**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday August 25, 2020 7:00 PM**

**VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING**

**1. Call to Order** at 7 p.m. Roll Call: **Quorum achieved** with 18 board members.

**2. Roll Call:** Pam Blattner, Scott Diamond, Barry Edelman, Mark Epstein, Max Flehinger, David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Eran Heissler, Susan Lord, Yossi Malka, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Michael Povar, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Ken Schwartz, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. **(Absent:** Devon Cromwell, Joyce Greene, and Bob Schmaeff (arrived at 9:10 p.m.). Welcoming Remarks by Len.

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

**Captain Grimes, West Valley Community Police Station:** He was assigned in August 2020 to the West Valley from the Foothill Division. Crime Stats: Year to date: Homicides: 3 down (-70%), Rapes (-5%), Robberies (-14%), Aggravated assaults (-2%), Burglaries (-19%), Grand theft auto (up 47.5%), Burglary and Theft from motor vehicles (up 5.4%), (162 more victims), and Theft (-26.8%). He believes more transients are stealing cars to sleep in.

* Much of the increase is due to people leaving their keys in the car. The main focus is on grand theft auto, which is way up. With the changing of the law, there is no bail required for thieves to get bailed out of jail for this crime and they are back out on the street as soon as they are processed.
* He indicated that with the reductions in the budget, the chief is looking for opportunities to find other entities to work with the homeless and deal with issues they are causing. The LAPD is going to be reduced in numbers over the next few months.
* LAPD Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins: For Tarzana, property crime is down 14.9%.

**Veronica Vos, Field Deputy for Councilmember Bob Blumenfield** talked about locations to shelter homeless individuals in the district. There are ten possible locations that they are negotiating with. A Public Safety Town Hall is happening on 8/26/20 on Zoom focused on the West Valley on reimagining public safety (allowing social workers to take calls on homeless issues). They were able to secure funding to expand a program for Tarzana Treatment Center and Providence/St. Josephs Hospital. Structured childcare and after school programs will be set up at Tarzana Recreation Center.

**Blake Clayton, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s Office** announced three briefings they are scheduling for Zoom for different groups of business. On mail-in ballots: everyone will receive one but the polling centers will only be open for 5 days, not 11. There will be technical experts on the scene should there be any snafus.

**Betty Wong Oyama, EmpowerLA:** Recommended people vote by mail because of the coronavirus. There is a Council File that appropriates funding and outreach for this. Also a webinar to get input on the new website design proposal. She talked about mandatory training for all board members and letters of non-compliance to those who have not completed their trainings.

**City Attorney Michael Liu:** Asked for ways he could help. Jeff Mausner asked him to be present for Item 12 on fireworks.

**4.** **Public Comments:**

Stakeholder Rich Keenan – Lives across from Tarzana Park, reports serious gang activity in

the park.

Glenn Bailey – There will be a virtual Congress of Neighborhoods on Sept. 26th with City

Clerk Holly Wolcott a main speaker as well as the Mayor. Registration is open.

NCCongressLA.com. He also talked about issues with CF 20-0963 regarding the election.

**5.** **Budget Advocate/Representative Report:** Lee Blumenfield - For Budget Advocates – they have established 22 committees. Stakeholders can join too.

**6. Executive Secretary’s Attendance Report:** Max: One member has six absences.

**7. Minutes:** **(Heissler/Saucier) moved approval of the minutes for the July 28, 2020 board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

**8**. **Expenditures:** **(Goldberg/Garfinkle) moved approval of July 2020 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER). The motion carried unanimously.** Harvey stated that the City Clerk has not added the encumbrances to next year’s budget due to some technical issues.

**9.** **Financial Statement: (Goldberg/Wieder) moved approval of the Financial Statement as of July 31, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.**

**10.** **Board and other Reports**:

**Budget -** Harvey encouraged the board to work with local organizations to spend funds that are available. There is about $20K left in the budget.

**Land Use** – No report.

**Outreach** – Terry said the website has launched and thanked Harvey for proofreading it. She asked for bios and headshots. She will hold a meeting next month to get further suggestions.

**Events** – Esther has no events planned.

**Transportation** – Max gave his report. In reference to getting DOT to put up signage about road work, Max got a call with 5 people from Street Services and they agreed to place signage. The head of Public Relations also called re: taking care of tree trimming on Linnet.

**Public Safety** – Susan talked about a meeting with the Emergency Planning Alliance for a new Neighborhood Team Program. For CERT staging Areas, residents are going to be asked to house maps, clipboards and emergency routes in case of an emergency.

Government Action – None.

Animal Welfare – None.

**Beautification** – Iris has received rough drafts for the banners.

**Homelessness** – Susan said there are new agreements for homeless shelters; they are just waiting for funding.

**DWP MOU Report** – Michael said DWP is installing public water stations throughout the city.

**VANC Report** – Len said the Mayor and someone from the School Board came to speak.

**COVID-19 Ad Hoc –** No report.

**11. (Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Rules Committee’s recommended Standing Rule Clarifying Art V, Sec 7 (Absences) of the TNC Bylaws as follows:** Twelve (12) months beginning with the first absence is defined as a period of 365 days except for leap years when it is defined as 366 days. This clarification shall apply to all absences currently recorded in the TNC Board meeting minutes.” **The motion carried unanimously: 19-0-0**

**12.** **(Shaffer/Flehinger) moved “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive**

**Board’s recommendation to support the Sun Valley Area NC fireworks letter.**

**(Flehinger/Epstein) moved to table this motion. The motion to table carried: 18-1-0.**

**(Mausner).**

**13. (Shaffer/Goldberg) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive**

**Committee’s recommendation to approve the appointment of an Ad Hoc Election**

**Committee for the 2021 NC elections.** **The motion carried unanimously.** David, Mark and

Terry will serve on this committee.”

**14.** **(Goldberg/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves payment of**

**encumbrance to The Web Corner of $2,000 when the new website becomes operational**

**and replaces the existing website.” The motion carried unanimously.**

**15. (Garfinkle/Polonsky) moved:** “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use

Committee’s recommendation to approve the application for the construction of a 19,165

square foot medical office building at 5223 Lindley Ave as follows:

1. The project will substantially conform to the plans filed with the LA City Planning Dept on or about February 14, 2020

2. The FAR to be increased from 1.1 to 1.15

3. The lot coverage to be increased from 60% to 72%

4. A height exception from the Ventura Plan from 30 to 38 feet to include elevator shafts

5. A zone change from P-1 to C2 over the entire property

6. The applicant will record with the County Recorder a shared parking agreement for approximately 40 spaces with Ventana Medical Center LP, 18131 and 18133 Ventura Blvd Tarzana, CA

**The motion carried: 17-1-0 (Edelman)**

**16. (Shaffer/Mausner) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive**

**Committee’s recommendation to oppose the June 26, 2020 LAAS proposal as follows:**

**Whereas** the Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) Department’s draft Proposal dated June 26, 2020 to turn the West Valley Animal Shelter into a privately run Community Resource Center would result in significant loss of City services for the people and animals of the West San Fernando Valley; and

**Whereas** it would result in overburdening the only other city animal shelter in the Valley, the East Valley Animal Shelter; and

**Whereas** it would be inequitable because the entire burden of the LAAS budget cut is being visited on one area of the City, the West Valley; and is overwhelmingly opposed by the residents of the West Valley and the City; and

**Whereas** there are alternatives to the draft Proposal that would maintain the West Valley Shelter as a fully functioning municipal shelter.

**Now Therefore**, the Tarzana Neighborhood Council opposes the LAAS draft Proposal for the West Valley Animal Shelter dated June 26, 2020.

Jeff explained that the budget for Animal Services is being cut. This proposal was to turn the shelter into a community resource center for different rescues but would not be servicing stray or surrendered animals. Also, there would be no adoptions. In addition, with the loss of the sheltering capacity of the West Valley Shelter, there would not be enough kennel space and other resources to deal with all of the stray, surrendered, and abused animals in the Valley, raising the possibility of animals having to be killed in the City shelters for lack of space. The Valley would lose half of its animal resources and the West Valley would lose all of its resources. In answer to a question, Jeff said people are being told to keep strays and not bring them in to the shelter, but that this is not LAAS policy and LAAS leadership is instructing employees not to make such statements.

* Michelle Cornelius spoke about issues created by a lack of space at existing city shelters.
* Carolyn, a former volunteer at the West Valley Shelter, said the community desperately relies on this shelter.
* Cathy, a former volunteer at the West Valley Shelter, said there is enough money in the budget to have it opened as a municipal shelter.

**The motion carried: 17-1-1 (Blattner opposed, Garfinkle abstaining)**

17. **Board Business** – None.

18. **Adjournment** – 10:03 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One