

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 members of the Library Commission and staff will participate in this meeting via teleconference or other electronic means.

PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING by emailing LibraryCommission@TorranceCA.Gov and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email include the item number and/or title of the item with your comments.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY VIEW AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING via Zoom by using the following link or by calling in with the phone number listed below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82192253049?pwd=a0hsdHdWNBDEaTJKWUg1TzZBMINCUT09>

Phone number: 1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 821 9225 3049

Passcode: 374584

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's office at (310) 618-2780. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II]

Direct questions or concerns to the Commission Liaison at (310) 618-5950 or individual department head prior to submission to the Commission. Parties will be notified if the complaint will be included on a subsequent agenda.

TORRANCE LIBRARY COMMISSION AGENDA MAY 9, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

6:00 P.M. VIA TELECONFERENCE OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS

THE LIBRARY COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Commission members Javid, Kohus, Piotrowski, Reilly, Wang, and Chair Yeh

2. FLAG SALUTE: Commissioner Reilly

3. REPORT OF THE STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS (Limited to a 30 minute period)

This portion of the meeting is reserved for public comment on items on the agenda or on topics of interest to the general public. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, Commissioners cannot act on items raised during public comment but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under this Public Comment period will have no longer than 3 minutes per speaker. Please do not use Bluetooth or speaker devices, mute the volume on your television or other electronic devices and speak clearly. Your phone call to the Commission meeting will be recorded as part of the meeting. By staying on the line and making public comment during the meeting, you are agreeing to have your phone call recorded.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered routine and will be enacted by one motion and one vote. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed by a Commissioner from the Consent Calendar and considered separately.

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 11, 2022

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION ON HOMELESSNESS 101 TRAINING
Accept and file a presentation from City Staff and the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) Co-Chair Nancy Wilcox on Homelessness 101 Training.

7B. DISCUSSION: STAFF APPRECIATION REVIEW
Recommendation of the Acting City Librarian that the Library Commission discuss and reflect on the Staff Appreciation visits that took place the week of April 24, 2022- April 29, 2022.

7C. DISCUSSION: CLIMATE SMART AWARD DISCUSSION
Recommendation of the Acting City Librarian that the Library Commission discuss and reflect on the Climate Smart Award introduced at the April Commission Meeting.

7D. DISCUSSION: SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING SUMMARY
Recommendation of the Acting City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the report from the liaison to the Social Service Commission.

7E. TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL PROVIDE MONTHLY UPDATE
Recommendation of the Acting City Librarian that the Library Commission accept and file the oral report from the Youth Council Liaison.

7F. ACTING CITY LIBRARIAN – Review Monthly Division Report
Recommendation of the Acting City Librarian that the Library Commission review the Monthly Division Report.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
Commissioner Order - Javaid, Kohus, Piotrowski, Reilly, Wang, Yeh

9. ITEMS FOR NEXT LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

10. ADJOURNMENT

10A. Adjournment of Library Commission Meeting to MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022,
at 6:00 p.m.




AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

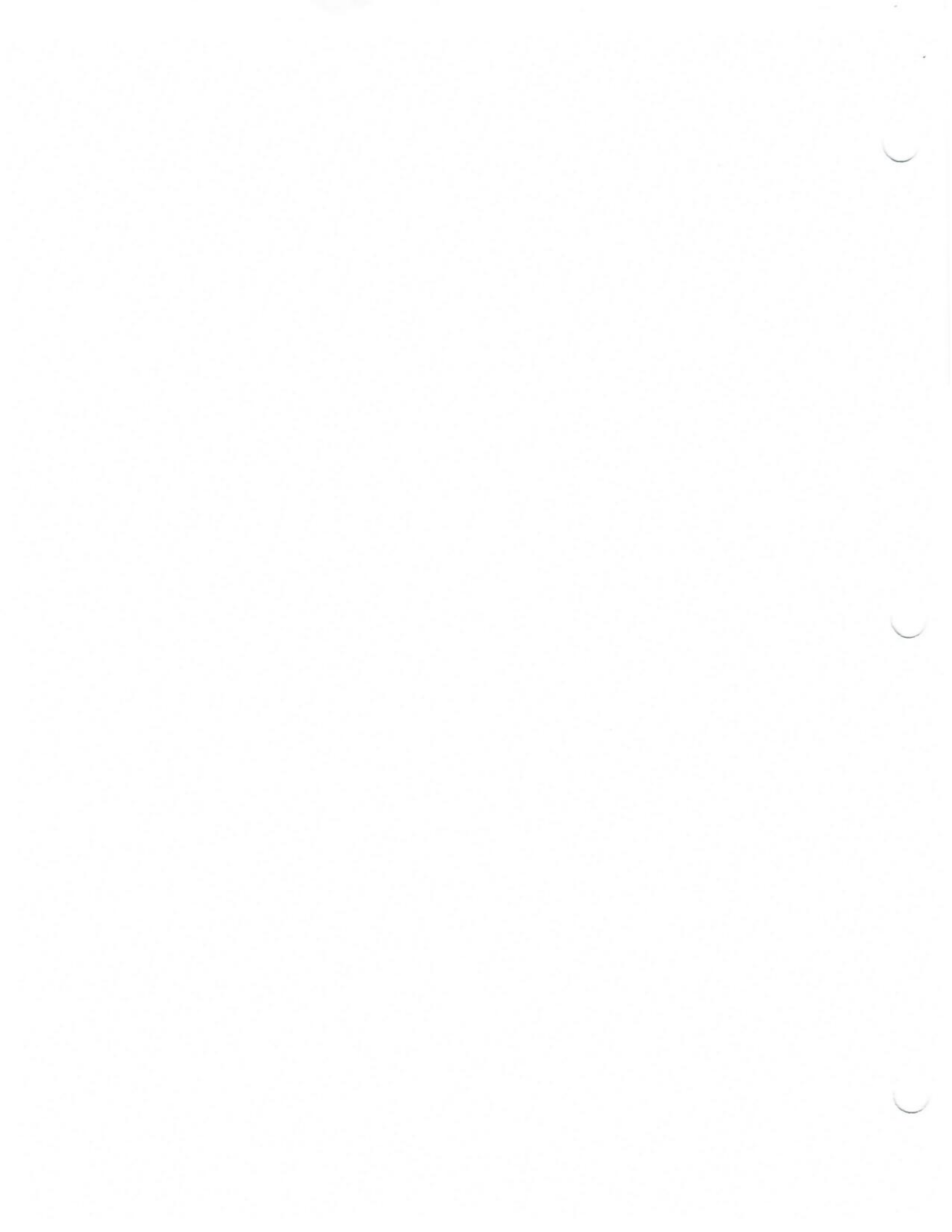
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss
CITY OF TORRANCE)

