**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday March 28, 2023 7:00 PM**

VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

Supporting documents related to the below agenda items are posted on the TNC website at

<https://www.tarzananc.org/committees/viewCommittee/board>

1. **Call to Order:** TNC President Len Shaffer called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with welcoming remarks about the meeting and how to engage online.

**Roll Call:** Attending were: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder (left the meeting at 9:47 p.m.). Absent were: David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff. Quorum was established with 14 board members.

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

* **Michael Liu,** West Valley Neighborhood Prosecutor for the City Attorney’s Office said his boss, City Attorney Heidi Feldstein Soto, will be the guest speaker at the West Valley CPAB meeting on Zoom meeting on April 12, 2023. Len added that she will also be at the Valley Alliance of NC’s meeting, April 13, 2023.
* **Safi Lodin,** Deputy for Councilmember Blumenfield’s Office, gave an update on the funding for unarmed officers to expand the city’s suicide and crisis hotline response system. This will free up LAPD on non-violent calls, mental health calls, welfare checks, calls involving alcohol/drugs, homeless encampments and parking violations. This office is now being established. The Mayor’s office initiated the Inside Safe Program along the L.A. River on March 10, 2023 which subsequently housed 44 individuals in hotels.
* **Joel Gonsalez,** EmpowerLA rep, reminded the board about the Tarzana NC election on June 18, 2023.

Varant Hajurian told Safi that he was attacked again by a homeless person. He stated that the homeless are not decreasing. There is an encampment at the Bank of America parking lot. The staff there ares asking for a mandatory cleanup as the homeless are coming into the bank and harassing customers.

John & Michelle Hale talked about the Circle Group in L.A. and wondered why they were not mentioned in Safi’s talk.

Christopher said that the recent Homeless Count has figures showing how many homeless are now on the streets of Tarzana.

1. **Presentation**: Lauren Padick, LA City Planning Dept. regarding the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan Amendment. On March 3rd, the City Council passed a motion that will expedite sign clearances (for businesses) on Ventura Blvd., allowing signage requests to be administratively cleared. Another council motion addresses community representation of the Specific Plan. A hearing will be held in the spring. She will send Len all the information on how to sign up for email updates.

As the Plan is currently written, each Council Office will get two appointees. Due to the redistricting, the board has shrunk.

1. **Public Comments:**

* Varant Hajurian spoke about incidents at the Ventura Blvd. Coffee Bean with homeless people. Tarzana is becoming dangerous.
* Jeff Rector, an award-winning director/producer, introduced himself. He is the festival director for the Tarzana Intl. Film Festival, now in its 2nd year. Braemar will be hosting them for their closing night. Their goal is to bring more culture to Tarzana and find donors. Website: TZIFF.com

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report – No report.**
2. **Clerk’s Office Election Representative Report** – Len stated that candidates have until April 4th to register.

**7. Executive Secretary’s Report** – Iris did not know of any board members who needed further training. No board members have missed 6 meetings. Mathew and Esther completed trainings recently.

**8.Discussion and motion** – **(Heissler/Goldberg) moved approval of the minutes of the February 28, 2023 meeting. The motion carried unanimously**. **Roll Call vote: 14 Approved**: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. **None Opposed**. **None Abstaining.** **Absent:** David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff

**9. Committee and other Reports** (General committee reports will be limited to no more than 3 minutes)

**Budget** – April 19th is the date for the next Budget Meeting. April 12th is the last date to submit budget items. There is $21,500 left in the fiscal year budget. $10,000 can be rolled over.

**Land Use** – Len announced the Land Use meeting on March 29, 2023.

**Outreach** – Terry spoke about Earth Day – the flyer is now available. The election promotion is the main thing her committee is working on. Susan R. thanked everyone who participated in the Disaster Preparedness Fair.

**Events** – Esther talked about preparations for Earth Day on Saturday, April 15, 2023. Michon is helping her. She invited everyone to bring their families.

**Transportation** – Susan R. gave updates on different improvements. Zane Greene has left the committee. Neighborhood Plaques are being worked on for Dan and Max’s family. Potholes are still needing repairs.

**Public Safety** – Susan R. – No report.

**Rules** – No report.

**Government Action** – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff said mediation for terminated volunteers from the animal shelters has not yet taken place. There is a petition going around regarding this. The shelters are overcrowded and need more volunteers. They are waiting for the new GM to be appointed and the budget to be approved.

**Beautification** – Iris gave an update on the banners.

**Homelessness** – Susan Lord thanked Jeff for taking his clothes to the homeless mission. This committee will be holding quarterly meetings in the future. Len added his report about the Mayor’s efforts with the clergy about working against nimbi-ism.

**DWP MOU Report** – Terry might volunteer after Earth Day. Joyce said she would like to be an alternate.

**VANC Report** – Len said the new City Attorney will be at the next meeting.

LANCC Report – No report.

**NCSA Liaison** – Christopher gave an update saying there was a Town Hall for CD6.

Ad Hoc VNY – No report.

**10.** **MER Motion**: **(Goldberg/Greene) moved approval of the February 2023 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and the Financial Statement as of February 28, 2023. The motion carried unanimously**. **Roll Call vote: 13 Approved**: Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. **None Opposed**. **None Abstaining.** **Absent:** Christopher Ahuja, David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff.

**11.** **Portola Middle School NPG**: **(Goldberg/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation regarding the request from Portola Middle School to approve an NPG in the amount of $1000.00 to help create a Mock Trial Program, contingent upon Portola Middle School raising the remainder of the $3650.00 originally requested. The TNC Board further approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 to include the above item and 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.”** Harvey said this motion needed to be approved by the end of May.

**(Frost Gerhardt/Polonsky) amended the motion to fund the full amount of $3650.00 for Portola Middle School to help create a Mock Trial Program.**

Heidi Weber, the Mock Trial Coach and teacher, said more than 30 students signed up for this. She spoke about students taking on the role of attorneys and witnesses.

Hrant Majarian disputed the comment by a board member about property values going up if this program is funded. He pointed out that another NC voted not to fund this program.

**The motion to amend the amount carried unanimously**. **Roll Call vote: 14 Approved**: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. **None Opposed**. **None Abstaining.** **Absent:** David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff.

**The full amended motion** **carried unanimously**. **Roll Call vote: 14 Approved**: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. **None Opposed**. **None Abstaining.** **Absent:** David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff.

**12.** **Dog Park Motion:** **(Mausner/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Animal Welfare Committee’s request to file a CIS regarding CF 22-0247 as it pertains to the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park as follows: We are against unless the CF is amended as follows:**

1. None of the land of the Dog Park is to be taken for the bike path.
2. No trees, especially shade trees, in or adjacent to the Dog Park are removed.
3. The Dog Park is not closed during construction.
4. The bike path has sufficient separation from the Dog Park so that dogs in the park will not chase bikes along the fence line, causing injury to other dogs or people in the Dog Park.
5. For safety purposes the parking lot for the Dog Park should be separated by fencing from any current or future bike path.
6. Because dog owners want to use the Dog Park after they get home from work lights should be installed.
7. It is further recommended that Before any plan for the bike path is approved and before construction begins, users of the Dog Park, the organization Friends of the Sepulveda Basin Off-Leash Dog Park, as well as the impacted Neighborhood Councils, should be given an opportunity to provide input, at a town hall or other meeting.  Hundreds of local residents regularly use the Dog Park and have not been given an adequate opportunity to provide input. There are alternatives to the current plan which have been developed by users of the Dog Park, such as continuing the bike path south of the Los Angeles River, which have not been given a hearing.”

**(Shaffer) suggested to only amend the portion of the Council File that refers to the Dog Park: “We are against the portion to the CF that may pertain to the dog park unless amended as follows.”**

**(Mausner) suggested amending line #4 to: “…causing injury to other dogs or people in the Dog Park or adjacent to it.”**

Betsy Manchester, a Northridge resident and a friend of the Dog Park said the critical issue is that the bike path would criss-cross the dog park area and would involve tunnels underneath the park. Also, 23 oak trees and native plants would need to be removed.

Miriam Pursell said there are already signs that dogs should be on a leash. There is not enough parking for the dog park users so opening it to bike riders would be a problem. There are also several safety concerns.

Jill Haber said the parking already overflows the lot. She talked about the homeless sleeping in the porta potties and using them for storage. The amendment is needed to work for everybody.

Sharon Brewer said more information is needed and suggested the board members visit this site and see it themselves.

Terry Leiberstein said dogs and bikes don’t mix. Building the bike path along the dog park is not an acceptable solution – it’s a recipe for disaster.

Miriam said their online petition can be viewed on Change.org: “Preserve the Sepulveda Basin Dog Park.” There are over 1,000 signatures already; it is very detailed and accurate.

**The motion carried unanimously**. **Roll Call vote: 14 Approved**: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. **None Opposed**. **None Abstaining.** **Absent:** David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff.

**13.** **(Mausner/Shaffer) moved, “The TNC Board adopts the Animal Welfare Committee’s’ request to file a CIS supporting CF 19-0002-S101, which was passed unanimously by the Los Angeles City Council and signed by the Mayor, requesting the governments of China, Vietnam, South Korea, Cambodia, and Indonesia to ban the sale of dog meat and to enforce their animal cruelty laws.**

**The motion carried 13-1-0**. **Roll Call vote: 13 Approved**: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. **Opposed:** Harvey Goldberg. **None Abstaining.** **Absent:** David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff.

14. **(Mausner/Heissler) moved, “The TNC Board adopts the Animal Welfare Committee’s recommendation to request that CM Bob Blumenfield introduce a motion that the City support AB240, entitled “Dogs and cats: California Spay-Neuter Fund” and that a letter be sent to CM Blumenfield regarding that request.”**

**The motion carried unanimously. Roll Call vote: 13 Approved**: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Isabel Frost Gerhardt, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer. **None Opposed**. **None Abstaining.** **Absent:** Esther Wieder, David Garfinkle andBob Shmaeff.

**15**. **Board Business** – Eran announced that the next board meeting will be in-person at the Childcare Center. Everyone will meet at 6:30 p.m. for social time before the 7 p.m. board meeting. Len added that tomorrow will be the last day for virtual NC meetings in the City. At this point, the NCs will not have to ask whether people are vaccinated but the board needs to be vaccinated. There are no requirements for masking and no one is to be turned away. SB-4111 is Senator Portantino’s bill which would allow for virtual meetings. Len said he hoped it would be passed as an emergency measure. If it passes, meetings will return to virtual if the board votes for that.

**16**. Adjournment: 10:05 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One

**For more information about the Tarzana Neighborhood Council visit our web site at** [**www.tarzananc.org**](http://www.tarzananc.org)