**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday December 12, 2023**

**Tarzana Child Care Center**

**5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356**

1. **Call to Order** at: 7:13 p.m. by Len Shaffer, president of TNC.  **Roll Call by Jeff Mausner** (filling in for Eran Heissler): Faryl Arbeitman, Silvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Leon Atonio Gonzalez, Joyce Greene, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Paul Radenberg, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer, Bob Shmaeff, and Esther Wieder. Quorum established with 16 board members present. Pam Majumdar arrived at 7:23 p.m. bringing the quorum to 17. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).

Welcoming Remarks by Len.

1. **Remarks by representatives of public officials**: None.
2. **Public Comments** – None.
3. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report** – None.
4. **Executive Secretary’s Report** – Iris announced that one person has 4 absences but no one is in jeopardy yet. If you miss 6 meetings per year, you can be removed from the board. Len announced that a new Code of Conduct has been approved by BONC which will go into effect in 60 or 90 days. The motion carried unanimously: 16-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg, Pam Majumdar and Bruno Hernandez).
5. **Approval of minutes of the November 14, 2023 Special meeting.** (Bedrossian/ Polonsky) moved that the minutes of the November 14, 2023 Special meeting be approved with changes. The motion carried unanimously: 16-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg, Pam Majumdar and Bruno Hernandez).

**7. Committee and other Reports**

**Budget** – Len reported that the next committee meeting will be January 17th; get Harvey any budget requests by Jan. 10th, 2024.

**Land Use** – Len

**Outreach** – Terry thanked everyone who helped out with tabling at the Tarzana Plant Fair.

**Events** – Esther announced the Earth Day event the 2nd week of April. Planning starts Jan. 11th at 7 p.m. to make this a successful event.

**Transportation** – Susan Rogen gave a report re: Tarzana Park sprinklers, Tarzana Car Wash graffiti, funding for roundabouts on Reseda, pedestrian beacon on Hatteras, & traffic study by the 101 north.

**Public Safety** – Varant Majerian stated that there was a fatality by the car wash recently.

**Rules** – No report.

**Government Action** – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff announced that a subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee of the Korean National Assembly passed the anti-dog meat bill. (This involves 3,000 dogs per day that have previously be tortured and several million per year). His video on this subject was released last month and turned over to the legislature and is posted on YouTube. The Department of Animal Services is seeking increased funding in their budget to alleviate overcrowding in the shelters and increasing fees to vets who spay and neuter dogs and cats. But Animal Services still lacks strict enforcement of spaying and neutering laws.

**Beautification** – Iris said the next meeting on January 11th.

**Homelessness** – Susan Lord spoke about holiday decorations for the cabins. They are trying to improve the atmosphere there by bringing in music.

**DWP MOU Report** – No report.

**VANC Report –** Len said the Deputy Mayor for Outreach was at the last meeting and an LAUSD board member was there.

**LANCC Report** – No report.

**NCSA Liaison** – Terry spoke about needing public feedback on options for the Sepulveda Basin EIR. Terry will forward the plans to the board and put on the TNC website.

**Ad Hoc VNY** – Len said Encino is holding an open house.

**9.** **Budget Committee**/**Expenditures**: (Shaffer/Shmaeff) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation and approves the October 2023 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and Financial Statements as of October 31, 2023.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Ineligible: Greene, Arbietman and MacIntosh). (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**10.** **Budget Committee/Repair to Speaker**: (Shaffer/Shmaeff) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve the request from TNC President for repairs to Fender Passport 150 Speaker System by Sam Ash (vendor) at a cost NTE $225.00. Minimum diagnostic charge $70.00. To be classified as Operations, General, Equipment Repairs. Funds to come from Unallocated.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Ineligible: Greene, Arbietman and MacIntosh). (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**11.** **Budget Committee/Food Pantry Funding NPG:** (Shaffer/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve the NPG request for $5,000 from PoP/West Valley Food Pantry to purchase food and supplies for distribution to seniors, families with school age children and the homeless in the west San Fernando Valley. To be classified as NPG PoP/West Valley Food Pantry. Funds to come from Unallocated.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Ineligible: Greene, Arbietman and MacIntosh). (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**12.** **Budget Committee/Volunteer Cleaning:** (Shaffer/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve the request from the TNC Beautification Committee to purchase clean-up supplies for the January 27, 2024 to clean-up the area around Ventura Blvd & Reseda Blvd in Tarzana in conjunction with Volunteers Cleaning Communities at a cost NTE $150 from vendors TBD. To be classified as Community Improvement Projects, Community Cleanup Supplies. Funds to come from Unallocated.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Ineligible: Greene, Arbietman and MacIntosh). (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**13. Budget Committee/ Budget Update:** (Shaffer/Polonsky) moved, **“**Resolved: The TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 to include the above items 10, 11, and 12, 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.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Ineligible: Greene, Arbietman and MacIntosh). (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**14. Beautification/Clean Up:** (Polonsky/Rogen) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Beautification Committee’s recommendation to join the Volunteers Cleaning Communities (VCC), the West Valley Warner Center Chamber, and CM Blumenfield in a clean-up of the area around Ventura Blvd & Reseda Blvd in Tarzana on Saturday January 27, 2024 between 8:00 and 10:00 AM.” This event is weather permitting. If it rains, it will be cancelled.

