

TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday July 28, 2020
VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

1. **Call to Order** by Len Shaffer at 7 p.m. **Roll Call:** All present except for Pam Blattner who arrived at 7:30 p.m. Esther Wieder left the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Quorum established with 19 board members. Welcoming Remarks by Len Shaffer.

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

Blake Clayson, Field Deputy for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office, reported that the rent moratorium has been extended until September 30, 2020. Hair salons, personal care establishments, gyms and barbers are only allowed to work outdoors. He reviewed the different telephonic calls that were to be scheduled for different parties.

Betty Wong Oyama, EmpowerLA, invited board members to attend a webinar with tools for Zooming. The department is reorganizing as they are down to 12 coordinators (about half of the norm). As a result, each will oversee 8 – 10 NCs. She asked each board member to update Len on their contact info. If you have not completed the Code of Conduct, you will get a letter from EmpowerLA. She talked about the rollover of monies that TNC will need to approve.

LAPD: Len announced that LAPD Officer Daryl Scoggins is distributing food on Covid-19 duty and that is why he couldn't make it on the call.

3. **Public Comments:**

Barbara Hadley – who works at the East Valley Animal Shelter is concerned about a lack of services being provided with GM Brenda Barnette's proposal to close the West Valley Animal Shelter as a cost saving measure. Ms. Hadley said there is a large population being served by only two shelters and this puts the animals at risk. She urges the Councilmember to look into this matter and oppose it. The community should not suffer by doctored reports by GM Barnette on lack of personnel.

Nicole Pletcher is very concerned about the West Valley shelter being closed. Many animal groups have been at odds with the GM, for many years, and it has gotten worse since Covid-19. She gave examples of Ms. Barnette's lack of leadership and ill-advised responses to stakeholders who found animals. She also spoke about Barnette's salary, which is more than a Supreme Court justice. The shelter is needed and people want to go back to work.

Courtney Mann, a rescue worker for animals, talked about the health hazard that will come with the shelter being closed. There are no facilities in that area and if the shelter is closed, it will create a huge hole from the surrounding area, especially in emergencies. She pointed out that this shelter is paid for by tax dollars. Ms. Mann stated that GM Barnette needs to be investigated and that her decisions are causing animals to suffer.

Mary Baratt stated that she has concerns about homeless housing. She heard that they will be sent to Tarzana Treatment Center which she says is adjacent to a condo complex and apartment complex.

Laura Libuda expressed concerns about the LA Animal Shelter and feels it serves an

important service. It's one of the few shelters that have air conditioning and she doesn't understand why it would be closed. With the Mayor's wish for L.A. to be a no kill city, this is not helping; it will make it worse.

Gail Rath, an East Valley resident, said the East Valley shelter will not hold all the animals who need help. Already, the North Valley shelter was given away by GM Barnette who said they couldn't afford to operate it. Another shelter in the East LA area was already closed. Animal rescues are already aware of her motives and she feels GM Barnette should be investigated. East Valley is always full. What will happen if West Valley is closed?

Jill Haber, on LA Equine Advisory Committee, said the West Valley is the only shelter that helps horses, chickens, sheep, and goats. Rescues of horses would be lost to the horse communities. There would be none left for agricultural animals in the City of L.A. Also, Best Friends shelter does not take strays.

Michelle Cornelius, a volunteer at the West L.A. Animal Shelter, opposes closing West Valley. Last year was one of the worst years for capacity overload. Animals were set up in the halls in temporary areas. It was overwhelming. She could not imagine what would have happened without the West Valley shelter.

Gabriel Hartel, an East Valley Animal Control Officer, who has worked for 13 years for the city shelters asked that the city not push these services over to a rescue. It is a busy shelter and needs to stay open.

4. Speaker: CM Bob Blumenfield spoke for about an hour addressing the different issues raised by callers. The councilman said the main focus during Covid-19 is on trying to keep the city functioning with all the essential services. He talked about the budgetary process for the City for dealing with the Covid crisis. The police department budget cut was part of that process due to the BLM demonstrations. \$150MM was cut from the LAPD budget. The Councilmember did research on Portland, Oregon's process of using unarmed interventionists in certain situations, instead of police and found it has been successful with homeless/mentally ill issues. This may help deescalate future confrontations. He said he supports LAPD very strongly.

Homeless encampments on Burbank Boulevard and Etiwanda – He is personally visiting the encampments to see who is there and what their issues are. He admitted that it is a major crisis driven by poverty and the lack of affordable housing. Drug issues and mental illness are the most vocal and visual. County Health has put a hold on moving homeless during Covid-19. Some are on the parking lot that is privately owned. There are processes for removing bulky items which require storage, which is costly. There are a lot of challenges with enforcement right now.

Tarzana Treatment Center – If they are not responding to complaints, call his office and they will work directly with them. He said there are not enough treatment centers so they are needed. Also, they have committed to dealing with people who are mentally ill in their treatment plans.

Homelessness – A lot of issues with enforcement are based on federal restrictions. The councilmember has written a few articles on this problem. There is hope on the horizon with Judge Carter who is trying to come up with a way to expand enforcement while also creating more shelters. CM talked about the high cost of bridge housing but there is another form of housing that Judge Carter is suggesting called Cabin Housing which is like a tiny home. On the cost front, CM initiated a mediation between the County and the City to promote payment for shelter beds,

expanding the number available from 600 to 6000. The City will pay for these. The judge said in this agreement that the first people to be given priority will be those over 65 and those more vulnerable. The councilmember is also looking into leasing or buying space for Cabin Housing.

West Valley Animal Shelter – The councilmember values the West Valley shelter. GM Barnette is giving the Councilmembers a different story than what the volunteers are saying. He said there will be a series of public hearings with rescue groups before they take a vote on whether to close the shelter. He was up in arms when he first heard about this proposal and said he would be concerned about losing this shelter, but GM Barnette is saying they would still operate a shelter but rescues would be onsite with a variety of new services in a public/private partnership. If this is the case and services are not lost, that would be good.

SB1120 – Atkins: CM gave a courtesy second on that motion just to move it forward but that does not mean he supports this bill. He has concerns about this bill which affects single family communities with more density requirements. There are other bills trying to push density as a result of the housing crisis. It has to be addressed as there is an affordability issue in L.A. but we need to be creative in the way that this happens.

(Unknown speaker) had concerns about homeless stealing animals or taking strays in and if the shelter is closed, this could create more health issues. The councilmember talked about how pets are a lifeline for many homeless and told a story demonstrating this. He has come across a lot of homeless who have pet companions. Sometimes this is a barrier for them finding a place to live but he added that the Canoga Park homeless shelter will be allowing pets.

Harvey asked if the schools, which are now closed, could be used to shelter people or have them located on the school grounds? Could Cabin Shelters be situated by Lake Balboa? The councilmember said it is always controversial, wherever you put them. There is always resistance to housing homeless near where people live. Safe Parking is an option, though. About 18 people sleep behind his Council office in a Safe Parking lot. He said that something as simple as having a safe place to park can be life saving for a person. As far as school properties, the councilman said some are looking into homeless housing – especially for homeless students and their families. With the HHH Bond measure, the monies have been allocated and you can track it on the city's website.

Scott asked about enforcement of non-mask wearing people at city parks. The councilmember has introduced a motion that relates to enforcement. There are penalties under the safer at home order, where city workers can fine people. Rec and Parks has oversight for this. His office has purchased 25,000 masks and is distributing them to anyone who needs them. He is also frustrated by people not wearing masks.

Terry spoke about a large parking area by Shoup north of Burbank for a future Safe Parking lot. The councilmember said it is on the Collins School property owned by LAUSD. Neighbors are opposed and it would have to go through the School Board. Question about Rockedyne: Councilmember said vapors come up from that site make it very hazardous. Terry also asked about a loud house party with no one wearing masks. Councilmember says it goes back to the party house ordinance. There is a website where you can report violations. Also, the councilmember said his office could help contact that property owner.

