

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services – Accept a donation of five taxidermy exhibit cases from the Friends of Madrona Marsh valued at \$91,335; and appropriate Community Services Department Funds from the Madrona Marsh Preserve Donation Account.
Expenditure: \$7,000**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director recommends that City Council:

- 1) Accept a donation from the Friends of the Madrona Marsh (FOMM) of five taxidermy exhibit cases for the Madrona Marsh Nature Center Exhibit Hall valued at \$91,335; and
- 2) Appropriate \$7,000 from the Community Services Department Madrona Marsh Donation Account to pay for the development of the taxidermy exhibits.

Funding

Funding is available in the Community Services Department Madrona Marsh Preserve Donation Account.

BACKGROUND

The City of Torrance has had a long and rewarding relationship with the Friends of Madrona Marsh (FOMM). For more than twenty years, the FOMM have collected and stored a broad range of native fauna that may be seen on the Marsh, including raccoons, foxes, hawks and egrets. As the Nature Center is now in its sixth year of existence, the FOMM would like to implement these stored taxidermy species into the exhibit hall at the Nature Center. (Attachment A)

ANALYSIS

Together with staff, the FOMM have developed specifications for an appropriate set of display cases that will professionally house these taxidermy exhibits. The current concept is for five new free-standing display cases to be placed along the south, east, and north walls of the Nature Center Exhibit Hall. These cases would include native

plants, trees, and ground forms to simulate different habitats at the Preserve in different seasons. In addition, some of the specimens would be on special mounts, which would allow them to be rotated or exchanged with other specimens, providing for a more dynamic presentation.

From several different vendors, the FOMM have selected a proposal from Split Rock Studios, of St. Paul, Minnesota. The cost for fabrication and installation of the five display cases is \$91,335. The FOMM Board of Directors approved funding these display cases at their meeting in November 2006, subject to approval of the City of Torrance City Council.

On February 14, 2007, the Parks and Recreation Commission unanimously approved this very generous donation from the FOMM, and requested staff to prepare an agenda item for the City Council. (Attachment B)

As part of the city's contribution for this project, staff suggests using funds in the Madrona Marsh donation account to pay for the stored animal species to be mounted for display. Staff has secured a bid from a taxidermist for an amount of \$7,000 to prepare the birds and mammals necessary to complete the scenes developed for the five cases. (Attachment C)

Respectfully Submitted,

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



William Cook
Chairperson

GENE BARNETT
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 

Tracy Drake
Nature Center Manager

Concur:



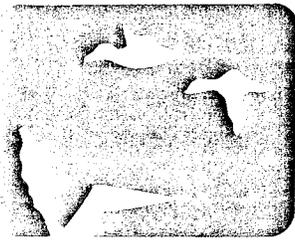
Gene Barnett
Community Services Director

Noted:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments: A) Donation Letter from the Friends of Madrona Marsh
B) Excerpt 6B of Parks and Recreation Commission minutes dated 2/14/07.
C) Quote from Taxidermist for development of Animal Species



FRIENDS of MADRONA MARSH

P. O. Box 5078, Torrance, California 90510

January 18, 2007

The Honorable Frank Scotto,
Mayor of the City of Torrance, and
Members of the Torrance City Council
3031 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90503

Re: Offer to Donate Taxidermy Display Cases to Madrona Marsh Nature Center

Dear Mayor Scotto and Torrance City Council Members,

The Friends of Madrona Marsh has had a long and rewarding relationship with the City of Torrance. With the assistance of the Friends, the City was able to acquire the beautiful 45 acre Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve twenty years ago, and since then the Friends have worked in a wonderful cooperative relationship with Community Services Department personnel to develop and promote programs and projects at the Preserve and the Nature Center.

Over this period the Friends have been pleased to provide, as gifts to the City and the children of our community, many items of taxidermy. These include a broad range of the native fauna that may be seen on the marsh, including raccoons, foxes, gophers, and dozens of birds – from tiny hummingbirds to larger hawks, egrets and herons. And we have many more specimens frozen and waiting to be prepared by our award-winning taxidermist, Igor Caragodin.

