

**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 7:03 p.m. on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cook, Perkins, Robbins, Smoot, Taniguchi, Tookey, and Chairperson McGee.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Recreation Services Administrator Jones, Park Services Administrator Wilson. and Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Recreation Services Administrator Jones 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 Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2005

MOTION: Commissioner Cook moved for the approval of the August 10, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Smoot and passed by unanimous voice vote approval.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6A. LAND MANAGEMENT TEAM'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THE UTILIZATION OF CERTAIN AREAS OF VICTOR PARK FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CELL SITE

Recreation Services Administrator Jones provided background on the item and reviewed the recommendation of the Land Management Team for the Commission to review, comment, and give input on a conceptual plan to Lease park property to Sprint PCS for the construction and maintenance of a cell tower to be located on a parking lot light standard and ground facility to be located at the northeast corner of the Victor Park

parking lot. He reviewed concerns voiced by Commissioners at the August 10, 2005 meeting regarding placement of the cell pole power equipment, vandalism, and the height of the equipment compound.

He reported that staff explored other options with representatives from Sprint PCS but that the provider expressed interest in moving forward with the original proposal to use the northeast corner of the parking lot. He presented three options proposed by Sprint PCS for the site, detailed in the material of record, for the Commission's consideration: #1 above ground as originally proposed, #2 partially submerged so that it would be above ground 4 feet, and #3 completely underground and covered by a steel plate. He stated that staff recommended utilizing option #2 the semi-submerged vault.

Commissioner Smoot received clarification from staff that Sprint PCS could be required by lease agreement to return the site to its original state at lease termination. She expressed safety concerns regarding option #2. Responding to her inquiry regarding construction time, Recreation Services Administrator Jones advised that the parking lot was lightly used in fall.

Commissioner Taniguchi related her understanding that option #3 was cost prohibitive and was assured that Sprint PCS was willing to bear the cost. She shared safety concerns with a four-foot high enclosure, and voice support of exploring the third option to have the equipment fully submerged.

Commissioner Robbins also expressed safety concerns regarding option #2. He pointed out that this was the City's first foray into using a park site for this income-producing venue, noting that it might send the wrong message if they insisted on the first one being fully submerged.

Commissioner Perkins stated that the Commission proposed several alternative sites that were apparently not acceptable to Sprint PCS. He stated that the view corridor would be blocked in option #1 and voiced support of having the equipment fully submerged if the provider was willing to do it.

Responding to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, Park Services Administrator Wilson stated that there were no structures protected by a four-foot fence in any other City parks. He indicated that if the cost of the fully submerged option was prohibitive, it could offer some negotiable points regarding the monthly lease. He stated his personal opinion that option #3 was the best possible scenario.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, Recreation Services Administrator Jones advised that in options #1 and #2 the equipment would be enclosed by a block wall fence, but that there was no roof and was fully open.

Commissioner Cook questioned why a fully submerged vault was so expensive to install and Commissioner Perkins noted that it would most likely be a prefabricated vault.

MOTION: Commissioner Tookey moved to recommend that the City adopt option #3, with the equipment area completely underground in a vault covered by a traffic rated grate located in the Victor Park parking lot corner as represented in the photograph in Attachment A, that the option was selected due to safety considerations,

and that income generated be placed in the Community Services Department fund. Commissioner Smoot seconded the motion and a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. APPROVAL AND ACCEPTANCE OF METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT CITY MAKEOVER GRANT

Recreation Services Administrator Jones provided background information about the \$20,000 grant awarded to the City to create a "Showcase of Native Plant Gardens" just north of the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. He advised that pending approvals from the Commission and City Council, the project would start in early December 2005 and be completed by May 2006. He requested that the Commission accept and approve the grant.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to accept and approve the Metropolitan Water District City Makeover Grant to be forwarded to City Council for their approval. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

7B. STATUS OF WILSON PARK ROLLER HOCKEY, SKATEBOARD PARK AND BATTING CAGES

Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso presented a report detailing the first year of operations at the Roller Hockey, Skateboard Park, and Batting Cage facilities at Wilson Park. He stated that operations exceeded the Department's expectations and commended staff for their knowledge, successful programming, and improvements made. He discussed capital improvements that have been completed at each of the facilities. He stated that the Department's goal was to break even and noted the revenue profit of \$45, 293. He advised that they expected coming years to be even more profitable.

