**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday October 24, 2023**

**Tarzana Child Care Center**

**5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356**

1. **Call to Order** by TNC President Len Shaffer at 6:55 p.m. **Welcoming remarks** by Mr. Shaffer. **Roll Call**: Faryl Arbeitman, Christopher Ahuja, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Leon Antonio Gonzalez, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Susan Lord, Susan Rogen, Duncan MacIntosh, Terry Saucier, Pam Majumdar, Iris Polonsky, Paul Radenberg Bob Shmaeff and Len Shaffer. Quorum established with 17 board members.

**Absent were:** Sylvia Bedrosian, Joyce Greene, Bruno Hernandez, and Esther Wieder.

1. **Presentation: Councilmember Bob Blumenfield** addressed public safety – specifically speeding on Vanalden and how problems with speeders were resolved partly through his efforts to acquire $2 million dollars for the Street Safe Initiative. He also was able to get $40 million dollars to improve the grid in the City of Los Angeles from the federal government and CM Blumenfield talked about helping homeless veterans. On the issue of public safety, he addressed the issue of getting LAPD recruits hired. Recently, there was a negotiation with the police where a “very generous contract” was put together ($74K starting pay) to help with recruitment and retention to turn this situation around. As Budget Chair for the City, he said this contract creates a challenge. He also addressed the loss of city workers during Covid-19 as many people took retirement incentives. The City is currently trying to fill many vacant positions and is in a hiring mode right now. Homelessness is one of the biggest issues the City is facing as well as the opiod addiction problem. Patient navigators are now place people who come in for treatment at Tarzana Encino Hospital at three houses that provide board and care services. This program has been successful in helping around 1,000 people who needed these services and is being expanded across the City.

Questions:

Jane Lien, a stakeholder, asked about the leniency in laws toward those who commit crimes and asked if those laws are changing. CM has advocated to the City impounding vehicles using in street racing and speeding as there needs to be accountability and consequences.

Joseph \_\_\_ asked what the current staffing is for police and firefighters. CM said when Mayor Villaraigosa was serving the City, there were 10,000 police officers. Now, there are about 8,900. Firefighters are doing okay as they have not had the same issues as the police.

Karen \_\_\_\_\_, a renter, had someone jump her fence into her backyard. When she called the police at 1 a.m., it took them two hours to arrive. She doesn’t feel safe. CM said it was a horrible response time. He advised her of the language to use when calling police to get an immediate response and urged her to get to know her senior lead officer.

Varant Majarian noted that the non-emergency LAPD dispatch # takes a minimum of one hour for a response and many people hang up rather than wait on hold. CM said he is working to get more civilians hired for both non-emergency and emergency calls.

Non-identified man asked what stakeholders can expect with the fireworks next year? CM is working to get more police hired and noted that they have to catch someone in the act of setting off fireworks to arrest them. He does a fireworks show in Warner Center to try to divert some of the activity with illegal fireworks.

Annie \_\_\_\_ asked how the hospitals treat those with mental illness. CM said they run three board and cares through a partnership with Tarzana Treatment Center. This is a huge problem that goes back to privatization and the closing of institutions that treated mental illness.

She also asked whether the City can remove RVs that house the homeless on the street. CM said it is unconstitutional to remove vehicles homeless live in (8502) and even if you ticket people, the people you ticket have no money to pay those fines. He talked about people renting substandard vans to people to live in (vanlords). He has drafted a motion to go after the “vanlords.” This is part of the reason why there are so many vehicles on the street. The City is now working with a nonprofit to deal with this problem (to take the liability off the City).

The councilmember invited anyone with questions to contact Safi at his office.

1. **Remarks by representatives of public officials: None.**
2. **Public Comments:**

* Rich Keenan said he loves his neighborhood but the street racing is insane. He lives by the park where young people congregate at night and create a noise problem. There is gang graffiti that’s been there for months.
* Scott Diamond talked about the danger of the Tampa and Hatteras intersection. There are always cars racing and people sitting in their cars with their lights on. He also talked about cars doing high speed donuts in the middle of that intersection.
* Bill Raggio also spoke of street racing. He’s tried to have street humps installed but it didn’t happen. Instead, the City put a speed sign on a trailer in front of his home but it only helped temporarily.
* Steven Wizman lives opposite the park on Vanalden. He has many concerns and has contacted the park director but has not received any response.