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**15.** **Homelessness Representatives’ Appointments**: (Shaffer/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to appoint Susan Lord and Joyce Greene as the two Homelessness Representatives.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**16.** **Appointments for Grievance Panel:** (Shaffer/Greene) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to appoint Susan Rogen and Sylvia Bedrossian as the two Grievance Panel Representatives.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**17.** **Appointment to Social Media Administrator**: (Shaffer/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to appoint Pam Majumdar as one of TNC’s Social Media Administrators.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

 **18. Community Impact Statement**: (Shaffer/Mausner) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS supporting CF 23-1164 making it a misdemeanor for anyone to litter “with the intent to willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, oppress, or threaten any other person based on their perceived characteristics.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**19. Executive Committee Motion: CIS for Report Back on Spay/Neutering.** (Shaffer/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS supporting CF 23-0452 requesting a report back on the costs of spay and neutering as follows:

There is an **emergency** taking place regarding animals in the City. S**evere overcrowding and killing of healthy adoptable dogs in the City Animal Shelters for lack of space is an emergency.** The overpopulation of dogs is costing the City millions of dollars. Please see: [*Crucial City Funding: Spay and Neuter Saves Money and Lives* (citywatchla.com)](https://www.citywatchla.com/369-budget-advocates/18933-crucial-city-funding-spay-and-neuter-saves-money-and-lives?highlight=WyJtYXVzbmVyIl0=)

It is crucial that steps be taken immediately to decrease the number of dogs coming into the shelters. A moratorium on breeding permits is a necessary step in doing so, at least until this immediate emergency is resolved.

At the same time, we suggest that the City Council also take the following steps to address the overcrowding emergency:

1. Encourage spay/neuter of pets by increasing funding for more free and discounted spay/neuter vouchers and increasing the amount veterinarians are paid for performing spay/neuters under the vouchers. The amount of payment to vets pursuant to the vouchers is ridiculously low and, as a result, there are not enough vets willing to perform spay/neuters under the vouchers. Increasing the availability of vouchers and raising the fees paid to veterinarians to encourage them to perform spay/neuters is a necessary step in solving the emergency.

2. Deploy an advertising/email/social media/news media campaign for spay/neuter vouchers. As part of this campaign, make clear that the City is going to **start enforcing spay/neuter laws more vigorously, much more vigorously.** Publicize that you can use a free or discounted spay/neuter voucher to avoid a severe fine. There should be severe fines for failure to spay/neuter, with minimal or no waivers.

3. Use the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter in Mission Hills and the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter in South L.A. on an emergency basis to house dogs from overcrowded shelters in any empty kennels, without displacing any dogs currently at those shelters. Encourage all experienced former volunteers to return to help care for the animals there. This will allow this to be done at the lowest cost for the city.

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

 **20. Land Use Motion:** (Shaffer/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation

 to file a CIS supporting CF 21- 1230 if amended as follows:

1. The Housing Element specifically excludes overlays for up-zoning in R-1 or more restrictive zones beyond what SB9 and laws regarding ADUs allow.
2. The Housing Element specifically excludes overlays for up-zoning areas with older, rent stabilized multi-family housing beyond what SB9 and laws regarding ADUs allow.
3. The Housing Element confines its up-zoning and density bonus overlays to commercial corridors and public lands.
4. The Housing Element specifically includes Adaptive Reuse.”

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0. (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

**21.** **Executive Committee Motion/Virtual Meetings**: (Shaffer/MacIntosh) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board by a 2/3 vote of the entire Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to submit a CIS for CF 23-1114 stating that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council wants to take advantage of the provisions of SB 411 for the following reasons:

 **1.** We have stakeholders who would be members of the Board if they were allowed to participate virtually. When we returned to in-person meetings two valuable Board members could not continue due to lack of child-care.

 **2.** Board members who are unable to leave work early enough to be at our meetings starting time could continue to participate. One person elected in the 2023 election had to resign when they changed jobs and were too far away to be at the in-person meetings on time.

 **3.** It would be easier for Board members and stakeholders who have mobility problems to participate in our meetings.

 **4.** Several of our Board members are seniors and the ability to attend virtually will ensure their continued participation.

 **5.** Virtual meetings enhanced our ability to accommodate persons having business before the Board, such as developers and others seeking approval of projects.

 **6.** During COVID, virtual meetings increased participation by our stakeholders, which has dropped off with in-person meetings.”

**The motion carried: 15-2-0 (Opposed: MacIntosh & Shmaeff), (Absent: Christopher Ahuja, Eran Heissler, Harvey Goldberg and Bruno Hernandez).**

 **22**. **Board Business** - Len announced that there was more activity regarding LAPD Sr. Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins. Len is representing TNC to the City Attorney. Due to the further developments, it was recommended that the board hold off to submitting a letter on behalf of Officer Scoggins. The next TNC meeting for Jan. 23rd will be cancelled due to the homeless count. Another meeting will be scheduled on Jan. 24, 2024.

**23.**. **Adjournment** at 9:16 p.m.

* Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -