**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday December 10, 2019**

Tarzana Child Care Center

5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356

1. **Call to Order** at 7:10 p.m. **Roll Call:** Quorum established with 16 board members:

Len Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Max Flehinger, David Garfinkle, Esther Wieder, Joyce Greene, Ken Schwartz, Susan Lord, Terry Saucer, Iris Polonsky, Michael Povar, Barry Edelman, Scott Diamond, Bob Schmaeff, Mark Epstein and Devon Cromwell. (Absent: Pam Blattner, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Susan Rogen and Richard Silverman). Welcoming Remarks by Len and Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Remarks by Public Officials:**

* Betty Wong Oyama from EmpowerLA gave general announcements. The new GM has completed 51% of her appearances at NCs across the City.
* Rep for Councilmember Blumenfield talked about a Public Works Town Hall on December 11, 2019. Homeless count takes place on January 21, 2020.
* LAPD Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins: Crime stats: West Valley is down 10.8% and Tarzana is down 10.3% in crime (YTD). The monthly stats were as follows: six robberies, seven aggravated assaults (road rage mostly), 29 burglaries, 5 stolen cars 13 thefts and 15 cars broken into. The Air BnB house on Nogales has been cited and due to the violation, the owner can’t list it on Air BnB for 30 days. There was a discussion on hate incidents. The HOPE Team contact for homeless issues is: (213) 305-9105.

**3. Public Comments** – None.

**4. Budget Advocate/Representative Report**: Jeff reported that they have finished meeting with city officials and are editing the reports which should be issued in January. CityWatch stated that a new secret Labor agreement with police, fire and civil workers’ unions will create a deficit in the city budget of $1.4B over the next five years. There could be a $200M budget deficit this year. Due to the deficit, there will be less city services such as street maintenance. The next meeting will be Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. at City Hall. They will be deciding what steps to take regarding these deficits. The focus is on getting more transparency. The next **Budget Day is June 20, 2020.**

**5. Executive Secretary’s Attendance Report** by Max: No board members with more than three absences.

**6. Approval of minutes of** **October 22, 2019 meeting. (Heissler/Cromwell) moved to approve the minutes as revised. The motion carried.**

**7. Approval of October 2019 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER).** **(Flehinger/Wieder) moved to approve the MER for Oct. 2019. The motion carried.**

**8. Approval of Financial Statements as of October 31, 2019. (Flehinger/Heissler) moved to approve the Financial Statements for Oct. 019. The motion carried.**

**9. Committee and other Reports**

**Outreach –** Web Corner has submitted a new contract which has been submitted to the City Clerk for approval. Terry Saucier announced the events at which TNC had booths.

**Events –** Esther Wieder:The next Earth Day event will take place on April 18, 2020, 10 – 2 p.m. The budget request will be coming up at the next meeting.

**Land Use –** David Garfinkle said Land Use will continue to work on enforcement of the ordinances controlling short term rentals and group homes. The Berggruen Institute is proposing a very large structure off the 405 which Land Use is opposing. This item will be on the January meeting. Billboard blight – Jeff talked about the version of the ordinance his committee is supporting. The City Planning Commission has sent a version to the PLUM committee that eliminates all of the restrictions. He will put this on the agenda for the next Land Use meeting. A childcare center on Victory is proposed on an R1 lot in the middle of single family homes. This is a huge project and Land Use is opposing it.

**Budget –** No report.

**Transportation** – Max Flehinger said the City turned down TNC’s request for increasing fines for illegal truck parking. He also asked for a passenger loading zone in front of Whole Foods but the Chief Parking Administrator said it isn’t possible due to ADA requirements. A green curb could be painted for short term parking but that might defeat the purpose. Signage suggesting video surveillance and enforcement at Van Alden and Topham is apparently a fake sign. There is no enforcement by LAPD. Max has issued a request for tree trimming at Linnett and Portola.

Public Safety – No report.

Rules – No report.

Government Action – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeffrey Mausner said the shelters are getting less crowded for puppy and kitten season but from 2015 – 2018 there was reduced funding for the City’s animal sterilization program which has led to an increase of stray cats and dogs. Jeff has written an article about this for CityWatch that predicts the numbers of strays rising by the 1,000’s due to the lack of sterilization. There has been significant progress on banning the dog meat trade since the City Council resolution. The City of Seoul, S. Korea has banned dog meat slaughterhouses and a province of Central Java in Indonesia has also. Jeff has posted articles on this on CitywatchLA.com. There is an EIR being finished on the trap and release community cat program, which was suspended. Once that is in place, hopefully, this will be overturned.

**Beautification** – A neighborhood cleanup is planned for January 19, 9 a.m. – noon with support from the Council Office and the Chamber of Commerce.

**Homelessness Committee** – Susan Lord: There wasn’t a quorum but at the last meeting, however, there was a discussion about focusing on the homeless in Tarzana. Hope of the Valley is the local shelter which serves hot meals every day and has 138 beds. It’s on Tyrone by Van Nuys Blvd. The buses offer free transit service for the homeless. The Councilmember is having a meeting on Jan. 19th about the homeless strategy. The next Homeless Committee meeting takes place the 3rd Thursday in January.

**DWP MOU Report –** Michael Povar said things are at a standstill with DWP regarding the request for watering medians. He said they don’t care about the right of ways so more work needs to be done to get them to help.

VANC Report – No report.

10. **Budget Rep. Motion: (Shaffer/Mausner) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to approve the NC Budget Advocates motion and to file a CIS as follows:**

“Whereas, according to the City Charter, “each Neighborhood Council may present to the Mayor and Council an annual list of priorities for the City budget.” Whereas, on July 24 and September 3, the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates recommended that the Mayor present his Proposed Budget on February 1st, 80 days earlier than the charter mandated date of April 20th. Whereas, this recommendation was rejected. Whereas, the Budget Advocates believe that the development of the Budget must be an open and transparent process where all interested parties, including Budget Advocates, have ample time to review, analyze, and comment upon the budget. Whereas, the extra 80 days will allow for increased transparency.

Therefore, the Tarzana Neighborhood Council supports increased transparency into the development of the City’s Budget and finances and strongly recommends that the Mayor present his Proposed Budget on February 1st, 80 days earlier than the charter mandated date of April 20th. Furthermore, the Board approves filing of a Community Impact Statement in Council File 19-0600 (Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2019-20) and subsequent budget file for the Fiscal Year 2020-21.”  **The motion carried with one abstention (Saucier).**

**11. Land Use Motion: (Garfinkle/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation that the Board continue reaffirm its opposition to the project at 18250 Ventura Blvd as currently presented.** At the Board’s regular meeting on October 24, 2017 the Board adopted the following motion: Resolved: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to oppose, as currently presented, the application for a zone change from R1-1 to QC2-1, a general plan amendment, a community plan amendment and a Ventura Plan amendment for five lots, two of which boarder on Ventura Boulevard; demolition of four single family houses between Etiwanda Avenue and Avenida Oriente, and construction of two medical office buildings, one 3950 square feet and one 3900 square feet along with surface parking lots and the conversion of one single family house to a general commercial office building.” **The motion carried unanimously.**

**12. Resignation:** The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to accept the resignation of Board member Richard Silverman and to thank him for his service to the community. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**13.** **Board Business** – None.

**14.**  **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One.