

Council Meeting of  
March 20, 2012

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the City Council:**

**SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission and Community Services –  
Approve a name for the Centennial Project at El Prado Park.**

**Expenditure: None**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council approve a name for the Centennial Project located at El Prado Park.

**FUNDING**

Not applicable

**BACKGROUND**

On September 27, 2011, a request was made from City Council to formally begin the process of naming the Centennial Project. This project is part of the City's celebration of its Centennial. The conceptual design includes visual elements of the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge and adds a tribute to the City's rich past while offering a vision of an exciting future (Attachment A). The plaza also provides a unique opportunity for the community to be part of history by allowing the purchase of a commemorative personalized brick. The plaza will be located on the north end of El Prado Park in Downtown Torrance and will include a Time Capsule commemorating the City's first 100 years.

**ANALYSIS**

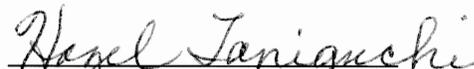
The Parks and Recreation Commission met on December 14, 2011, to discuss naming options for the project and solicit input from the community. In attendance at the meeting were members of the Centennial Committee and a

few members of the public. After some discussion from the Commissioners and the Centennial Committee representatives, the name "Torrance Centennial Plaza" was moved and seconded, with unanimous approval (absent one Commissioner). An excerpt of the meeting minutes is included (Attachment B).

At this time, it is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that City Council approve the name "Torrance Centennial Plaza" for the Centennial Project at El Prado Park.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

  
Hazel Taniguchi, Chairperson

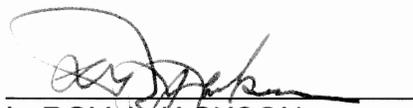
JOHN JONES  
Community Services Director

By   
Jason Minter  
Senior Business Manager

Concur:

  
John Jones  
Community Services Director

Noted:

  
LeROY J. JACKSON  
City Manager

- Attachments: A) Centennial Project Conceptual Design  
B) Minutes from the December 14, 2011 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting



DATE 11/20/11  
SCALE  
DRAWN BY S. HARRIS  
CHECKED BY A. ALANZ

REVISIONS PLAN LOG

PROJECT AND CLIENT NAME  
**TORRANCE CENTENNIAL PLAZA**

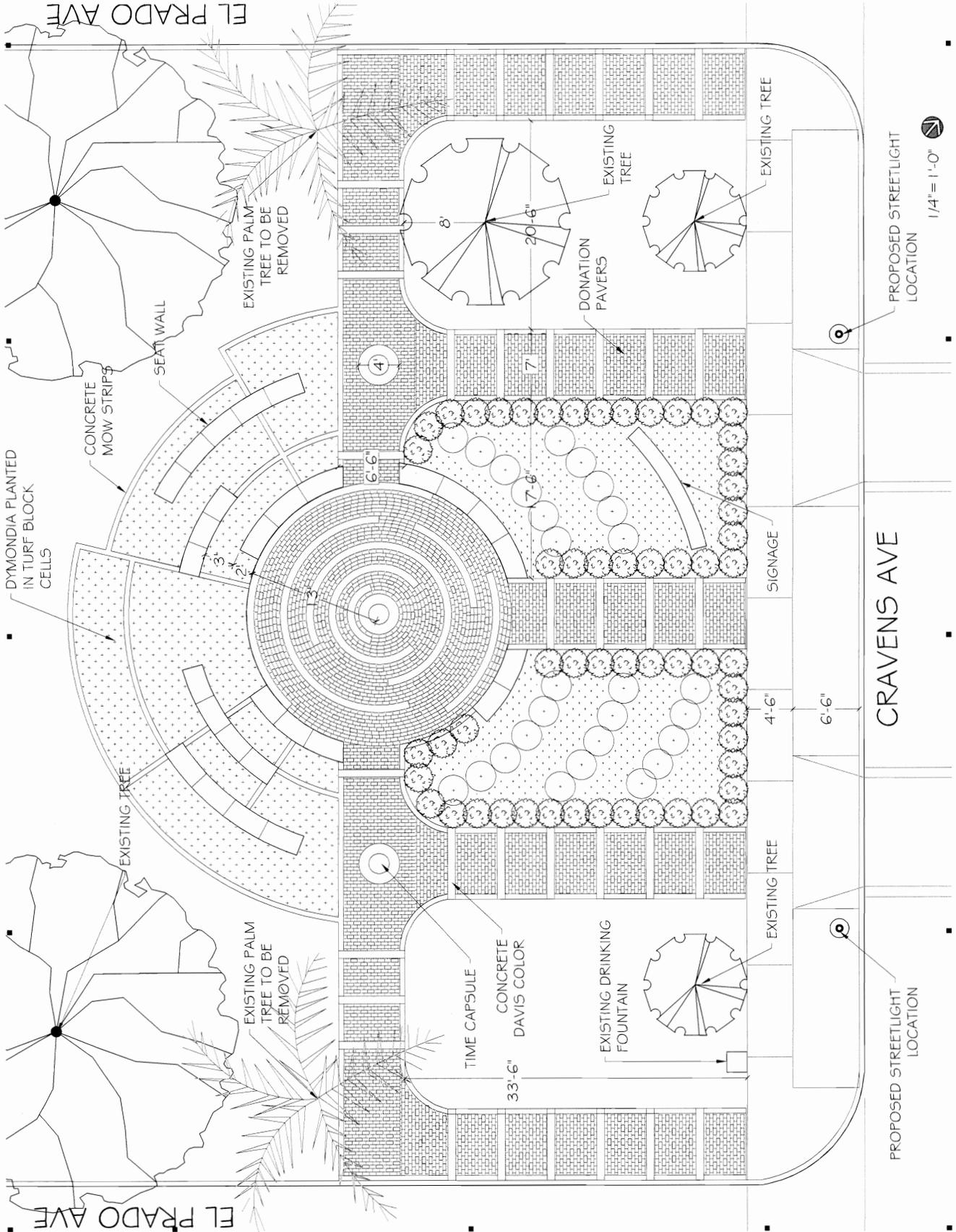
Torrance, CA

**OPTION 2**

SHEET NUMBER 05 1

PROJECT NUMBER

NOT SCALE TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION. THIS IS A PRELIMINARY PLAN. ANY CHANGES TO THIS PLAN SHALL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CLIENT. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



1/4" = 1'-0"



**EXCERPT OF MINUTES**

√ Minutes Approved  
 Minutes Subject to Approval

December 14, 2011

**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.

**7. NEW BUSINESS****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).

###