

Council Meeting of
September 15, 2009

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 2008-2009**

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 2008 through June 2009.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Annual Report for July 2008 through June 2009 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 12, 2009, and moved to request that it be accepted by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

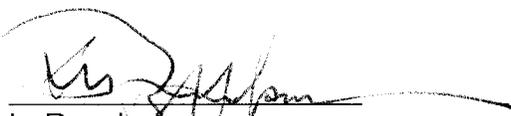


John Jones
Community Services Director



Michael Ning, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

Noted:



LeRoy Jackson
City Manager

Attachment A: 2008-2009 Annual Report



City of Torrance
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT
for July 2008 to June 2009

Presented at the August 12, 2009, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Chairperson: Howard Orpe

Vice-Chairperson: Michael Ning

Commissioners:

William Cook John McGee

Keri Gilbert Stephen Robbins

Tom Hazell Hazel Taniguchi

Following its usual practice, the Parks and Recreation Commission divided its work into three broad categories:

- 1. Public Hearings and Workshops**
- 2. Standing Committees**
- 3. 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 2008-2009 Operating Budget.

2. Standing Committees:

The Standing Committees of the Commission include *the Facilities, Grants, Open Space, and Programs Committees*. The Commission approved the rotational plan for the Grants standing committee beginning August 2009 in order to allow all Commissioners the opportunity to serve on this Committee. Over the past year, these committees considered such matters as installation of batting cages at Entradero Park, replacement of playground equipment at La Romeria Park, installation of rubberized surfacing at El Retiro Park, approval of amendments to various Little Leagues Lease agreements and water meters modifications to separate Leagues usage from Park usage, maintenance services at Columbia Park.

3. Research and Review:

Commissioners are registered as members of the California Association of Parks and Recreation Commissioners and receive California Parks and Recreation Society (CPRS) quarterly publications and discounted rates for the conferences and workshops, general information regarding legislation, etc.

The Commissioners provided input/comments to the preliminary draft of the Community Resources Element of the City of Torrance General Plan, and also accepted and filed the New Vision, Mission, and Values Statement for the Community Services Department.

The Commission reviewed and approved the design concepts and restoration project for the Wilson Park Pond, and approved a lease agreement to T-Mobile for a cellular site at Sea Aire Golf Course. They also accepted a concession agreement for the lease and operation of the Wilson Park Batting Cages.

The Commissioners approved the 2008-09 grant funding for 20 social services agencies as recommended by the *Grants Committee*. The Commission also approved the *Financial and Narrative Statements for the 2008 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Service Agencies* and forwarded the recommendation to City Council for final approval.

Additional reports reviewed and accepted by the Commission included the *2007-08 Annual Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission*, *Torrance Farmers' Market Annual Report*, the *Madrona Marsh Preserve 2008 Annual Report*, the *Park Rangers Annual Report*, and the *Living Dedication Tree Program 2008 Annual Report*.

The Commission received and made recommendations to the City Council for acceptance of donations from the Torrance Dog Obedience Club, South Bay Korean Soccer Club, and Tree Dedications, specifically a tree planting dedication at El Prado Park in honor of Commissioner Keri's late husband. They also supported and approved the proposal from Southern California Live Steamers to add an additional run day at Wilson Park's "mini" train compound on the third Saturday of each month.

The Commissioners participated in the celebration of the *Annual Turkey Trot Race on Thanksgiving Day 5K Fun Run*, with Chairman Howard Orpe serving as the official starter for this years 30th Anniversary run.

Various Commissioners attended events such as the Chevron Transfer of Property Ceremony, the Rose Float Association Volunteer Recognition Dinner, the 50th Annual Aquacade, the ATTIC's 10th Anniversary Pancake Breakfast, 22nd Annual Spring Boutique, Special Olympics Regional Meets and Awards Banquet, 17th Annual Fall Fall Bazaar, Halloween Carnival, Sister City events, Farmers' Markets 10th Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, Harvest Health Fair, Historical Society's "Rock Around the Block," Movies and Concerts in the Park, the Armed Forces Day Parade, and the 29th Annual Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration. In addition, a Commissioner participated on the Youth Council Selection Committee and the Beat the Odds Selection Scholarship Selection Committee, also attending the Beat the Odds Awards Dinner, and many other programs throughout the community. Finally, Commissioners supported the arts through attendance at the *Excellence in Arts Awards*, *Arts Alive*, the *Cultural Arts Center Foundation Gala*, 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 Michael Ning as Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Commission for 2009-2010, and elected Commissioner Tom Hazell as Vice-Chairperson.

