Council Meeting of
September 9, 2008

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

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services - Accept and File the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report for 2007/2008

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director and the Parks and Recreation Commission that the City Council accept and file the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report for July 2007 through June 2008.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Annual Report for July 2007 through June 2008 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 13, 2008, and moved to request that it be accepted by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

John Jones
Community Services Director

Unavailable for Signature

Howard Orpe, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

Noted:

LeRoy Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: 2007-2008 Annual Report

:epv::p&r commission\Annual 2008 Report\ ci 09-09-08

ATTACHMENT A

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2007 THROUGH JUNE 2008

Chairperson: Jonna Smoot

William Cook	Cliff Numark
Keri Gilbert	Howard Orpe
Tom Hazell	Stephen Robbins
John McGee	Jonna Smoot
Michael Ning	Hazel Taniguchi

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. The Commissioners reviewed the Community Services Department's Capital Projects and related funding, and provided input to the 2007-2008 Operating Budget. A Usage Policy for the Benstead Plunge was developed from considerable input from the public at three public meetings on July 10, August 6, and September 4, 2007. Public meetings were also held to discuss the types of amenities the public would like to see developed on the 1.2 acre parcel of land between Anza Avenue and Kathryn Avenue.

2. Standing Committees:

The Standing Committees of the Commission include *the Facilities, Grants, Open Space, and Programs Committees.* Over the past year, these committees considered such matters as Portable Stage Usage Policy, installation of batting cages at Entradero Park, replacement of playground equipment at La Romeria Park, approval of a lease amendment allowing amplified sound at Lago Seco Park for Riviera Little League's closing day ceremonies, installation of rubberized surfacing at El Retiro Park, maintenance services at Columbia Park, approval of the conceptual plan and construction cost estimate for the development of Pueblo Park. They also approved a Youth Sports "Wall of Honor" to recognize accomplishments in youth sports, and approved the ordinance prohibiting dogs in Wilson Park during certain City-sponsored events.

3. Research and Review

Commissioners are registered as members of the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners & Board Members that includes a quarterly publication,

discounted member rates for the annual conference, general information regarding legislation, and training workshops.

The Commissioners considered what role the Parks and Recreation Commission would like to play in assessing the needs of the community's growing population of active, older adults.

The Commissioners attended a mandatory Ethics Training session for Commissioners, and a Commissioner Training at the Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center.

Commissioners provided input/comments to the preliminary draft of the Community Resources Element of the City of Torrance General Plan.

The Commissioners approved the 2007-2008 grant funding for 18 of the social services agencies as recommended by the Grants Committee.

The Commission also approved the Financial and Narrative Statements for the 2007 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Service Agencies and forwarded the recommendation to City Council for final approval.

The Commission endorsed the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights adopted by the California Roundtable on Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, which recommends a fundamental list of activities that every child in California would benefit from experiencing before entering high school.

The 2006-2007 Annual Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Torrance Farmers' Market, the Madrona Marsh Preserve 2007 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 celebration of the 35th Anniversary of the Sister City Association's hosting of 34 delegates from Kashiwa, Japan, and the Annual Turkey Trot Race on Thanksgiving Day, with Mayor Frank Scotto serving as the official starters for the 28th Anniversary 5K fun run.

Various Commissioners attended events such as the beach clean-up day at Torrance Beach, the Rose Float Association Volunteer Recognition Dinner, the 50th Annual Aquacade, Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for the ATTIC, Spring Boutique, Summer Kick-Off at Wilson Park, 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, Historical Society's "Rock Around the Block," and the 27th Annual 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 Commission asked the City Council to proclaim "July is Parks and Recreation Month" in the City of Torrance,

The Commissioners elected Howard Orpe as Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and elected Commissioner Ning as Vice-Chairperson.

Commissioner Smoot announced that she is hurriedly moving out of the City and would need to resign from the Commission. Commissioners and staff expressed their appreciation to Commissioner Smoot. Likewise, Commissioner Numark regretfully announced his resignation from the Commission after two years of service. Commissioners and staff expressed their appreciation to Commissioner Numark and congratulated him on his election to the City Council.

The Commission planned the 51st Annual Parks and Recreation Awards Dinner to be held on July 9, 2008 with "A Picnic in the Park" as the theme, and where Vice-Chairperson Hazel Taniguchi will pass on the gavel to Commissioner Howard Orpe who will step in as the 2008-2009 Chairperson. Commissioner Michael Ning will step in as the Vice-Chairperson. The Distinguished Individual Awardee is David Moody, the Distinguished Organization Awardees are the American Youth Soccer Organization/The American Ladies Soccer Organization, the ATTIC Advisory Committee, and the Distinguished Staff Awardee is Charles Rollins.

Eve Rappoport was introduced to the Commissioners as the new Cultural Services Manager.

The Commissioners congratulated John Jones on his new position as the Community Services Director.

Respectfully submitted,

Hazel Taniguchi

Hazel Taniguchi, Vice-Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

:epv\P&RComm\Annual\2008