

**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, April 8, 2015 in the West Annex Meeting Room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL/MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

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

Absent: Commissioners Love and Mayeda.

Also Present: Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business
Manager Minter, Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe,
Recreation Services Manager Brunette, and
Assistant to City Manager Chaparyan.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to grant Commissioners Love and Mayeda excused absences for the April 8, 2015 Commission meeting. Commissioner Uchima seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Youth Council member Kevin Kang 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 Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2015

MOTION: Commissioner Uchima moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of March 11, 2015. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Love and Mayeda).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6A. The Commission welcomed Torrance Youth Council members Kevin Kang, Connie Chung, Hantao Wang, and Akhil Addanki.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. MID-YEAR 2014-2015 CITY BUDGET UPDATE

Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe provided background and reported that the second year of the two-year budget cycle was presented to the City Council Committee on Finance and Governmental Operations on March 24. He stated that revenues and expenditures are within expectations, including the Community Services Department, and that the outlook for the City budget is "somewhat optimistic." He noted that the 2nd Quarter (Mid-Year) 2014-2015 Budget Review is included in Attachment A. He informed Commissioners that the City is planning for the next two-year cycle 2015-2017 and announced workshop hearings on May 12 and 19 in Council Chambers.

7B. VICTOR PARK CELL TOWER ENHANCEMENT

Senior Business Manager Minter introduced the item and noted supplemental correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared. He presented a brief history of the current Sprint cellular tower located on a 50 foot light pole for the last eight years at Victor Park. He recommended that the Commission approve the proposal from Sprint to remove this light pole, install a mono-eucalyptus tower in a similar location, and replace the pole. He stated that Attachment A is Sprint's proposal, Attachment B is the meeting notification flier, and Attachment C is American Cancer Society research.

Karri Keeble, Project Manager, SureSite Consulting Group, introduced team members and stated that Sprint has hired her company to negotiate the lease and obtain necessary permits for the facility.

Matt Vigil, Site Development Specialist, SureSite, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Sprint's proposal to relocate the Sprint cellular site at Victor Park. He described the current cellular site layout on a 50 foot light pole at the northwest corner of the park. He stated that the proposed modification is to remove the light pole, install a new, larger mono-eucalyptus cellular tower approximately 20 feet south of the light pole, and return the light pole to its original design. He noted that Sprint's auxiliary equipment and cables would remain within the existing underground vault.

He showed photo simulations of the mono-eucalyptus design and proposed location. He stated that Sprint is upgrading all of its existing 3G equipment nationwide to the current technology that is available, with the goal to provide the best service possible to subscribers with 4GLTE. He noted that there is increased demand for wireless network capacity, data transfer speeds, and coverage. He discussed the many benefits of wireless to consumers and businesses, noting that emergency first responders require high-speed wireless services for public safety. He pointed out that cellular phones are in many cases the primary telephone for consumers. He stated that the proposed installation would be designed and constructed to meet all governmental and industry safety standards. He maintained that Sprint has made every effort to design a facility that is aesthetically pleasing to Park visitors and adjacent residents, and he requested that the Commission approve the lease amendment.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that all the revenue generated for the past eight years has gone into the Park Equipment Replacement Fund that is used to directly support maintenance of parks, noting that a dozen picnic tables were replaced at Victor Park. He stated that all agreements are for five years, with five-year extensions,

and that each year the revenue increases. He clarified that the tree would be approximately 20 feet south of the light pole and that total height of the tree is 55 feet.

Responding to Chairperson Baxter's inquiries, he advised that, if approved, the proposal would go before the Telecommunications Commission that ensures that all State regulations are met. He stated that the lease agreement with Sprint is currently in its third year of the first five-year option.

Assistant to City Manager Chaparyan explained that this is the initial phase of the process, that subsequent meetings would occur, and that the potential for receiving additional revenue would be explored.

John Gutierrez, Onyx Street, received clarification that Sprint would cover all costs of the modification. He related his observation that cables were being pulled out of the vault and questioned why they are already working on the modification.

Denise Singleton, Onyx Street, inquired about the number of heads and emissions from the current tower compared to the proposed tower. She voiced her concern about health risks and questioned why they would approve installation of cell towers in parks that are filled with children. She stated that Los Angeles Unified School District has stopped cell tower installations in their schools and that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to stop construction of cell towers at Sheriff's and Fire Stations due to possible health risks. She asserted that no amount of income is enough to risk children's and adult's health who frequent the park and surrounding area.

