**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday October 27, 2020**

VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

**1. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.**  Roll Call by Eran Heissler: Quorum reached with 18 board members. Barry Edelman, Pam Blattner, Scott Diamond, Mark Epstein, Max Flehinger, David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Susan Lord, Yossi Malka, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Ken Schwartz, Len Shaffer, Bob Schmaeff. **Absent:** Devon Cromwell, Michael Povar and Esther Wieder.

**Welcoming Remarks** by Len Shaffer.

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

* **Blake Clayton** of Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s office. He spoke about different meetings taking place and reviewed voting locations for the election.
* **Betty Oyama Wong** listed dates the city will have furloughs. The Council File dealing with diversity training is on hold for now and may come back the early part of next year. She talked about completing trainings for different committees. BONC is taking comments on social media policies for NCs. She gave updates on a number of other actions taken by the City Council that affect NCs.
* **Jeremy Serai** from Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel’s Office said there would be a holiday open house TBA. They are working on their bill agenda for next year.

**3.** **Presentation:** **Lanee M. Basulto Election Administrator Region 3:** She spoke about the vote by mail system for the TNC election: Tues. May 4th. Candidate filing begins Jan. 2, 2021 and the filing period is for 45 days. The vote by mail opens on March 5, 2021. Paper applications will be available as well. Ballots will be mailed out on April 5th, 2021. All ballots must be postmarked by May 4th, 2021. They are setting up a grievance panel in advance to anticipate any election challenges.

**4.** **Presentation:** **LAUSD District 4 Board Member Nick Melvoin** – They have provided over 75M meals at 63 sites through L.A. County to families in need and over 1,000 laptops and hot spots for students. They are offering free Covid tests to students, parents and caregivers to prepare for the schools’ reopening. They are offering other programs to tutor kids and special needs students in small groups and offering childcare. Next year will offer hybrid learning programs when they come back with a virtual system in place all next year. They are working on getting the schools ready and safe with filtration systems. Another initiative he is working on will decentralize schools so the schools have a local community, more local control and less bureaucracy. He announced major, state of the art improvements to Taft High School.

**5.** **Public Comments:**

Sharon Brewer could not download the TNC documents.

Wayne (the goatman) talked about the homeless in encampments under the freeway.

**6.** **Budget Advocate/Representative Report:** No report. Lee was not present.

**7. Executive Secretary’s Attendance Report:** Max said no one has more than 3 absences.

**8. Minutes: (Heissler/Polonsky) moved approval of the minutes of September 22, 2020 meeting as revised. The motion carried unanimously.**

**9**. **MER: (Goldberg/Epstein) moved approval of September 2020 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER). The motion carried unanimously.**

**10** **Financial Statement:** **(Goldberg/Epstein) moved approval of the Financial Statement as of September 30, 2020. The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Pallet Home Shelter: 18616 Topham St – Orange Line east parking lot on Topham:**

Veronica Vos of Councilmember Blumenfield’s office spoke about Judge Carter’s orders to provide shelters for 60% of the homeless in each Council District so that the city can then enforce “No Sleeping on the Sidewalks.” To that end, Councilmember Blumenfield reached out to more than 70 locations within the district, 8 of which agreed to offer shelters of one sort or another. Some are hotels operating as shelters which will be purchased by the City of L.A.. There is a safe parking lot in Canoga Park and a bridge home in Canoga Park. There are also two sites that will allow for the construction of 50 tiny homes (cabin communities), one in Tarzana on Topham at a Metro Lot and one in Reseda by the police station in a Rec & Parks parking lot. Initially, the tiny cabin site will house 75 persons but after COVID distancing is relaxed, this number will double to 150. There will be laundry, 24 hour security, bathrooms, showers and food sites.

**Comments by the Public:**

Marisa Levi of Discovery School and her parents are concerned about the negative impacts this facility will have on their 250 children and their families. She named 8 recommendations that they feel should be implemented if this facility is opened.

Wayne the Goatman made several statements opposing these sites.

Danny of Thrifty Tree Service felt these projects are unwise. He is going to lose a tenant because of this project. He feels the whole deal was done behind people’s backs.

Raina Martinez said she can’t open the windows on the side of her house because of homeless encamped there.

Roy, who owns the lot by Thrifty Tree Service, works late in the office on Topham and said he feels unsafe with the amount of homeless right now. He feels his employees would be at risk if this facility opens. His vehicles have been broken so homeless can sleep in them and their property has also been broken into. It is going to affect property values when they try to sell.

Mr. Estille owns a repair shop on that street where the homeless parked their motor homes. They broke into his car lot and stole batteries from his customers’ cars. He has been financially impacted by the homeless. He feels they should be put near the freeways where there are no businesses or homes that they can negatively effect.

**12.** **(Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board supports the Pallet Home Shelter at 18616 Topham St and approves the filing of a CIS supporting/not supporting CF 20-0841.”**

**Further Discussion:**

* Sharon Brewer asked if the people who move into this facility will also have cars and whether they will be around all day or going somewhere to work. She feels if there are too many questions to be answered, then maybe they should postpone this vote.
* Kathy Delle Donne is very concerned about this due to ADA issues with public safety. She asks that the Council Office deal with those issues before adding a significant amount of people to this location. She asked the board to postpone this decision until these issues are addressed.
* Susan Lord said this project needed to go forward.
* Ken acknowledged this is a tough situation but felt something should be done. (Ken left the meeting at about 9 pm).
* David had concerns and said as Land Use Chair, he was only notified one week ago and also hasn’t heard of any vetting of the people accepted into this housing.

(Val said there would be a working group put together in the future to decide more about how it would work.)

* Max felt that either the community should allow people to sleep on the streets or provide them a place to sleep. He said it was not an ideal solution and it would be a compromise and inconvenient to some people.
* Terry said she supported this idea but felt the working group would be vital to resolving some of the concerns. She noted there would be a curfew for people to stay there.
* Bob agreed with Max, that it has to go somewhere. He is in favor in general but also feels there should be more information.
* Joyce stated that there are 57 homeless in Tarzana. She felt security has to be provided and dealing with safety issues that were discussed.
* Pam said she couldn’t support the location, although she thought the idea was great. She felt the other parking lot on Reseda would be a better option. She felt property owners’ concerns should be taken into consideration.
* Susan Rogen feels the homeless would be better off there if everything was done to protect the neighbors. She personally felt she did not know enough about this project.
* Jeff commended Veronica but said he has great concerns about this shelter being located near a preschool and with the concerns of the property owners. He said he would not support it. If, however, it passes, he feels Marisa should be on the working committee.
* Harvey called it a “sad situation.” No matter where the homeless go, he felt there would be a “Not in my Backyard” situation. He did not feel that 75 people being placed here would create much of a burden here.

(Joyce Greene left the meeting at 9:34 p.m. then returned at 9:36 p.m.)

* Scott said he could imagine parents or children doing field trips if this project was to come in. He thinks another location would be better. He said these encampments cause increased crime.
* Iris said it was a great project but feels there needs to be more research done, like a traffic study. She asked why there wasn’t more notification. (Veronica said it goes back to Judge Carter who is ramming through this proposal. She said the Councilperson is putting his faith in this process as Orange County has seen results. She said that regardless of the TNC’s vote, the project would move forward.)
* Yossi generally is supportive of the homeless but felt that this facility would attract more and more homeless to the area.
* Mark had questions about the site that was chosen and also whether there could be more security provided to control negative situations. (Veronica talked about 3 Metro lots but said this was the only lot Metro was offering for lease for this purpose. She said a much larger housing – 200 people – was going in Councilmember Krikorian’s area. She said two other shelters for the homeless have been launched within 300’ of schools).
* Barry had concerns about this shelter. Barry agreed with the theory but said he needed more information before he could vote.
* Len gave further information regarding the number of homeless who need housing: 250,000. He stated that if the requisite number of homeless can be housed, then more clean up could take place of those camping on the sidewalks. He talked about improved street lighting which could help with alleviating crime. He also pointed out that many of the people who would be housed would be able to more easily get the services they need.

**(Garfinkle/Diamond) moved to table this motion until more information is available from the Working Group. The motion failed: 5-12**.

**The board then voted on the original motion: The motion carried: 13 – 3** (Diamond abstained).

**13.** **COVID Ad Hoc Committee:** (Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Board’s recommendation to extend the COVID19 Ad Hoc Committee for 6 months to March 31, 2021.” **The motion carried.** Terry and the two Susans are on this committee.

**14.**  **2021 Election Info Worksheet:** (Shaffer/Greene) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to adopt the 2021 Election Information Worksheet.” **The motion carried unanimously.**

**15. Revised Budget:** (Goldberg/Polonsky) moved, “Based on approval of agenda item 10 on the September 22, 2020 agenda (the YMCA NPG), the TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 to include that item. The Board further 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.**

**16**. **Committee and other Reports**

Budget – Dec. 2 is the next committee date for budget requests.

Land Use – Proposed lot split on Wells. The committee does not object to it.

Outreach – Terry said there was a scheduling conflict so no meeting was held in October. There will be a meeting about how to hold outreach for elections.

Transportation – Max reported on a pedestrian beacon being scheduled to go in but the city has turned down a traffic signal. The 3 T intersection has gotten stop signs.

Animal Welfare – Jeff said they have not seen a new plan from Animal Services for the West Valley shelter.

Homelessness – Joyce said they will probably collect blankets for the homeless in the near future.

**17. Board Business:** Len said he will be calling a Special Meeting during the early part of November for one item and another during December.

**Public Comment:** Wayne the Goatman.

**18**. **Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn was recognized and carried.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One