

**MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR
MEETING OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance City Council convened in an adjourned regular session at 7:08 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2008 in the City Council Chambers at Torrance City Hall.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilmembers Barnett, Brewer, Drevno, Nowatka, Sutherland, Witkowsky, and Mayor Scotto.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Manager Jackson, City Attorney Fellows, City Clerk Herbers, and other staff representatives.

2. FLAG SALUTE/INVOCATION

The flag salute was led by Deputy City Attorney Sutherland.

Councilmember Witkowsky gave the non-sectarian invocation.

3. REPORT OF CITY CLERK ON POSTING OF THE AGENDA / MOTION TO WAIVE FURTHER READING

City Clerk Herbers reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard on Thursday, April 10, 2008.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved that after the City Clerk has read aloud the number and title to any resolution or ordinance on the meeting agenda, the further reading thereof shall be waived, reserving and guaranteeing to each Councilmember the right to demand the reading of any such resolution or ordinance in regular order. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

4. WITHDRAWN OR DEFERRED ITEMS – None.

5. COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Sutherland announced that the Community Planning and Design Committee would meet on Wednesday, April 16, at 4:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Assembly Room to discuss the Zamperini Way entry sign.

Councilmember Nowatka announced that the City Council Ad Hoc Ethics Committee had met earlier and the next meeting would be held on April 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Assembly Room.

City Clerk Herbers announced that Candidate Forums would be held on Wednesday, April 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Toyota Meeting Hall, hosted by the Torrance League of Women Voters, American Association of University Women, and Torrance Council of PTAs; and on Wednesday, April 23, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bartlett Center, hosted by Old Torrance Neighborhood Association.

City Clerk Herbers invited the public to view Torrance Artist Guild member Nicole Peyer's oil paintings of the tropics on display in the City Clerk's office for the month of April.

6. COMMUNITY MATTERS

6A. PROCLAMATION RE "NATIONAL ANIMAL CONTROL WEEK"

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring the week of April 13 through April 19, 2008 as "National Animal Control Appreciation Week" in the City of Torrance to Pat Wren, Joe D'Amico and Shanyn Behn from the Animal Control Division of the Torrance Police Department.

6B. PROCLAMATION RE "GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAYS"

Mayor Scotto presented a proclamation declaring April 25 through April 27, 2008 as "Global Youth Service Days" in the City of Torrance to Torrance Youth Council Liaison Debbie Reed and Youth Council members: Naghmeh Ghafourian, Tanya Sepehrnia, Dustin Tygret, Shreyasi Ghosh, and Brad Moylan.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

7A. Joni Gang, Friends of Torrance Animals, reported that the organization has funding available to expand their adopt-a-classroom program, which provides humane education materials to classrooms at no charge, and invited teachers who are interested in participating in the program to visit their website www.FriendsofTorranceAnimals.org.

7B. Debbie Hays, Torrance Historical Society, invited the public to attend a presentation on the book "Ridge Route, the Road that United California," on Sunday, April 20, at 2:00 p.m. at the museum located at 1345 Post Avenue featuring the author Harrison Scott.

7C. Pat Furey, Torrance Education Foundation, invited everyone to purchase raffle tickets for a Toyota Prius to benefit Torrance schools, with the drawing to take place at the Torrance Education Foundation Gala on May 10 at the Torrance Marriott. He noted that \$10 of the \$20 ticket price goes directly to the school selling the ticket.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

8A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **City Clerk** that City Council approve the City Council minutes of February 26 and March 4, 2008.

8B. PURCHASE AGREEMENT RE SPRINKLER PARTS/ IRRIGATION SUPPLIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** that the City Council authorize renewal of a purchasing agreement with Aqua-Flo Supply of Torrance, CA, in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 including sales tax and applicable fees, to furnish sprinkler parts and PVC irrigation supplies on an as needed basis. The subject cooperative purchasing agreement with the County of Los Angeles (#42863) will be effective April 28, 2008 through April 27, 2009.

8C. PURCHASE AGREEMENT RE LUBRICATING OILS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **General Services Director** and **Transit Director** that City Council authorize renewal of a purchasing agreement with G.P. Resources, Inc., dba General Petroleum of Long Beach, CA (Ref: City of Norwalk #PA00506) to furnish lubricating oils on an as needed basis for a period of one (1) year, effective April 20, 2008 through April 19, 2009, in an amount not to exceed \$93,000 including sales tax and applicable fees.

