**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday January 31, 2023**

**Special Meeting**

**VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING**

1. **Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call:** Recording Secretary Eran Heissler called the role. Quorum established with 14 board members (Quorum requires 10 board members). Present: Len Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg, Iris Polonsky, David Garfinkle, Esther Wieder, Isabel Gerhardt. Joyce Greene. Matthew Clark, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Susan Lord, and Christopher Ahuja. (Bob Shmaeff arrived at 7:05 p.m.).

TNC President Len Shaffer welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that it was Treasurer Harvey Goldberg’s birthday.

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

Blake Clayton, former representative for the County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, came to the meeting to say goodbye. He stated that the Tenants’ Right motion passed and it was amended to protect tenants for having unauthorized occupants and pets. This protection was extended through Jan. 2024. There is another protection that goes to June 2023 protecting tenants from eviction for non-payment of back rent.

**Neighborhood Prosecutor Michael Liu** stated that the party houses are pretty quiet right now. He spoke about the abandoned car wash on Ventura, which was getting vandalized. The property owner came in and secured the property.

**LAPD Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins** credited Prosecutor Michael Liu with helping the LAPD Officers in the W. Valley with everything they need. He said West Valley has been very busy lately: Tarzana was up 24.9% in crime for the end of the year. **Stats:** For December 2022, there were: 3 robberies, 5 aggravated assaults, 32 burglaries (18 were south of the Blvd.), 10 cars stolen (one south, the rest north of the Blvd.), 21 cars broken into and 15 plain thefts. Catalytic converters are still being stolen. LAPD will be doing an event to etch catalytic converters. He will update TNC on the date for that. Two days ago, there was a shooting on a bus by Baskin Robbins. Officers were in the area and were directed to two suspects. Arrests were made but the victim is not willing to talk. He added that Chief Moore got approved for a 2nd term.

Christopher asked for a speed trap on Reseda. Susan Rogen said Silva Abramyan is doing a speed study with LADOT on two locations that require Stop Signs. Len stated that Stop Signs may be used for traffic control. There was a discussion about different locations for Stop Signs, homeless in the tunnel at Etiwanda, the boundary line of Tarzana, and Glenn Bailey asked when the Encino/Tarzana Neighborhood Watch Meetings will be held. Officer Scoggins they will be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Station. Last month’s meeting was cancelled due to officers having to patrol protests downtown.

**Empower LA Rep. Joel** **Gonzalez** talked about proposed changes to the NC Voting Model. They will be getting more involved in the NC elections in March.

1. **Public Comments:** Varant wished Harvey a happy birthday.
2. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report**: Glenn Bailey gave his monthly report (See: budgetadvocates.org under “NC Reports”). The Budget Advocates’ Town Hall will feature EmpowerLA’s GM Raquel Beltran on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. and will be held virtually. Jeff Mausner asked when he will see his comments for the Animal Services Department. Glenn said it will probably be in the first batch of recommendations.
3. **Clerk’s Office Election Representative Report**: **No report**. Len will send the City Clerk’s Office the ADA clearance to hold meetings in-person. EmpowerLA Rep Joel Gonsalez stated that he will ask the City Clerk for details for the hybrid model (mail and in-person) for the election. Len explained how the votes will proceed by stakeholder locations.
4. **Executive Secretary’s Report** – Iris said one board member, Esther Wieder, needs to update her trainings and cannot vote on funding matters.
5. **Approval of the Minutes:** **(Heissler/Polonsky) moved approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2022 TNC Special meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**

**8. Committee and other Reports**

**Budget:** Harvey said Feb. 22 will be the date for the next committee meeting. $24,000+ is available for spending this fiscal year and only $10,000 can be carried over if not spent. All approvals must take place by the May board meeting for funding.

**Land Use** – Len said the next Land Use meeting will be held Feb. 21, 2023.

**Outreach** – Terry said they picked up 500 new TNC brochures and they look fantastic. Feb. 18, 2023 is the Tarzana Plant Fair, 11 – 4 p.m., Feb. 25th is the Warner Center/W. Valley Emergency Preparedness Fair. TNC election candidate filing opens Feb. 18th. They will be tabling at these events and sharing this info.