Responding to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso explained the use of loaner equipment at the Skateboard Park.

In response to Chairperson McGee's inquiry regarding pitching machines at the Batting Cage facility, he advised that \$5,000 was budgeted for pitching machine replacement and that staff was exploring the possibility of installing "iron mikes." He explained that the peak season was from February through July. He noted that hours of operation at the Skateboard Park were decreased due to moisture in the mornings, noting that they now open at 11:00 a.m.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones added that during the first year of operation staff kept a close watch on attendance at the Skateboard Park and made adjustments to maintain 25 skaters per session.

Responding to Commissioner Perkin's inquiry, Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso estimated that 75% of facility users were Torrance residents.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones commended Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso for assembling the team that has made the program a success in meeting the needs and goals of the community with few problems or concerns. He stated that it was important for all three facilities to work together to be profitable.

Commissioner Robbins suggested that staff make a presentation to City Council.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

8A. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

No report.

8B. FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that the committee would be meeting soon to discuss the Pueblo Park project.

8C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

No report.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

9A. PARK SERVICES DIVISION

Park Services Administrator Wilson reported that grading for walkways, driveways, and a basketball court at Lago Seco Park was underway, that the second half of the jogging path at Delthorne Park was being poured on September 14, 2005, and that the roof of the picnic shelter at Walteria Park was rebuilt. He advised that the annual tree trimming contract would go before City Council for approval on September 27, 2005 and that the contractor for the tree house at Wilson Park has been secured.

Chairperson McGee inquired about watering at Hickory Park and Park Services Administrator Wilson explained why adjustments have been challenging.

9B. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION

Recreation Services Administrator Jones noted that the Farmers' Market Monthly Financial Report was incomplete and would be brought back at the October Commission meeting.

He encouraged Commissioners to read Month in Review at the Madrona Marsh Preserve and presented them with DVDs of the Preserve.

Commissioner Robbins inquired about the monthly minimum and maximum figures of birds, butterflies, and dragonflies sighted in the Preserve. Recreation Services Administrator Jones offered to bring the information back at a future Commission meeting.

10. ORALS

10A. Ruben Ordaz, Del Amo Boulevard, requested a status report on the Pueblo Park project.

Recreation Services Administrator Jones responded that the consultant, Sasaki Associates, was in the process of relocating offices and was informed that the conceptual plan would be ready in two weeks. He assured Mr. Ordaz that as soon as information was received, staff would schedule a community meeting to share the concepts. He noted that funding for the project has not been determined, but indicated that funds received from the sale of the existing park lot could be used to pay for the development of the new park. He commented that staff would explore grant funding and estimated the cost of the project to be \$1,500,000.

10B. He announced that Manager/Naturalist Drake sighted a red-bearded bird at the Madrona Marsh Preserve that has not been seen in California for several years.

10C. Chairperson McGee inquired about the status of the Chevron property and Recreation Services Administrator Jones stated that he would provide an update.

10D. Commissioner Tookey expressed an interest in participating in the Youth Council interviews in October 2005.

10E. Commissioner Perkins shared information about the senior tour to the balloon races in Reno.

10F. Commissioner Taniguchi stated that she has enjoyed several senior tours and concurred with Commissioner Perkins that Betty was a delightful host.

10G. Commissioner Smoot thanked Mr. Ordaz for attending tonight's meeting.

10H. Chairperson McGee stated thanked Senior Recreation Supervisor Kelso for an informative report.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:05 p.m., Commissioner Tookey moved to adjourn the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to October 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Taniguchi and, hearing no objection, Chairperson McGee so ordered.

Approved as Written October 12, 2005 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