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report** – Glenn Bailey gave his report. The budget advocates are starting to meet with City department heads as they have to submit their budget requests by November 17, 2023. The city controller was scheduled to speak about the budget on a virtual meeting coming up. Budget reps are meeting with DONE about organizing a Budget Day for the 3rd Saturday in June.
2. **Executive Secretary’s Report** – Iris said no one has any excessive absences.
3. **Approval of minutes. (Heissler/Goldberg) moved approval of the September 26, 2023 meeting**. **The motion was unanimously approved: 17-0-0 and 4 absences.**

**8.  Committee and other Reports**:

**Budget** – Next meeting will be Nov. 29th but get Harvey any requests by Nov. 20th.

Land Use – no report.

**Outreach** – Terry reported on her committee’s recent meeting.

Events – no report.

**Transportation & Public Safety** – Susan Rogen will contact the person who oversees the park to speak with him about the issues there. They are trying to have the park closed at 9 p.m. instead of at 10 p.m. She said there is a list of resources on the website. She talked about getting roundabouts on Reseda Blvd. to slow down traffic. The pedestrian crosswalk is being addressed in the next few months. She also spoke about curbs that were painted red to stop illegal parking.

**Rules**– Glenn Bailey spoke about SB411’s passage.

Government Action – No report.

**Animal Welfare** – Jeff is producing/directing a video for the S. Korean Assembly to encourage them to pass currently pending special dog meat legislation. His video features celebrities. Also, Jeff received a **Guardian of the Animals** award in September 2023.

**Beautification** – Iris spoke about the Ad Hoc committee which is planning a street cleanup.

**Homelessness** – Susan Lord announced her next committee meeting. They hope to accomplish a lot during the holiday season.

DWP MOU Report – No report.

**VANC Report** – Len reported on the most recent meeting, a city official spoke about funding.

**LANCC Report** – Len announced that board meetings can remain in person or go back to virtual as a result of the governor’s signing of SB411.

**NCSA Liaison** – Matthew talked about the Native Plant fair.

Ad Hoc VNY – No report.

**9.**   **MER Motion:** (Goldberg/Heissler) moved: “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation and approves the September 2023 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and the financial statements for September 2023.”**The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0 (MacIntosh & Arbietman not eligible to vote) and 4 absences.**

**10.** **Holiday Food Expenditure:** (Goldberg/Polonsky) moved, that the TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve the request from the Outreach/Events Committee to purchase individually wrapped food, beverages, and paper products for the December Board meeting at a cost NTE $450. To be classified as Operations, General, Meeting Expense. Funds to come from Unallocated.” **The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0 (MacIntosh & Arbietman not eligible to vote) and 4 absences.**

**11. Revised Budget**: (Goldberg/Lord) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 -June 30, 2024 to include the above item 10 and 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: 15-0-0 (MacIntosh & Arbietman not eligible to vote) and 4 absences.**

**12.    Election Information: (Heissler/Goldberg) moved:** “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to authorize the Board President to receive the electronic copies of the 2023 election information from the City Clerk.” **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 and 4 absences.**

**13.** **Letter to LAPD: (Goldberg/Lord) moved to table this motion**: “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to send a letter to the LAPD West Valley Division Captain regarding SLO Daryl Scoggins past service to Tarzana.” **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 and 4 absences.**

**14.** **Ad Hoc Housing Element Motion**: (Shaffer/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to form an Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee to work with the Land Use Ad Hoc Housing Element Committee in locating suitable parcels for up-zoning to accommodate housing needs in Los Angeles. **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 and 4 absences.** Barry Edelman, Matthew Clark, and Pam Majumdar will serve on this committee.