In compliance with Government Code 54954.2 (a), I DO HEREBY AFFIRM that a copy of the **Library Commission** agenda for the regular meeting of **Monday, May 9, 2022** was conspicuously posted on the City Clerk's Bulletin Board, 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, California at the time and date indicated below.

POSTED:

Time: 10:07 a.m. Date: 5/3/22

By:  Samantha Gerda
Deputy City Clerk



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
TORRANCE LIBRARY COMMISSION**

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The Torrance Library Commission convened in a regular session at 6:12 p.m. on Monday, April 11, 2022, via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Javaid, Kohus, Piotrowski, Reilly, Wang, and Chairperson Yeh.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Acting City Librarian Cynthia Aguado, Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates, and Community Services Director John La Rock.

2. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Piotrowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY STAFF ON THE POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Chairperson Yeh reported that the agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Bl. and on the City's Website on Tuesday, April 5, 2022.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF WITHDRAWN, DEFERRED, AND/OR SUPPLEMENTAL ITEMS

– None

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

– None

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

6A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 14, 2022

MOTION: Commissioner Kohus moved to approve the March 14, 2022 as amended. Commissioner Javaid seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 4-0 approval (Commissioners Reilly and Wang absent).

7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7A. ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commissioners Endo-Roberts, Seferian, and Chairperson Wright gave a presentation on the Climate Smart Awards Program. The Climate Smart Awards Program will recognize individuals, schools, businesses, and organizations who display environmental stewardship. A nomination form will soon be available on the Community Development website giving the Library Commission an opportunity to share ideas and submit nominations to Community Development Staff at, cddinfo@torranceca.gov.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Wang joined the Commission meeting at 6:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Javaid, Kohus, Piotrowski, Wang, and Chairperson Yeh.

MOTION: Commissioner Kohus moved to accept and file the presentation made by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Reilly absent).

7B. CITY LIBRARIAN – LIBRARY COMMISSION TO DISCUSS STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates presented options regarding Staff Appreciation Day and asked the Commission to vote on the following:

- Selecting from four meal options priced at less than \$10 per person.
- Selecting to provide meal option to sixty-two persons (including Library Administration) or fifty-two persons (excluding Library Administration).
- Scheduling two Commissioners to visit each work unit and branch library.
- Selecting a date for Staff to arrange food to be prepared for pick-up.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Kohus stated that Staff had provided a schedule with designated times to visit work units and branch libraries during the last Staff Appreciation Day which the Commission reviewed and signed based on availability. Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates stated that he would provide Commissioners with a schedule.

MOTION: Commissioner Kohus moved to include sixty-two persons to be recognized for Staff Appreciation Day. Commissioner Javaid seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Reilly absent).

MOTION: Commissioner Kohus moved to approve meal Option 3, authorizing an amount not to exceed \$650. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Reilly absent).

MOTION: Commissioner Kohus moved to have Staff bring back a schedule with designated times to visit work units and branch libraries. Commissioner Piotrowski seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 5-0 approval (Commissioner Reilly absent).

7C. CITY LIBRARIAN – CLA CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates presented findings on the CLA Conference. For Commissioners who are CLA members, the fee is \$220 per person and the fee for non-members is \$395; estimate total to send all Commissioners to the CLA Conference, excluding airfare and accommodations, is \$1,100. Early bird registration deadline is April 28, 2022, after the deadline, fee for CLA members jump to \$315.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Javaid inquired if the Commission could share the cost in sending a Commissioner to the CLA Conference. Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates replied that that could be an option and suggested setting a "not to exceed travel amount."

Commissioner Reilly joined the Commission meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Commissioner Reilly volunteered to attend the CLA Conference.

ROLL CALL: Commissioner Javaid, Kohus, Piotrowski, Reilly, Wang, and Chairperson Yeh.

MOTION: Commissioner Javaid moved to send a Commissioner to the CLA Conference June 2-4, 2022, with registration, airfare, and accommodations not to exceed the amount of \$900. Commissioner Kohus seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval.

7D. SOCIAL SERVICES LIAISON REPORT PROVIDE SUMMARY OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING

Commissioner Kohus presented a report on the March 24, 2022, Social Services Commission meeting. Commissioner Kohus spoke on the 1736 Family Crisis Center, the Adaptive Recreation Program provided by the Torrance Community Services Department, and the Social Services Commission's discussion on the 2022 Veteran's Event that will be held in November.

Members of the Commission spoke.

7E. TORRANCE YOUTH COUNCIL PROVIDE MONTHLY UPDATE

– None

7F. CITY LIBRARIAN PROVIDE MONTHLY DIVISION UPDATE

Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates presented a monthly division report:

- The El Retiro Library – paint, shelving, and carpet have been installed but furniture has yet to arrive; Staff is hoping to have a re-opening date soon.
- A March 28, 2022, elevator repair has been delayed due to COVID-19, Staff is waiting for additional information.
- Assistant City Librarian Coates provided the California State Library State report, an annual report Greg Lucas provides every year, for the Commissioner's reference.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Javaid inquired on the Cherry Festival and the Library Park Pass. Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates replied that the Cherry Festival was the first public outreach in the past two years, and it was very successful. Regarding the Library Park Pass, Staff is currently in the process of processing them; Park Passes are free to the community, reservable, but not reusable, and can be checked out for a three-week period

Commissioner Piotrowski inquired if Library foot-traffic data could be provided to the Commission. Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates confirmed and stated that data could be provided.

8. COMMISSION ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Members of the Commission spoke.

9. **ITEMS FOR NEXT LIBRARY MEETING**

Assistant City Librarian Evan Coates shared that City Staff and the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness requested the ability to present the Homeless 101 training at the next Commission meeting.

Members of the Commission spoke.

Commissioner Kohus and Javaid recommended the following be reviewed during the next Commission meeting:

- Staff Appreciation Report
- Social Services Commission
- Youth Council
- Climate Smart Award
- Homeless 101 Training

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 7:44 p.m., Commissioner Kohus moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, May 9, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Wang seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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TO: LIBRARY COMMISSION
FROM: EVAN COATES, ACTING CITY LIBRARIAN
SUBJECT: ACCEPT AND FILE PRESENTATION ON HOMELESSNESS 101 TRAINING

RECOMMENDATION

Accept and file a presentation from City Staff and the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) Co-Chair Nancy Wilcox on Homelessness 101 Training.

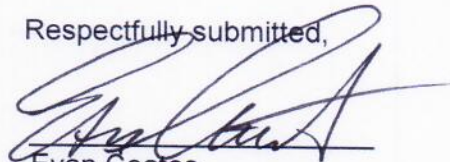
BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

In June 2021, Torrance City Council adopted a *Plan to Prevent and Combat Homelessness*. The document is a three-year plan to address homelessness in Torrance and can be reviewed at the City's website at <http://TorranceCA.Gov/homeless>.

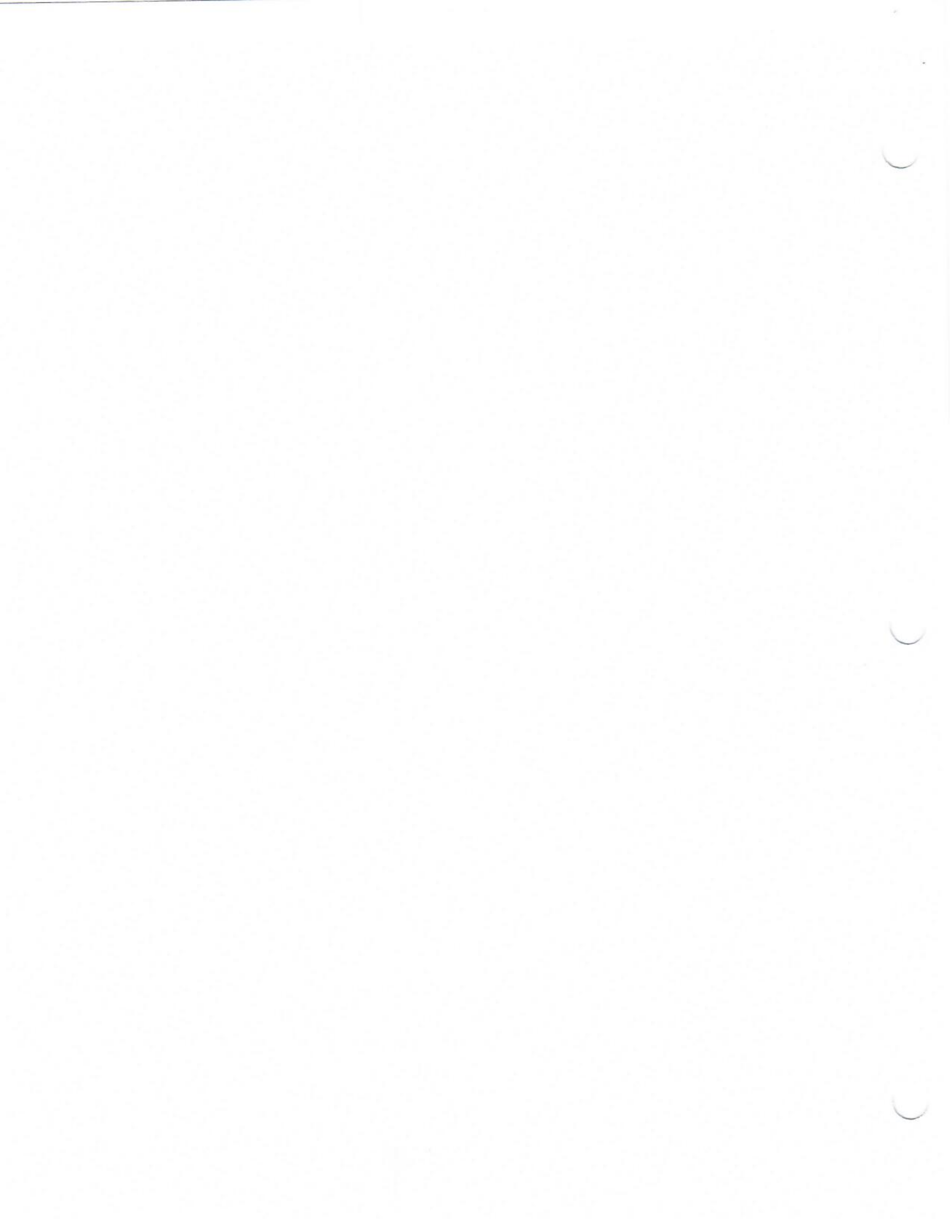
One of the Plan goals is to provide homeless education for City Staff, Elected Officials and Appointed Officials. Ensuring that these groups have greater awareness of homelessness in Torrance is a key approach to creating greater consistency in the City's response to homelessness. Additionally, this goal supports the City's efforts to help the community understand ways in which it can be a part of the solution in preventing and combatting homelessness.

During this Commission meeting, City staff and SBCEH Co-Chair Wilcox will be reviewing the Homelessness 101 Training presentation, and addressing questions that your Honorable Body may have regarding homelessness in Torrance.

Respectfully submitted,



Evan Coates,
Acting City Librarian



Commission Meeting of
May 9, 2022

TO: LIBRARY COMMISSION
FROM: EVAN COATES, ACTING CITY LIBRARIAN
SUBJECT: STAFF APPRECIATION REVIEW


RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Acting City Librarian that the Library Commission discuss and review the Staff Appreciation visits that took place the week of April 24, 2022- April 29, 2022.

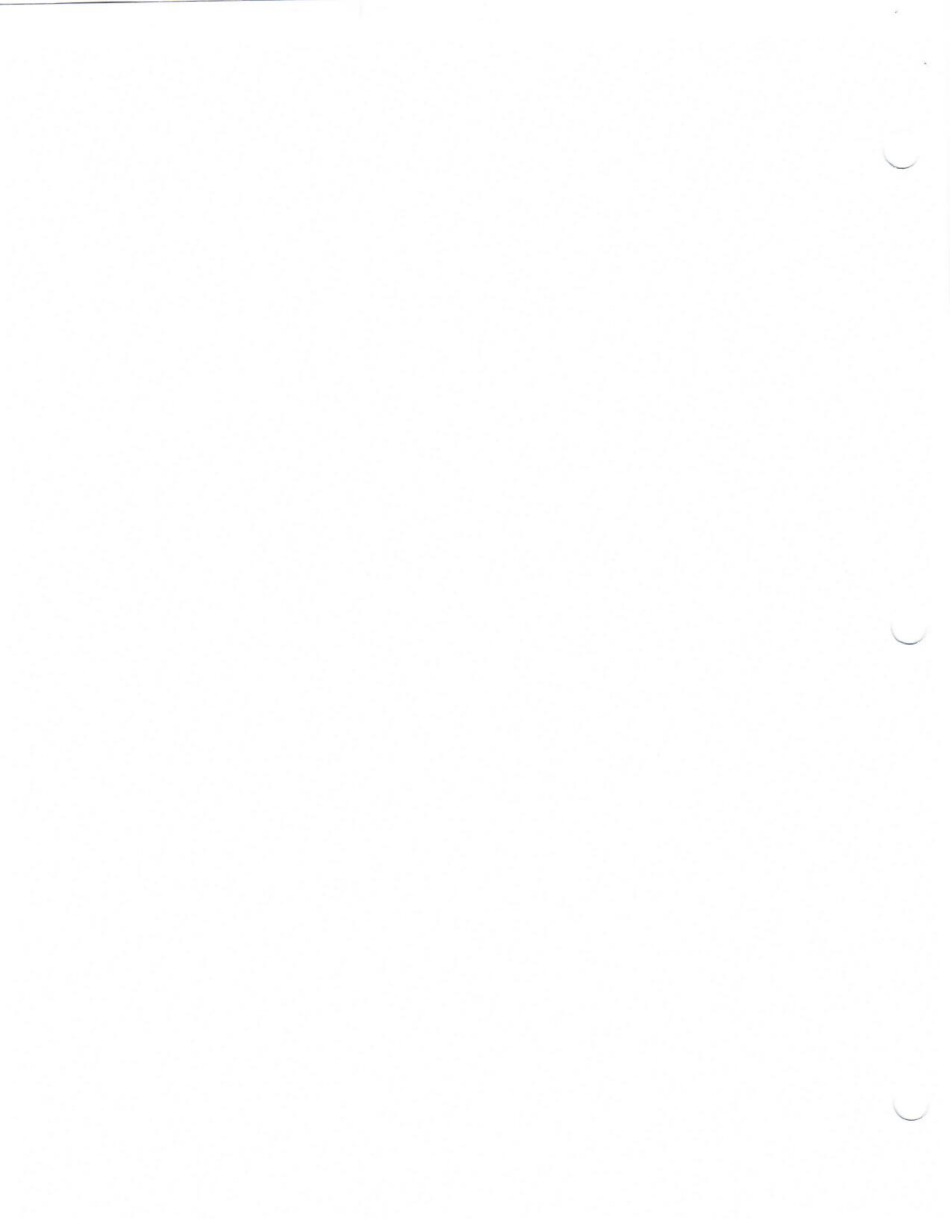
BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

At the April 2022 meeting, the Commission determined a menu and a schedule for the 2022 Staff Appreciation visits. This agenda item allows Library Commissioners the opportunity to discuss any aspects of the visit, share insights, and/or ask questions directly to staff.

Respectfully submitted,



Evan Coates
Acting City Librarian



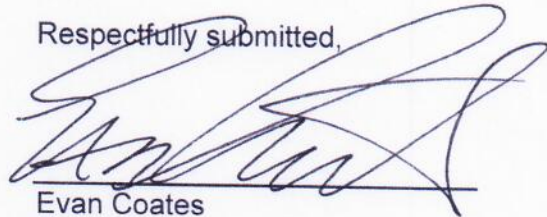
Commission Meeting of
May 9, 2022

TO: LIBRARY COMMISSION
FROM: EVAN COATES, ACTING CITY LIBRARIAN
SUBJECT: CLIMATE SMART AWARD DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

At the request of the Library Commission, the Acting City Librarian respectfully recommends that the Library Commission discuss and review the Climate Smart Award information, introduced at the April Commission Meeting and determine if any additional information or actions are required.

Respectfully submitted,



Evan Coates
Acting City Librarian

Attachment A: TEQECC Climate Smart Awards Fact Sheet
Attachment B: Stewardship of the Environment-Strategic Plan Priority 2021



Torrance Climate Smart Awards Fact Sheet

The **Torrance Climate Smart Award** is a program being implemented by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission in support of the Stewardship of the Environment Priority in the 2021 Strategic Plan. The goal of the award is to recognize residents, students, schools, businesses and organizations within Torrance for their outstanding environmental achievements.

Nominations can be submitted to Environmental staff in the Community Development Department.

Award categories are:

Climate Smart Energy

Climate Smart Water

Climate Smart Youth

Climate Smart Community

Climate Smart Business

Torrance Climate Smart Award categories are based on any of the following criteria:

Sustainability; Energy (energy efficient, reduction of energy demand, all electric and zero net energy); Waste Reduction (recycling, waste prevention); Transportation (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, EV); Reduction of air pollution; Water usage reduction; Solar panels; Drought tolerant landscaping; Reduction of carbon dioxide emissions; meeting Clean Bay and California Green Business Network standards.

Climate Smart Energy Award: Recognizes individuals and/or organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievements in clean energy, energy efficiency, demand reduction, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Smart Water Award: Recognizes individuals and/or organizations that demonstrate outstanding achievements in water conservation through the implementation, planning or promotion of innovative water conservation efforts.

Climate Smart Youth Award: Recognizes Torrance youth age 18 or younger for going above and beyond to improve the environmental quality of life in Torrance and for leadership in environmental programs that build awareness and engagement of their peers, school and community.

Climate Smart Community Award: Recognizes an individual member of the community or community group that provides outstanding support to the implementation and goals of the strategic plan as it pertains to environmental stewardship.

Climate Smart Business Award: Recognizes retail, commercial, industrial and other businesses that demonstrate achievements in any areas of the award criteria or has received a recognized environmental certification, including but not limited to Clean Bay Restaurant, LEED and/or Green Business Network standards.



Stewardship of the Environment



In 2008, Stewardship of the Environment rose to the level of a Strategic Priority based on increasing awareness and concerns regarding climate change and its effects on our world. This Strategic Priority addresses the need for Torrance to be aware of, and proactively respond to, a wide variety of issues concerning the physical environment, from the micro and local to the macro and global. Understanding and addressing the cumulative impacts of individual, local and regional activities assures that Torrance will be a leader in minimizing negative effects on our environment. We see this priority as both a vital issue to address and preserve the quality of life for future generations, and an opportunity for Torrance to be a leader in encouraging and facilitating individual, local, regional and commercial solutions for this on-going global issue.

2021 Strategic Plan

- The data collected for this renewal indicates a continued concern with issues related to the environment, including recycling, storm water run-off, air quality and global climate change and the ways in which these issues can be mitigated. Since Stewardship of the Environment was made a Strategic Priority, Torrance, along with numerous other jurisdictions, adopted a Climate Action Plan, and continues to look for ways for our community to proactively address the issues arising from and adding to climate change.

2008 Strategic Plan

- All of the data collection efforts for the 2008 Strategic Plan update indicated a growing awareness of the importance of issues relating to the environment. From local issues related to recycling efforts and storm water run-off, to regional air quality impacts from industry and transportation, to the effects of global climate change-all the data affirmed the wisdom of making Stewardship of the Environment a Strategic Priority for Torrance.

Previous iterations of the Strategic Plan addressed various aspects of environmental issues in goals and sub-goals. These were gathered under this Strategic Priority or left to echo the interrelatedness of all the Strategic Priorities where appropriate.

GOAL 1: Establish Torrance as a leader in environmental responsibility and sustainability.

Sub-goal 1.1: Communicate the urgency of the ecological crisis and its impacts at all levels—from local to global—and the City’s obligation and commitment to taking a leadership role in environmental stewardship.

Sub-goal 1.2: Incorporate environmental stewardship goals and policies using best practices in all the City’s plans and implementation programs, including metrics to the extent feasible.

Sub-goal 1.3: Continue to collaborate with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) and other regional and local partners to implement sustainable initiatives, plans, practices, and policies and take a leadership role in their implementation.

Sub-goal 1.4 Seek out funding sources outside of the City, including state and federal funds, public-private partnerships, institutional investors, and insurance and financial institutions to aid the City in implementing their sustainability plans.

GOAL 2: Actively inform, educate, and motivate the community regarding the value and benefit of environmental stewardship.

Sub-goal 2.1: Develop and implement a comprehensive environmental stewardship outreach plan that raises awareness of the issues and the importance of local action; educates and provides information; actively involves the community; and inspires action.

Sub-goal 2.2: Motivate community involvement and action through dynamic methods and partnerships, such as incentives, rewards, recognition programs, promotions, and competitions.

Sub-goal 2.3: Regularly report and celebrate progress in achieving environmental stewardship goals.

GOAL 3: Aggressively plan and act to enable all city stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to the climate change and ecological crisis.

Sub-goal 3.1: Recognize the Climate Emergency, like numerous cities in the United States have already done.

Sub-goal 3.2: Provide sufficient authority, staff, and resources necessary to enable the City’s Sustainability Team to assist city stakeholders to implement the City’s Climate Action Plan and other sustainability plans and programs to effectively mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Sub-goal 3.3: Develop, sustain, and update comprehensive climate change mitigation and adaptation plans (for example, Climate Action

Plan, etc.) and programs grounded in consensus-based scientific research and recommendations.

- Sub-goal 3.4:** Identify and implement solutions to climate change-related risks and impacts faced by the City.
- Sub-goal 3.5:** Create and maintain climate resilient infrastructure that will enable the City and its stakeholders to mitigate and adapt to the local and global impacts of climate change, including but not limited to, higher temperatures, rising sea levels, pressure on food and water resources, and threats to human health.
- Sub-goal 3.6:** Prioritize programs to protect those in the City most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including but not limited to, the health-impaired and the economically and environmentally disadvantaged.

GOAL 4: Create and promote sustainable/green practices for use in daily life.

- Sub-goal 4.1:** Implement policies that encourage and support the City and all community members in localizing the control and sustainable/green acquisition, production, storage, use, reuse and/or recycling of the necessities of daily life; including water, food, and energy.
- Sub-goal 4.2:** Promote information regarding City and State programs aimed at energy conservation and efficiency (for example, Energy Upgrade California, Southern California Edison Green Rates Program, etc.).
- Sub-goal 4.3:** Increase awareness of local opportunities for proper disposal of bio-hazards, hazardous, toxic and electronic wastes and/or provide a community drop/off or exchange program.
- Sub-goal 4.4:** Increase outreach and education to the public on how to “refuse, reuse, recycle and reduce” waste.
- Sub-goal 4.5:** Provide more recycling opportunities in communal areas (for example, parks, bus stops, street corners, etc.) wherever there are trash containers.
- Sub-goal 4.6:** Increase local food production and security by promoting edible, pollinator-friendly, yard/container/rooftop gardens, farmers’ markets and composting in private and public spaces, and increasing the opportunity for community gardens, gleaning and exchanges.

GOAL 5: Strive for water reliability through the preservation and conservation of water resources.

- Sub-goal 5.1:** Monitor and maintain adequate water resources.
- Sub-goal 5.2:** Prevent saltwater intrusion (Goldsworthy Desalter) and clean up groundwater contamination.

- Sub-goal 5.3:** Expand use of recycled and gray water for landscaping, industry, business, and other applications.
- Sub-goal 5.4:** Explore, encourage and implement water conservation programs.
- Sub-goal 5.5:** Promote Low Impact Development (LID) methods for the capture and reuse of stormwater.

GOAL 6: Preserve and protect the natural environment and the benefits provided by well-functioning ecosystems.

- Sub-goal 6.1:** Preserve coastal resources, including preventing polluted stormwater runoff from flowing into protected watersheds.
- Sub-goal 6.2:** Encourage and support a natural urban ecosystem, including preserving Madrona Marsh; promoting use of native and drought-tolerant plants; and seeking opportunities to create new green spaces and/or open space.
- Sub-goal 6.3:** Continue to plant trees appropriate to the local climate, and replace trees lost to removal.
- Sub-goal 6.4:** Adopt measures to make Torrance a wildlife-friendly city, such as identifying vehicle-free corridors and easements for connectivity, promoting the use of plant species known to host abundant local wildlife species, limiting feral animals, and keeping pets out of natural habitats.

GOAL 7: Create a positive environment for businesses and industries to adopt sustainable/green practices.

- Sub-goal 7.1:** Support and provide incentives for businesses to use environmentally-friendly and socially-responsible practices, (for example, LEED certification, Envision, Organic Material Review Institute, Integrated Pest Management).
- Sub-goal 7.2:** Publicly recognize and reward businesses and practices that minimize adverse environmental impacts and/or improve the environment, and offer a certification program, (for example, "Torrance Green Business").
- Sub-goal 7.3:** Continue to recruit and provide incentives for relocation of environmentally and socially-responsible businesses into the City.
- Sub-goal 7.4:** Promote public and private partnerships to achieve and demonstrate greater synergy for sustainable/green businesses and practices.

TO: LIBRARY COMMISSION
FROM: EVAN COATES, ACTING CITY LIBRARIAN
SUBJECT: MONTHLY DIVISION REPORT

Administration

Staffing continues to be a challenge system-wide. Evan Coates continues to serve as the Acting City Librarian until further notice, and the Senior Librarian recruitment is currently awaiting external interviews.

Additionally, during April, staff from around the system left to pursue new opportunities, leaving a gap in coverage, experience, and institutional knowledge. The Library said farewell to Sarah Reidland, Youth Services Librarian at the North Torrance Branch; Rachel Bieber, Librarian at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library; and Caitlin Livers, Library Page at the Southeast Branch. And lastly, long-time Senior Library Technician at the North Torrance Library, Neerja Verma, retired after over thirty years of service.

Current vacancies now include one City Librarian, one full-time Senior Librarian, three full-time Librarians, one half-time Librarian, one full-time Senior Library Technician, three half-time Library Technicians, two half-time Senior Library Pages, one half-time Junior Library Clerk, and nine half-time Library Pages.

Facilities and Technology

The El Retiro Library continues to be closed until further notice. Most of the repairs have been completed or are underway. Last Thursday, staff received some of the new furniture. Currently, the Library is negotiating with Walsh Moving to arrange for the delivery of equipment and materials in storage and with General Services on the reinstallation of the Circulation desk.

Work on the public elevator at the Katy Geissert has officially begun and will continue throughout the month of May. Signage is posted on all levels and staff have started to escort patrons to the upper and lower floors using the staff elevator.

Library Services and Programs

Within the month of April, the Torrance Public Library hosted over twenty-two programs system-wide. These programs include virtual, in-person, craft kits, and musical performances with a total participation of 2,692.

Number of Pre-School (0-5) Attendees	Number of School Aged (6-11) Attendees	Number of Young Adult (12-18) Attendees	Number of Adult Attendees
356	1127	501	708

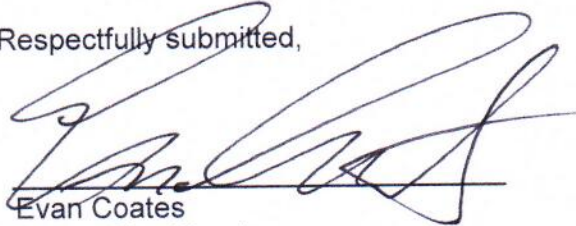
Programs are quickly returning to pre-Covid attendance levels and members of the community are happy to have a variety of options to match their comfort levels. In fact, one program host mentioned receiving flowers from appreciative book group members.

Additional statistics provided within Attachment C.

Legislative Concerns and State Library Relations

Staff within the Torrance Public Library participated in the Public Library Director's Forum, a three-day virtual event highlighting the challenges and issues facing public libraries and allowing the team an opportunity to provide input into the State Library's upcoming Strategic Plan.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evan Coates', written over a horizontal line.

Evan Coates
Acting City Librarian

Attachment C) Torrance Public Library Briefing Paper



Torrance Public Library Briefing Paper

Total Number of New Library Cards:	2020/21: 2,795	2021/22: 4,253*
Annual Visits to the Library:	2019/20: 396,172	2020/21: 92,161
	2021/22: 162,107*	
Annual Number of visits to Library webpage:	2019/20: 622,535	2020/21: 480,438
	2021/22: 359,721*	
Physical Materials Circulation Totals:	2019/20: 955,569	2020/21: 658,246
	2021/22: 336,001*	
Electronic Material Circulation Totals:	2019/20: 27,611	2020/21: 51,782*

*FY 2020/21 data is current as of March 31, 2022.

Briefing Note April 2022
For detailed information on all departmental matters, please contact:
Evan Coates, Acting City Librarian
310-618-5954
ECoates@TorranceCA.Gov

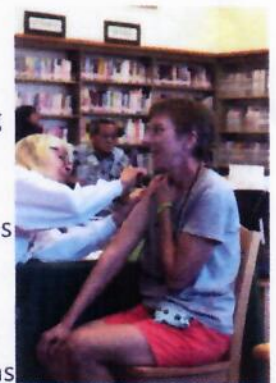


LIBRARIES CONNECT PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY

- The Torrance Public Library continues to play a key role in the state’s strategy to expand broadband access. As one of the last remaining institutions that provide critical services like access to technology and high-speed broadband free of charge, we are “leading the way” in digital skills and literacy training and are essential to delivering the necessary access to technology for our community.
- Torrance Public Libraries provide free online access for their communities—helping to bridge the digital divide between those who can and cannot afford private access to the internet.
- The number of checkouts of electronic materials by Torrance library users more than doubled between FY 2019/20 and 2020/21 and continues to rise.

LIBRARIES PROVIDE HEALTH INFORMATION AND HEALTH LITERACY

- The Torrance Public Libraries reduce loneliness and isolation by engaging community members of all ages in cultural events, discussion groups, and social activities. In doing so, they help build community resilience and combat illnesses like depression and dementia.
- The Torrance Public Library has worked to offer free flu vaccinations in library branches and, during the Covid-19 pandemic, served as a trusted resource to health relating information.
- Library-sponsored health information courses increase the capacity of older adults to find and understand basic health information and make appropriate health decisions



LIBRARIES BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES

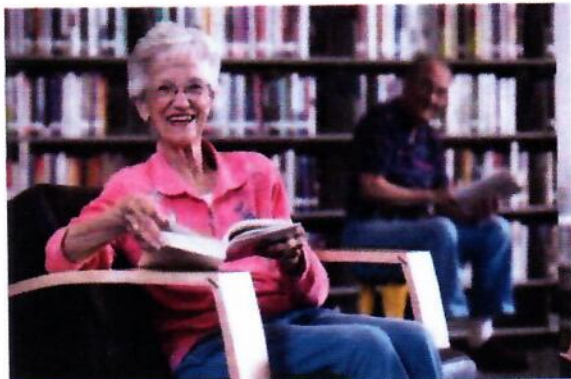
- Research found in 2016, 91 percent of Americans agreed that the closure of their local library would negatively impact their community, and nearly 66 percent of them felt the impact on their communities would be significant and said the closure of their local library would directly impact themselves and their families.

Torrance Public Library Briefing Paper

- The Aspen Institute asserts that the library's "physical presence provides an anchor for economic development and neighborhood revitalization, and helps to strengthen social bonds and community identity

LIBRARIES ADDRESS COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SUPPORT VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

- **Summer Engagement** – In a typical year, almost 8,000 Californians—from early learners to adults—take part in the Torrance Public Library's summer reading programs, and over 12,000 attend summer activities at the library.
- **Older Adult Support**—from technology classes to book discussion groups to classes focused on access to healthcare, financial stability, avoiding scams and elder abuse, retaining cognitive stability — The Torrance Public Library builds social connectedness and supports healthy, happy aging
- **Teaching Adult Learners** – literacy partnerships between the Torrance Public Library and South Bay Literacy Council help adult learners develop basic reading and writing skills.



LIBRARIES FOSTER HEALTHY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

- Libraries are one of the most important supports for a child's early development. Greater exposure to books is related to the development of vocabulary and comprehension skills, and these, in turn influence a child's reading comprehension level in third grade.
- Homework help and free access to books and resources help children succeed in school. While after-school programs give children and teens safe spaces to spend time with friends and participate in programs.
- Libraries support older family members by providing a social environment for parental engagement and have shown to have positive, long-term effects on children's school readiness.



FUTURE GOALS OF THE TORRANCE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

- Increase access to non-English materials and further develop services to our Non-English speaking patrons.
- Expand networking relationships with community organizations dedicated to the personal educational and informational needs of the individual.
- Conduct research on additional library spaces throughout the community and technological advance, to enhance accessibility to all community members.

(Image) Las Vegas-Clark County Library District Partners with RTC to Offer Transit Riders Free Access to eBooks + Audiobooks + Magazines + Movie