William Hammett, Hammett & Edison Consulting Engineers, stated that the proposal is to move the three antennas that are inside the pole over to a new structure and to add three additional antennas to carry the new 4G. He noted that the maximum exposure level is 1.9% of the standard and he explained that the directionality of the antennas allow the energy to be focused down on a narrow beam that pushes out to the horizon. He stated that this limits what the exposure levels are in the Park and that it is 1,000 times less going down than going out. He noted that emissions would increase approximately 33% from adding a third band. He briefly described the full spectrum of electromagnetic energy, noting that emissions from a cell tower are all non-ionizing and that the absorption rate of energy is 1000 times more powerful from cell phones than from the proposed facility.

Commissioner Reilly inquired about modeling analysis and if measurements could be taken after installation to verify accuracy, and Mr. Hammett responded that it is up to the City and the carrier to do it even though the FCC does not require it.

Responding to Mr. Gutierrez's concern, Debbie Howard, Sprint, stated that workers were probably pulling out and replacing cabling due to flooding in the vault.

In response to Chairperson Baxter's inquiry, Ms. Keeble stated that if the proposal is denied Sprint would have to find another nearby location in order to provide service to its customers.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that the City receives approximately \$3,000 a month from the current lease and it increases 3% incrementally each year. He stated that they would talk actual numbers if the conceptual proposal is approved.

Paul Kromer, Asteria Street, maintained that he can instant message and has good cellular coverage from Sprint. He questioned if noise levels would increase and why the grass is always dead around the vault.

Mr. Vigil explained that an alarm goes off if something is faulty at the site, that telephone numbers are posted, and that the only noise is from the air conditioning units. He stated that many customers near Victor Park complain about coverage and that there would be a 150% increase in data speed transfers with the new 4G.

Senior Business Manager Minter stated that he would check with Park Services about the dead grass.

Neal Singleton, Onyx Street, stated that few studies have been done on small children, maintaining that cell towers belong in industrial or commercial areas and not in parks that have high usage by children.

Mr. Hammett clarified that he is being paid by SureSite and amended his initial estimate of 33% emissions increase to 20.6%, adding that the bulk of power remains in the original antennas.

Commissioner Uchima questioned what opposing experts are saying, and Mr. Hammett asserted that the key is replication and that standards are based on a worldwide set of data. He noted that it is difficult to do experiments on children; therefore, researchers track people over time and look at generations of animals.

Dolores Charrous, Reynolds Drive, stated that there is a large concentration of young children at Victor Park. She stated that the accumulative affects of small amounts of radiation are not known and urged the Commission to deny the proposal.

At 8:26 p.m., Chairperson Baxter closed the public hearing.

In response to Commissioner Greenberg's inquiry, Mr. Hammett advised that the radiation is non-ionizing and that there is no short or long term accumulation because nothing is happening that would build up over time.

Commissioner Reilly inquired about safety and maintenance of the tree, and Mr. Vigil stated that engineering research and structural analysis would be conducted before installation. Responding to her inquiry about the diameter of the tree, Ms. Keeble advised that they would do a structural analysis and a complete set of drawings when they are further along in the process.

Assistant to City Manager Chaparyan provided clarification that maintenance requirements and schedules are a part of lease conditions.

Chairperson Baxter received clarification from staff that, if the Commission denies the request and does not move it forward, Sprint could continue with their current agreement or exercise their option to leave the site and find another location.

Commissioner Reilly stated that she would like to see a tighter maintenance schedule, have an independent engineer conduct a structural analysis, and have the

modeling analysis verified. She questioned what action could be taken if the data does not match the modeling analysis.

Senior Business Manager Minter advised that the Commission could add addendums to its recommendation to City Council.

Commissioner Uchima stated that he feels conflicted in regards to the benefits of the tower versus the potential danger to children. He noted that he does not have all the facts and would like to hear from an opposing expert before making a final decision.

At Chairperson Baxter's request, Mr. Hammett stated that he is not a medical expert but that any registered engineer in the field would give the same answers as he has given. He stated that he is unaware of any serious scientific study that indicates that there are health dangers and cited the IEEE study that says there is no measurable risk associated with RF exposure levels less than the standard.

Ms. Singeton distributed and entered into record information in Electromagnetic Health.org dated August 2, 2013 from Dr. Martha Herbert of Harvard Medical School.