**Events –** Esther saidEarth Day preparations are taking place for the next Earth Day. Councilmember Blumenfield’s office will be doing the awards.

**Transportation** – Susan Rogen gave a report which included discussion of the Etiwanda Tunnel where homeless are sleeping, the traffic study for Stop Signs, pothole repairs, speed bumps on Reseda Blvd., updated signage for the 101 freeway and CM Bumenfield’s allocation of $100,000 to beef up LAPD enforcement on Reseda Blvd.

**Public Safety** – Susan Rogen said they haven’t had a meeting but she spoke about the Disaster Preparedness Event on Feb. 25th.

**Rules** – No report.

**Government Action** – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff Mausner spoke about the suspensions and terminations of volunteers at the City Animal shelters. A cease-and-desist letter was said to the Board of Animal Services Commissioners. The Animal Services Dept. and City Attorney’s Office have conceded that volunteers have the right to comment, as individuals, about conditions at the shelters both to the media and on social media. Some of the volunteers have been reinstated and they are making progress on getting others reinstated.

The Budget Advocates have met with the Animal Services Department officials. Jeff wrote a report and is waiting for it to be approved by the Budget Advocates and see it incorporated into their White Paper.

Jeff spoke about a dog that needs to be fostered while he recovers from surgery for bloat.

**Beautification** – Iris said the new banners are up. She made a request to renew TNC’s permit, which requires a Council motion, to continue to fly the banners on the street poles.

**Homelessness** – Joyce said the Sunflower Cabin Committee met recently to discuss parking and other issues there. They are looking into using the MTA parking lot for overflow parking. There is also a lot of crowding around the gate. The staff has agreed to alleviate the traffic there. There is also a lot of trash overflowing and the Council office has gotten LASAN to increase pickups in that area.

Iris spoke about the Homeless Count in which she and the Susans participated. Jeff Mausner, Bob Shmaeff and Jeff’s wife also participated.

**DWP MOU Report** – Len said they are doing a new MOU with the DWP at a future meeting. There is still a need for a DWP MOU Rep from TNC. Glenn said the new MOU was approved on the 24th.

**VANC Report** – A new member of BONC answered questions at the most recent meeting. Jeff stated that Len is the leading authority for hybrid and in-person meetings. Glenn Bailey added that Senator Portantino has promised NCs that he will propose a bill that allows for a choice of either in-person or virtual meetings. City Attorney Hydee Feldstein will be a guest at the upcoming VANC meeting.

**NCSA Liaison** – Terry said they will meet Feb. 12, 2023. Christopher serves on the board and added that their monthly meeting is Feb. 26th. He gave a report about the compost roll-out. In March, the NCSA Liaison will start with the LA 28 Olympic Sustainability Working Group. There was discussion about how to get free pails from LA San for food scraps (they will be handed out for free at the Emergency Preparedness Fair) and landlords’ need to sign off of these for tenants in multi-unit apartments. **Call: 1-800-773-2489 for information.**

**Social Media Report: Matthew** (?) gave an update on the social media posts that he is doing and the response TNC is getting.

1. **MERS Approval: (Goldberg/Greene) moved approval of November and December 2022 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and the Financial Statement as of November 30 and December 31, 2022.** **The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Wieder ineligible to vote).**
2. **Domain Name Renewal:** **(Goldberg/Shmaeff) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Budget Committee’s recommendation approval of the domain name renewal for “tarzananc.org” for 2 years at a cost $29.98 with IPower. To be classified as Outreach, Website Maintenance, Domain Name. Funds to come from Unallocated.”**

**(Goldberg/Shmaeff)** then amended the motion to add: **“And to revise the TNC budget for the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year for this set amount and the board approves all necessary forms and paperwork required to update the budget and directs the Treasurer and/or President to prepare such and submit it to the City Clerk Funding Division.” The motion to amend carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Wieder ineligible to vote). The amended motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0 (Wieder ineligible to vote).**

**11**.  **Land Use motion: (Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to approve the applicants request for renewal of a Conditional Use Permit with the following changes to the following conditions:**

**Item 9**: (previous condition)**: The hours of operation shall be from 7 am to 7 pm Monday**

**through Saturday. The facility shall be closed on Sunday and holidays**. Support the applicants

request to allow hours of operation from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Sundays and holidays with the

condition that outdoor training not be allowed during those hours.