**15.** **Combine Transportation and Public Safety Committees**: (Rogen/Shmaeff) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves/disapproves the Transportation Committee’s and Public Safe Committee’s recommendations to combine the two standing committees into the Transportation and Public Safety Committee.” **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 and 4 absences.**

Sharon Brewer questioned whether they could get a quorum of committee members. Len explained the Brown Act and how it applies to committees.

**16. CIS Supporting CF 23-0623**: (Shaffer/Lord) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS in favor CF 23-0623; the draft ordinance defining an administrative approval procedure for the approval of 100% affordable housing developments. This ordinance restricts those projects to zones supporting multiple residential development and excluding them from R-1 and more restrictive zones.” **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 and 4 absences.**

**17. Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan**: (Shaffer/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS in favor CF 17-1071-S1 if amended to substitute the following language in Section 15, 2, (a):

Whereas, each of the communities along the 17 miles of the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan area is unique and has different needs, the Ventura-Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan Review Board (VCBCSP) requests the adoption of the following make-up of the Review Board:

The VCBCSP Review Board shall consist of 13 members.

1. One member appointed by the mayor.
2. Six members appointed by the City Council Member(s) whose districts include the VCBCSP area. If a community is represented by more than one City Council Member, they shall choose the appointee jointly.
3. One member appointed by each of the six Neighborhood Councils comprising the VCBCS area.  The appointed member shall be a stakeholder of said Neighborhood Councils.

Whereas, the adoption of the appointments listed above ensures that no City Council

Member will be able to appoint a majority of the Plan Review Board and that each of

the six communities are represented as Section 15.A.2.a & b requires.

Whereas, the adoption of the appointments listed above will ensure that when City

Council Districts are changed during each 10-year process, the Plan Review Board will

remain representative of Cahuenga Pass, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino,

Tarzana and Woodland Hills.

Whereas, no term limits shall apply to Plan Review Board Members.

Whereas, the President, the 1st Vice President and the 2nd Vice President shall serve for

a term of 3 years.

**The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 and 4 absences.**

**Consent Calendar – Items 18 - 24 were approved together by a single vote. All were approved unanimously, 17-0-0 and 4 absences.**

**18.** **Animal Welfare Committee:** Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement “For” (in favor of) Council File 23-1008, entitled “Breeding Permit Moratorium /Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) /Amendment.”  The AWC also requests that the Community Impact Statement contain the following statement:

There is an **emergency** taking place regarding animals in the City.  S**evere overcrowding and killing of healthy adoptable dogs in the City Animal Shelters for lack of space is an emergency.** The overpopulation of dogs is costing the City millions of dollars.  Please see: [*Crucial City Funding: Spay and Neuter Saves Money and Lives* (citywatchla.com)](https://www.citywatchla.com/369-budget-advocates/18933-crucial-city-funding-spay-and-neuter-saves-money-and-lives?highlight=WyJtYXVzbmVyIl0=)

It is crucial that steps be taken immediately to decrease the number of dogs coming into the shelters.  A moratorium on breeding permits is a necessary step in doing so, at least until this immediate emergency is resolved.

At the same time, we suggest that the City Council also take the following steps to address the overcrowding emergency:

1. Encourage spay/neuter of pets by increasing funding for more free and discounted spay/neuter vouchers and increasing the amount veterinarians are paid for performing spay/neuters under the vouchers.  The amount of payment to vets pursuant to the vouchers is ridiculously low and, as a result, there are not enough vets willing to perform spay/neuters under the vouchers.  Increasing the availability of vouchers and raising the fees paid to veterinarians to encourage them to perform spay/neuters is a necessary step in solving the emergency.

2.  Deploy an advertising/email/social media/news media campaign for spay/neuter vouchers.  As part of this campaign, make clear that the City is going to **start enforcing spay/neuter laws more vigorously, much more vigorously.** Publicize that you can use a free or discounted spay/neuter voucher to avoid a severe fine.  There should be severe fines for failure to spay/neuter, with minimal or no waivers.

3.  Use the Northeast Valley Animal Shelter in Mission Hills and the Jefferson Park Animal Shelter in South L.A. on an emergency basis to house dogs from overcrowded shelters in any empty kennels, without displacing any dogs currently at those shelters.  Encourage all experienced former volunteers to return to help care for the animals there.  This will allow this to be done at the lowest cost for the City. (Passed by unanimous consent).

