

TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 22, 2011
Tarzana Elementary School
5726 Topeka Dr, Tarzana, CA 91356

1. **Call to Order by TNC President Len Shaffer at 7:10 p.m.** Welcoming remarks & pledge. **Roll Call:** Al Abrams, Linda Abrams, Kathy Delle Donne, Barry Edelman, Max Flehinger, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Joel Jaffe, Len Shaffer, Evan Levi, Denyse Selesnick, Murdoch Pourkhani, Robert Sarvian, Ken Zeitz and Sussan Weidman. Gary Mittin arrived late & left early. **Excused:** David Garfinkle and Chris McManus. **Absent:** Paul Lawler.
2. Approval of minutes of previous meetings: **A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.**
3. Approval of monthly financial statements – **(Goldberg/Heissler) moved to accept the monthly financial statement as presented by Treasurer Harvey Goldberg. The motion carried unanimously.**
4. Remarks by representatives of public officials.
LAPD Senior Lead Officer Darryl Scoggins thanked TNC for their help with their recent public meeting. The LAPD recently held a meeting to discuss a series of home invasions and home burglaries in the area. He recommended residents hold Neighborhood Watch meetings to help the police capture the suspects. **Crime stats:** During January there were 7 robberies, 16 burglaries, 11 stolen cars and 15 motor vehicle thefts. He asked homeowners who live in gated complexes to provide police with remotes so they can access these areas when a crime is taking place. He recommended stakeholders use the Nixle application to receive alerts from LAPD. He thanked the board for allowing the kids that Officer Skoggins works with to plant trees and said they are looking forward to working at Mecca Park.
5. **Measure L:** David Hagopian, Acting Senior and Branch Manager at Encino-Tarzana Library urged stakeholders to vote “Yes” on Measure L on the March 8th ballot. He informed the board of the many resources the library offers to the public and to school children. He then reviewed the limitations they have undergone due to budget cuts and explained what Measure L entails. City Librarian Fontayne Holmes spoke further about Measure L., a charter measure. Barbara Leff, President of Friends of Encino-Tarzana Library then spoke about Ballot Box Budgeting.

TNC Board Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. to hear from Congressman Brad Sherman.

Guest Speaker Congressman Brad Sherman addressed the board.

Congressman Sherman has represented the Western S.F. Valley for 14 years. He introduced Michael Tow, his field deputy, who handles planning and land use decisions. Michael has been instrumental in getting \$3 million in federal funding for projects including acquisition of land in the Santa Monica Mountains, adding an additional lane to the 405 freeway, and various transportation projects, such as the Orange Line. Congressman Sherman introduced John Alfred, the newest member of his team, who distributed constituent service guides and signed up stakeholders up for communication emails. The Congressman then talked about several issues relevant to the community:

Conforming Loan Limits: He fought to raise the limit from \$417,000 to \$729,000 - \$750,000. He's now fighting to keep that amount.

Possible Government Shutdown: He talked about timeframes for passing appropriations bills. March 4th was the time limit for funding the government. He said if they didn't meet that deadline, a temporary patch would allow emergency services to operate, but other services will be shut down. He said both parties were still pretty far apart and that he was embarrassed about the way things were going in Congress; that it was no way to run a government.

Areas of Budget He Would Reduce: He wants to see a singular version, as opposed to two versions, of the Strike Fighter. He feels crop price supports are too high and should be reduced. With cotton prices at an all-time high, subsidy checks to the Heartland should be cut. He talked about tax loopholes that need to be dealt with including provisions that allow people to put their affairs in Antigua or the Cayman Islands and not pay taxes. As a former CPA, he said tax professionals know how to exploit these loopholes and Congress now needs to address this issue.

He then addressed questions regarding:

Taxation on investment income explaining how this works.

Funding owed to LAUSD from the federal government (he doesn't think LAUSD should receive funding).

Funding being spent on fighting the war in Afghanistan (he doesn't think that Afghanistan can be remade by the U.S.).

Funding for Egypt (He said this is an incentive/reward for entering into peace with Israel). While foreign aid is the most controversial part of the budget, it is also the smallest part of our budget – less than 1%). He believes aid and diplomacy are far less expensive than waging war.

