

Council Meeting of
February 7, 2006

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Donation of Funds from Southern California Live Steamers Inc. and Appropriation of Parks and Recreation Open Space Funds to Purchase and Install a Street Clock at Wilson Park.

Expenditure: Not to exceed \$30,000 (Offset by a \$12,500 Donation)

RECOMMENDATION

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

- 1) Accept and appropriate a donation of funds in the amount of \$12,500 from Southern California Live Steamer's Inc. to partially pay for the acquisition and installation of a street clock in the Live Steamers' Compound at Wilson Park and;
- 2) Appropriate \$17,500 from the Parks and Recreation Open Space Fund to pay for the balance of the project (FEAP - 540).

Funding

Funding is available in the Donation Account and the Parks and Recreation Open Space Fund.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Southern California Live Steamers Organization began working with Torrance Officials in 1980 to establish a mini train facility within the City. In 1987, tracks were installed at Wilson Park and inaugural rides were given during the City's 75th Anniversary Celebration. In 1988, an agreement was reached between the City and the Live Steamers that allowed the organization to provide free rides on the 1st Sunday of every month. The popularity of the monthly program since that time has continued to grow and today the Steamers Organization provides over 16,000 free rides per year. The mission of the organization remains to educate and promote community interest in railroad history, particularly amongst Torrance youth.

On October 3, 2005, volunteers from Southern California Live Steamers Inc. submitted a letter to the City Council pledging a donation of \$12,500 to assist in the purchase and installation of a free-standing, four-sided street clock within their compound at Wilson

Park. On November 9th, the Parks and Recreation Commission received a presentation from Live Steamers members Joe Manza and Kelly Smith regarding the proposed donation. After hearing the presentation, the Commission moved to recommend that the City pay for the balance of the clock's acquisition and installation costs, in an amount not to exceed \$17,500.

If approved by the City Council, the City's \$17,500 would cover the balance of the clock's purchase (quoted at \$25,000), and pay for the preparation of the clock site and the installation of electrical service (not to exceed \$5,000). The proposed clock would be approximately 13 feet high, light up at night, play a variety of chimes at selected intervals throughout the day and be visible to park patrons from much of Wilson Park's east end. In addition, the clock's structure would be extremely durable and require very little maintenance. The clock would further enhance the park's east end and would be a unique addition to the City's park system.

Respectfully Submitted,

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION



John McGee
Chairperson

GENE BARNETT
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 

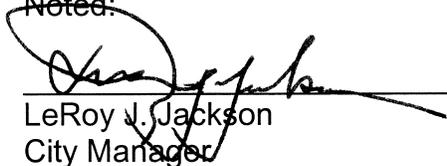
Michael Witzansky
Senior Business Manager

Concur:



Gene Barnett
Community Services Director

Noted:



LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments:

- A) Parks and Recreation Commission Item – November 9, 2005
- B) Excerpt of November 5, 2005 Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

FOR COMMISSION MEETING
November 9, 2005

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

FROM: MICHAEL WITZANSKY, SR. ADMINISTRATIVE ANALYST

SUBJECT: DONATION FROM SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LIVE STEAMERS INC.

On October 3, 2005 Southern California Live Steamers Inc. submitted a letter (Attachment A) to the City Council pledging the donation of \$12,500, to help fund the cost of the installation of an official street clock within their compound at Wilson Park. The proposed clock (see Attachments B & C) would be four sided, approximately eleven feet tall, tell official time, chime at intervals established by the City, light up during the evening hours, and be visible to park patrons as well as participants of the Live Steamers. Staff anticipates the total cost of the project to be no more than \$30,000. The cost of the clock was quoted by The Verdin Company at \$25,000. Construction costs, which would include clock assembly, water and electrical connections and the installation of a foundation/planter bed, are estimated not to exceed \$5,000.

