

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Torrance, California,  
October 5, 1925.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance was called to order by Trustee Torrence at 7:00 p.m. October 5, 1925; there being no quorum present, Trustee Torrence adjourned the meeting for 30 minutes, until 7:30 p.m.

At 7:30 p.m., President Deininger called a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance to order, same being held in the Council Chambers at Torrance, California, October 5, 1925. The following Trustees were present: Fitzhugh, Torrence and Deininger. Absent: Smith and Brooks.

The minutes of the regular meeting of September 21, 1925, were read and approved as read.

-----  
A letter from the City Planning Commission was read, requesting that the matter of removal of trees should be referred to the Planning Commission to facilitate the carrying out of a system of planting as advised by the expert employed by the Commission. In this connection, President Deininger mentioned the particular instance of the tree requested removed by Mr. Gertch some time ago and which had been long delayed. It was the sense of the Board that Mr. Gertch be allowed to remove the tree referred to under the conditions previously stipulated which were that Mr. Gertch plant another tree under the direction of the Street Superintendent.

-----  
It was moved by Trustee Fitzhugh that the Planning Commission be advised that the Board desired to keep the responsibility for the removal of trees in the Board of Trustees, except in doubtful cases in which the Board would be glad to consult with the Planning Commission. The motion of Trustee Fitzhugh was seconded by Trustee Torrence and unanimously carried after some discussion in which it was pointed out that the delay caused by the suggested method would be intolerable.

-----  
A letter from the Chamber of Commerce recommending remedial action in the matter of the proposed addition to the Torrance Laundry building; with the statement that the 90-day removal clause included in the temporary permit previously authorized precluded the proper financing of the proposed building operation.

Moved by Torrence that this letter be laid over and action deferred until the matter comes up again. There was no second but by consent of trustees present the matter was laid on the table for future action. A letter from Trustee Brooks suggesting the re-zoning of the property affected so as to allow a corrugated iron building to be erected as requested, was then read.

-----  
The Clerk read a letter from the Torrance Volunteer Fire Dept. asking permission for temporary structure to be erected on Block 8, Torrance Tract, to be used in a public demonstration during "Fire Prevention Week" by the Fire Dept. After some discussion, it was moved by Trustee Fitzhugh that the permit be authorized; seconded by Trustee Torrence and carried unanimously.

-----  
Under oral communications, the President recognized Mr. Geo. A. Proctor who said in part: "I wish to pay you a few compliments. I believe you are not often handed compliments. Some time ago you were asked to do something about the East Road and I wish to thank you for the way it has been fixed up. Just the other day a lady passing through Torrance stopped me and asked 'What town is this?' and I said Torrance. She replied, 'It is

certainly a beautiful, clean city. If we had had a Board of Trustees in our town like you must have here we would not have so much agitation and trouble in Venice as we have had in the past'. Now I wish to make a request. I wish it were possible to have a "Clean-up Week". The streets are clean, but the alleys and vacant lots are in a deplorable condition".

After considerable discussion of methods and means of meeting the expense of removing weeds and rubbish from vacant lots, it was decided to set aside the 12th and 13th of October as special "clean-up" days for the purpose of collecting rubbish, papers and weeds by owners of property who reside here. The city trucks to remove the rubbish placed in the alleys. The question of destruction of the large crop of Russian Thistles was discussed and the Superintendent of Streets was directed to see what could be done, as it was obvious that immediate action should be taken before the weeds should mature and produce a worse menace the coming season.

The Clerk then read a communication from W. Harold Kingsley in which he requested the acceptance of his resignation as a member of the City Planning Commission. On motion by Trustee Fitzhugh, seconded by Trustee Torrence, and carried unanimously, the resignation was laid over for future consideration.

The Secretary of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Carl Hyde, spoke briefly in regard to the advisability of taking some appropriate action to have abandoned oil rigs declared a nuisance. He stated that there were a number of oil rigs standing in a dilapidated condition and the wells had been abandoned, and asked that an ordinance be drafted declaring such structures a nuisance. The matter was, by mutual consent, referred to the Ordinance committee, the City Engineer and City Attorney.

