**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday December 14, 2021**

VIRTUAL TELEPHONIC MEETING

1. **Call to Order** at 7:08 p.m., **Roll Call: Quorum established with 14 board members:** Terry Saucier, David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Eran Heissler, Devon Cromwell, Susan Rogen, Esther Weider, Jeff Mausner, Len Shaffer, Iris Polonsky, Susan Lord, Bob Shmaeff, Michon Rickman, and Matthew Clark. (Absent: Pam Blattner, Joyce Greene, Daniel Gruen, Max Flehinger, Isabel Gerhardt and Barry Edelman).
2. Welcoming Remarks by Len Shaffer, TNC President.
3. **Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

**Blake Clayton, Supv. Sheila Kuehl’s office**, said Covid-19 cases are increasing due to the highly-contagious Omicron variant. Continue masking. There will be a Covid-19 virtual Town Hall coming up on Dec. 16, 2021 re: Covid-19 protocols. Regarding the homeless camp, there is no date yet for discontinuing the shelter-in-place order.

**Michael Liu, City Attorney’s Office**, said the courts are trying to return to their normal processes and jury trials have resumed. They are going to revisit the zero - bail order sometime soon.

**Daryl Scoggins, LAPD Senior Lead Officer**, reported: West Valley crime is down 1.1% and crime in Tarzana is down 8.5%. Regarding home invasions, the victims are often withdrawing large amounts of money from the bank or wearing expensive jewelry in public. Burglaries are way down but package theft is way up. He suggested using an Amazon safe box for deliveries, if you aren’t going to be home, or have your neighbors accept them. Valley Traffic, West Valley LAPD and Councilmember Blumenfield’s office are working on a solution for dealing with the speeding issues on Van Alden, including overtime for LAPD Traffic Officers.

1. **Public Comments** – None.
2. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report** – Lee was not present. There are no budget advocates for Region 3. Jeff said this commitment meets twice a month.
3. **Executive Secretary’s Attendance Report** – Max was not present. He was said to be recovering from a fall.

**6. Approval of Minutes: (Goldberg/Lord) moved approval of the minutes of the October 26, 2021board meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0.**

**7. Committee and other Reports**

**Budget** – Harvey said the Budget Committee meets the 3rd Wednesday in January. Currently, there is almost $23K available in TNC’s fund to use for the balance of the fiscal year.

**Land Use** – No report.

**Outreach** – Terry said her committee has reviewed the digital media communications policy, drafted in October.

**Events** – Esther will be starting up her committee meetings in January.

**Transportation** – No report.

**Public Safety** – Susan Rogen reported that street lights out Santa Rita to Ventura Boulevard on Sherwood. Scott Diamond said other lights are out on Tampa and Hatteras. Susan and Len spoke about emergency radios.

**Rules** – Len hopes to hold a meeting on bylaws changes next month.

**Government Action** – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff said the canine influenza outbreak seems to be lessening. It was the largest outbreak to date in L.A. history. He recommended the two-dose vaccine for dogs as it is very contagious. The S. Korean government has formed a commission looking into banning dog meat. An election is coming up in S. Korea and this issue is being highlighted as it is an international embarrassment.

**Beautification** – Iris said the wind took down some of the street banners but the banner company was very responsive in handling this.

**Homelessness** – Joyce, Devon and Susan Lord visiting the tiny cabins and donated holiday decorations.

**DWP MOU Report** – No report.

**VANC Report** – Len attended the Valley Alliance meeting. Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel was there and participants asked him to help with continuing virtual meetings. They also spoke about Whitman Airport. Glenn Bailey added that there was a robust discussion with the Assemblymember and that State Senator Stern showed up unexpectantly. Tentatively, Congresswoman Karen Bass, a leading candidate for Mayor, will be at the January meeting. LAPD Chief Michael Moore has been invited to the February meeting.

**NCSA Liaison** – Terry said the liaison is now working on their bylaws.

**8.** **October Expenditures Motion: (Goldberg/Shmaeff) moved approval of the October 2021 expenditures for submission to the City Clerk (MER). The motion carried unanimously 13-0-0.** (Michon was not eligible to vote).

**9.** **November** **Expenditures Motion: (Goldberg/Shmaeff) moved approval of the November 2021 expenditures for submission to the City Clerk (MER). The motion carried unanimously 13-0-0.** (Michon was not eligible to vote).

**10. Financial Statement Motion**: **(Goldberg/Shmaeff)**: **Approval of the Financial Statements as of October 31 and November 30, 2021. The motion carried 12-1-0. (Lord opposed).** (Michon was not eligible to vote).

**11. Animal Welfare Motion: (Mausner/Saucier) moved: “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to file a CIS in support of CF-21-1286, which, among other things, requires the Planning Department to report back on development in environmentally sensitive areas, conservation efforts, protected species, and managing the City’s natural biological diversity.”**

**The motion carried: 13-0-1 (Goldberg abstaining).**

**12.** **Santa Monica Conservancy Motion: (Mausner/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to file a CIS in support of CF-21-1284, which, among other things, recognizes the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as a trustee agency pursuant to CEQA and recognizes certain areas to ensure the protection and conservation of sensitive habitat areas.”**

**The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0.**

**13.** **Land Use Motion: Wicked Cow:** **(Garfinkle/Heissler) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Land Use Committee to support the request for a conditional use and relief from the Commercial Corner regulations regarding hours of operation for the Wicked Cow restaurant at 18348 Ventura Blvd pursuant to ZA-2021-8662-CC/B with the following conditions:**

**1. Restaurant hours be from 7:00 AM to 2:00 AM daily**

**2. Alcoholic beverages may be served with food only and no bar is allowed**

**3. Alcoholic beverages may be served Sunday – Thursday 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM and Friday to Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 AM.**

**4. Alcoholic beverages may be served at the 34 outdoor seating areas if properly separated from the public in accordance with LA City and California State regulations.**

Susan Rogen suggested there be less regulations. Iris suggested that this motion wait until a representative of the restaurant comes before the TNC. Devon asked to confirm the address for the restaurant. Eran felt it was discriminatory to hold this restaurant to standards different from other restaurants.