It is staff's recommendation that the Commission accept the donation from Southern California Live Steamers Inc. and request that City Council appropriate \$17,500 from the Parks and Recreation Open Space Fund to cover the balance of the funding needed to complete the project. It should be noted the Live Steamers organization demonstrated a willingness to raise additional funds for the identified construction costs, and further reduce the City's necessary contribution. Any Open Space Fund money appropriated but not expended as a result of their efforts would be returned to the Open Space Fund.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Witzansky
Senior Administrative Analyst

CONCUR:



Gene Barnett
Community Services Director

Attachments: A) Letter from Southern California Live Steamers Inc.
B) Examples of Street Clocks
C) Clock Example Superimposed in the Live Steamers Compound



10-3-05

To the Honorable Mayor and Council
of the City of Torrance,

The Southern California Live Steamers Inc. Respectfully petition the City of Torrance, to join with us in the securing and installing a free standing four sided street clock in Wilson Park. Subject to the following arrangement.

- 1- The estimated cost \$25,000.00. The club will raise one half of the funds and is petitioning the City of Torrance to match the funds.
- 2- On completion of the project, the clock will be dedicated to the City Of Torrance, and the donors who have contributed to this project.

It is our solemn belief that this project will enhance the recreational and beauty as a dedicated monument to the City of Torrance, and it's recreational facilities.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of our anticipated beautification of Wilson Park.

Respectfully Yours,
Southern California Live Steamers Inc.

By; Joe Manzo President
Kelley Smith Treasurer

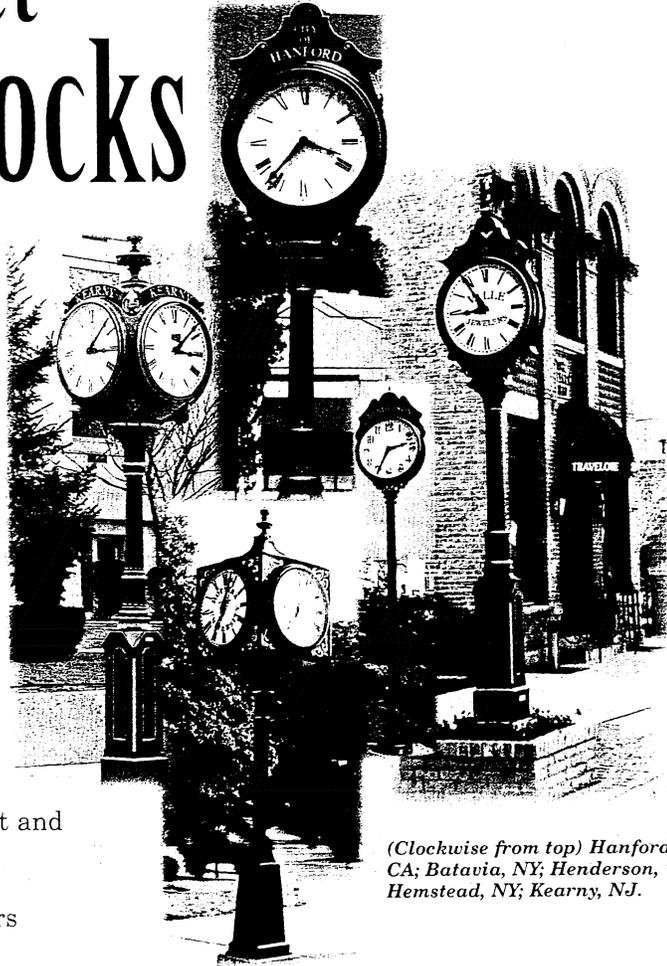
Street Clocks

By creating timeless elegance, Verdin keeps the nostalgic appeal of street clocks alive. Quality, price and service are the hallmarks of all Verdin products, but none so much as Verdin street clocks.

First introduced around 1880, street clocks gained popularity as convenient timekeepers and neighborhood attractions. Today, Verdin's dignified street clocks are focal points and image builders that reflect a community's heritage. Commanding attention in a town square or in a favorite gathering place, street clocks are an elegant reminder of America's past and her hopes for the future.

Verdin's portfolio of street clocks offers several features and options:

- Standard and custom design
- Personalization
- Choice of color and finish
- Custom headers and faces
- Master clock controller
- Automatic Daylight Savings adjustment
- Installation and service



(Clockwise from top) Hanford, CA; Batavia, NY; Henderson, TX; Hemstead, NY; Kearny, NJ.