Street Superintendent Gascoigne presented a request of Mr. Curtis who is building a residence on Post Avenue, that he be allowed to remove a pepper tree which interferes with a proposed driveway to his garage. The matter was, by mutual consent, referred to the Street Committee.

Under "reports of Standing Committees" Trustee Torrence, of the Ordinance committee presented:

ORDINANCE NO. 123  
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING CONDUCT OF  
BOWLING ALLEYS

Moved by Trustee Torrence that Ordinance No. 123 be adopted for its final reading; seconded by Trustee Fitzhugh and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Torrence, Deininger.  
NOES; Trustees: None.  
ABSENT; Trustees: Brooks, Smith.

Trustee Torrence introduced:

ORDINANCE NO. 124  
RE-ZONING CERTAIN PROPERTY IN BLOCKS  
3, 4 AND 18

Trustee Torrence read:

RESOLUTION NO. 254  
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE RELATIVE TO A RECENT COURT DECISION THAT CERTAIN FINES COLLECTED BY THE RECORDER'S COURTS IN CITIES OF THE SIXTH CLASS ARE PAYABLE TO THE COUNTY IN WHICH SUCH CITIES ARE LOCATED

Trustee Fitzhugh moved the adoption of Resolution No. 254; seconded by Torrence and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Torrence, Deininger.  
NOES; Trustees: None.  
ABSENT; Trustees: Brooks, Smith.

The matter of checking the running at large of dogs without licenses which had been continued from a previous meeting, was referred to the Ordinance committee. It was found that the matter was covered by the present Ordinance.

In the matter of the quit-claim deed from the Dominguez Land Co., Mr. Torrance reported that he had not yet consulted with the Engineer.

The special committee previously appointed to consider the advisability of fixing limits within which it should be unlawful to burn rubbish, reported through Trustee Torrance, requested more time as they had been unable to convene owing to absences on vacations and for other reasons. This committee was given more time.

Trustee Fitzhugh reported for the Finance committee, saying that the Park Dept. had exceeded its allotment for two months, but it was explained that, by reason of special work authorized by the Board on the Aviation Field, Ball Park and the High School Park, these items brought the high rate for the past few months.

Engineer Jessup presented an analysis of costs of different types of paving, to guide the Board in arriving at a decision as to what type should be selected for the territory between Madrid and Cedar, proposed to be improved in the near future.

Building Inspector Hobson reported that he had notified two owners of illegal structures that had recently been built on Amapola Avenue that the buildings would have to be removed in accordance with the building ordinance. He also mentioned the activity of the Export Refining Company in abating the noise nuisance which had been frequently complained of.

Trustee Torrance made inquiry as to the status of the garage which had been built without a permit and on which permits for gas, electricity and plumbing had been ordered withheld. The building inspector advised that he had been authorized temporarily by three members of the Board to allow construction to proceed, to which action exception was taken by Trustee Torrance but on explanation by Trustee Fitzhugh that it seemed advisable to take this action which was only intended to be temporary until the Board should meet, the matter was adjusted by a formal motion by Trustee Fitzhugh, seconded by Trustee Torrance that the former action of the Board denying permits to Mr. Darling on his garage building be rescinded, and unanimously carried.

The matter of obtaining special contracts on gasoline, mentioned by President Deininger, was informally referred to the City Attorney for advice.

President Deininger brought up the matter of the improvement of El Prado parks, suggesting that the planting was in need of changes in accordance with suggestions of Mr. Brunton to the Planning Commission recently. The expert adviser would substitute Blackwood trees for the assorted shrubbery now in the parks mentioned. He would have constructed sidewalks on either side of the ling parks with Blackwood trees staggered on each side thereof and remove the Bottlebrush and Blue Palms from the central portion, producing an open vista through both parks. After considerable discussion it seemed to be the consensus of opinion that the trees should be planted so as to obtain a good size by the time sidewalks are constructed.

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that all bills, properly audited, be paid; seconded by Trustee Torrance and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Torrance, Deininger.  
NOES; Trustees: None. ABSENT; Trustees: Brooks, Smith.

On motion by Trustee Fitzhugh, seconded by Trustee Torrance and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

*A. H. Barrett*  
City Clerk of the City of Torrance.

Approved:

*R. H. Deininger*  
President of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance.