Gilbert expressed appreciation to Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso and staff members for facilitating the Grant Program interviews and deliberations.

8C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Has not met.

8D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Has not met.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

9A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for November 2011 was included in agenda packets. He reviewed the comparison charts of enrollments and net revenue for fall 2011 and fall 2010 on Page 4, noting that seasonal totals are more accurate than individual months.

9B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for November 2011 was included in agenda materials.

9C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for November 2011 was included in agenda packets. He discussed the successful 32nd annual Turkey Trot Fun Run on Thanksgiving Day that had 3,978 registered participants and 400 to 500 "bandit" runners. He noted that this was the first year that dogs were prohibited from being on the course and that Costco provided their parking lot for parking. He informed Commissioners that the New Year's Day run has been cancelled due to lack of participation.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

10A. Janet Payne, Engracia Avenue, commended Department staff for helping the Centennial Committee obtain booth space at the Senior Faire and Torrance Farmers' Market.

10B. Commissioners expressed interest in discussing proposed signage at El Prado Park.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to direct staff to bring back an item to discuss potential signage at El Prado Park. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ning).

10C. Commissioner Greenberg discussed the 3rd annual Rotary USC vs. UCLA Tailgate Luncheon on November 22, 2011.

10D. Commissioners and staff wished each other a happy holiday season.

10E. Commissioner Gilbert announced the Cultural Arts Center Foundation's New Year's Eve jazz concert and discussed Centennial events that include a private reception with Louis Zamperini on April 28, 2012.

10F. Staff members expressed their appreciation to Commissioners for their support throughout the year.

10G. Community Services Director Jones announced that a brief ceremony and unveiling of the Sports Youth Wall of Honor is tentatively scheduled for January 8, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. at the Dee Hardison Sports Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 7:54 p.m., Commissioner Gilbert moved to adjourn the meeting to January 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Taniguchi so ordered.

Approved as Amended January 11, 2012 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