The savings and loan meltdown: He believes there should be measures to penalize the financial institutions responsible for the meltdown. He was opposed the bank bailout and worked for a stronger financial reform bill than what was adopted. He doesn't think it's up to Congress to legislate who goes to jail, but he believes the SEC should take on the role of a law enforcement agency. He co-sponsored a bill to limit financial institution's size. He blamed the credit rating agencies for their role in this giving AAA to ALT A, which went to sub-prime mortgages.

Redistricting south of Ventura Blvd. He noted that most of Tarzana is in his district and he wants to make sure the whole of the Valley gets a fair break with redistricting. He doesn't think dividing Tarzana makes any sense. He said a new commission has been set up to look at county and city boundaries and communities of interest. He'll be in touch to let everyone know when that commission is meeting.

Congressman Sherman will hold a Town Hall meeting on May 15th at Cal State Northridge, Performing Arts Center. Parking is free.

Congressman Sherman presented TNC's Kathy Della Donne with a flag that has flown over the capital in Washington, DC for her outstanding service to the community.

Board Meeting resumed at 8:25 p.m.

6. **Public Comments – No Comments.**
7. **Street vacation of Etiwanda Ave. between Burbank Blvd. & Ventura Freeway** - (next to pedestrian tunnel under freeway) Request by applicant to use this street for a driveway to a proposed project – ***Tabled for a later time.***
8. **Land Use: 6360 Reseda Blvd.** Kathy Delle Donne explained that this site, at Victory and Reseda Blvd., is now a used car lot. T-Mobile has proposed constructing a 45 foot cell phone tower disguised as a monopine with 9 panel antennas. The site is adjacent to a 3 story apartment complex. The Land Use Committee had proposed that T Mobile consider another site for their cell tower. The rep for T-Mobile then proposed planting two, 20' live cypress trees to separate the used car lot from the homes in the back.

(Delle Donne/Abrams) moved, “The TNC supports the issuance of a conditional use permit at 6360 Reseda Blvd. for a wireless telecommunications facility. This facility shall consist of a tower disguised as a 45’ cypress tree with 9 T-Mobile panel antennas camouflaged within the cypress and 4 equipment cabinets placed behind a 7’ 10” wall and a roof to keep any sound at a minimum for the neighboring apartments, and a GPS antenna mounted on the wall. The cabinet itself will be located in the SE corner of the property. The monocypress will be installed along the eastern property line along with the additional planting of four, live cypress trees at a minimum of 20’ high, two on each side. The TNC agrees to a setback encroachment only for the installation of a monocypress. T-Mobile will be responsible for the maintenance of the four, live cypress trees until the facility shall be abandoned. Any and all violations will be removed by the property owner of the site.”
The motion carried: 14-2-0 (Edelman & Greene opposed).

9. **Land Use: 18568 Ventura Blvd (Walgreen’s)** – Kathy explained that Walgreens is requesting a conditional use permit for the sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption. No stakeholders showed up at the Land Use meeting when this was discussed so the Committee voted to approve this request with conditions. A public hearing will be held on 3/15 before the City.

(Delle Donne/Jaffe) moved, “The TNC supports the granting of a conditional use permit for the sale and dispensing of beer and wine for offsite consumption at the Walgreens store. The conditional use permit shall include all the conditions volunteered in the submitted master Land Use application with emphasis on the following conditions:

- a. **Hours of operation are from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Saturday,**
- b. **No beer and wine coolers will be sold in single cans and wine will not be sold in containers of less than 750 ml,**
- c. **Signage advertising the availability of alcohol shall not be visible on the outside of the premises,**
- d. **The term of the grant shall be for 5 years,**
- e. **The CUB shall terminate if the premises ceases to be a pharmacy.**

The motion carried 15-2-0 (Weidman & Zeitz opposed).