**19. Animal Welfare Committee**: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 21-0042-S6 which will require landlords and building managers to allow any companion animal already residing in a rental dwelling unit to continue residing there. (Passed by unanimous consent).

**20.** **Animal Welfare Committee**: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 23-0926 which provides for submission of reports by the Department of Animal Services (DAS), and an overhaul of operations of DAS in the following areas: conditions in the shelters, care of the animals, overcrowded and unclean kennels and cages, dogs going weeks or months without walks or other exercise, animals not receiving adequate care and behavioral preparation for adoption, providing dog training, increasing the budget of the DAS, increasing staffing, increasing the number of volunteers, protecting shelter animals from extreme heat, spay/neuter promotion, and other matters. (Passed by unanimous consent).

**21.** **Animal Welfare Committee**: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" Council File 19-0543, which will prohibit use of the Animal Sterilization Fund for staff salaries and benefits not directly related to the delivery or performance of animal sterilization services or other designated purposes. (Passed by unanimous consent).

**22. Animal Welfare Committee:** Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" Council File 22-0943, which instructs the Department of Animal Services, the CAO (City Administrative Officer), the CLA (Chief Legislative Analyst), and any other relevant departments and stakeholders to determine the budgetary needs for the Department of Animal Services to fully staff seven animal shelters and all programmatic and departmental administrative needs and report back to the City Council in 60 days with that information.  Please see:  [*Mayor Bass Wants to Improve the LA Animal Services Department, Secure Additional Funding* (citywatchla.com)](https://www.citywatchla.com/animal-watch/27476-mayor-bass-wants-to-improve-the-la-animal-services-department-secure-additional-funding?highlight=WyJtYXVzbmVyIl0=) (Passed by unanimous consent).

**23. Animal Welfare Committee**: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee to pass a resolution for a Community Impact Statement "For" (in favor of) Council File 22-1187 and the report of the Interim General Manager Annette Ramirez in response, requesting additional staffing for the Department of Animal Services to ensure that all dogs in its shelters are regularly exercised and properly attended to. (Passed by unanimous consent).

**24. Animal Welfare Committee**:Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee topass a resolution requesting the Department of Animal Services and General Services Department better coordinate efforts to repair broken kennels and other items at the Animal Shelters.  Broken guillotine doors separating portions of the dog kennels, broken locks, and other needed repairs not only make it more difficult to care for and take animals out of the kennels, they also constitute a safety hazard for volunteers and employees.  One suggestion is for a list of broken items to be kept in the volunteer office at each shelter, and for a General Services truck to visit each shelter every week for those repairs to be made.  The resolution will be sent to the General Managers and/or other employees/managers of the Department of Animal Services and General Services Department, as well as members of the City Council. (Passed by unanimous consent).

**25. Animal Welfare Committee**: **(Mausner/Saucier) moved, “**Resolved: The TNC Board approves the recommendation of the Animal Welfare Committee topass a resolution requesting the City Council to introduce a resolution increasing the number of dogs and cats a person or family can own or foster, as determined by the Animal Services Department.” Currently, households can have 3 dogs and 4 cats.

Sharon Brewer questioned why people are surrendering their dogs and cats.

**The motion failed: 8-9-0 with 4 absent.**

**For**: Saucier, Ahuja, Mausner, Clark, Shmaeff, Majumdar, MacIntosh, and Arbietman.

**Against**: Goldberg, Heissler, Radenberg, Rogen, Gonzalez, Shaffer, Edelman, Polonsky, & Lord.

**26**.   **Board Business -** Len called a Special Meeting for December 12, 2023 to take up the letter to LAPD on behalf of Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins. Matthew Clark got some press from his company’s work on turning horse manure at the Hanson Dam Equestrian Center and L.A. Equestrian Center into compost. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ announced flyers on the Local hazard mitigation plan to get comments.

**27.**.    **Adjournment** at 9:50 p.m.

* Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-