(Polonsky/Heissler) moved to table this motion to the next board meeting. That motion was put on hold.

**(Goldberg/Heissler) moved to amend the Item #3 to say “that the hours for serving alcohol be from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m., Sunday through Saturday.” The motion carried: 11-2-1 (Saucier and Shaffer opposed/Garfinkle abstaining). (Voting in favor: Goldberg, Heissler, Cromwell, Rogen, Weider, Mausner, Polonsky, Shmaeff, Lord, Rickman and Clark.)**

**The board then voted on the amended motion with the same outcome: 11-2-1 (11 in favor, Saucier and Shaffer opposed and Garfinkle abstaining). (Voting in favor: Goldberg, Heissler, Cromwell, Rogen, Weider, Mausner, Polonsky, Shmaeff, Lord, Rickman and Clark.)**

**14. CIS re: SB9: (Garfinkle/Mausner) moved: “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the**

**recommendation of the Land Use Committee to file a CIS in support of CF-21-1414**

**directing the Planning Dept and the Dept of Building and Safety with the assistance of**

**the City Attorney to prepare a memorandum setting out objective standards to be**

**used in the implementation of SB9. A copy of the CIS to be sent to CM Blumenfield**

**and Council President Martinez.” The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0.**

**15.** **(Goldberg/Weider) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the**

**recommendation of the Executive Committee to appoint a Board member to pick up**

**election materials from the City Clerk and to receive electronic election records from**

**the City Clerk.” The motion carried unanimously: 14-0-0.**

**16.** **Inventory: (Goldberg/Garfinkle) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the**

**recommendation of the Executive Committee to approve the 2019-2020 and the 2020-**

**2021 inventory forms and directs the President or the Treasurer to submit them to the**

**City Clerk’s Office.” The motion carried unanimously. 14-0-0.**

**17.** **Outreach Motion re: CIS: (Saucier/Esther) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board**

**adopts the recommendation of the Outreach Committee to file a CIS with the Board of**

**Neighborhood Commissioners in support the October 14, 2021 version of the**

**proposed Digital Communications Policy if it is amended to clarify or addresses the**

**following:**

**Sec2.3**To confirm, Attachment A should be included on the TNC Facebook and NextDoor Accounts, where public comments are allowed; however, it would not apply to the TNC website as public comments are not posted on the website.

**Sec6.3** We are opposed to the statement that All Digital Communications shall originate from the neighborhood council, acting through its board, and not any committee or any other group. -This is too restrictive and implies that the full Board would need to approve all social media posts, emails, newsletters, and website content. If this were the case, the NC would need to decide whether to substantially detract from the board effectiveness and outreach efforts.

**Sec7.1** If an announcement of an official event is presented verbatim, is it necessary to reference a point of contact? If there is no specific party, will a general email address or website for the city department suffice?

**Sec8.1**What about community events not sponsored or supported by the NC, such as a senior day at the local community center or local food bank? Perhaps our councilmember’s annual bike ride. Not all things in the community lead back to the NC.

**Sec8.3** We understand the intent, however, in practice this directive needs further clarity. What about important community discussions promoted by local or state level elected officials? Can an NC post something like a telephone town hall put on by a congress person?

**Sec8.6 (1)**It’s understood that once a measure is on the ballot an NC should not take a position on it. However, there should be no restriction on an NC informing stakeholders of a position taken via CIS if the matter is being considered by the city council. Also, there should be no retroaction on informing stakeholders of an upcoming candidate forum put on by a local chamber or other community organization so long as all candidates are included.

**Sec8.7**Please clarify what is meant by "endorsement". It would seem rather counterintuitive if an NC gives an NPG to a non-profit for a booth and then attends the event to have to post a disclaimer. Also, the disclaimer should be written as.... “Acknowledgement of any entity or person(s) does not constitute the neighborhood council’s support or endorsement of it or its products or services.” …and will be stated in one place per social media platform.

**Sec9.2** This needs further clarity. Does this in essence say NC Board members in helping promote NC business, events, or City business should not post these types of announcements on their personal social media accounts and instead only post links to the original post? i.e., TNC meeting agendas?

**Sec 9.2 (g)**This is overly broad; how would the NC know what will come before the board.”

***(See the document posted on the TNC website with the text of the referenced policy sections*** [***https://www.tarzananc.org/committees/viewCommittee/board***](https://www.tarzananc.org/committees/viewCommittee/board)***)***

**The motion carried unanimously: 13-0-0. Len recused himself from this motion.**

**18**. **Board Business** – The executive committee meets the Thursday prior to the board meeting. Len needs any items for the agenda prior to that time.

**19**.  **Adjournment**: 9:06 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One