Question about why have laws if they can't be enforced? Councilmember said Prop 47 is part of the reason as well as changing laws. He has written an article about this issue. You can now live in your vehicle, you can live in a tent, shooting up is a misdemeanor (drug abuse),

so police don't want to spend the time on these minor offenses. 5611 is no longer enforceable – private property on the street. He is hopeful that Judge Carter's compromise will help with enforcement in the future.

5. Budget Advocate/Representative Report – Lee Blumenfield talked about a meeting that was held a few weeks prior. Instead of a White Paper, they will be breaking up their responses in smaller pieces. He said he is hoping to advocate for what TNC wants.

Glenn Bailey added that they are looking at doing quarterly Town Halls with the first, starting in September or October, to get input from stakeholders and board members.

6. Executive Secretary's Attendance Report – Max said one member has five absences and has been notified.

7. Minutes: (Heissler/Goldberg moved approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting as corrected. The motion carried unanimously with 20-0-0.

8. Expenditures: (Goldberg/Schmaeff) moved approval of the June 2020 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER). The motion carried 19-0-0 (Yossi was ineligible).

9. Financial Statements: (Goldberg/Lord) moved approval of the Financial Statement as of June 30, 2020. The motion carried 19-0-0 (Yossi ineligible to vote).

10. Committee and other Reports:

Outreach – Terry thanked everyone who has sent her their bios and headshots and has given her input for the website.

Events - No report

Budget – Harvey submitted a status of community projects. He reviewed highlights of his report. He has received a new credit card that doesn't expire till 2023. August 12th is the end date for submitting budget items for his next meeting.

Transportation – Max will contact DOT about the Tampa/Hatteras intersection to ask what their plans are for installing a beacon for pedestrians. At Tampa/Collins, DOT has not done a traffic test yet to determine whether it should get a signal. Next meeting Aug. 19th.

Public Safety – No report.

Rules – No report.

Government Action – No report.

Animal Welfare – Jeff thanked everyone for listening to the comments on the proposal to close the West Valley Animal Shelter.

Beautification – Iris said they have changed vendors – not using Triple A anymore. They are still in the design phase for the banners. She thanked Terry for helping to create a tool kit for Green Initiatives that will be shared with other NCs throughout the city. The city is providing free trees to those who want to plant and maintain them.

Homelessness Committee – Susan Lord talked about Project Room Key which gets homeless into a hotel for 90-days while they are awaiting permanent housing. She said the system is working.

DWP MOU Report – Michael said there was no meeting in July.

VANC Report – Len talked about DWP GM Marty Adam's report. Mayor Garcetti is supposed to make an appearance at the August meeting of LANC and VANC. Raquel Beltrans, EmpowerLA GM, was also present. Anyone involved with the elections was told about the upcoming meeting. Harvey suggested creating an Ad Hoc Elections Committee.

COVID-19 Ad Hoc – No report.

Consent Calendar: Items 11 through 15 inclusive will be considered by a single vote. (Goldberg) moved these items and the group of budget items were approved: 19-0-0 (Yossi not eligible).

11. Discussion and Motion: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the payment of the encumbrance for an NPG for Tarzana Elementary School for \$3,825.00 for IXL Learning License.
12. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the payment of the encumbrance for an NPG for Portola Middle School for \$2,202.34 for 3 computers for their library.
13. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the payment of the encumbrance for an NPG for Southern California Preparedness Foundation for \$1,000 supporting their 13th Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair
14. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee's recommendation to approve an amended budget for the 2020-21 Fiscal Year to include as Revenue previously authorized Encumbrances of \$19,932.72 and a Rollover of \$3,652.13. In addition, to amend the Expense portion of the Budget in the amount of \$19,932.72 as follows: Outreach, Banners \$10,905.38; Outreach, Web Site Maintenance \$2,000; NPG, Tarzana Elementary School \$3,825.00; NPG, Portola Middle School \$2,202.34; and, NPG, Southern California Preparedness Foundation \$1,000.00.
15. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the payment of ongoing expenses as follows: For the fiscal year 2020-21, the TNC authorizes its Treasurer or other designee to pay previously budgeted recurring monthly or periodic expenses, in small amounts, defined as those not to exceed \$75/day for one item and expense classification category. These expenses include, but are not limited to, copies and postage for committees, Board and committee meetings, officers and committee chairperson expenses and etc., and, refreshments for meetings (other than Board meetings) and etc. The recurring expenses are AppleOne, or other temporary staffing agencies for preparation of minutes or other clerical functions not to exceed ("NTE") \$375/meeting, Net Atlantic or other such company for mailing list maintenance and distribution NTE \$45/month and The Web Corner or other such company for web site hosting and maintenance NTE \$150 for each month's services and the purchase of food and refreshments for Board meetings from any vendors NTE \$200 per meeting.
16. **Budget Motion: Goldberg/Polonsky) moved**, "Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Budget Committee's recommendation not to support the request from the Wilbur Charter for Enriched Academics for an NPG for \$2,000.00 to fund the cost of a Muralist to create campus murals." **The motion carried: 13-2-4** (Opposed: Saucier/Edelman; Abstaining: Cromwell, Polonsky, Diamond and Povar).
17. **(Garfinkle/Polonsky) moved**, "Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee's recommendation to file a CIS in support of CM Ryu's motion, CF 20-0002-S101 opposing SB 1120. SB 1120 will negatively impact single family residential neighborhoods allowing uncontrollable increases in density. It will increase the need for services and infrastructure that cannot be funded by our city. We have no objection to increased density in currently zoned multifamily neighborhoods where the impact will be lessened." **The motion carried unanimously: 20-0-0.**

David said this bill would allow each property to be subdivided into four independent units and have a negative effect on single family units while also creating further density.

18. (Garfinkle/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to write a letter to CM Bob Blumenfield requesting he initiate a motion or motions to have the City Council officially oppose the following pending state legislative matters: SB 1085, SB 902, AB 725, SB 995, AB 1279 and AB 2345. These bills will essentially eliminate most single-family residential areas in Los Angeles. Combined they will severely impact the San Fernando Valley and South Los Angeles because of the major bus routes. These legislative proposals will also severely restrict the city’s control over land use issues.”

The motion carried unanimously: 20-0-0.

Similar to SB50, David said these measures are not feasible or desirable in Los Angeles as they will essentially eliminate single family zoning. Len added that these bills will have a severe impact on the San Fernando Valley.

19. (Flehinger/Epstein) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Transportation Committee’s recommendation to send a letter to the appropriate agency of the City, with a copy to CM Bob Blumenfield requesting the posting of one week’s advance notice of repairs to major streets. Notice is to be posted at the periphery of the area to be repaired. The purpose is to prevent the need for drivers to turn around when they drive into a street undergoing repair.” **The motion carried unanimously: 20-0-0.**

20. (Flehinger/Epstein) moved, “The TNC Board approves the Transportation Committee’s recommendation not to request a stop sign at the intersection of east bound Wells Drive and west Casa Ave.”

(Polonsky/Lord) moved to table the motion and send it back to the Transportation Committee. Iris stated that she’s seen quite a few ‘near misses’ at this intersection. **The motion to table it was unanimously approved: 20-0-0.**

21. Appointment of budget representatives: Len offered to step aside and let someone else serve in his place.

22. Board Business:

- Mark asked why so much time was spent discussing the West Valley Shelter proposal.
- Len said they could limit public comment on non-agenda items to one minute but anyone who wants to speak is allowed time on any subject related to TNC issues.
- Unknown person thanked David for doing the research on all of the bills.

23. Meeting Adjourned at 10:15 pm

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One