

**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING Minutes**

Tuesday, June 25, 2013  
Providence Tarzana Medical Center  
18321 Clark Street, Tarzana, CA 91356

1. **Call to Order by TNC President Kathy Delle Donne at 7:18 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance by Councilmember Zine. Roll Call:** Matt Austin, Eran Heissler, Susan Blauner, Varant Marjarian, Kathy Delle Donne, Eileen Maronde, Elliot Durant, Barry Edelman, Jon Reich, Max Flehinger, Paul Lawler, David Garfinkle, Deanna Scott, Denyse Selesnick, Joyce Greene, Susan Weidman and Len Shaffer. **Absent:** Harvey Goldberg, Doug Sarver and Esther Wieder.
  
2. **Recognition of Councilman Dennis P. Zine** for his 12 years of service to the Tarzana community. Board members contributed their thoughts and thanks to the Councilmember for his service. He encouraged horse owners to register their horses to help keep equestrian areas from being developed. Large parcels registered for horses are now being rezoned for development. He presented a check for \$50,000 (added to the TNC account) for some enhancement to the community that works with Street Services. Special thanks was also given to Tarzana's Field Deputy Octaviano Rios.
  
3. **Remarks by representatives of public officials:**  
**LAPD Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins** also thanked the Councilmember for his help, particularly for the Dive Team, who received \$10,000 for equipment. Crime Stats: Crime is down for May: 2- robberies, 9 burglaries, 2 stolen cars, 18 motor vehicle thefts and thefts on Ventura Blvd. Holding a Business Watch meeting to present to businesses. National Night Out is August 6 at Randy Simmons Park.
  

**Tom Soong**, representing Empower LA for the past 12 years, is responsible for the southwest Valley. He talked about the Congress of NCs, (mandatory financial training for all board members (or they can't vote on financial agenda items), Ethics trainings, and other information being requested of NCs. Every purchase now needs a roster of board members who have voted for that purchase. This is due to the Conflict of Interest rule for City representatives. Also a Planning Department training will be held in August in the Valley.

  
4. **Public Comments:** None.
  
5. **(Reich/Lawler) moved to approve the minutes for May 28, 2013 as corrected. The motion carried. (Reich/Heissler) moved that the minutes be approved as corrected for April 23, 2013. The motion carried.**

15. **Portola Middle School: (Reich/Durant) moved, "Whereas maintaining Portola Middle School as one of the top performing schools in the LAUSD is of vital importance to the Tarzana Community; "Whereas Principal Adrienne Shaha is a key component of the administration at Portola Middle School and she directly and significantly contributes to the success and achievement of our children; "Whereas top performing schools such a Portola Middle School contribute to the quality of life in Tarzana; "Whereas top performing schools help maintain and support local property values in Tarzana; and "Whereas the Tarzana Neighborhood Council believes that the removal of Principal Shaha from Portola Middle School will harm our children and community; It is therefore resolved that: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council should sign a petition at Change.org opposing the removal of Principal Shaha from Portola Middle School; and The Tarzana Neighborhood Council should send a letter to John Deasy, Superintendent of the Los Angeles School District, and Steve Zimmer, Board Member for LAUSD District 4, requesting that Principal Adrienne Shaha be kept at Portola Middle School."**

- Teacher Karen Wynne spoke on behalf of the administrators.

- Stakeholders Brian Sanderling and Jennifer Geidel mentioned that Portola is a Flagship Middle School for the entire School District. There is a petition with over 700 signatures opposing the principal's reassignment.
- Jeff Leib also spoke about the need to support Principal Shaha.
- Staci Goldfarb was there to support the Portola staff.
- Peter Miller said he doesn't favor the principal staying due to an incident that occurred.

**The motion failed: 3-11-4. (Opposed: Blauner, Delle Donne, Edelman, Flehinger, Heissler, Lawler, Levi, Majarian, Maronde, Selesnick, and Weidman). (Abstaining: Austin, Scott and Shaffer).**

After discussion, **(Maronde/Reich) made a motion to reconsider Item #15 (above). The board approved the motion to reconsider by 15-1-0 (Majarian opposed).**

**(Maronde/Blauner) moved a friendly amendment to the original Item 15: "That TNC express to LAUSD that it is aware of the turmoil and controversy surrounding the reassignment of the Principal at Portola and would like to more fully understand what is going on and are waiting for a response." The motion to amend carried unanimously.**

**(Reich/Durand) moved the amended motion, "That TNC express to LAUSD that it is aware of the turmoil and controversy surrounding the reassignment of the Principal at Portola and would like to more fully understand what is going on and are waiting for a response." The motion to amend carried unanimously.**

- An unidentified stakeholder said that the claims against the principal were not true.
- Jean Strauber suggested that the administrator who wants to transfer Principal Shaha should address TNC and explain why he wants to take this action.
- An unidentified stakeholder said that the Principal was not the person who made the 'alleged' comments.
- Deborah Miller, who raises funds for Portola, stated that the antagonizing remarks were made to her by "Drini."
- An unidentified teacher from Portolo said they were present at the meeting to support the Principal and that the School District should not be allowed to ruin the community because someone had a bad experience.
- An unidentified speaker said the Principal did not protect a student when asked to.

**The amended motion carried with a roll call vote.**

(The board took a 10-minute break)

#### **19. Committee and Representative Reports:**

**Transportation/Mobility Committee** –Chairperson Mark Weiner said a subcommittee was being established with other NCs to approach Metro to try to get bathrooms at the Park & Ride stations. This was one of several items in his report.

- 6. (Levi/Heissler) moved, "That TNC suspend the rules for the purpose of assembling as a Committee of the Whole to consider approval of financial statements and TNC's budget allocations for fiscal year 2013-2014. (Committee of the Whole motion is required as Budget & Finance Committee meeting on June 20, 2013 lacked a voting quorum). The motion carried unanimously.**
- 7. (Levi/Maronde) moved that TNC approve the financial statements as of April 30, 2013. The motion carried: 16-0-2 (Abstaining: Shaffer/Flehinger).**
- 8. Requirements for all TNC board members. Trainings must be taken by Sept. 1, 2013.**

9. **2013-2014 Strategic Plan-** what is our BIG vision, Big goals & Big solutions? Kathy asked that suggestions be sent via email to Kathy or Denyse.
10. **Proposed budget allocations for 2013-2014 fiscal year:**
- (a) (Levi/Heissler) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$1,000 from Operations budget for a Board Retreat.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (b) (Levi/Reich) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$4,200 from Operations budget for rental of office space from July 2013 through June 30, 2014 at the Tarzana Community & Cultural Center.” The motion carried unanimously. (Lawler recused himself from the discussion and vote).
  - (c) (Levy/Maronde) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$350 From Operations budget for Energy & Environment Committee miscellaneous expenses.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (d) (Levi/Lawler) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$500 from Operation budget for Land Use Committee Expenses.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (e) (Levi/Reich) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$300 from Operations budget for Meeting Expenses.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (f) (Levi/Blauner) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$124 from Operations budget for P.O. Box rental.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (g) (Levi/Heissler) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$200 from Operations budget for President’s Expense.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (h) (Levi/Reich) moved “Resolved that TNC allocate \$60 from Operations budget for Telephone.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (i) (Levi/Selesnick) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$20 from Operations budget for Treasurer’s Expense.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (j) (Levi/Flehinger) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$2700 from Operations budget for Staffing/Temporary Help.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (k) (Levi/Reich) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$100 from Outreach budget for Mayor’s Budget Survey.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - (l) (Levi/Heissler) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$6000 from Outreach budget for Elections.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - m. (Levi/Majarian) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$250 from Outreach budget for Name Plates & Business Cards.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - n. (Levi/Scott) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$750 from Outreach budget for Concerts in the Park, 2014.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - o. (Levi/Heissler) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$5515 from Outreach budget for Earth Day.” The motion carried” 16-2-0 (Greene/Shaffer).
  - p. (Levi/Reich) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$300 from Outreach budget for National Night Out.” The motion carried unanimously.
  - q. (Levi/Majarian) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$3500 from Outreach budget for Public Safety Day. The motion carried unanimously.

- r. (Levi/Maronde) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$150.00 from Outreach budget for “Taste of Encino.” The motion carried unanimously.
- s. (Levi/Reich) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$540 from Outreach budget for Website Maintenance/Enhancement. *(Shaffer made a friendly amendment that \$540 be allocated out of the Outreach budget for the Net Atlantic email service.)* The motion to amend carried. The amended motion carried unanimously.
- t. (Levi/Heissler) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$1800.00 from Outreach budget for Website Updates.” The motion carried unanimously.
- u. (Levi/Reich) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$300 from Outreach budget for Outreach Committee miscellaneous expenses.” The motion carried unanimously.
- v. (Levi/Maronde) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$750. from Outreach budget for Senior Symposium.” The motion carried unanimously.
- w. (Levi/Blauner) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$200 from Outreach budget for Signs.” The motion carried unanimously.
- x. (Levi/Heissler) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$1600. from Outreach budget for 5000 TNC brochures plus 500 brochures for 5 committees.” The motion carried unanimously.
- y. (Levi/Majarian) moved, “Resolved that TNC allocate \$365. from Outreach budget for name tags and TNC polo shirts.” The motion carried unanimously.

-Return to regularly scheduled board meeting at 10:39 p.m.-

**11. Review of funds that TNC has in escrow accounts** for Community Improvement Projects in Tarzana. Kathy explained the monies set aside for the median project for Tarzana. \$60,000 was placed with Million Trees after the previous project failed. Of that, 57 trees were planted on Ventura Boulevard; \$28,000 remains for tree planting. There’s also \$14,000 left in another fund for bus benches, tree wells, and other improvements. Also \$10,000 for street banners. \$42,316.00 in funding remains. The goal is to plan the best use of the remaining funds.

**12. Ad Hoc Committee Appointment** for the next TNC election in March 2014. (Delle Donne/Maronde) moved to appoint Denyse Selesnick as Ad Hoc Committee Chair. The motion carried with one abstention (Shaffer).

**13. (Delle Donne/Austin)** moved to nominate Earth Day 2013 for a 2013 Empower LA Award. (Len Shaffer recused himself). (Blauner/Edelman) made a friendly amendment that both Earth Day and the Public Safety Day be nominated for an Empower LA Award. The motion carried unanimously.

**14. Topics and dates for a future board Council for Councils (C4C) training session.** (Delle Donne/Heissler) that the board seek Brown Act and parliamentary procedure training at a date to be determined. The motion carried unanimously. Len suggested a Special Meeting be called for this purpose.

**17. (Shaffer/Flehinger)** moved that TNC approve the Revised By-laws for the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition. The motion carried unanimously.

**18. Recode.la:** Kathy announced that this is a five year plan to revise the City’s outdated zoning code. Kathy said the first meeting will be on July 9<sup>th</sup> in Van Nuys. Len said this is the first update since 1946.

**19. Committee and Representative Reports:**

**Animal Welfare Committee** – Deanna Scott, Chairperson, training will take place at the West Valley Animal Center on coexisting with coyotes.

**Energy & Environment Committee** – Marina McLeod, Chairperson: No report.

**Land Use Committee** – Denise Schall, Chairperson: No report.

**Outreach Committee** - Denyse Selesnick, Chairperson, giveaways have been ordered. She talked about July 4<sup>th</sup> activities and Concert in the Park.

**Public Safety Committee** – Elliot Durant, Chairperson – No report.

**Rules Committee** – Len Shaffer, Chairperson – No report.

**Farmers' Market** – Warren Holden – Gave a short report.

**DWP MOU Representative** - Joyce Greene – gave an overview of the driving forces for the Twin Tunnels and other relevant information.

**BONC Commission & LANCC** - Len Shaffer gave a report on the upcoming meetings for both and issues that they are expected to cover.

**20. (Shaffer/Levi) moved, Resolved that TNC supports the June 1, 2013 Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition's (LANCC) position on the Executive Employee Relations Committee (EERC).** Len reviewed the reasons for this stand. **The motion carried with one opposed (Garfinkle).**

**21. (Shaffer/Heissler) moved, "That the Tarzana Neighborhood Council shall, if at all feasible, maintain a web site for communicating with it stakeholders, informing stakeholders of neighborhood council and community events, posting Board and committee agendas, promoting the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and for other similar purposes. Further, in order to assure that at all times the web site is available and accessible for such purposes access to the web site shall be as follows:**

- a. Administrative privileges shall held by the President, the First Vice President and, as directed by a vote of the Executive Committee, either the Treasurer or Second Vice President**
- b. Limited access to committee pages on the web site and to the calendar shall be given to each committee chair for the purpose of posting agendas, approved minutes, financial statements and future calendar events showing the date, time and location of committee meetings."**

**The motion failed: 6-12-0. (Austin, Blauner, Delle Donne, Durant, Edelman, Heissler, Lawler, Levi, Maronde, Reich, Scott and Selesnick).**

**22. Board Member Comments:**

Denyse is writing articles for CityWatchla.com.

**23. Future Agenda Items and other Calendar Events. Listed.**

**24. Adjournment at 11:54 p.m.**

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-