

Council Meeting of  
September 14, 2010

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 2009-2010**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Community Services Director that the City Council accept and file the Parks and Recreation Commission Annual Report for July 2009 through June 2010.

**BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**

The Annual Report for July 2009 through June 2010 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 11, 2010, and moved to request that it be accepted by the City Council.

Respectfully submitted,

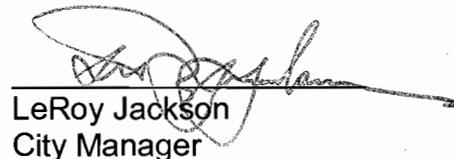


Keri Gilbert, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission



John Jones  
Community Services Director

Noted:



LeRoy Jackson  
City Manager

Attachment A: 2009-2010 Annual Report



**City of Torrance**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

# ANNUAL REPORT

for July 2009 to June 2010

**Chairperson:** Michael Ning

**Vice-Chairperson:** Tom Hazell

**Commissioners:**

William Cook      Stephen Robbins

Keri Gilbert      Hazel Taniguchi

Howard Orpe

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

**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 2009-2010 Operating Budget.

**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 approval of the 2009 Financial and Narrative Statements for Non-Profit Social Services Agencies and approval to roll unused funds from the 2009 Grant Program to the 2011 Grant Program, Pueblo Park Renovation Project, and approval of name finalists for the Lomita Corridor Park Project.

**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.

Commissioners and staff welcomed newly-appointed Commissioners Todd Hays and Dean Mayeda.

The Commission reviewed and approved the new lease agreements as presented for use of City-owned properties as youth baseball fields with Torrance Little League, Riviera Little League, Torrance American Baseball League, and West Torrance Little League, for five-year terms, approved the design concept and project cost for the Greenwood Park Playground Equipment Project, approval of an amendment to the original Recreation Agreement between the City of Torrance and Torrance Unified School District, the design concepts and restoration project for the Wilson Park Pond, the Pueblo Park Renovation Project, and the name finalists for the Lomita Corridor Park Project.

The Commissioners approved the 2009-10 grant funding for 20 social services agencies as recommended by the *Grants Committee*. The Commission also approved the *Financial and Narrative Statements for the 2009 Grant Program for Non-Profit Social Service Agencies* and to roll unused funds to the 2011 Grant program, and forwarded the recommendation to City Council for final approval.

Additional reports reviewed and accepted by the Commission included the 2008-09 *Annual Report of the Parks and Recreation Commission*, *Torrance Farmers' Market Annual Report*, the *Madrona Marsh Preserve 2009 Annual Report*, the *Park Rangers Annual Report*, and the *Living Dedication Tree Program 2009 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. Additionally, the Commission supported the Southern California Live Steamers for working with preschools to have special run days at Wilson Park's "mini" train compound.

The Commissioners participated in the celebration of the *Annual Turkey Trot Race on Thanksgiving Day 5K Fun Run*, with Commissioner Tom Hazell serving as the official starter for this year's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary run.

Various Commissioners attended events such as the Rose Float Association Volunteer Recognition Dinner, the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Aquacade, the ATTIC's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pancake Breakfast, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Boutique, Special Olympics Regional Meets and Awards Banquet, 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Bazaar, Halloween Carnival, Farmers' Markets 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner, Harvest Health Fair, Movies and Concerts in the Park, the Armed Forces Day Parade, the 2010 Annual Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, the naming ceremony of the Dee Hardison Sports Center at Wilson Park, and the Ad Hoc Council Committee for Commission Review. 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 Commissioners unanimously agreed to support the proposal to prohibit smoking at any parks within the City of Torrance.

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

Commissioners William Cook and Howard Orpe's terms expired on January 15, 2010 and were honored at a retirement party where they both expressed their appreciation to staff and Commissioners. The Commission approved a Resolution expressing appreciation to William Cook for 8 years of dedicated service to the people of Torrance. Likewise, they approved a Resolution expressing their appreciation to Howard Orpe for ten years of helping provide vital services to the Community of Torrance, and bid them a fond farewell.

Due to work commitments, Vice Chair Tom Hazell tendered his resignation on April 20, 2010. His e-mail resignation was forwarded by the City Clerk to the City Council. Within twenty days of this vacancy, the City Clerk posted this unscheduled vacancy in the City Clerk's Public Notice Board and accepted applications thereafter.

Robert Carson was introduced to the Commissioners and was welcomed as the new Park Services Manager, as well as Kim Hornbeck, the new Park Services Supervisor to replace Danny Hylands who recently retired.

The Commission planned the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Parks and Recreation Awards Dinner to be held on July 12, 2010 with the theme of "**Backstage**", and selected Sandie Freeman and Corrina Michalak as Distinguished Individual Awardees; the Soka Gakkai International (SGI)-USA as the Distinguished Organization Awardee; and Veronica Minter as the Distinguished Staff Awardee. However, at the dinner, Chairperson Michael Ning will not pass on the gavel and Chairmanship duties for the year 2009-10. Although Commissioner Hazel Taniguchi was elected as Chairperson, *in absentia*, she declined the position due to a medical condition. Elected as the Vice-Chairperson is Commissioner Keri Gilbert. There will be another elections at the Commission meeting in July 2010.

Respectfully submitted,




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Michael Ning, Chairperson  
Parks and Recreation Commission

CONCUR:




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John Jones, Director  
Community Services Department