

## OTNA Meeting Minutes

### September 19, 2007

Co-President Todd Hays called the meeting to order at 7:33pm. After welcoming and inviting everyone to have Torrance Bakery cookies and brownies he asked if everyone received an opportunity ticket.

Todd then introduced Co-President Charles Payne and OTNA Officers who reported as follows:

- Ida Petruccelli, Vice President. She coordinates OTNA flyer delivery and invited members to participate.
- Trish Stewart, Treasurer reported (dues renewable in Jan.) bank balance and 8 new members.
- Paul McCabe, Secretary. Requested speakers at this meeting to speak loudly and identify themselves.
- Debbie Hays, Immediate Past President briefly discussed disaster preparedness safety flyer, free walking tour of Old Torrance 1:30-3:00 this Sunday and the Torrance Historical Society and City's new Design Guidelines publication.

Todd Hays – Further discussed the Disaster Preparedness Expo on September 29, 2007 (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.). To help residents of Torrance prepare for disasters, the City of Torrance Emergency Services Division invites the community to the City's Disaster Preparedness Expo on Saturday, September 29th, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The Expo is *free* and will be held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Complex located at 3300 Civic Center Drive.

Charles Payne provided a summary of the water trip he took with Todd Hays and others during the first weekend in September. They toured Diamond Valley Lake — a lifeline for Southern California in times of drought. The lake holds enough water to meet the area's emergency and drought needs for six months and is an important part of the Metropolitan Water District's plan to provide a reliable supply of water to the 18 million people in Southern California. Ozone use is increasingly being used to clean the water. Charles offered to e-mail anyone interested in water saving tips.

Charles then introduced this meeting's sponsor Ecotech Recycling, a neighborhood business that provides document destruction and paper shredding services to

commercial and residential customers to help prevent identity theft. Customers are invited to witness the document destruction at 1920 Del Amo Blvd.

Charles also summarized the September 2007 Neighborhood Clean-up Day. In response to Mayor Scotto's *Pay It Forward* challenge last year, the OTNA has hosted five successful clean-up days to rid our neighborhood of trash. Last Saturday, several OTNA members cleaned the tracks beneath the Southern Pacific Railroad Bridge on Torrance Blvd. from Western Avenue to Cabrillo.

Charles then discussed other local cleanup activities. On June 9, 2007 Ryan Omari organized a clean-up day to beautify the public parking lot next to Time Warner on Cravens Avenue in Old Torrance. He involved his Boy Scout troop, the OTNA, and the City. Ryan had a detailed outline of the jobs that needed to be done, he had the tools to make it happen and he even provided lunch for the 30+ workers. Because of Ryan's leadership, he and his team completed their project ahead of schedule. Ryan's goal is to earn his Eagle Scout badge. Charles then presented a certificate of appreciation to Ryan Omari and took a photo with Mayor Scotto.

Todd Hays then introduced the guest speaker — Mayor Frank Scotto who has now been in office for over one year and returns to our OTNA meeting for the second time. As a Torrance resident, local business owner, council member and Mayor, he knows what it takes to maintain Torrance as a *balanced city*. Mayor Scotto proceeded to provide a State of the City recap and discussed his efforts to maintain this balance. He discussed the need for residents to be better informed and that no projects larger than 10 units have been approved by the Council during the last 2 years. He stressed the need for smart growth. The General Plan (in 7 segments) is awaiting the completion of the strategic plan which has been started (he acknowledged committee member Todd Hays). Mayor Scotto indicated that during the past year the City has done a lot, including: New electronic City Council voting system and time clock for public speakers started last week; Commissioner training and certification valid for two years (85 City commissioners now); Car Max (used car) opened on Hawthorne; Medical / office / industrial on large empty lot in Lomita Blvd; Lexus dealership on Crenshaw near airport; maybe build flight museum at airport; may build a pool for competitions using public / private partnerships.

The Mayor confirmed that four seats will be open on the City Council in the June 2008 election and that the TUSD will likely have a bond to be voted upon probably in the range of \$280 million as well. He then discussed the City's efforts to be more environmental: Torrance became a Cool City in April 2006 by pledging to reduce carbon emissions by 7% by 2012—this will save money (Torrance wants to be green), reduce

water consumption, expand green waste pilot program and business recycling will start soon (he also discussed the new Mesquite dump which should be good for 100 years), water conservation critical, especially for landscaping which is the major use of residential water, major Torrance parks already use grey water as the City is the #1 user of water (after ExxonMobil) the City has its own wells though and plans for the Ethics committee (regulations for elected officials).

Compact Florescent bulbs were distributed to all attendees and Mayor Scotto announced the benefit of using the South Bay Energy Savings Center as a resource.

Mayor Scotto concluded his presentation with answering questions and was then presented with a box of Torrance Bakery Cookies as thanks. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.

Paul McCabe, Secretary