10. **Nestle Ave Elementary School – Budget Committee resolution. (Goldberg/Flehinger) moved, “Resolved that based on the recommendation of the TNC Budget Committee, the TNC pay 50% of the cost to purchase a Duplo 410 duplicator and 3 years of related supplies consisting of 168 cartridges (7 cases) and 70 rolls of masters (7**

cases) for a maximum of \$2,700 for the Nestle Avenue Elementary School from the Community Projects budget.” The board discussed the school’s budget and heard from its principal, who answered their questions. **The motion carried: 12-4-1 (Opposed: Heissler, Mittin, Pourkhani and Sarvian. Abstained: L. Abrams).**

11. **VANC funding request** –Budget Committee resolution. **(Goldberg/ Selesnick) moved, “Resolved that based on the recommendation of the TNC Budget Committee, the TNC approve \$100.00 from its Outreach Budget for expenses relating to the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils’ March 12 Anniversary Mixer.” The motion carried unanimously.**
12. **E&E Committee Workshop** –Budget Committee resolution to fund the E&E Committee’s Sustainability Workshop. **(Goldberg/Levi) moved, “Resolved that based on the recommendation of the TNC Budget Committee, the TNC approve \$600.00 from its Outreach Budget for a Sustainability Workshop in May with \$500.00 to cover the cost of the workshop and \$100.00 for Outreach, sponsored by the TNC Energy and Environment Committee.”** Joel explained that the non-profit Sustainable Works will be presenting this workshop regarding water, energy, waste and practical information to help stakeholders save money and become more conscious of environmental issues of interest to Southern CA and L.A. **The motion carried unanimously.**
13. **Budget Representative Report** – Linda Abrams reported on her role as budget rep. She urged the board to take the budget survey. The Regional Budget Day will be held on March 12, 2011 at the new police building auditorium. She discussed her recent meetings with city officials to try to raise money for the City.
14. **Committee Reports:**
 - Outreach** - Denyse Selesnick reported on the tree planting event to take place from Corbin to Reseda Blvd. along Ventura Blvd. Since May 14th is the date for the Senior Symposium, a new date will be chosen for the tree planting. She talked about the Congress of Neighborhood Councils meeting. Outreach is looking for volunteers to help man events. She informed the board about efforts to do an email campaign and website improvements. The board discussed whether it would be feasible to do an email campaign using the schools’ and the Council Office’s email contact lists.
 - Budget** – Harvey Goldberg stated that about \$40,000 remains in the current fiscal year’s budget. He discussed budget requests before the committee including a funding request by Tarzana Elementary School for 2 physical education teachers as their funding has run out. They are requesting \$5,000. The second request is for funding a portion of the 2nd annual Senior Symposium (Reseda NC). The April & May Budget Committee meetings will review funding requests for the next fiscal year.
 - Transportation** – Max Flehinger announced that the DOT has practically shut down. He reviewed requests the committee has made and the responses they have received. A DOT traffic engineers responded to a request for repainting the yellow center line on Rosita but DOT felt the early morning signal timing at Ventura and Vanalden was adequate, so there was no action. He said they are pursuing overnight parking restrictions under the 101 freeway on Corbin, Tampa and Wilbur.
 - Public Safety** – Len talked about Ken Zeitz’ involvement with a recent Neighborhood Watch meeting.

Rules – Len said the bylaws will be discussed at the next board meeting so the amended bylaws can be sent to DONE in April.

Government Action – Al Abrams talked about the septic system ordinance which is being presented in March. He urged the board to take their mandatory Ethics training. The NFL Stadium is moving forward with a full proposal and he is pushing for public transportation to the proposed stadium from the Valley. He reminded everyone to vote on March 8th. He talked about free promotion the City Clerk provided to Neighborhood Councils in the ballot measures booklets.

Energy & Environment Committee – Joel Jaffe summarized his report which included comments about the water supply: where it comes from and how that generates expenses for DWP. He said the city reservoirs violate health codes because they are not covered. With projected growth in L.A., there will be a water shortfall and the city will need to use groundwater, which is currently contaminated. This means further restrictions on watering and rising costs.

15. **President's Remarks:** Len reported on the LANCC meeting on Feb. 5th with the new GM of DWP, Ron Nicholson. NC Election Task Force has made recommendations about NC elections, which will be heard by BONC, the Education and Neighborhoods Committee of the City Council and NCs across the City. Councilmember Dennis Zine has offered matching funds for NC projects this fiscal year.
16. **Board Member Comments:**
Al spoke about the "Shop LA" initiative with a possible campaign to promote Tarzana.
17. Future Agenda Items and other Calendar Events: None.
18. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services