**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING**

 **Tuesday September 24, 2019**

Tarzana Elementary School Auditorium

5726 Topeka Dr., Tarzana, CA 91356

1. **Call to Order** at 7:05 p.m. by TNC President Len Shaffer. Welcoming Remarks and Pledge.

**Roll Call:** Pam Blattner, Devon Cromwell, Scott Diamond, Barry Edelman, Max Flehinger, David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Susan Lord, Jeff Mausner, Michael Povar, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Ken Schwartz, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. Quorum established. Bob Schmaeff arrived at 7:25 p.m. (Absent: Mark Epstein, Iris Polonsky, and Richard Silverman).

1. **Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

**Veronica Vos, field deputy for Councilmember Blumenfield**, recounted a presentation for the 100th anniversary of Tarzana. Oct. 5th at Tarzana Senior Center, on Oct. 15th there will be an L.A. River Masterplan Community meeting, on Oct. 17th Homeless Connect Day takes place at Prince of Peace Church, and on Oct. 19th, there will be a Domestic Violence Awareness Fair. Also, public input is being sought for a grant for improvements to the intersection Tarzana and Oxnard.

**Jake Itzkowitz from Assembly member Jesse Gabriel’s** office said the Governor signed AB 330, an expansion of the Shriver Act which provides legal counsel for low income individuals in civil cases. Events: There will be a Dog Adoption event on Sat., Oct. 26 at Sepulveda Basin with several rescue groups. He spoke about the failed Ethnic Studies curriculum taught in middle and high schools. There was a lot of displeasure about the curriculum, especially from the Jewish community. Jesse is the co-chair of the Jewish curriculum. New authors are being selected to rewrite the curriculum.

**LAPD Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins** gave stats on local crime: 4 robberies, 9 aggravated assaults, 15 burglaries (but only 2 south of the Blvd.), 5 cars stolen, burglaries of motor vehicles, and a number of thefts on the boulevard, especially bicycles. Crime is down 6.7% in Tarzana. He talked about the Air BnB homicide at a birthday party which involved a robbery and then a homicide.

**Raffy Astvasadoorian, Neighborhood Prosecutor for the West Valley** reported: as of Nov. 1st if you rent your house out on social media, you can rent for up to 120 days but there are lots of requirements, including an application that the City needs to approve. You also need to live at that address for 180 days a year. There is a 24-hour hotline to report violations and a website for complaints: [www.Airbnb.com/neighbors](http://www.Airbnb.com/neighbors). Barry asked Daryl about sidewalk vending who said the rules are not out yet on this subject.

**Raquel Beltran, new GM for the Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment** introduced herself and gave a rundown of her experience prior to taking this position.

1. **Public Comments**:
* Julianne Cruz, an 18-year resident of Tarzana, wants the TNC to make a recommendation to eliminate Air BnBs (commercial businesses) in Tarzana. She has an Air BnB next door and down the street from her. Once she found a partygoer sleeping in her backyard and has had to suffer through illegal fireworks and loud music.
* Dave Robertson talked about the proliferation of For Profit sober living group homes including the one opposite his home. He said these sober livings are not dedicated to helping their residents with support programs. Although he supports recovery, he has three young daughters and is concerned about their welfare.
* Tina Cotromanes is a resident and homeowner for 35 years. She lives next to the home that had the fatal shooting & robbery. She has been awoken many times in the middle of the night by screaming. She wants to create a grassroots effort to close down Air BnBs, many of which violate the integrity of the neighborhood.
* Michael Brand says the sober livings are unregulated and are changing the nature of the neighborhood. He has a 4-year old and doesn’t want to expose her to ill behavior.
* **Len said that State law allows for six unrelated persons in a home without a license.**
* Krystal Block, a neighbor, said she has seen multiple instances of drug use and has been offered drugs by those going to Air BnB parties. They pee on her lawn and knock on her door and see if anyone is home. They have used a drone to look inside her windows. Female escorts have knocked on her door to ask for directions to the party house. She has gone through all the appropriate networks and nothing has come of it.
* Stephanie Moseska said a sober living is opening two door away. Her kids don’t want to go outside anymore. Syringes are left on the ground, teenage runaways are showing up, and she’s seen people shooting up drugs in public. She and her family no longer feel safe walking to Starbucks. They don’t want another sober living opening up in her neighborhood.
* **For adult filming, Len suggested they contact: FilmLA which will find out if they have a permit and if not, they will shut it down.**
* Judi Flournoy asked what do they need to do to make changes happen and how do they get in front of lawmakers, how do they get organized?
* **The City Council only allows the public one minute for comment time. Anyone can speak on the topic/problem on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays at City Hall. The Orange Line and Red line will take you two blocks from City Hall. Len suggested everyone wear the same color T-shirt and applaud each person who speaks. TNC will forward comments on Air BnBs and sober livings to the Councilperson.**
1. **Budget Advocate Report:** Jeff handed out a written report last month. Since then, they started meetings with city departments in Sept. He will be participating in the meetings with the City Attorney’s office and Animal Services on Oct. 11th and making recommendations for the White Paper that will come out in December.
2. **Executive Secretary’s Attendance Report** – Max said no one has more than 3 absences.
3. **Approval of minutes of August 27, 2019 meeting**. **(Heissler/Wieder) approved acceptance of the August 27, 2019 minutes as revised. The motion carried.**
4. **Approval of August 2019 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER). (Goldman/Rogen) moved approval of the August 2019 expenditures. The motion carried.**
5. **Approval of Financial Statements as of August 31, 2019. (Goldman/Lord) moved approval of the August 31, 2019 financial statements. The motion carried.**

**9. Land Use: (Garfinkle/Goldberg) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to approve the 9 unit Small Lot Subdivision at 5808 Etiwanda Ave, with the condition that an appropriate space be allocated for trash pick by the Dept. of Sanitation on the areas regular pickup day.”**

Jerome Buckmelter spoke about two properties that are zoned RA and they intend to develop 9 unit small lot subdivisions on that lot. They will each be single family parcels where the homeowner owns the land. He wants to get a zone change to TQ-RD1.5 which will allow for 11 units. They are asking to something that seems larger than what they need but they are then going to restrict it to nine.

**The motion passed with two opposed (Edelman & Povar) and one abstaining (Lord).**

**10. (Flehinger/Saucier) moved,** **“Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Transportation Committee’s recommendation to request the city to establish a passenger loading zone, at the curb on Ventura Blvd in front of Whole Foods Market. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned for Special Meeting at 8:48 p.m.**

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**Meeting reconvened at 8:58 p.m.**

**11: (Shaffer/Heissler) moved to appoint Susan Rogan as TNC’s** **Preparedness Officer. The motion carried unanimously.**

**12. (Goldberg/Heissler) moved to appoint Len Shaffer to retrieve the election materials from the City Clerk’s office. The motion carried unanimously.**

**13. (Heissler/Wieder) moved to appoint Len and Harvey to conduct the 2019 inventory. The motion carried.**

**14. Committee and other Reports**

**Outreach** – Terry said she held a meeting on Sept. 11th. Devon is helping with the Facebook page. (audio not clear on website report). She is working on the brochure.

**Events** – Esther did not hold a meeting in Sept. The next meeting will be on Nov. 13th and TNC will have a booth at the Disaster Preparedness Fair in October.

**Land Use** – David said SB 330 has been passed by the legislature and is on the Governor’s desk and will be harmful to single family zoning. He also had a detailed summary from the Tarzana Property Owners Assoc. vote to appeal approval of a mixed use project on 5531 -5505 Reseda Blvd. An appeal hearing takes place on 10/26/19.

**Budget** –Harvey reminded the board that there is $49,000+ in the budget as a result of a carryover. If anyone wants/needs a grant, they should come to the Budget Committee.

**Transportation** – Max asked the city to prohibit oversized vehicles on Wilber. The city says they already have this ordinance in place. Max has asked for enforcement. He’s also asking for increased fines for truck parking. He also said sleeping in vehicles/dwelling in vehicles is once again illegal in residential zones from 9 pm. to 6 a.m.

**Public Safety –** Susan Roganwants to write a letter to the City Council limiting sober living facilities.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff said July and August were difficult months at the shelters. The dog life save rate in July was 96% for the West Valley shelter and most of the others were over 90% except for Harbor and S. LA. In August, the W. Valley life safe rate was 94.2%. For cats, the numbers are lower because of the T & R injunction and 100s of cats and kittens are being killed. However, the long awaited EIR for the Community Cat Program has been released. There is a meeting on Oct. 7th for the Draft EIR which is part of the finalization process. He hopes it will be finalized soon so the T & R injunction can be lifted.

**DWP MOU Report** – Michael Povar said he and Barry attended a DWP tour of the LA Aquaduct system. He said it was quite informative.

**Homeless** – Joyce said a meeting will be held on Oct. 10th. There will also be a Homeless Liaison meeting in October.

**VANC Report** – Len talked about the online presentation at the last meeting.

**15.** **Board Business**:

**Len** asked everyone to attend the Congress of NCs and to help man the booth on Oct. 12, 2019 at the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair in Northridge.

**Eran** suggested the TNC board meeting be moved to the Tarzana Childcare Center as it will not require moving the equipment.

**David** noted that 15 people attended the meeting tonight to speak against Air BnBs and sober living homes and wanted to know if an item could be put on the next agenda to take action.

**Jeff** agreed that these items should be discussed further at Land Use.

**Esther** said the current location where the TNC board meets does not look professional.

**Harvey** asked which committee would take up sober housing and Air BnBs.

**Len** suggested the Govt. Action committee and Harvey suggested a combined meeting with Land Use.

**16.**  Meeting adjournment at 9:31 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One