

**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, February 10, 2016 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: None.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business Manager Minter, Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe, Recreation Services Manager Brunette, and Park Services Manager Carson.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Reilly 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 roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2016

MOTION: Commissioner Mayeda moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of January 13, 2016 as presented. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

Torrance Youth Council members Torrey Park and Kanta Morinaga introduced themselves.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7A. PARK ASSESSMENT METRICS—NORTH AND SOUTH STUDY AREAS

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe provided background on the Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation assessment to evaluate parks, recreation, and open space needs within the County. He reported that Torrance was divided into two focus areas, north and south of Torrance Boulevard. He stated that the County provided Facilitator Toolkits to assist with the public information gathering process, noting excerpts in Attachment A for the North study area and Attachment B for the South study area. He reviewed highlights for both areas that include Community Profile Snapshot, Key Community Characteristics, Air Quality and Health Data, Park Metrics, Where Are Parks Most Needed? and Amenities per 100,000 people.

Referring to the North study area, he noted that 22% of the population has income below the 200% poverty level, 7% has no vehicle access, and 20% is linguistically isolated. He stated that there are 169.4 park acres and 2.5 park acres per 1,000 people within the study area. He reviewed data from the South study area: 19% of the population has income below the 200% poverty level, 5% has no vehicle access, 15% are linguistically isolated, 195.6 park acres, and 2.4 park acres per 1,000 people.

Commissioner Love stated that she found the information fascinating, and Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe noted that it is a unique process to Southern California that is providing an extraordinary level of detail for 189 cities. He stated that the County plans to aggregate all the data that comes from public workshops and determine methods to provide improvements to community parks and create more open space.

7B. PARK ASSESSMENT PROJECT EVALUATION AND SUMMARY

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe reported that staff conducted four community workshops to determine park improvements: Victor Elementary--January 6; WALTERIA Elementary-- January 7; McMaster Park--January 21; and Wilson Park--January 25. He reported that there were 38-45 attendees overall who, following a brainstorming exercise, were given the opportunity to vote for ideas important to them. He noted that several themes developed at the meetings that provide clear direction to staff regarding community priorities: New Play Equipment; Walking Paths and Fitness Zones; Bathroom Upgrades; Additional or New Open Space; and Community Building Upgrades.

He stated that the next step is to merge the existing Capital Project priority list with information solicited from the meetings. He explained that staff is in the process of developing a list of 10 amenities for each study area that would be presented to City Council on February 23. It will then be sent to Los Angeles County Parks by February 29 so that it can be compiled into a Countywide priority list. He pointed out that this list is just for this funding source, noting that they have a master list of hundreds of amenities to be considered when funding is available.

Brittney Burford, Via El Sereno; Louise Barrere, Riviera Way; and Julian Chasin, Via Los Miradores, discussed the need for new play equipment and a safer play environment at Los Arboles Park.

Senior Business Manager Minter informed them that there would be community meetings on February 18 and 20 at Los Arboles Park to discuss refurbishment of the play equipment. He stated that the project has been funded and that the goal of the meetings is to solicit input on different design concepts.

Julie Dojiri, New Horizons Civic Affairs Chair, Nadine Circle, discussed the growing number of seniors and the importance of meeting their needs. She raised the possibility of developing the vacant land between Nadine Circle and Madison Street into a walking path/fitness area for the community.

Community Services Director Jones noted that the property is City-owned land. He stated that there was a plan for a walkway a few years ago but that the idea was deferred.

Kanta Morinaga, Torrance Youth Council, stated that a skateboard park would be a great asset for the City's youth.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8A. DEDICATION TREES ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Park Services Manager Carson presented the 2015 Living Tree Dedication Program Annual Report in Attachment A. He noted that, since inception of the program in 1992, 375 living dedication trees have been planted throughout various parks. He stated that eight additional trees were planted at six different parks in 2015.

In response to Chairperson Greenberg's inquiry, he stated that 34 trees were lost during the recent storm, including several eucalyptus trees at Wilson Park. He noted that the trees would be replaced once drought restrictions have ended.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to recommend that City Council accept and file the Living Tree Dedication Program 2015 Annual Report. Commissioner Mayeda seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8B. APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION AD HOC COMMITTEE TO PLAN THE ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Community Services Director Jones requested that the Commission appoint an Ad Hoc committee to assist in the planning of the 2015 Parks and Recreation Annual Awards Dinner on July 13, 2016.

Commissioners Hays, Love, and Mayeda volunteered to serve on the committee.

MOTION: Commissioner Baxter moved to appoint Commissioners Hays, Love, and Mayeda to an Ad Hoc committee to plan the 2015 Parks and Recreation Annual Awards Dinner on July 13, 2016 at the Toyota Meeting Hall. Commissioner Reilly seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

9A. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Has not met. Committee Chair Baxter announced the next Grants Committee meeting on March 9 at 6:00 p.m.

10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for January 2016 was included in agenda packets. He highlighted the grand reopening of McMaster Park on January 12 and noted that there has already been a park building rental there.

10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Manager Carson noted that the Park Services Division Report for January 2016 was included in agenda packets.

10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Monthly Report for January 2016 was included in agenda materials.

11. CORRESPONDENCE FOR COMMISSION REVIEW – None.

12. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

Community Services Director Jones thanked Commission Reilly for leading the flag salute at the McMaster Park opening. He discussed the need for new play equipment in the City, noting that most have exceeded their 15 to 18 year life span.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:07 p.m., Commissioner Love moved to adjourn the meeting to March 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Hays seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted March 9, 2016 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
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