**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday February 28, 2023**

VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

1. **Call to Order:** 7:04 p.m., Roll Call: Present: Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Susan Lord, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Len Shaffer and Esther Wieder. Quorum established with 12 members, 3 absent: David Garfinkle, Isabel Gerhardt and Bob Shmaeff.
2. **Welcoming Remarks by Len Shaffer, TNC President.**
3. **Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

Safi Lodin, representing Supervisor Horvath, said Blake Clayton has left the supervisor’s office and accepted a County position. Homeless in the Etiwanda underpass were cleared out; some of them accepted help. A power wash was done and it is clean. Power outages have occurred from the flash flooding but power is gradually being restored to homes, businesses and schools. The motion was approved for street banners. The Disaster Preparedness Fair was postponed until 3/25/23 due to flash flooding. CSUN is providing free tax work for anyone who makes less than $60K. Safi is looking into getting LED lighting in the Etiwanda tunnel and other tunnels. (818) 774 4330 [safi.lodin@lacity.org](mailto:safi.lodin@lacity.org)

Joel Gonsalez, Empower LA rep, noted the BONC vote to extend virtual NC board and committee meetings until March 29th. After that, meetings need to be held in-person. Candidate filing closes April 4th. Vote by mail closes May 15th. TNC Election day is June 18th. He invited board members to get out and do flyering.

LAPD Senior Lead Daryl Scoggins gave January Stats: no homicides, one date rape, 2 robberies of businesses, 33 burglaries (3 businesses), 16 cars stolen, 17 cars broken into, 9 plain thefts and aggravated assaults (mostly road rage incidents). There was one incident in the W. Valley where shots were fired. For the year, W. Valley is up .2% in crime and Tarzana is up 30% in crime. On the burglaries, 3 were on Ventura Blvd., 18 were south of the Blvd. and 12 were north of the Blvd. Regarding Feb. stats, there were: 2 robberies, 1 aggravated assault, 3 plain thefts, 2 cars stolen and 5 cars broken into for the week prior to the TNC board meeting.

Ashley Mashian, Planning Deputy for Councilmember Blumenfield, was present but did not give a report.

1. **Public Comments:**

* Lionel Marris spoke about the success of Cyclavia and thanked the TNC and other NCs for their involvement.
* Varant asked Daryl if the tunnel could be closed. Daryl said it could not but efforts were underway to make it safer for pedestrians.

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report:** Glenn Bailey spoke about a Town Hall that the Budget Advocates held as there are significant new programs that will affect the NCs. He suggested everyone review the Town Hall, which is now in the hands of the Mayor. April 20th is the date when Mayor Bass will propose the new City budget. The Budget Advocates met with Mayor Bass on Feb. 14th. She asked them to give her their priorities, which included homelessness and more funding for NCs. He said their hope is that the previous funding of $50,000 would be restored, as well as a two-year rollover of unused funds. Regarding the Olympics, there are questions as to whether any of the facilities proposed for the Sepulveda Basin are going forward with that. Budget Day is June 17, 2023. They are recommending it be held virtually this year and in-person next year.

Varant asked about the reason for suggesting an increase to NC funding.

**6.** **Clerk’s Office Election Representative Report:** No report.

**7. Executive Secretary’s Report** – Iris gave an update on trainings required. Esther is not eligible to vote on funding motions.

**8.** **(Goldberg/Heissler) moved approval of the minutes of the January 31, 2023 Special meeting as revised. The motion carried unanimously. 12-0-0.**

**9. Committee and other Reports**

**Budget** – Harvey said the next meeting will be 3/22/23. As of now, $24,000 is available for the current fiscal year. Funding requests must be approved by the May meeting. Carryover of funds will be $10K.

**Land Use** – No report. Len said there is an ordinance affecting Al Fresco.

**Outreach** – Terry said they are working hard on Earth Day and the upcoming election.

**Events** – Esther said they have five lunch trucks for Earth Day. Michon called the city and got approval for the event. The Chamber has many activities planned. The posters will be picked up in two weeks to be judged. March 25 will be the Emergency Preparedness event. Help is needed to cover shifts at the table.

**Transportation** – Susan Rogen mentioned the tunnel at Etiwanda being cleared. Silva helped with the speed bumps. Mark will contact the city to get the trees on El Cab trimmed.

**Public Safety** **–** No report.

Rules **–** No report.

Government Action**–** No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff summarized the outcome of the issues at Animal Services. Animal Services may be opening the northeast Valley Animal Shelter as a fully functioning shelter as a result of Prop F.

**Beautification** – Iris said the weather has damaged some of the banners. She is contacting the banner company about that.

**Homelessness** – Joyce talked about the Etiwanda tunnel being cleared and some of the people being placed in housing. At their last meeting, a water leakage was reported by a stakeholder and DWP is servicing it. Two of the committee members are looking into court ordered treatment for the homeless.

**DWP MOU Report** – Glenn Bailey said the MOU has been changed and they are asking all NCs to put it on their future agendas for approval.

**VANC Report** – Len said the new City Attorney did not attend the meeting. Jeff said she had a very good reason for not attending.

**LANCC Report** – Mono Lake was discussed as well as gas - fired production for electricity.

**NCSA Liaison** – Terry thanked Christopher, Susan and Esther for tabling at the Native Plants Fair and said it was a great event. At their last meeting, James Ruska from LA SAN talk about composting. March 12, 2023 there will be a Candidate Forum for CD6. Surfrider Foundation will present a future program. Susan Rogen asked for the whereabouts of the green tablecloth. Christopher asked for someone to input the sign-in sheet names into their email list.

**Ad Hoc Van Nuys Airport** – Matthew talked about the meeting he attended with Christopher. The airport took input on noise complaints and said they agreed to keep everyone posted on future projects.

**9.** **(Goldberg/Wieder) moved approval of January 2023 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and the Financial Statement as of January 31, 2023. The motion carried 11-0-0 (Wieder ineligible to vote).**

**10.**  **(Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to appoint applicants to fill currently vacant Board positions as follows: North Area Representative and At Large Representative – Michon Rickman and Barry Edelman are current applicants.** Len noted that Michon was no longer available. Varant expressed concern about Barry previously resigning. Several board members spoke in favor of Barry and his previous role on the board. **The motion carried unanimously: 12-0-0.** Barry then joined the rest of the board meeting.

**11.** **(Shaffer/Goldberg) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to place the names of Max Flehinger and Allan Wertheim on the TNC website’s memorial page.”** Len spoke about Allan Wertheim, who was a board member who passed away as the result of an accident. Terry felt it was a great idea and asked who would spearhead this effort with WebCore. **The motion carried unanimously: 13-0-0.**

**12.** **(Shaffer/Saucier) moved, “The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS in support of Council File 23-0105 as follows: The Tarzana Neighborhood Council supports the motion that the city should affirm the primary objectives of the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan, ensuring that nature-based solutions, large-scale habitat restoration, increased recreational access, and environmental justice remain at the center of this effort. And further supports the motion that the Department of Recreation and Parks to report back within 3 0 days with recommendations for the establishment of a Park Advisory Board for the Sepulveda Basin: similar to the Griffith Park Advisory Board, to provide guidance and stewardship for the Sepulveda Basin.”**

Terry talked the CIS by Councilmembers Ramen and Blumenfield for the 2,000 acres of federally-owned land and the usage of this open space, which is the second largest open space in the City. It is a biodiversity hotspot with a wildlife preserve and provide a critical habitat for many animals. A number of environmental organizations have asked for natural - based solutions like flood control, recreation, and groundwater recharge. She called it a win-win for the City of L.A. and the S. F. Valley.

Speaking as an individual, Glenn Bailey agreed with the sentiments for this project but also asked that different NCs be informed about this project, especially the Encino NC. He also had concerns about the elimination of Tapia Bros. Farms and suggested the project be carefully monitored.

Lionel echoed Glenn’s concerns about preserving Tapia Bros but supported other aspects of this CIS. He also pointed out that trash cleanup is not done on a regular basis at the Sepulveda Basin. He felt city agencies should be working together to preserve this area. **The motion carried unanimously: 13-0-0.**

**13.** **(Shaffer/Polonsky) moved, “The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation that the Board suspend the standing rule regarding committee jurisdiction for this meeting only in order to sit as a committee of the whole on agenda items 14 and 15 involving land use and budget matters.” The motion carried unanimously: 13-0-0.**

**14.** **(Shaffer/Goldberg) moved, “The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS opposing Council File 23-0002-S30:**

The Tarzana Neighborhood Council opposes CF-23-0002-S30, that without qualification supports Senate Bill 4 (Wiener), Affordable Housing on Faith Land Acts. Many religious organizations exist in Los Angeles by use of a conditional use permit (CUP) in areas zoned for single family residences. Many CUPs were supported by the local communities on the basis that the religious organization applicant would be constructing a house of worship or other low use facility. If the property involved is ¼ acre or more, SB4 would allow the construction of multi- family residences several stories high. Depending on the number of units the development would be eligible for density bonuses adding more height and more units. If the development is within ½ mile of a major transit corridor, such as Ventura Blvd or the Orange Line, SB4 would require no parking be provided. Further, SB4 also allows for ancillary uses to be included in the development as follows: “In a single-family residential zone, ancillary uses shall be limited to uses that provide direct services to the residents of the development and have a community benefit, including childcare centers and community centers.”