The Commission expressed their condolences for the family of former Council member Gene Drevno who passed away in September, and unanimously agreed that she will be gravely missed by all who knew her.

Commissioner McGee's term expired on January 15, 2009 and was honored at a retirement party where he expressed his appreciation to staff and Commissioners. The Commission approved a Resolution expressing appreciation to John McGee for 18 years of dedicated service to the people of Torrance and bid him a fond farewell.

Richard Brunette was introduced to the Commissioners and was welcomed as the new Recreation Services Manager, as well as Mike Simoneau, the new Park Services Supervisor to replace Dan Urrere who retired.

Parks Services Manager Mike Wilson announced and retired in June 2009 after 37 years of service to the City. The Commissioners approved and presented a retirement resolution to him, expressed their appreciation and gratitude to him for his Division's accomplishments, and bid him a fond farewell at a Commission meeting and his retirement party.

The Commission planned the 52nd *Annual Parks and Recreation Awards Dinner* to be held on July 15, 2009 with the theme of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame", and selected Janet Payne as the Distinguished Individual Awardee; the Farmer Brothers Company and AARP Tax Aid Program as the Distinguished Organization Awardees; and both Mike Wilson and Andrew Orpe as Distinguished Staff Awardees. Also at the dinner, Chairperson Howard Orpe will pass on the gavel and Chairmanship duties for the 2009-10 year to Commissioner Michael Ning. Serving as the Vice-Chairperson will be Commissioner Tom Hazell.

Respectfully submitted,



Howard Orpe, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Commission

CONCUR:



John Jones, Director
Community Services Department

Attachment: A. Parks & Recreation Commission Action Items FY 08-09

City of Torrance
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ACTION ITEMS FOR FY 2008-09

ACTION ITEMS	Meeting Dates
1. Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report to City Council	Aug. 13, 2008
2. Appointment of Standing Parks and Recreation Commission Committee Members	Aug. 13, 2008
3. Approval of a Proposal from the Southern California Live Steamers	Sept. 10, 2008
4. Approve Rotational Plan for Parks and Recreation Commission "Grants Committee" members	Sept. 10, 2008
5. Accept & File New Vision, Mission, & Values Statement for the Community Services Department	Oct. 8, 2008
6. Approval of an RFP for the Wilson Skate Park Design Consultants	Nov. 12, 2008
7. Approval of 2008-09 Grant Funding for Non-Profit Social Services Agencies	Dec. 10, 2008
8. Accept Concession Agreement for the Lease & Operation of the Wilson Park Batting Cages	Dec. 10, 2008
9. Accept South Bay Korean Soccer Club Donation	Jan. 14, 2009
10. Approval of Amendments to Lease Agreements with Various Little Leagues	Jan. 14, 2009
11. Review Presentation by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) South Bay to Prohibit Smoking on City Parks	Jan. 14, 2009
12. Review and Research Additional Design Concepts for the Wilson Park Pond	Feb 11, 2009
13. Accept Madrona Marsh 2008 Annual Report	Feb 11, 2009
14. Review and Accept Annual Report of Living Tree Dedication Program	Feb 11, 2009
15. Revision of Living Tree Dedication Program	Feb 11, 2009
16. Appoint Standing Committee Assignments for 2009	Feb 11, 2009
17. Approve a Retirement Resolution for Commissioner John McGee	Feb 11, 2009
18. Approve Lease to T-Mobile a Cellular Site at Sea Aire Golf Course	March 11, 2009
10. Review Proposal for the Wilson Park Pond Restoration Project	April 8, 2009

19. Approval of 2008 Financial & Narrative Reports for Non-Profit Social Service Agency Grants and Recommendation to Council for Unspent Grant Funds	May 13, 2009
20. Parks and Recreation Commission Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations and Elections	May 13, 2009
21. Participation on Selection Committee of 2009-10 Torrance Youth Council Members	May 13, 2009
22. Accept [several different] Dog Obedience Club Donations and a Proposed Expenditure	Sept. 10 & Oct. 8, 2008 & May 13, 2009
23. Approval of Mike Wilson's Retirement Resolution	May 13, 2009
24. 2009 Parks & Recreation Commission Awards Banquet ("Take Me Out to the Ball Game")	May 13, 2009
25. Accept July is Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation	June 10, 2009