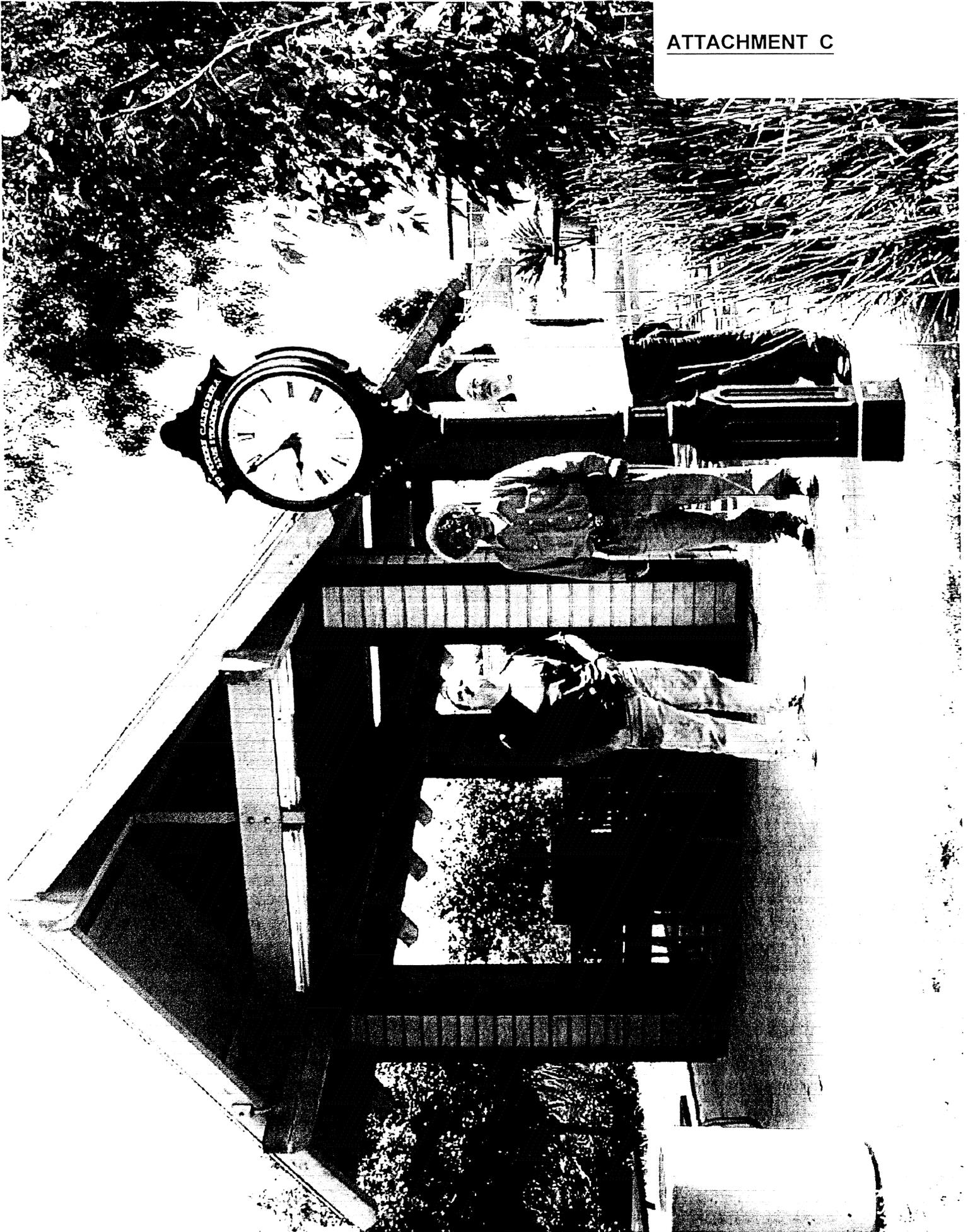
West Liberty, OH



Lindsay, Ontario, Canada



Gainesville, FL



November 9, 2005

**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 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, November 9, 2005, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Commissioner Smoot.

Also Present: Recreation Services Administrator Jones, Park Services Administrator Wilson, Senior Administrative Analyst Witzansky, Environmental Services Administrator Cessna, Senior Planning Associate Chun, and Senior Planning Associate Lodan.

MOTION: Commissioner Taniguchi moved to grant Commissioner Smoot an excused absence for this meeting. Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Park Services Administrator Wilson 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 Cook seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Smoot).

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 12, 2005

Commissioner Robbins noted the following correction to the October 12, 2005 meeting minutes:

Page 4, Item 10G: "Commissioner Robbins initiated a brief conversation about the person ..."