While the Tarzana Neighborhood Council does not oppose low-income housing developments, it does oppose unrestricted development in single family residential neighborhoods. The TNC believes that reasonable protections for single family residential neighborhoods should be included in any legislation related to the construction of multifamily developments regardless of who owns the property.”

Len explained SB4 and what it entails, including allowing religious organizations with a ¼ acre of more to build low-income housing as a by-right project. If they build enough units, they could then take advantage of increased density bonuses and increased height variances. He thinks it came in under the radar. He pointed out that CF S30 says the City of L.A., with the approval of the Mayor, would support SB4. Iris also pointed out the burden it would place on City fire and police resources.

* Iris and Harvey spoke about the implications with this CF of leaving a large parcel of property in your will to a religious organization.
* Ashley Mashian, Planning Deputy for Councilmember Blumenfield, said she was taking notes and would refer them to the councilmember.
* Glenn Bailey, speaking as an individual, thanked Len for bringing this to everyone’s attention. He also expressed a concern about an existing city law which allowed a church on Rosco, between White Oak and Louise, to build a 4-story senior complex in an RA zone. CD3’s Ashley Mashian asked Glenn for the address of the property he referred to.
* Christopher felt this Senate bill posed an interesting idea. Len said his concern was with single family residential zones.
* Jeff felt this issue should be brought to VANC.
* Susan Rogen talked about renters taking up a lot of the parking spaces and asked the board to imagine a 5-story building with many units and how that would affect street parking.
* There was discussion about different developments around the Tarzana area.

**The motion carried unanimously: 13-0-0.**

**15.** **(Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation not to purchase (banners) advertising the TNC Candidate Filing and TNC Elections in an amount not to exceed $250. Proceeds to come from Elections, Miscellaneous.”**

**(Saucier/Wieder) made a substitute motion to support purchasing the banners.**

* + Eran said he did not feel the board should spend money to find candidates to run against them. He would rather use TNC funds to improve the community.
  + Terry said the banners were used for the prior election and helped create community awareness about the election and about the TNC, as well.
  + Matthew asked if the money could be used for outreach, minus the candidate filing.
  + Christopher suggested that the money spent could yield results with the vacant positions and with further engagement.
  + Susan Rogen felt that this would be a good expenditure for Outreach, which requires a lot of work.
  + Esther also felt it would be a good use of money to promote candidates which are needed for the election.
  + Harvey said he thought there was too much information on the Election Banners while also lacking the information on where to go to vote. He also felt DONE should be paying for Election promotions.
  + Christopher said he thought purchasing the banners was an important expenditure.
  + Matthew asked if the candidate filing info could be redacted from the banner promotions as he said it was important to advertise for outreach purposes.
  + Terry pointed out $24,000 left in the budget and the amount spent in the previous election. She mentioned the sites chosen for the banners and highly-recommended this expenditure.
  + Iris agreed that outreach is essential and that new blood is needed for the board, especially a diverse group of candidates.
  + Joyce felt the banners motion should be supported to get more outreach.
  + Esther suggested that the banners would enhance efforts to fill the board seats.
  + Eran said it was DONE’s job to help promote the election, not the TNC’s.
  + Harvey thought that more outreach should be done on a personal basis, talking to neighbors and friends. He compared it to the amount that TNC paid for the previous election which only produced one more candidate.
  + Christopher said the banners/signage would help with engagement, not just the election.
  + Goat Puppet made critical comments about the way TNC is run.
  + Susan Lord agreed that the banner language was confusing and was wondering if an Election Town Hall could be held in the future to draw interested parties in for future board and committee seats.
* Before the vote could be taken, Harvey reminded Len that the budget needed to be adjusted for this vote to be taken. Harvey suggested the following wording:

**(Saucier/Wieder) accepted the amended motion to be added to the substitute motion, “The TNC board approves a revised budget for the 2022/2023 fiscal year to include this item. The board further approves all necessary forms of paperwork required to update the budget and directs the treasurer and/or the president to prepare such and submit it to the City Clerk funding commission.”**

**The substitute motion carried: 7 – 5 – 0. (Wieder ineligible) (Opposed: Goldberg, Heissler, Mausner, Clark, Edelman).**

**16**. **Board Business:**

* Christopher thanked the Transportation Committee and Susan Rogen for helping to get the speed humps

installed where the accident took place.

* BONC vote: Len stated that as a result of a vote, NCs can continue meeting virtually until the end of March 2023. TNC’s last virtual meeting will be March 28th. After that, board meetings and committee meetings will return in-person.
* SB41-11, proposed by Senator Portantino, recognizes elected NCs (as opposed to appointed NCs) meeting virtually, in-person, or hybrid with board members having to be present. The earliest this would take place would be June 2023. A vote is imminent on this.
* Len asked for a backup person to run the sound system. He will demonstrate how it is done. Jeff said he would volunteer.

**17**. **Adjournment:** 10:09 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One