**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday May 27, 2025 7:00 PM**

**Tarzana Child Care Center**

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

**1. Call to Order** at 7 p.m. by Len Shaffer, TNC President. Roll Call by Recording Secretary Eran Heissler: **Present:** Leonard J. Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, plus: Iris Polonsky, Sylvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, David Elan, Duncan MacIntosh, Susan Rogen,

Sima Salek, and Terry Saucier. **Absent:** Harvey Goldberg, Barry Edelman, Joyce Greene and Bob Shmaeff. Quorum reached with 11 board members.

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

Katie Abrams, representative for Supv. Horvath’s office, reported:

* Metro passed their $9.4B budget with $1B going to improvements in the 3rd District. This is the largest annual investment in any Council District.
* On the Sepulveda Transit Corridor they are waiting for the EIR to be released. Metro will have two community meetings this month.
* The rebuilding permit centers are open for guidance now and will remain so throughout the building process. L.A. County is offering preapproved permit designs that meet all county codes to homeowners who want to save time and money.
* PCH reopened last Friday with two lanes in either direction, although some areas still have only one lane in either direction.
* Len asked Katie to relay to the supervisor that whichever option is chosen by METRO, it has to be underground at UCLA.

David Bright, W. Valley Area Rep. for the Mayor’s office, reported:

* Over 2,000 properties in the Palisades Fire have been cleared of debris. With that, the Mayor has a couple of executive orders: 1) a self-certification pilot program for the permit process. This would allow architects and contractors to certify their process and avoid going through Plan Check. 2) the city won’t be collecting any Plan Check fees for the homes damaged by the fires. 3) they are looking at using AI to speed up the Plan Check process.
* They recently held a citywide Clean Up Day which is a big push by the Mayor to clean up the city for the big events coming up. There’s a Day of Service planned on May 31st (for AAPI Month) in North Hills.
* On the budget front, the proposed budget has been released and the City Council is working on it. There is a billion-dollar deficit. Among the highlights by the Mayor: all sworn LAPD officers will be preserved and there will be increased funding for the LAFD.
* A board member asked about rebuilding. David said some are being rebuilt right now.
* Len asked, with the self-certification process, if there will be enough inspectors to review these permits since there have been budget cuts to Building and Safety. David did not know. Len asked him to relay to Mayor Bass that whatever route is chosen for cross Valley transit, to look at doing underground installations at UCLA.
* Susan Rogen noted that she is concerned about the streets in CD3 which have been in disrepair for years. (Reseda & Tampa to name a few). With the lack of money, they haven’t been fixed. She asked that these roads be addressed to get ready for the big events coming up. David said he would relay that info to the Mayor.
* Duncan asked, on the subject of the grid, with rebuilding the Palisades, there is a process to wrap the existing power poles to make them fire resistant (grid harmony). He asked that this info be passed along.
* Stakeholder: Ana \_\_\_ VP of Canoga Park NC about 103 civilian jobs being cut at LAPD. David said the city council has modified the budget and he thought some of those jobs would remain. She then asked about cuts to the detectives. David said that the shortage of police officers is the focus right now. He added that there is a nationwide shortage of police officers.
* Unknown speaker asked if the Sepulveda Metro would be operational before the Olympics. David said “no” and Len said the date for that is 2035. He added that they have not made a decision yet on the plan.

Procho, EmpowerLA:

* talked about the BONC Town Hall on May 31st, at 10 am, at the Encino Community Center. She has been announcing it to other NCs.
* She spoke about the $1B city budget deficit. Budget Day 2025 is a free public event at City Hall on June 21., 2025, from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and there will be presentations by different city officials. She invited the board to attend to voice their concerns and be a part of the process.
* Len added that Budget Day starts at 9 a.m. but there is a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. if you register, there will be free parking at City Hall. He encouraged everyone to attend to learn more about the process.
* Terry pointed out that today was the last day to request a ballot for TNC’s election.
* Len said EmpowerLA did not get all of its budget.
* Procho then said that 4 NEAs and one project coordinator will lose their jobs. Currently, each NEA is now overseeing 8 – 10 NCs.
* The NCs will only get $25K in funding next year but all unspent funds from the current budget will be rolled over - if approved by the Mayor.
* LAPD Sr. Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins was not able to attend but Len said he thanked TNC for its contribution to the Unity Bike Run.