**Item 10:** (previous condition:) **There shall be no use of the outdoor exercise or training areas between the hours of 7 pm, daily, and 7 am of the following day.** Support the applicants request to allow one animal at a time outside on the premises for bathroom breaks between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM.

**Item 13:** (previous condition:) **Parking spaces for the facility shall be provided to the satisfaction of the Department of Building and Safety.** Support the applicants request for the elimination of this condition as this issue is satisfied by the zone variance regarding parking spaces at the facility.

**Item 17a:** (previous condition:) **The designated one-on-one training area adjoining the north property line shall be limited to a maximum occupancy of three animals, fully supervised and partnered with a trainer at any time.** Do not support the applicants request to eliminate this provision. Support a modification of the provision by allowing five animals as opposed to the current limitation of three.

Len said this is a canine boarding, training and grooming facility on Topham between Reseda and Yolanda on the northside of the street across from the Tiny Homes. Jeffrey Mausner said that he supported this motion. **The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0.**

**12.** **These two Council Files (#12, 13 and #14) were voted on together.** Glenn Bailey said that the Mayor had signed off on both today so that makes it the official legislative program of the City. He thought this might be consistent with the bill Senator Portantino is going to introduce. **The three following motions were approved unanimously: 15-0-0.**

**(Shaffer/Garfinkle) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s motion to approve the Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness motion to file a CIS regarding Council File (CF) 22-1258 (Controller’s report regarding the Emergency Management Dept) as follows: The city’s Resiliency Plan tasked NCs with producing emergency preparedness plans for their communities. So far, the city has offered little or no help, financial or otherwise, for these projects. The Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance believes that help with these projects could be forthcoming if the city’s Emergency Management Dept. were properly funded and**

**staffed.**

**The Tarzana Neighborhood Council views with concern the historic underfunding of the Emergency Management Dept and calls on the city of Los Angeles to fund EMD adequately. The Peer City Emergency Preparedness Programs Budget Comparison (FY2021-22) on page 7 of the Controller’s Report shows the funding disparity between Los Angeles and other comparable jurisdictions.**

**13. Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s motion to file a CIS in support of CF- 23-0002-S17 regarding the amending the Ralph M. Brown Act to allow legislative bodies, including neighborhood councils to continue to conduct most meetings virtually in the absence of any special circumstances, subject to appropriate safeguards to ensure full and robust opportunities for public participation, including by persons who lack means of digital access.**

**Virtual meetings have promoted greater public participation by allowing people who could not normally attend in-person only meetings to participate both as members of neighborhood councils and as stakeholders. The Ralph M. Brown Act must be amended to allow the use of current and future tools that make it easier for the greatest number to participate.**

**14: Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s motion to a CIS in support of CF- 23-0002-S16 regarding the amending the Ralph M. Brown Act to permit the City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council system to choose to operate remote meetings indefinitely.**

**Virtual meetings have promoted greater public participation by allowing persons who could not normally attend in-person only meetings to participate both as members of neighborhood councils and as stakeholders. The Ralph M. Brown Act must be amended to allow the use of current and future tools that make it easier for the greatest number to participate.**

**15. (Shaffer/Garfinkle) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s motion to approve the appointment of an Ad Hoc committee to make recommendations of actions regarding Council File 22-1489 recommending actions by LAWA prior to further upgrades, etc. at Van Nuys Airport (VNY).”**

**Len appointed Matthew Clark and Christopher** **Ahuja to co-chair this committee**. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**16**. **Board Business:** Len spoke about the legislative process for amending the Brown Act (regarding the two CISs for telephonic on hybrid meetings). Beginning March 1st, all board meetings must be in-person and certain rules must be adhered to regarding entering a City space. Everyone who attends must be vaccinated/boosted and all visitors must also be vaccinated or have a negative test. He noted that this could be a hardship on some NCs.

**17**.  **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-