

**Seaside Neighborhood Association  
Meeting Minutes  
November 17, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Tricia Blanco..... President  
Jenna Christensen..... 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Membership  
Pam Jensen..... 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Social Media  
Melissa Wright..... *Absent*  
Perry Shields..... Secretary

**LOCATION: Sea Aire Golf Course**

**7:00pm - Tricia opened meeting**

- Tricia welcomes residents to the first in-person meeting in almost two years
- Explains structure of meeting into four parts – Association business; Sheila Poisson Torrance City Director of Finance; review of SNA committees and raffle; and election of 2022 SNA Board of Directors.
- Tricia notes the Code of Conduct posted on the wall
- Tricia presents Shields with a parting gift for his four years of service on the SNA Board
- Tricia introduces Jenna Christensen

**Jenna Christensen**

- Jenna announces that SNA has about 60 members, plus 13 Business Partners
- About twelve members included donations above the \$25.00, which go toward our two Seaside scholarships, usually \$3,000 (\$1,500 each)
- In order to vote for the Board, one must be a Seaside member, and can join tonight
- SNA is employing a fixed-date membership, meaning from January 1-December 31. Anyone joining now gets the remainder of 2021 included.
- We need members email addresses in order to send newsletters and news flashes.

**Perry Shields – Treasurer's Report**

- Beginning balance, 9/1/2021: \$2,582.49
- Deposits: \$1,049.11
- Receipts: \$393.09
- Ending balance, 11/13/2021: \$3,238.51
- Explained voting system. Candidate personal statements have been posted for the past two weeks on the SNA website ([www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org](http://www.seasideneighborhoodassociation.org)), and paper copies are available now.
- Perry called on current Board members to rise as they were named – Tricia Blanco, President; Jenna Christensen, VP of Membership; Pam Jensen, VP of Social Media and Business Partners; and Lisa Babros, candidate for Secretary
- New Board position, VP of Community Development, John Blanco, was asked to rise as well
- Perry asked if anyone else present would like to state a desire to run for a Board position, but none volunteered.
- Voting will happen at the end of the meeting

**7:10pm - Guest Speakers, Sheila Poisson, City Director of Finance, and Craig Bilezerian, director of Public Works for the City of Torrance**

- Pam introduces speaker
- Sheila distributes hard copies of her Powerpoint presentation to attendees
- Summation:
  - As the demand for for high quality City services continues to increase, so does the cost – currently exceeding Torrance's available revenue
  - The pandemic and continued unfunded state mandates have placed a heavy burden on the city, and emergency reserves have been depleted
  - One-time federal COVID relief has helped, but will soon expire, leaving Torrance vulnerable to an emergency or unforeseen major expense
  - Torrance has only 4.7% in available ongoing emergency reserves
  - 20% is the recommended reserve to be prepared for emergencies
  - Torrance has \$0 in reserve for potential litigation
  - The city must make 5% cuts across all departments
  - If additional revenue can be secured, the most devastating cuts impacting the most essential city services can be avoided
  - Given that Fire and Police departments make up 65% of the City's General Fund budget, cuts to public safety cannot be avoided
    - What this means for police – current criminal activity is prioritized, investigations are not
    - What this means for fire – Slower 911 response, fewer on-duty firefighters/paramedics
  - Public Works cuts – Fewer repairs to sidewalks and curbs, less maintenance of local parks
  - Library hours would be cut
  - Community programs for the Arts, seniors, youth sports, etc., could be cut
  - A Sales Tax ballot measure is proposed to help fund the City's needs
  - The sales tax would be 0.75%, which would cap the city out at 10.25%
  - A 0.75% local sales tax would provide \$27 million in new revenue annually, allowing the City to avoid the most damaging budget cuts
  - Currently, more than 80% of our sales tax gets taken by the State and County and Torrance keeps less than 20% of the sales tax generated in our city
  - Torrance is one of the few cities in L.A. County that does not receive locally controlled funding from a voter-approved sales tax
  - A locally controlled sales tax would align Torrance with cities of similar size (between roughly 100K-200K in population)
  - A 0.75% sales tax increase would add 75 cents to a \$100 purchase, \$7.50 to a \$1,000 purchase
  - Sales tax is paid not just by residents but also those who work and shop in Torrance
  - A voter-approved sales tax would include fiscal accountability protections including:
    - Required annual disclosure of public spending
    - Mandatory annual audits
    - Independent citizens' oversight
  - Residents can voice their opinions on what services are most important to them at [www.torranceCA.gov/EssentialServices](http://www.torranceCA.gov/EssentialServices)
- Resident Mario Obejas presents spreadsheets on the city's expenditures for Fire personnel

- (shared with Ms. Poisson beforehand)
- Noted that in similar cities (Inglewood, Pomona), fire services are contracted to L.A. County, resulting in financial savings
- Questioned the high salary rates for Fire Captains in Torrance (six positions)
- Ms. Poisson explained that due to pensions, for example, savings may not materialize as expected, at least not immediately
- Questions from attendees

**8:10pm Pam Jensen**

- Pam directs raffle. Business cards under three chairs for *Seaside Succulents South Bay* receive a decorated gourd
- Shared SNA website
- Holiday Lights flyer noted, which residents may have received on their doorsteps

**8:20 Jenna Christensen**

- Shared photos of Seaside Heroes Park beautification efforts

**8:25 Tricia Blanco**

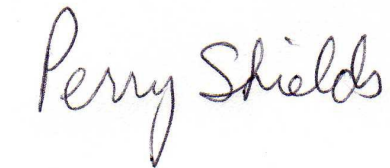
- Changes in SNA Bylaws
- City elections in June
- Initiative to restore local control
- Hillside Overlay ordinance

**8:30 Perry Shields directs voting**

- Shields presents nominated slate of officers
  - Tricia Blanco, President
  - Jenna Christensen, VP of Membership
  - Pam Jensen, VP of Social Media and Business Partners
  - Melissa Wright, Treasurer (absent)
  - Lisa Babros, Secretary
  - New Board position, VP of Community Development, John Blanco
  - Perry calls names, all accept, no objections or additional nominees
  - New Board is accepted

**Meeting adjourned at 8:36pm**

**These minutes are correct to the best of my knowledge.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Perry Shields".

Perry Shields  
Secretary