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MOTION: Commissioner Perkins moved for the approval of the October 12, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tookey and passed by unanimous voice vote approval (absent Commissioner Smoot).

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

6A. **VICTOR PARK CELL TOWER UPDATE**

Recreation Services Administrator Jones informed the Commission that Sprint PCS was working on a draft contract with the Land Management Team and that an Agenda Item will be forwarded to City Council by the end of this calendar year. He noted that the cell site would be underground in a vault covered by a traffic-rated grate, with no impact to the parking lot except for the construction phase, and that they would be receiving \$2,350 per month.

In response to Commissioner Robbin's inquiry, he stated that the contract would have a CPI escalator.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

7A. **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATION AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO PURCHASE STREET CLOCK FOR THE LIVE STEAMERS COMPOUND AT WILSON PARK**

Senior Administrative Analyst Witzansky provided background information about the \$12,500 pledge from Southern California Live Steamers Inc. to help fund the cost of the installation of an official street clock within their compound at Wilson Park. He noted that the antique-style clock would be four sided, approximately eleven feet tall, tell official time, chime over 100 different tunes, light up during evening hours, and be visible to park patrons as well as participants of the live steamers. He requested that the Commission accept the donation and request that City Council appropriate additional funds needed to complete the installation.

He introduced Southern California Live Steamers Inc. President Joe Manzo and Treasurer Kelley Smith.

Responding to Chairperson McGee's inquiry, Senior Administrative Analyst Witzansky stated that chime intervals and sound level could be controlled by the City.

In response to Commissioner Robbins' inquiries, he explained that official time was Pacific Standard Time, that the clock operated electronically, and that maintenance requirements were not anticipated for several years. He noted that the clock was very durable and would be placed inside the fence to prevent vandalism.

MOTION: Commissioner Robbins moved to accept the \$12,500 donation from Southern California Live Steamers Inc. and to request that City Council appropriate \$17,500 from the Parks and Recreation Open Space Fund to cover the balance of the funding needed to complete the project. Commissioner Taniguchi seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Smoot).

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

In response to Commissioner Tookey's inquiry, Mr. Manzo stated that the live steamers run the first Sunday of every month.

7B. GENERAL PLAN UPDATE BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Recreation Services Administrator Jones reported that all departments have been working collectively with the Community Development Department for the past several months to review the current General Plan prepared in 1992. He introduced Environmental Services Administrator Cessna, Senior Planning Associate Chun, and Senior Planning Associate Lodan from the Community Development Department.

Senior Planning Associate Chun provided an overview of the General Plan update process that includes a Parks and Recreation Element and an Open Space Element. She explained that the General Plan provides a guide for the physical development of the City and outlines land use, circulation, environmental, economic, and social goals of the community. She stated that the City was currently in the process of collecting information and community input that will be used to formulate the goals and policies of the General Plan. She advised that completion of the entire update process was anticipated by end of fall 2006. She provided information on California law requirements for cities to adopt a General Plan as well as policy guidelines to identify a series of elements. She explained that the City may choose to combine elements and that optional elements may also be included that address topics of local concern, noting that Parks and Recreation was actually an optional element that would be included in the document.

Environmental Services Administrator Cessna reported that the current General Plan focuses on the actual physical park facilities and that staff was looking for ideas for expansion that would include cultural arts, senior programs, and the library. She encouraged Commissioners to brainstorm what they would like to see in the Parks and Recreation Element and Open Space Element and what the City should be trying to accomplish over the next twenty years. She advised that after ideas were listed, the Commissioners would be asked to prioritize the areas of most concern to them. The information would then be forwarded to the General Plan consultants to be used to revise and expand the Parks and Recreation Element and Open Space Element. She stated that the draft would be brought back to the Commission in spring 2006 for review and to receive additional input. She noted that staff has already provided several comments and suggestions.

Commissioners made suggestions and comments that were recorded as follows:

Study areas of development, open space existing and potential future open space pocket parks. Focus on model study area.

Preserve / maintain existing open space.

Need for variety of recreational spaces—swimming pools / indoor gyms.

Ensure senior development is tied to necessary services (acquire additional open space), i.e. Begonia Farms.

Look at housing density: relate to open space.