**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday April 26, 2022 7:00 PM**

VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

1. **Call to Order by Len with welcoming remarks. Roll Call** **by Eran Heissler:** Quorum reached

with 15 board members. Attending: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Max Flehinger, David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Michon Rickman, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff and Esther Wieder. Isabel Gerhardt arrived at 7:30 p.m. and Iris Polonsky arrived at 7:40 p.m. Absent: Pam Blattner, Devon Cromwell, Daniel Gruen and Susan Lord.

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

**Blake Clayton of Supv. Sheila Kuehl’s office** invited everyone to the Headwaters Pavilion Open House at Westfield Topanga on May 3, 2022. L.A. County is moving away from plastics. In May 2023, the county will move forward with having all items from food retailers be compostable or recyclable. There is an encampment of homeless that has been ID’d as being on Flood Control Property at the Encino/Tarzana Live property. They are monitoring this situation and trying to get it cleared with help being given to those individuals.

**Mirna** [**Ezquivel**](https://bbc3-bbcd3.nationbuilder.com/mirna_esquival)**, Councilmember** **Blumenfield’s Office**, said the councilmember voted to support AB3 to provide additional penalties to those involved in street takeovers and street racing. He also supported SB9 to established no more than two units of housing in a single-family zone. The Council has approved an amendment for LADOT to resume parking enforcement for 5 categories of vehicles including those that post public health hazards, are inoperable and unregistered and environmental hazards.

**Michael Liu, Neighborhood Prosecutor,** addressed quality of life criminal matters in the W. Valley area. He talked about his work with Sr. Lead Officer Scoggins, who he regards as a great resource.

**Joe Gonsalez, EmpowerLA,** said City Hall will reopen on May 4th. Last month’s CIS training is available online now. Congress of NCs is being planned for Sept. 24th via Zoom. He is working on the bylaws amendments for the board.

**Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins, LAPD** said he could not make it to Earth Day due to having to work on May Day protests. **Crime Stats:** Crime is up 30% from last year at this time for Tarzana and 36% in the West Valley. In Tarzana last month, there were 6 robberies, 6 aggravated assaults, 16 burglaries, 13 cars stolen, 13 cars broken into, and 16 plain thefts. The Police Commission has reduced LAPD’s powers in stopping cars for pre-text issues such as a light out on a car. Now, police must always have a legal reason to stop a motorist such as a serious public safety issue. Pitching tents has been reduced to just a citation so police cannot do anything about removing homeless encampments. Daryl said the Police Commission’s policy is “handcuffing the police.” He invited everyone to the catalytic converter engraving event for Monday, May 16th.

1. **Public Comments:** Brent Benston, a stakeholder of Eastwood Estates has noticed several

illegal and unpermitted rentals on his street. He said the wiring is unsafe, they lack parking and the units are not set up for trash pickups. There are illegal hoarders among these properties which has created unsanitary conditions. He has not received action from filing complaints to the city. Michael Liu said he could not help with this complaint. Len then suggested he call the Council Office. Len then asked Susan Rogen, the Public Safety Chair, to assist him and she said she could try.

1. **Presentation: Healthy Streets LA - Michael Schneider** spoke about his proposed ballot

Measure, NC. Healthy Streets L.A., that he said would make the streets safer. He gave stats on traffic accidents and pedestrian deaths and spoke about the High Injury Network which he said would be made safer. See: [www.healthystreetsLA.com](http://www.healthystreetsLA.com). The plan involves paving high injury streets and installing protected bike lanes with plastic bollards (although he wants the city to switch to metal bollards), paint bike lanes, and create “Slow Streets” (which are cut-through streets where roundabouts or other slowdown engineering would be installed), plus create dedicated bus lanes.

LAPD’s Officer Scoggins said that this was implemented in his city in the Foothill Division and it has created major traffic congestion along Foothill Boulevard as two lanes in either direction were reduced to a single lane in each direction. He noted that you don’t see more bike riders and It has not caused any improvement in traffic accidents.

Isabel said she is a “big fan” of this project. She loves the idea of safer bike lanes. She feels it is smarter and safer.

Christopher also felt it might cause more bicyclists to use the bike lanes.

An unidentified stakeholder asked how this plan served people who cannot walk and have mobility issues. She also suggested that his effort to taking one car off the road would just be replace with three delivery trucks. She asked what his relationship is with delivery services. How will this plan replace or remove the delivery service industry?

Michael said he is suggesting a different way to implement the city’s plan. He said this plan does not address delivery vehicles in residential neighborhoods.

Stakeholder Barant (?) asked how certain he is that people would replace cars with bicycles.

Michael said they look at cities where that are more bike-friendly and have higher rates of bike usage.

Harvey suggested that a more effective mass transit system would take many more cars off the road to solve this problem. If more bike lanes are put in, it may create greater bike usage but it would also destroy the flow of traffic.

Michael agreed that it would be great to have an improved mass transit system. He asked people if they thought things were working well right now. He said the Mobility Plan would create more options for people.

Len asked where the major funding is coming from for this. Michael said that info is available on: ethics.lacity.org.

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report:** Glenn Bailey, co-chair of the budget advocates, said the 133-page White Paper has been released. Saturday, June 18th is the annual Budget Advocates Day. Go to: Budgetadvocates.org (look under documents for White Paper).
2. **Executive Secretary’s Report:** Max said, one member is in jeopardy due to their 5 absences.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** **(Heissler/Greene) moved approval of the February 22, 2022 board meeting minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Approval of Minutes: (Heissler/Polonsky) moved approval of the March 22, 2022 board meeting minutes as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9. Committee and other Reports**

**Budget:** Harvey stated that there is between $18K and $19K in TNC’s funding left in the fiscal year budget. Since only $10K can be rolled over, that money needs to be allocated or spent before the end of the fiscal year. May 18th is the next Budget Committee meeting where any items for funding can be discussed.

**Land Use** – No report.

**Outreach** – Terry spoke about what was needed for Earth Day.

**Events** – Esther talked about the upcoming Earth Day event.

**Transportation** – Max noted that the city is going to install speed tables on Van Alden to help rectify speeding. He spoke of pot holes being filled, transients living in the Etiwanda tunnel, and a pristine Yolanda tunnel based on Isabel’s work.

**Public Safety** – Susan spoke about the copper wire theft that has put DWP or Dept. of Street Lighting behind schedule.

**Rules** – Harvey asked Len for a meeting to adopt TNC’s Rules Retention Policy.

**Government Action –** No report.

**Animal Welfare –** Jeff said the board of Animal Services heard TNC’s proposal for free dog training to people adopting animals. That proposal was referred to the Animal Services Department and he was told that they truly appreciate the input provided by TNC.

**Beautification** – Iris thanked Terry & Esther for their cleanup work. She thanked Bob, Jeff and her husband, Hank, for the recent TCC event, plus Joyce for her photos.

**Homelessness –** Joyce said the planters have been put in place. Unfortunately, many of the succulents were damaged from the hot weather.

**DWP MOU Report** – No report.

**VANC Report –** Len did not have a report. Jeff said Supt. of Schools Tony Thurman was the main speaker.

**NCSA Liaison –** Terry said there are two motions which she will bring to the agenda next month.

**10. Discussion and motion of Expenditures: (Goldberg/Shmaeff) moved approval of the March 2022 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER). The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Discussion and motion Financial Statements: (Goldberg/Wieder) moved approval of the Financial Statements as of March 31, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.**

**12. Discussion and motion of Zoom payment: (Goldberg/Rogen) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the recommendation of the Budget Committee approving the request from our President to reserve $1,000 for Zoom licenses for Board and Committee meetings. To be classified as Operations, General, Zoom Meetings. Funds to come from Unallocated.” The motion carried unanimously.**

**13. Revised Budget: (Goldberg/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: Based on approval of the above agenda item(s) the TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 -June 30, 2022 to include those item(s). The Board further approves all necessary forms and paperwork required to update the budget and directs the Treasurer and/or President to prepare such and to submit it to the City Clerk’s Funding Division.” The motion carried unanimously.**

**14. Zoom Licenses: (Goldberg/Shmaeff) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the recommendation of the Executive Committee to purchase up to 5 annual Zoom licenses at approximately $200.00 each.”** **The motion carried unanimously.**

**15. Land Use Motion, Unwind Restaurant: (Garfinkle/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the recommendation of the Land Use Committee to approve the application of the Unwind Restaurant at 19100 Ventura Blvd for a Conditional Use Permit for alcohol (CUB) as follows: A conditional use permit for an existing 2300 sq ft restaurant with indoor seating for 68 and outdoor for 6 for the sale and distribution of a full line of alcoholic beverages to be served with food from the hours of 10:00 am to 2:00 am Monday through Sunday.”** **The motion carried unanimously.**

**16. Motion for Street Lights: (Goldberg/Flehinger) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s motion regarding street lighting as follows: That a letter be written to CM Bob Blumenfield requesting help in resolving the following situation:**

**The Tarzana Neighborhood Council has been informed by stakeholders that there are streetlights in our community that have been nonfunctioning for considerable periods of time. The streetlights referred to do not appear to be ones affected by the theft of copper wire. Stakeholders have also informed the TNC that requests for repair of the streetlights have not been successful. Stakeholders are concerned because they understand that streetlighting is a public safety issue. They are also concerned that as members of lighting districts they are assessed for the streetlights and should be able to expect service to keep the lights working.**

**“The TNC Board therefore requests that CM Blumenfield ask the Board of Public Works and the Bureau of Street Lighting to investigate this situation, report back on how repairs are prioritized and what might be done to accelerate responses to requests to repair nonfunctioning streetlights.”**

**(Edelman/Goldberg) moved to amend the motion to add: “Further, there has been no response to the requests for repair.” (to be added after “have not been successful.”**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**17**. **Dog and Cat Bill of Rights: (Mausner/Rickman) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS in support of CF-22-0002-S54 (Dog and Cat Bill of Rights) introduced by CM Bob Blumenfield at the request of the TNC.” The motion passed: 16-0-1 (Goldberg abstaining).**

**18**. **Board Business:** Jeff spoke about the total lunar eclipse on Sunday, May 15th at 7:40 p.m. visible in L.A.

**19**. **Adjournment: 9:44 p.m.**

* **Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -**