

Council Meeting of
August 28, 2007

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

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: Community Services - Accept and File the Parks & Recreation
Commission Annual Report for 2006/2007**

RECOMMENDATION

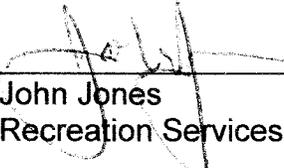
The Acting Community Services Director recommends that the City Council accept and file the Parks & Recreation Commission Annual Report for July 2006 through June 2007.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Annual Report for July 2006 through June 2006 as prepared by the Parks and Recreation Commission is attached for your information and review. The Commission approved this report at its meeting on August 8, 2007, and moved to request that it be accepted by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

**NORM REEDER, ACTING
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR**



John Jones
Recreation Services Manager

Concur:



Norm Reeder, Acting
Community Services Director

Noted:



LeRoy Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: 2006-2007 Annual Report

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PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT JULY 2006 THROUGH JUNE 2007

Co-Chairpersons: William Cook & Michael Ning	
Keri Gilbert	Howard Orpe
Tom Hazell	Stephen Robbins
John McGee	Jonna Smoot
Cliff Numark	Hazel Taniguchi
Hicks (resigned – March 2007)	Morgan Tookey (resigned – October 2006)
Clark Adams (termed out)	

Following its usual practice, the Parks and Recreation Commission divided its work into three broad categories: Public Hearings and Workshops, Standing Committees, and Research and Review.

1. **Public Hearings and Workshops:**

The Commissioners attended City Council Budget Workshops and Hearings expressing their support of the programs and facilities offered by the Community Services Department. Commissioner Numark spoke at the May 8, 2007 Budget Hearing and encouraged Commissioners to attend the May 15, 2007 Budget Hearing.

2. **Standing Committees:**

The Standing Committees of the Commission include *the Open Space, Programs, and Facilities Committees*. The Commission considered making the Grant Program a separate standing committee, made up of four Commissioners, who would make its recommendation to the full Commission. Over the past year, these committees considered such matters as replacement of playground equipment at La Romeria Park, and El Retiro Park, and maintenance services at Columbia Park. They approved the Conceptual Plan and Construction Cost Estimate for the development of Pueblo Park. They accepted the responsibility for planning a Youth Sports “Wall of Honor” to recognize accomplishments in youth sports. They also discussed the concept of exploring the installation of a dog park in Torrance.

3. **Research and Review**

The Commission received staff presentations from Nature Center Manager Tracy Drake.

The Commissioners honored Community Services Director Gene Barnett with a Retirement Resolution for 35 years of dedicated and unselfish service to the people of

Torrance. They were also introduced to new employee Senior Business Manager Jason Minter.

The Parks and Recreation Commission held a joint meeting with the Library Commission on July 10, 2006. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners and the Library Commissioners took turns introducing themselves and shared information on their backgrounds. They also identified and discussed activities and/or interests common to both commissions, and possible partnerships for future events.

The Commissioners attended a mandatory Ethics Training sessions for Commissioners.

The City Council approved an Ordinance on November 14, 2006 to consolidate the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Commission beginning January 2007. There were 12 members until January 15, 2007 when Commissioner Clark Adams of the former Community Services Commission termed out. It is estimated that the Commission's numbers would be down to seven members some time in 2010. Commissioner Tookey regrettably announced his resignation from the Commission after six years of service because he is moving out of the City. Likewise, Commissioner Hicks announced that he is moving out of the City and would need to resign from the Commission.

A discussion by the Commissioners centered on strategies that could be implemented to bridge the next six months until regular elections for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson take place. Commissioner Ning expressed his willingness to serve as co-Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and noted that there was no Vice-Chairperson on the former Parks and Recreation Commission. They approved a co-Chairmanship structure to be in effect until June 2007, with Chairpersons Cook and Ning to arrange a schedule for leadership of meetings, and with Commissioner Hicks to serve as Co-Chairperson.

Commissioners reviewed the Community Services Department's Capital Projects and related funding, and provided input to the 2006-2007 Operating Budget.

The Commissioners were presented by staff with the reorganization plan of the Recreation Services Division due to the deletion of a Senior Recreation Supervisor position. The Commissioners were informed that staff developed a Reorganization Plan that still continues quality service to the community with little impact, and identifies a transition plan from September 25, 2006 to December 12, 2006 as well as rotations that will begin December 13, 2006.

The Commission approved to add another Oral Communications section to the Agenda with a three-minute time limit per speaker and to limit the total time in the first Orals Communications Section to no more than 30 minutes.

The Commission approved the Financial and Narrative Statements for the 2006 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Service Agencies and forwarded the recommendation to City Council for final approval.

The Annual Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Torrance Farmers' Market,

the Madrona Marsh Preserve 2006 Annual Report, and the Park Rangers Annual Report were reviewed and accepted by the Commission.

The Commission received and made recommendations to the City Council for acceptance of donations from the Torrance Dog Obedience Club and Tree Dedications.

The Commissioners participated in the Annual Turkey Trot Race on Thanksgiving Day, with Mayor Frank Scotto and Commission Co-Chairperson William Cook serving as the official starters for the 27th Anniversary 5K fun run.

Various Commissioners attended events such as the Rose Float Association Volunteer Recognition Dinner, the 50th Annual Aquacade, Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the ATTIC, Spring Boutique, Special Olympics Regional Meets and Awards Banquet, 13th Annual Fall Boutique, Halloween Carnival, Sister City events, Farmers' Markets 9th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, Harvest Health Fair, and the Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration. In addition, they participated in the Youth Council Selection process, and the Beat the Odds Selection of Scholarships Recipients and Awards Dinner, and many other programs throughout the community.

The Commissioners supported the arts through attendance at the Excellence in Arts Awards, Arts Alive, and performances at the Cultural Arts Center.

The Commissioners extended condolences to Commissioner Gilbert and her family for the passing of her husband Fred.

The Commission asked the City Council to proclaim "July is Parks and Recreation Month" in the City of Torrance,

The Commission planned the 50th Golden Anniversary Parks and Recreation Awards Dinner to be held on July 11, 2007 with "Celebrating our Greatest Hits" as the theme, and where Co-Chairpersons Bill Cook and Michael Ning will pass on the gavel to Vice-Chairperson Jonna Smoot who will step in as the 2007-2008 Chairperson. Commissioner Hazel Taniguchi will step in the Vice-Chairperson. They selected Gene Barnett, the ExxonMobil Green Team Program, and staff member Frank Duarte as the 2007 awardees.

Respectfully submitted,



William Cook, 2006-07 Co-Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission



Michael Ning, 2006-07 Co-Chairperson
Parks & Recreation Commission