But until now, we have not had an appropriate space to display all this taxidermy. The Friends, therefore, have worked together with Tracy Drake, Manager of the Preserve and Nature Center, to write specifications for an appropriate set of display cases. The current concept is for five new free-standing display cases to be placed along the south, east, and north walls of the Nature Center Exhibit Hall. These cases would include native plants, trees, and ground forms to simulate different habitats at the Preserve in different seasons. Also, some of the specimens would be on special mounts which would allow them to be rotated, or exchanged, with other specimens, allowing us to keep the displays more interesting.

The Friends have discussed the above concept with several vendors, and requested proposals. From these, the Friends have selected a proposal from Split Rock Studios, of St. Paul, Minnesota. The cost for fabrication and installation of the five display cases is \$91,335. The Friends of Madrona Marsh Board of Directors approved funding these display cases at our November, 2006, meeting, subject to approval of the Torrance City Council.

Therefore, it is my pleasure to offer to the City of Torrance for use in the Madrona Marsh Nature Center Exhibit Hall, five new taxidermy display cases, to be fabricated and installed by Split Rock Studios, of St. Paul, Minnesota. The Friends of Madrona Marsh will pay for these display cases and they will be given to the City of Torrance, and thereafter be the property of the City.

Yours truly,



Bill Arrowsmith, President
Friends of Madrona Marsh

310.325.1442

theArrowsmiths@sbcglobal.net

EXCERPT OF MINUTES Minutes Approved Minutes Subject to Approval

February 14, 2007

**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 7:07 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2007, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Co-Chairperson Cook led the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Co-Chairperson Cook, Hazell, McGee, Co-Chairperson Ning, Numark*, Orpe, Robbins, Smoot, and Taniguchi.

Absent: Commissioners Gilbert and Hicks.

Also Present: Recreation Services Manager Jones, Park Services Manager Wilson, Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe, and Nature Center Manager Drake.

**6B. DONATION OF SERVICES FROM FRIENDS OF MADRONA MARSH TO
INSTALL TAXIDERMY EXHIBIT CASES AND APPROPRIATION OF
DONATION FUNDS FROM THE MADRONA MARSH DONATION ACCOUNT**

Recreation Services Manager Jones distributed a January 18, 2007 letter from Friends of Madrona Marsh to City Council requesting acceptance of a donation of \$91,335 to install five taxidermy exhibit cases.

Manager Drake reported that the five stand-alone display cases would protect the many items of taxidermy that Friends has provided to the Preserve and would be placed in the Nature Center Exhibit Hall. She stated that \$7,000 was needed from the Madrona Marsh Donation Account to pay for more specimens to be prepared by taxidermist Igor Caragodin.

Responding to Co-Chairperson Ning's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Orpe explained that the Madrona Marsh Donation Account has accumulated \$18,000 over the past five years and was built by donations from community members. He stated that staff supported the project and recommended appropriation of the request.

MOTION: Commissioner Smoot moved to 1) Accept a donation of services in the amount of \$91,335 from the Friends of the Madrona Marsh to pay for the acquisition and installation of five taxidermy exhibit cases for the Madrona Marsh Nature Center Exhibit Hall; 2) Approve the appropriation of \$7,000 from the Community Services Department Madrona Marsh Donation Account to pay for the development of the taxidermy exhibits, and 3) Request staff to forward this item to City Council for their approval. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioners Gilbert and Hicks).

###

**SPECIMENS DONE, IN-WORK, OR REQUESTED
(by Exhibit Case and Priority)**

Case	Animal	Type	Mount	Body Position	Status	Taxidermy Cost	Comments
1	Great Blue Heron	Permanent	Standing	Standing	Done		Install on existing branch ??
1	Snowy Egrets	Permanent	Standing	Standing	Done		Can this be fitted in?
1	Cinnamon Teal	Permanent ??	Taking off		Done	150	Igor picked up in Oregon
1	Sora	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Igor taxidermying		Igor picked up in Oregon
1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Exchangeable	Perching	Perching	Igor taxidermying	150	
2	Black-crowned Night Heron	Permanent	Standing	Standing	Done		
2	Greater Yellowlegs	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Done		
2	Redhead	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Done		
2	American Coot	Exchangeable	On water	On water	Igor taxidermying	250	Fran to get OK to not cremate MAKE THIS Exchangeable
2	Common Yellowthroat	Permanent	Perching	Perching	Done		
2	Mallard	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Igor taxidermying	250	
2	Mallard	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Igor taxidermying	250	Igor picked up in Oregon
2	Mallard	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Igor taxidermying	150	Awaiting fresh specimen
2	Red-winged Blackbird	Permanent	Atop tule reed	Atop tule reed	Igor taxidermying	150	
???	Western Grebe	Permanent	????????	????????	Done		remove legs?????
2	Northern Shoveler	Exchangeable	On water	On water	Igor taxidermying	250	Igor picked up in Oregon
2	Green-winged Teal	Exchangeable	On water	On water	Igor taxidermying	250	Igor picked up in Oregon
3	Striped Skunk	Permanent	Standing	Standing	Igor taxidermying	450	
3	Black Phoebe	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Done		
3	Western Scrub Jay	Exchangeable	Standing	Standing	Done		
3	Anna's Hummingbird	Permanent	Hovering ???	Hovering ???	Done		MAKE THIS Exchangeable
3	Orange-crowned Warbler	Exchangeable	Perching	Perching	Igor taxidermying	150	
3	Mourning Dove	Permanent	Sitting	Sitting	Igor taxidermying	150	Igor picked up in Oregon
4	Opossum	Permanent	Walking	Walking	Igor taxidermying	450	
4	Pocket Gophers - TWO	Permanent	Standing ???	Standing ???	Igor taxidermying	500	
4	Hawk, Red-shouldered	Exchangeable	Perching	Perching	Done		now mislabelled as Coop's
4	Hawk, Red-shouldered	Exchangeable	Perching	Perching	Igor taxidermying	250	
4	Hawk, Red-tailed	Exchangeable	Perching	Perching	Done		
4	American Kestrel	Exchangeable	Perching	Perching	Done		
4	American Kestrel	Exchangeable	On branch	On branch	Igor taxidermying	180	
4	Cooper's Hawk	Exchangeable	Gripping branch	Gripping branch	Done		R-S Hawk Juvie???
4	Barn Owl	Permanent	Hiding in willow	Hiding in willow	Done		
4	American Goldfinch	Exchangeable	On plant	On plant	Igor taxidermying	150	Igor picked up in Oregon
4	Hummingbird-Allen's	Exchangeable	Sitting on plant	Sitting on plant	Igor taxidermying	150	
4	Northern Mockingbird	Exchangeable	On plant	On plant	Igor taxidermying	150	

SPECIMENS DONE, IN-WORK, OR REQUESTED
(by Exhibit Case and Priority)

Case	Animal	Type	Mount	Body Position	Status	Taxidermy Cost	Comments
4	Poorwill	Adult		On ground	Igor taxidermying	180	
5	Raccoon	Permanent		In tree crook	Igor taxidermying	550	
5	Great Horned Owl	Permanent		Perching	Done		
5	Sharp-shinned Hawk	Permanent		Standing on limb	Done		Need Poplar mount
5	California Quail	Exchangeable		On ground	Done		
5	Western Bluebird	Exchangeable		On branch	Done		
5	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Exchangeable		On Branch	Done		
5	Fox Sparrow	Adult		On ground	Igor taxidermying	150	
5	Hermit Thrush	Adult		On ground	Igor taxidermying	150	
5	Lazuli Bunting	Adult		Perching	Igor taxidermying	150	
5	Northern Flicker-RS	Adult		On ground	Igor taxidermying	180	
5	Pacific-Slope Flycatcher	Adult		Perching	Igor taxidermying	150	
5	Sparrow, Lincoln's	Adult		Perching	Igor taxidermying	150	
5	Western Tanager	Adult-Fem		Perching	Igor taxidermying	150	
5	White-crowned Sparrow	Adult		On ground	Igor taxidermying	150	Igor picked up in Oregon
	<i>Contingency</i>					610	
						7000	

Note:

Hooded Oriole might be available, per Igor.