**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MINUTES**

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

VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

1. **Call to Order** at 7:14 p.m., Roll Call: Christopher Ahuja, Mathew Clark, David Garfinkle, Isabel Gerhardt, Eran Heissler, Susan Lord, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Len Shaffer, Bob Schmaeff, and Esther Wieder. **Quorum established with 12 board members**. **Absent were:** Pam Blattner, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Daniel Gruen, Michon Richman and Terry Saucer (7 members). Len gave welcoming remarks.
2. **Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

**Blake Clayton, Rep for County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s office** gave an update on the mask mandate saying L.A. County may move toward an indoor mask mandate. Monkeypox is becoming more of a concern so the County is reaching out to the state to get more vaccine supplies. See more info at: Publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/monkeypox The supervisor is terming out so her staff would like to get any requests for funding for final grant requests. Jeff Mausner talked about the brush clearing being done at the L.A. Animal Shelter in conjunction with fire safety requirements.

**Joel Gonzalez from EmpowerLA** said they received Readiness Surveys from all the NCs in the City. They will hold a Town Hall soon to review the results. He talked about proposed changes and feedback on the Council File regarding Budget Advocates funding. Access to trainings are on the EmpowerLA website with PowerPoint presentations. Soon they will upload a Brown Act Workshop and Robert’s Rules of Order Made Simple. Regarding the Digital Communication Policy – NC members need to attend a live training on July 28 or August 31. The date has been set for the next Congress of NCs, which will be virtual, on Sept. 24th, 2022.

**Sarah Martin, Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel’s office,** said they are looking to hire a new rep for their field office as well as student interns. After the legislature returns in August, he will be working on several bills which Sarah will provide more info about to Len. The Assemblymember is the chair of the Jewish Caucus and just returned from Israel. Finally, their office was asked to name a portion of the 101 freeway by the 405 and named it after the late astronaut Sally Ride.

1. **Public Comments:**

Varant Majarian, stakeholder said he was assaulted by a homeless man while taking a walk on Ventura Boulevard by Clark. He waited two hours for LAPD and when they showed up, they didn’t take a report. He was very disappointed.

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report:** Glen Bailey, Region 3 budget advocate. Said there is still an opening for a budget advocate. At their recent meeting, Jennifer Goody from Mid-City and Kay Hartman from Palms NC were elected co-chairs. The Budget Advocates will hold a retreat on August 20th to set up committees to work on various parts of the budget. Go to: [www.budgetadvocates.org](http://www.budgetadvocates.org) for more info.
2. **Executive Secretary’s Report**: Len announced that two board members have had six or more absences since the beginning of a 12-month period going back to 2021. They are Daniel Gruen and Michon Richman and according to the bylaws, have to be removed. Additionally, one other board member may have exceeded the five absences allowed.

**6.** **Approval of minutes of June 28, 2022 meeting.** (Heissler/Garfinkle) moved approval of the June board meeting minutes as corrected. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**7. Committee and other Reports**

**Budget** – Eran gave the report for Harvey. The next budget meeting is 8/17/22 at 6:45 p.m. The last meeting was very short and everything was approved.

**Land Use –** David announced a Town Hall Forum in late September/early October with TPOA

**Outreach** – No report.

**Events** - Esther announced National Night Out on August 2, 2022. TNC will have a table there. Location is Wilbur and Van Owen in the park.

**Transportation** – No report.

**Public Safety** – Susan talked about the rising # of burglaries. Len added that the West Valley is the burglary capital of the city according to Chief Hamilton. Auto theft is on the rise. He suggested Susan set up a new CERT training, although he said they are booked through next year.

**Rules** – No report.

**Government Action** – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff spoke about the Animal Services Department’s negative reports. At a recent meeting addressing issues of the City Council’s Animal Welfare Committee, a lot of these problems came to light. The board of Animal Services Commissioners refused to hear the request from Jeff’s committee about reimbursing volunteers for expenses. He said it appears they do not want to hear from stakeholders or NCs. As a result of this, CHULA has called for the commissioners to resign.

Additionally, when Prop F was passed in 2000, residents were told that the Dept. of Animal Services would operate 8 animal shelters. However, instead of operating the NE Shelter as a municipal shelter, they leased the facility to Best Friends. On June 29th, Best Friends announced they will be vacating that shelter on December 21, 2022. Then on July 8th, Animal Services said they will issue an RFP to allow another rescue organization to take over that lease. This decision did not accept input from the NCs on this decision which contradicts their promise to operate the shelter, themselves.

At the recent VANC meeting, VANC passed a resolution, unanimously asked for NCs to have input into the decision as to whether the shelter should be public or private and what the terms would be.

**Beautification** – Iris said they are still waiting for the city to approve the pole banners. She also noted that more of the banners are damaged. On another note, residents of the Tiny Cabins are interested in having a garden on a narrow strip of land there.

**Homelessness –** Susan Lord has asked the city to put slurry on the blacktop to alleviate heat.

She said they are removing the potted plants as they are not doing well in the heat. The plants will be refreshed and brought back in the fall.

**DWP MOU Report** – No report.

**VANC Report –** Len gave a report on actions taken at VANC. There is a new appointee named Ms. Fineman who is with the NC Advice Division. She was formerly with the Neighborhood Prosecutor’s office.

**NCSA Liaison** – No report.

**8.** **Approval of MER:** (Heissler/Polonsky) moved approval of the June 2022 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER). The motion carried unanimously.

**9. Approval of Financial Statement:** (Heissler/Schmaeff) moved approval of the Financial Statements as of June 30, 2022. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**10.** **Discussion and motion:** TNC Board Executive Secretary election per Bylaws Article VI, Sec. 3 which states as follows: “The Board may elect one (1) of their number to fill any vacancy that may occur among the officers prior to any regular election of officers.” Candidates may be nominated from the floor or may self-nominate. Each candidate shall be given 3 minutes to make a statement to the Board. This discussion was to fill the absent Secretary position. Eran appointed Bob Schmaeff. Iris Polonsky self -nominated. Iris also nominated Susan Rogen. Susan withdrew her candidacy after realizing that she couldn’t split the job duties with Iris. **Iris was appointed to Executive Secretary by a vote of 9 – 2 (Clark and Heissler).**

**10a**. **Election Worksheet:** (Shaffer/Rogen) moved, “Resolved: The TNC board adopts the recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the Election Information Worksheet. June 18th. 2023 will be the next TNC election. Elections will be hybrid – both in person and vote by mail. Len said their primary location will be the Tarzana Child Care Center, with the TCCC as an alternative spot. The date is also Father’s Day.” The timeslot chosen was 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**11**. **Paid Lobbyist Disclosure: (Shaffer/Rogen)** moved, “Under section 48.08.8 of the current lobbying ordinance, a lobbyist disclosure is only required for written communications to neighborhood councils. The TNC Board, in agreement with numerous other Neighborhood Councils urges the City Council to update the ordinance to include the same disclosure when a lobbyist makes an oral presentation that is related to their lobbying efforts, to an individual Board member or Board members or during public comment at a neighborhood council board or committee meeting. As such, we emphatically agree with section 48.11 of the draft municipal lobbying ordinance under consideration.

Persons listening to speakers before the City Council and/or its committees have no way of knowing if someone is a paid lobbyist until the speaker cards are posted. For there to be complete transparency regarding who is addressing the City Council and/or its committees, oral disclosures of lobbyist status should also apply to the City Council and its committees.

Because the annual revenue of many non-profits that speak on issues is well below $2.000.000.00, we recommend the exemption level be reduced to $200,000.00 in revenue or assets of less than $500,000.00.”

Jamie York, who crafted the motion, made some comments on her suggestion of how this motion be used.

Glen Bailey talked about the importance of this motion.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**12. Resignation:** (Shaffer/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the TNC Board accept the resignation of Board member Devon Cromwell.” **The motion carried unanimously.**

**13.** **Appointment:** (Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the appointment of Mark Epstein as chair of the Transportation Committee.” Mark was not present for the discussion. Several board members questioned whether a non-board member should chair this committee. Eran spoke in favor of Mark’s qualifications.

**(Garfinkle/Polonsky) moved to table this appointment to the next meeting. The motion carried: 11 – 1 (Schmaeff).** Len will invite Mark to attend the next meeting’s vote.

Wayne Goat Puppet tried to make a public comment but lost his transmission. He then called back and talked for another minute.

**14**. **Board Business:**

a. Comment on Board members own activities/brief announcements:Len welcomed Iris to the Executive Committee.

**15**. Adjournment: 9:40 p.m.

* Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -