

MINUTES

Seaside Neighborhood Association General Meeting

March 15, 2017, 7:00 PM Meeting called to order by Kurt James

In Attendance

Seaside, Southwood, and Riviera Neighborhood Associations were present. Guest speaker Dr. Sally Hiyati, president, Torrance Refinery Action Alliance (TRAA) described the difference between Modified Hydrofluoric Acid (MHF) and Hydrofluoric Acid (HF). She spoke of the use of MHF at the Torrance refinery and the risks involved. The main concern is the HF Cloud that can travel 15 miles when it reaches its boiling point. MHF is an additive used to lower the boiling point of HF, and is not supposed to cloud but it does. It is toxic and burns skin. Only two refineries in California use MHF, Torrance and Wilmington, others use Sulfuric Acid as an alternative. Industry insiders exposed the dangers of MHF in 1998. The Torrance City Council Members will vote on a ban of MHF on April 1, 2017 and citizens need to attend the meeting to be heard. Jim Gilliam, fire chief, Torrance Refinery, spoke on the use of MHF, and the mitigations that are currently in place at the refinery in case of a disaster.

For a copy of Dr. Hiyati's presentation and what you can do to help:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0sm-0cQ1vDqeEVLSDhjODMfT00/view>

TRAA website: <https://safetorrancerefinery.wordpress.com>

TRAA Facebook Page: <http://www.facebook.com/BanMHF/>

SNA board members, Kurt James, Pam Combar, Jenna Christensen, Pam Jensen, Melissa Wright and Linda Conkey were introduced. Absent from meeting was Tricia Blanco. Speakers were introduced by Kurt James. Special Guests included former Torrance City Councilman, Tom Brewer and former-Mayor of Torrance, Frank Scotto.

Budget

A budget report was presented by Pam Combar, showing a balance of \$2006.00. Most the money will be used for scholarships for the Seaside student's scholarships to be presented in June.

Committee Reports

Committee Chairs

- **President** – Kurt thanked the golf course for painting the room and putting new lighting in for meetings. He thanked the presidents of the other Neighborhood Associations for attending. A challenging game of basketball followed, with a member from each neighborhood representing their association. Winners received a tin of tennis balls, and a backgammon/ chess game.
- **Membership** – Melissa discussed the ongoing membership drive for both businesses and homeowners. We have 27 paid members, including four businesses. Tricia and Linda hand delivered membership invitations to all business location in Seaside (brick and mortar). New members include; Ace Hardware, Dr. Carl Dispenziere, DDS., CeeJay's the Flower Place, The Hebson Agency, Pam Jensen, Realtor, Jenna Christensen, Realtor, Jensen Relocation.

- Social – Jenna thanked and reported that volunteers have logged 418 hours cleaning Seaside Heroes Park. Students can receive volunteer hours for their service. The park is under new management and the new leader is also responsible for Madrona Marsh. The change should help with keeping the park healthy. You can now Adopt-A-Park, which means your family is responsible only for servicing a certain part of Heroes park. Name signs will be placed in your area. Servicing the park means “weeding.”
- Scholarships – Linda announced we now have 14 Seaside student applications. Their parents must be SNA members to be eligible to receive a scholarship. We have four new sponsors, and all sponsorships are due by April 30th. The scholarship committee has three judges, and the students will be selected by the end of March. Our celebration for the winners will be at our next general meeting on June 7, 2017 at SeaAire Golf Course.

Announcements

Marc Danziger, President Southwood Neighborhood Association, discussed the importance of resident participation in the development of the city, particularly the Planning and Zoning Committees at the City Council Meetings. Unfortunately, the State of California has control, not the city.

Currently, there is a proposal to change Butcher Hill (Hawthorne and Rolling Hills Rd) zoning from agriculture to residential. A developer is proposing a 248-unit complex on the upper part of the site. Torrance zoning uses the gross acreage of a parcel of land as a measurement of how many units/people it can build on a parcel. Most cities use buildable acreage; thus, Butcher Hill would have the majority of the people/building on the top of the hill. This would make the area a level F traffic service (the worst)

There are also talks regarding the residential development of areas on the former Sun Cal site east of Del Amo, and the parking lot area behind the Financial Building on Hawthorne (near the Hilton). Again, more density and traffic.

He has a concern about the closure of the Santa Monica Airport. The FAA had legal control of the airport, the city sued the FAA, and the FAA gave the City of Santa Monica the airport. There were 2000 jets per day at SMA and Marc’s fear is the impact it could have at the Torrance Airport. If jet owners begin to use the Torrance Airport to store their aircraft and fuel their jets, the traffic in this area, not to mention the noise could become like Santa Monica.

Former Mayor Scotto said there are two sides to every story. The MHF is not good, however, we should be more concerned about the number of trucks delivering HF in the city every day. An easy fix for the refinery MHF is to place it underground in a sealed cement container. There are 14 refineries in California and there are always two offline. When the Torrance Refinery goes down, and it is not scheduled, that’s when gas prices go up. California State mandates drivers use oxygenated fuel, which costs more. Gasoline is sold by perception, not cost. If there is one less refinery, expect gas to go to \$5-7 a gallon. That is the price point the State wants it. Regarding the Torrance Airport, there is not a place at the TA to refuel jets, nor or the hangars large enough to store the big jets.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Next Meeting

6/7/2017 7:00 PM, SeaAir Golf Course

Scholarships will be presented and refreshments served at the June meeting.