8D. LEASE WITH IKON FOR PHOTOCOPIERS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Police Chief** that City Council authorize a 60-month lease, for an amount not to exceed \$32,000 per year, to IKON Office Solutions, Inc. of Los Angeles, CA, for four photocopiers.

8E. CONTRACT WITH TORRANCE MARRIOTT FOR ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Police Chief** that City Council authorize a contract with the Torrance Marriott to provide rooms and banquet services for the Armed Forces Day Celebration, for a total expenditure not to exceed \$30,000.

MOTION: Councilmember Nowatka moved for the approval of Consent Calendar Items 8A through 8E. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

9. COMMUNITY SERVICES

9A. PROPOSITION A FUNDING RE WILSON PARK PHASE II PROJECT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Services Director** that City Council adopt a Resolution authorizing transfer of Proposition A funds from completed projects and modify the Charles Wilson Park Phase II project to include the Wilson Park Maintenance Building (FEAP 340). Expenditure: \$224,571.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-48

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REQUESTING THAT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT TRANSFER RESIDUAL FUNDS FROM COMPLETED PROJECTS AND MODIFY THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION FOR CHARLES H. WILSON PARK PHASE II PROJECT

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-48. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

10. PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

10A. CONTRACT REVISIONS RE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR 2740 LOMITA BOULEVARD

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council adopt a Resolution authorizing revisions to the contract with Gruen Associates (C2008-051) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Rockefeller Business Park project at a cost of \$168,480 to be paid by the applicant. EAS07-00003, CUP07-00016, TTM067341: Rock-Lomita LLC.

Planning Manager Lodan noted that the revisions were requested by the firm preparing the Environmental Impact Report and confirmed that the entire cost of the EIR will be paid by the applicant.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-49

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND GRUEN ASSOCIATES FOR PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE ROCKEFELLER BUSINESS PARK PROJECT LOCATED AT 2740 LOMITA BOULEVARD

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-49. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

12A. SOUTH BAY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FUNDING FOR STAFF TO ASSIST WITH BASELINE EMISSIONS INVENTORIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** that City Council:

- 1) Authorize the City Delegate to South Bay Council of Governments (SBCOG) to vote in favor of the proposal for a short-term staff person to assist in baseline emissions inventories; and
- 2) Appropriate \$7,000 from the General Fund Reserve for program contingencies.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported that compiling baseline emissions inventories is necessary for the "Cool Cities" protocol and to comply with future requirements of AB32.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Nowatka and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12B. RUBBERIZED ASPHALT CONCRETE USE GRANT PROGRAM

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council:

- 1) Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Mayor or his designee, the Public Works Director or City Engineer, to submit to the California Integrated Waste Management Board an application for the Rubberized Asphalt Concrete ("RAC") Use Grant Program requesting \$75,575 for use of RAC for the Torrance Boulevard Rehabilitation (Sartori Avenue to west City limit), T-43/44; and
- 2) Authorize, upon approval of the grant, the appropriation of grant funds in an amount up to \$75,575 to the Torrance Boulevard Rehabilitation (Sartori Avenue to west City limit), T-43/44.

Public Works Director Beste reported that the grant will bridge the gap between the cost of repaving with regular asphalt and Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC), which is more durable and makes for a quieter ride.

Councilmember Witkowsky requested that staff explore the possibility of using RAC when repaving heavily traveled residential streets to reduce traffic noise for nearby residents.

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-50

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AUTHORIZING THE SUBMITTAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE
RUBBERIZED ASPHALT CONCRETE (RAC) USE GRANT PROGRAM

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-50. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12C. OVERSIZED VEHICLE AND TRAILER ORDINANCE STATUS REPORT

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** and the **Police Chief** that City Council receive and file the status report on the Oversized Vehicle and Trailer Ordinance.

Transportation Planning Manager Semaan provided a status report on the Oversized Vehicle and Trailer Ordinance adopted in January 2007. He noted that residents have suggested that there be an exemption for work-related oversized vehicles; relief from parking restrictions on holidays and weekends when residents are more likely to travel or host guests; and provisions made for temporary parking on public streets while conducting business, shopping, or dining at establishments where private parking lots cannot accommodate oversized vehicles. He advised that staff is working on providing an automated system that will allow the purchase and activation of parking permits on-line.

Councilmember Brewer related his belief that some of the suggestions from the public merited further consideration and asked about the possibility of forwarding them to the Traffic Commission for review.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted that these issues were discussed at public meetings before the OV Ordinance was enacted and indicated that she was not in favor of amending it because she felt it would only make it less effective.

Mayor Scotto stated that he was very pleased with the ordinance, noting that other cities have followed Torrance's lead and enacted similar ordinances.

Charles L. Deemer, resident, requested clarification regarding enforcement of the OV Ordinance, which was provided by Police Chief Neu.

12D. GRANT FUNDING FOR FLUORIDATION TREATMENT FACILITIES

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Public Works Director** that City Council adopt a Resolution authorizing the Public Works Director to submit a grant application to the First 5 LA organization for funding the installation of fluoridation treatment facilities at the local groundwater supply sources to provide a consistent and uniform level of fluoride throughout the municipal water system.

Public Works Director Beste reported that the fluoridation treatment facilities for Torrance Municipal Water's two groundwater supply sources are necessary for the City to comply with State law.

Charles L. Deemer, resident, voiced objections to the fluoridation of the City's water supply, maintaining that it was detrimental to the health of babies and elderly residents.

Public Works Director Beste explained that the low levels of fluoride added to the water supply are safe for the public; that fluoridation is particularly beneficial for young children; and that 85% of Torrance's water supply has been fluoridated since the end of 2007 and staff has received no complaints.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR GRANT
FUNDING FROM THE FIRST 5 LA ORGANIZATION FOR INSTALLATION OF
FLUORIDATION TREATMENT FACILITIES AT LOCAL GROUNDWATER
SUPPLY SOURCES

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-50. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

12E. STIPEND INCREASE AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES FOR YOUTH COUNCIL

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Services Director** that City Council approve increasing the stipend for Youth Council members. Recommendation of the Community Services Director and the Youth Council that City Council adopt a Resolution making procedural changes and repealing Resolution No. 2004-89.

Councilmember Brewer announced that he was abstaining from consideration of this item because his daughter is a member of the Youth Council and exited the dais.

Community Services Director Jones reported that the proposed increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per meeting would bring the Youth Council's stipend in line with other City commissions and the proposed procedural changes would make the meetings more efficient.

Councilmember Witkowsky voiced support for the proposed stipend increase, noting that the Youth Council's fundraising efforts generate thousands of dollars each year to support various City programs.

Community Services Director Jones advised that the Youth Council raises approximately \$20,000 a year, which is used to fund a scholarship program for at-risk youths, and funds have also been used for improvements at the teen center "The Attic."

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Brewer).

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
REPEALING RESOLUTION 2004-89 AND RESTATING THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL

MOTION: Councilmember Witkowsky moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-52. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Councilmember Brewer).

Councilmember Brewer returned to the dais.

12F. ORDINANCE BANNING DOGS FROM WILSON PARK DURING CERTAIN CITY-SPONSORED EVENTS

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Parks and Recreation Commission**, the **Community Services Director**, and the **Police Chief** that City Council adopt an Ordinance banning dogs from Wilson Park during certain City sponsored special events and approve an ordinance summary for publication.

Senior Business Manager Minter advised that the proposed ordinance would ban dogs at Wilson Park during the twice weekly Farmers' Market, the annual 4th of July celebration, the Halloween carnival, and spring and winter craft boutiques. He clarified that the ban will include the entire park and parking lot for the 4th of July celebration, but will be limited to the specific areas being used for the other events, which will be posted.

Police Lieutenant Stark reported that several incidents involving dogs have occurred at recent 4th of July celebrations at Wilson Park, including dog bites, lost dogs and off-leash violations, and efforts to encourage dog owners to leave their pets at home on a voluntary basis have failed.

For the benefit of the public, Councilmember Sutherland noted that service dogs are excluded from the ban.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Deputy City Attorney Sullivan advised that fines for violating the ordinance would range between \$25.00-50.00.

Charles L. Deemer, resident, voiced support for the ordinance.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to concur with the staff recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Barnett and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ORDINANCE NO. 3709

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
ADDING SECTION 49.2.10 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE
RELATING TO SPECIAL EVENTS AT WILSON PARK

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Ordinance No. 3709. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council recessed from 8:09 p.m. to 8:21 p.m.

13. HEARINGS

13A. PRE07-00029: 5405 PASEO DE PABLO – PETER PALDINO

Recommendation

Recommendation of the **Community Development Director** and the **Planning Commission** that City Council deny the appeal and adopt a Resolution approving a Precise Plan of Development to allow the construction of a new two-story single-family residence on property located within the Hillside Overlay District, in the R-1 Zone at 5405 Paseo De Pablo. PRE07-00029: PETER PALDINO (ALEX DANIELS)

Mayor Scotto announced that this was the time and place for a public hearing on this matter. City Clerk Hebers confirmed that the hearing was properly advertised.

With the aid of slides, Planning Manager Lodan briefly reviewed the proposed two-story, single-family residence and shared photographs taken from various vantage points in the neighborhood. He noted that the Planning Commission approved the project on December 19, 2007 by a vote of 5-2.

Peter Paldino, project architect, reported that after the initial Planning Commission hearing on November 7, 2007 the project was revised to address an adjacent neighbor's concerns and it was subsequently approved at the December 19 Planning Commission meeting. He noted that the appellant Pamela Maran does not live within the Hillside Overlay; that she did not attend either of the Planning Commission hearings; and that she filed the appeal at the last possible moment without ever contacting him or the owner of the property. He explained that the project was carefully designed to avoid obstructing neighbors' views and the only two neighbors that could possibly be affected by it have no objections. Disputing Ms. Maran's claim that the project was out of character with the neighborhood, he shared photographs of homes in the neighborhood to show the diversity of architectural design.

Pamela Maran, 5501 Via del Valle, appellant, contended that the proposed project was too large and not in harmony with other homes in the neighborhood, the majority of which are one-story, ranch-style homes. She urged the Council to vigorously enforce the Hillside Overlay Ordinance and expressed concerns about the domino effect should the project be approved. She maintained that the applicant has the burden of proving that the project would not adversely impact neighbors, not the other way around.

With the aid of slides, Ms. Maran provided background information about the original housing tract that was built in this area in 1955, Palos Verdes Riviera. She shared photographs of some of the remaining original homes and contrasted remodeled homes that she believes maintain the character of the original tract with those that do not. She asserted that the proposed two-story home was a mansion as compared to other homes in the neighborhood and would not harmonize with neighboring homes in

terms of size, front setback, architectural style and features such as the balconies and towers. She related her belief that the project would also impact the privacy of neighbors and loom over homes below. She contended that inconsistent enforcement of the Hillside Overlay has resulted in out-of scale homes with inappropriate architectural designs and urged the Council to reverse this trend by denying the project.

Roberta Blowers, 621 Camino de Encanto, expressed concerns that large mansion-style homes were detracting from the quaint charm of the neighborhood. She voiced her opinion that the proposed project was too large and bulky and that the balcony on the back of the home would intrude on neighbors' privacy.

Ruth Vogel, 114 Via la Soledad, noted her longtime involvement in issues affecting the Hollywood Riviera area and reported that there is widespread concern about mansionization. She echoed concerns about the size of the proposed project and noted that other homes with second stories on this block have the two-story portion set back from the front of the house to minimize the appearance of bulk. She also expressed concerns that the project would create drainage problems and destabilize the hillside.

Tim Youngern, 536 Paseo de la Playa, contended that the project was too large and out of harmony with the neighborhood, particularly the walled garden and tower that makes it look like a fortress, and urged that it be denied.

Lucy Calloway, representing her parents who live at 5301 Calle de Ricardo, voiced objections to the proposed project, maintaining that it would obstruct their view and reduce the value of their property.

Mayor Scotto noted that 5301 Calle de Ricardo is downhill from the proposed project and a considerable distance away and asked that staff meet with Ms. Calloway to clarify the location of the project.

Kay White, 645 Via los Miradores, urged denial of the project, citing its size, bulk, and lack of harmony with other homes in the neighborhood.

Tim Cummings, 408 Calle de Felipe, commented on the inconsistent enforcement of the Hillside Ordinance. He noted that the proposed project would intrude into the existing front yard setback making it out of line with other homes on the block.

Addressing audience members' comments, Mr. Paldino explained that front setback requirements specify that there must be an average setback of 20 feet/ minimum of 15 feet, and the proposed project has an average setback of 21 feet. He pointed out that the project does not affect the view of any property within the Hillside Overlay area and disputed the claim that it was overly large or bulky. He noted that Torrance has changed greatly since the 1950s when part of the city was cow pastures and it was unrealistic to expect that someone would pay \$1.2 million for a property and build a 1950s style home. He suggested that residents have enjoyed increased property values due to remodeled homes and overly strict regulations would lead to deteriorating homes.

In response to Councilmember Brewer's inquiry, Planning Manager Lodan confirmed that the proposed project complies with all building standards and could be built on any R-1 lot outside the Hillside Overlay through the building permit process without Planning Commission or City Council approval.

MOTION: Councilmember Sutherland moved to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Witkowsky and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Councilmember Sutherland indicated that he was not inclined to deny a project that complies with all requirements and does not impact immediate neighbors. He stated that this neighborhood is one of the most desirable in Torrance, as evidenced by the \$1.2 million the applicant paid for the property, and clearly there is a demand for new custom homes.

Councilmember Witkowsky noted that the topography of the hillside area, in which one street overlooks another, makes it appear that homes loom over those below and makes it impossible to guarantee absolute privacy. With regard to consistent enforcement of the Hillside Ordinance, she noted that each project is considered on an individual basis and councilmembers do their best to be fair. Voicing support for the proposed project, she related her belief that the applicant has done everything possible to comply with guidelines in the Hillside Ordinance.

In response to Councilmember Nowatka's inquiry, Planning Manager Lodan confirmed that the proposed front setback is similar to the existing setback but the garage is reversed and clarified that the second-story is recessed over the garage to relieve the massing of the home.

Councilmember Barnett stated that he concurred with his colleagues' comments and would support the project, particularly since the property owner and his architect were able to gain the support of immediate neighbors.

Councilmember Drevno indicated that she concurred with Councilmember Barnett's comments and would support the project.

Councilmember Brewer voiced support for the project. He noted that the FAR (floor area ratio) is only slightly over 0.50 and some of the homes built in the past that people find objectionable have an FAR closer to 0.60.

Mayor Scotto voiced his opinion that the proposed project complies with the ordinance because it has been designed in a way that does not impact neighbors and it complies with all regulations.

MOTION: Councilmember Barnett moved to deny the appeal and approve the project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Brewer and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-53

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING A PRECISE PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AS PROVIDED FOR IN DIVISION 9, CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 41 OF THE TORRANCE MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TWO-STORY, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE WITHIN THE HILLSIDE OVERLAY DISTRICT IN THE R-1 ZONE AT 5405 PASEO DE PABLO

MOTION: Councilmember Brewer moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2008-53. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Sutherland and passed by unanimous roll call vote.

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The Council met as the Redevelopment Agency from 9:36 p.m. to 9:37 p.m.

17. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

17A. Councilmember Brewer suggested that residents who are concerned about mansionization should attend upcoming workshops on the General Plan because this is the overall plan for the City's future. He asked for City Council concurrence to direct staff to explore the possibility of down-zoning certain residential areas as part of the General Plan update process, including areas in downtown Torrance and along 190th that are zoned R-3 but currently developed with single-family homes.

Community Development Director Gibson clarified that the General Plan revision process deals with the broader categories of General Plan Designations, after which zoning would be addressed.

Councilmember Barnett related his belief that the R-3 zoning in downtown Torrance needs to be addressed because it is a recurring issue.

Councilmember Nowatka cautioned that State mandates may make down-zoning difficult.

With the concurrence of Council, Mayor Scotto directed staff to explore this issue within the context of the General Plan Update process.

17B. Councilmember Brewer reported that he, along with Councilmember Sutherland and Mayor Scotto, went to Sacramento last week to discuss two potential projects with legislators, the transit center and storm water retention basin enhancements.

17C. Councilmember Brewer announced "Green Day" at Henderson Library on Tuesday, April 22, at 4:00 p.m., a presentation on environmental issues to celebrate Earth Day.

17D. Councilmember Drevno thanked family members visiting from Connecticut for attending the meeting.

17E. Councilmember Nowatka requested that Animal Control staff patrol the Farmers' Market because some people are bringing their dogs.

17F. Councilmember Nowatka announced that there would be an opportunity to properly dispose of electronic waste and hazardous materials on June 7 at the Honda facility at 1919 Torrance Boulevard.

17G. Councilmember Sutherland commented on the Sacramento trip, noting that legislators were receptive to the two projects.

17H. Councilmember Witkowsky announced a children's program at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, "Stories You Can Sink Your Teeth Into," on Friday, April 25, at 4:00 p.m. featuring crafts and stories involving food.

17I. Mayor Scotto reported on the trip to Sacramento, noting that representatives of the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce also went along which added a unique perspective. He explained that they met with Secretary of State Debra Bowen, Assemblyman Ted Lieu and State Senator Jenny Oropeza to discuss the transit center and sump improvements and he felt confident that the projects would be given a high priority when funding becomes available.

18. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:52 p.m., the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 5:30 p.m. for an executive session, with regular business commencing at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Attest: /s/ Frank Scotto
Mayor of the City of Torrance

/s/ Sue Herbers
Sue Herbers,
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved on June 10, 2008