1. **Public Comments:**

* Paige Parsons Roach, community organizer for the Plant Based Treaty, talked about their grassroot global organization that is fighting climate change in over 40 cities. They are raising awareness and trying to create plant-based initiatives to fight back. She asked to be put on the agenda to give a presentation in the coming months.
* Len asked her to send him an email request about their presentation.
* Stephanie Mercado, also with Plant Based Treaty, spoke about the importance of this issue.
* Adi Savad, a resident of Melody Acres, said a neighbor is feeding the skunks and this is creating a big problem. He asked what he could do. There is also an RV parked on Hattaras that is creating problems. And he talked about a neighbor who drained his pool and it flooded his yard. This goes back to the problem with the street drainage. He wanted to know who to talk to.
* Terry said that skunks are wildlife and it is not illegal to feed them. You cannot trap them. As far as the RV, it is not legal to rent out an RV on the street. Planning & Land Use would be a resource for this.
* Len said DOT might be able to help also. Building & Safety Code Enforcement takes care of RVs that are rented out but he pointed out that whoever makes the claim would not be anonymous.
* Duncan talked about something the property owner can do for containment with the drainage problem.
* An unknown speaker asked questions about drain water and construction.

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report**: Budget Day is June 21, 2025. Len will be there.
2. **Executive Secretary’s Report:**  Iris said Duncan cannot vote on budget items and Bob Shmaeff has missed six meetings so he is being removed from the TNC board.
3. **Approval of Minutes: (Heissler/Bedrossian) moved approval of minutes of the April 22, 2025 board meeting.**

**(Shaffer/Heissler) moved to amend the motion to: Approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025 board meeting and the May 5, 2025 Special Meeting. The motion to amend carried unanimously.**

**Voting yea:** Leonard J. Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, plus: Iris Polonsky, Sylvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, David Elan, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, and Terry Saucier. **Ineligible:** Duncan MacIntosh. **Absent:** Harvey Goldberg, Barry Edelman, Joyce Greene and Bob Shmaeff.

**The amended motion carried unanimously.**

**Voting yea:** Leonard J. Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, plus: Iris Polonsky, Sylvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, David Elan, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, and Terry Saucier. **Ineligible:** Duncan MacIntosh. **Absent:** Harvey Goldberg, Barry Edelman, Joyce Greene and Bob Shmaeff.

**Committee and other Reports**

**7. Executive Committee:** Len said new board members will not be seated until July 1, 2025. He will schedule a Special Meeting in early July to elect executive board members and seat the new board members. There will also be a board member retreat at the end of August or the beginning of September, to go over board rules, possibly with reps from the City Attorney and City Clerk’s office.

**Consent Calendar – Items 8a through e will be subject to a single roll call vote unless an individual item is called out for discussion by a Board member or for public comment.**

**8.Budget:** Eran gave the Budget Report for Harvey who was not present.

Harvey estimates that approximately $11K will be carried over in unspent funds to next year’s TNC budget. The last day for a check request is June 1, 2025 and the last day to use the TNC credit card is June 20, 2025. The next Budget Meeting will be on June 18, 2025 on Zoom. At that meeting, they will be working on the budget for the next fiscal year. The TNC board will approve this proposed budget at their June 2025 meeting. He added that the budget for NCs has been reduced to $25K from $32K.

**(Shaffer) moved to vote on Items 8a. – 8e. as a consent calendar:**

**a**. **Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board approves the April 2025 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and Financial Statements as of April 30, 2025.**

**b. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to reimburse Board member, Iris Polonsky, $14.99 for the purchase of snacks at Costco for the April Board meeting. To be classified as Operations, General, Meeting Expense, Refreshments. This expense was previously budgeted.**

**c. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve the request of the Treasurer to increase the budget for Operations, General, Business Cards, Name Plates & Badges from $250 to $500 to cover the purchase of these items for existing Board Members who need them and new Board Members who are running unopposed in the current election. Additional funds to come from Unallocated.**

**d. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to contribute $250 to the Neighborhood Council Budget Day. To be classified as Operations, General, Board Retreat & Training, Neighborhood Council Budget Day. Funds to come from Unallocated.**

**e. Discussion and motion: Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to contribute $500 to the LA Congress of Neighborhoods. To be classified as Operations, General, Board Retreat & Training, Congress of Neighborhood. Funds to come from Unallocated.**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Voting yea:** Leonard J. Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, plus: Iris Polonsky, Sylvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, David Elan, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, and Terry Saucier.

**Ineligible:** Duncan MacIntosh.

**Absent:** Harvey Goldberg, Barry Edelman, and Joyce Greene.

**f.** **(Heissler/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025 to include the items 8 c, d, and e 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.**

**Voting yea:** Leonard J. Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, plus: Iris Polonsky, Sylvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, David Elan, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, and Terry Saucier.

**Ineligible:** Duncan MacIntosh.

**Absent:** Harvey Goldberg, Barry Edelman, and Joyce Greene.

**10. Outreach –** Terry reminded the board of the upcoming June 3, 2025 election.She thanked everyone for helping out with the Senior Symposium at One Generation on 5/17, 2025 and she thanked Matt for taking over the social media (formerly done by Chris). She also offered to promote any future events that the board members has.

**11. Events –** After July 1,2025, Len will be looking for an Events Chair. Esther will serve as a resource for whoever takes on this position.

**12. Transportation/Public Safety –** Len talked about Susan helping to get $900 worth of cameras for license plate readersin CD3.These readers will send a real time alert to the Crime Center when there’s been a serious crime committed. Susan said she is working on finding out who at West Valley will be installing the cameras and where they will be located. As far as correcting the signage on Reseda Blvd., she has reached out to Silva but not received a response.

**13. Animal Welfare –** Jeff reported that Mayor Bass restored most of the proposed cuts to Animal Services. She had previously cut $5.695M from next year’s budget which would have caused three of the six animal shelters to close. There were protests that helped change her mind so the cut is only $695K. The budget going forward is still less than this year’s budget and less than what the Budget Advocates proposed. This will reduce the amount of enrichment budgeted for the dogs. DPFL is the non-profit that does the enrichment where they take the dogs out of their cages once a day. Jeff will work to get an extension on the contract for enrichment. Overcrowding is worse than ever: The shelters are at 126% capacity for dogs now and the budget does not provide adequate monies for spaying and neutering.

**14. Beautification –** Iris said a lot of banners were blown down and damaged. Gold Metropolitan Media is going to put the usable ones back up. She is not sure about whether she will order new banners.

**15.** **Homelessness –** No report.

**16. Rules –** No report.

**17. Government Action -** No report.

**18. Ad Hoc VNY –** Len said this is now a committee of one.

**19. Ad Hoc Elections –** Len said this will be disbanded after June 3rd.

**20. NCSA –** Terry said their next meeting will be heldJune 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

**21. VANC –** Len said that an individual who did the audit of LAHSA (homeless services) gave an interesting report and that public officials are going to have to answer questions as to where billions of dollars of funding have gone.

**22. LANCC –** No report.

**23. DWP MOU –** Looking for a volunteer to fill this vacancy, which meets online. Len talked about the goal of meeting 100% renewable energy by 2035.

**24**. **Board Business:**

* Len reminded the board about the BONC Town Hall on May 31st at the Encino Recreation Center. LAPD, LAFD, the GM of EmpowerLA and reps from the Council offices and the Mayor’s office will be present.
* Someone asked if W. Valley Vector Control could be invited to give a presentation on mosquito control.
* A board member talked about planting citronella and how it is helping eliminate mosquitos.

**25.**  **Meeting Adjourned** at 7:16 p.m.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-