Chairperson Baxter asked SureSite why their presentation did not focus on the health controversy and Mr. Vigil responded that they did not expect objections because the proposal is only a modification of an existing cell site.

Community Services Director Jones noted that this is a sensitive topic and that the same issues were raised regarding the cell towers at Sur La Brea Park and Sea Aire Golf Course. He stated that children frequent all of the City's parks and that wireless and cell phone usage is more dangerous. He noted that the proposal is a good opportunity, with minimal or no impact, to use revenue to continue to improve City parks.

MOTION: Commissioner Hays moved to forward the proposal to City Council to relocate the Sprint cellular site at Victor Park and to recommend that maintenance and model verification elements be addressed. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Love and Mayeda and with Commissioner Uchima abstaining).

The Commission was in recess from 8:54 to 9:00 p.m.

7C. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIVE STEAMERS PROPOSAL

Community Services Director Jones reported that Southern California Live Steamers is a tremendous organization and has been a terrific partner with the City over the last 25 years. He noted that they provide a unique service to the City and have provided dozens of trees and plants, a 40 foot tunnel, a large chiming clock, and over 500,000 free train rides to the public. He stated that their 25 year lease is expiring in May and recommended that the Commission support a Proposal from them and to renew their 25 year License Agreement with the City that includes their community events and capital projects at Wilson Park. He mentioned that it may be possible to isolate their electrical and water service and that they are willing to pay for their portion. He noted that the Proposal and Site Map are included in attachments.

Daisy Lee, President of Southern California Live Steamers, introduced Kelley Smith, Vice President, and Tom Downing, Treasurer. She described their first ever bunny train on April 5 and proposed improvements that include installing Wi-Fi and taking on a leadership role in the restoration of the Red Car. She noted that they fundraise as needed and provide an opportunity for volunteer service.

Chairperson Baxter complimented them on the wonderful proposal and presentation.

Responding to Commissioner Reilly's inquiry, Ms. Lee stated that Eagle Scouts have completed many projects there that include purchasing and installing the flag pole, painting the caboose, and building the water tower and bridge replica.

Commissioner Hays congratulated them on an excellent report and commended them for their vision and running the program.

Commissioner Greenberg mentioned that she was impressed with U-Tube videos that she saw online.

MOTION: Commissioner Uchima moved to support a proposal from Southern California Live Steamers to renew their 25 year License Agreement with the City that includes their community events and capital projects at Wilson Park. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Love and Mayeda).

8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

8A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE - No report.

8B. GRANTS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Hays reported that the Grants Committee met on March 31 and plan to meet again on April 14.

8C. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE - No report.

8D. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Commissioner Reilly reported that the Programs Committee is meeting on April 10 to begin planning the Parks and Recreation Awards dinner.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

9A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

Senior Business Manager Minter noted that the Administrative Services Division Report for March 2015 was included in agenda packets. He noted that the annual TNT Softball tournament took place at Wilson Park on March 19-21 and that North High School won. He noted that McMaster Park is still under construction and anticipates a grand opening in July. He stated that the Toyota Sports Complex continues to stay busy and that the Home Improvement Program is getting ready for the painting season.

Responding to Commissioner Greenberg's inquiry, he stated that the Toyota Sports Complex has been open a year, that revenues are exceeding projections, and that he would present an annual report in May.

9B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Community Services Director Jones noted that the Park Services Division Report for March 2015 was included in agenda packets. He discussed a slope failure at the Maple Sump at Madrona Marsh Preserve and informed them that staff is putting together an emergency purchase order. He stated that plans to arrange to have Nature Center Manager Drake present an annual report to the Commission in May.

9C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Manager Brunette noted that the Recreation Services Division Report for March 2015 was included in agenda packets. He highlighted the youth volleyball program, early childhood education program, and stated that the after school programs are at an all time high.

10. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

10A. Community Services Director Jones discussed the event to honor all Community Services volunteers at the Toyota Meeting Hall this evening, noting that 300 attended.

10B. Commissioner Greenberg stated that she attended the Kiwanis Club event and reminded Commissioners about the Pancake Breakfast at the ATTIC on April 18.

10C. Chairperson Baxter stated that he has volunteered to serve on the Beat the Odds scholarship selection committee on April 9.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:29 p.m., Commissioner Hays moved to adjourn the meeting to May 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Meeting. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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Approved as submitted May 13, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
