

TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 23, 2013
Tarzana Elementary School
5726 Topeka Drive, Tarzana, CA 91356

1. **Call to Order** at 7:20 by TNC President Kathy Delle Donne. Pledge, welcoming remarks: Kathy congratulated Matt on the birth of his daughter. She thanked Marina for the recent. TNC event.

Roll Call: Matthew Austin, Susan Blauner, Kathy Delle Done, Elliot Durant, David Garfinkle, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Paul Lawler, Evan Levi, Varant Majarian, Eileen Maronde, Jon Reich, Doug Sarver, Denyse Selesnick, Len Shaffer, and Sue Weidman. Quorum established.

2. **Remarks by representative of public officials:** Max Reyes, from Senator Fran Pavley's office, talked about the new areas the senator covers with redistricting. The "hot issue" she is working on is fracking legislation to increase transparency and ensure the environment is not negatively affected. It will also ban the issuance of permits to oil companies that conduct fracking in the state.

3. **Public Comments:**

- Jim Baker, CERT coordinator for Battalion 17, is conducting classes in the area on mapping the neighborhoods for disaster preparedness.
- Ruben Rodriguez of Pueblo Salud of San Fernando talked about alcohol, tobacco and drug prevention and asked for the board's support on an ordinance to ban alcohol advertising for city-owned and controlled properties.
- John Whittaker of Paso por Paso in Sylmar (and Salud San Fernando) talked about Council File #111429 (ref. July 2011) and asked for help in bringing this to the L.A. City Council's Public Safety Committee. He asked for TNC to agendize alcohol advertising. He said the city currently gets 2.5 million from alcohol advertising but spends 3.5 millin in emergency services related to alcohol.
- Sharon Brewer reported a safety issue with motorists coming out of the Islamic Center.

4. **Evan Levi, Budget & Finance chair:**

(Levi/Majarian) moved, "Resolved that the TNC approve the financial statements as of March 31, 2013. Harvey requested a breakdown of the expenses, not shown in the financial report." The motion carried: 14-1-3 (Shaffer opposed). (Abstaining: Garfinkle, Goldberg, Greene). Evan said the detailed expenses made through April would be coming at the next board meeting.

(Levi/Maronde) moved, "Resolved that the TNC Board reverse and/or reduce the previously budget allocations for Items 1-6: (1) VANC Planning Meeting: To reverse the previously approved and unused budget of \$200. (From Operations budget for VANC Planning meeting). **(2) Budget Committee Expenses:** Reverse the previously approved and unused budget of \$100. (From General Operations budget for Budget Committee expenses. **(3) Land Use Committee:** Reduce the previously approved budget from \$1,800 to \$1,000. (From General Operations budget for Land Use expenses). **(4) Meeting Expense-** Reduce the previously approved budget from \$300 to \$150. (From General Operations budget for Meeting Expense). **(5) Treasurer's Expenses:** Reduce the previously approved budget from \$120 to \$20. (From General Operations

budget for Treasure's Expenses). (6) **Mailing List**- Reverse the previously approved budget and unused budget of \$400. (From Outreach Expenses/Website Maintenance). **The motion carried unanimously.**

(Levi/Maronde) moved, "Resolved, that the TNC approve an increased budget allocation for postal box rental from \$110 to \$184 (From the General Operations budget). The motion carried unanimously.

(Levi/Sarver) moved, "Resolved, that the TNC approve a budget allocation of \$300 for the 2013 Neighborhood Council Congress. (From General Operations).). The motion carried unanimously.

(Levi/Heissler) moved, "Resolved, that the TNC approve a budget allocation of \$100 for the Operations budget for Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Candidates' Forum Debate scheduled for April 27, 2013.). The motion carried unanimously.

(Levi/Weidman) moved, "Resolved, that the TNC increase the budget allocation from \$4356 to \$4701 for Outreach Events/Earth Day Celebration. (Additional expense of \$345 to be used for certificates, supplies & award ceremony for the winning students of the poster contest.)". The motion carried unanimously.

(Levi/Durant) moved, "Resolved, that the TNC approve a budget allocation of \$750 for Outreach events for Valley Cultural Center Concerts on the Green." The motion passed unanimously. Denyse asked that each board member volunteer for one event.

Paul Lawler recused himself from discussion and voting on agenda 4(h) and 4(i) items . He left auditorium.

(Levi/Maronde) moved, "Resolved, that the TNC approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Tarzana Community & Cultural Center for \$5000 for the Community Projects budget for installation of outdoor drainage system to correct {major} flooding problems." Jon Tsuchiyama of TCCC explained the reasons why this funding is necessary and responded to questions by board members. (Goldberg/Reich) made a friendly amendment stating, "That TNC approve 80% of the funds and that the balance of the funds be spent elsewhere or contributed to the TCCC." The motion failed 4-11-2. (Opposed: Austin, Blauner, Delle Donne, Greene, Levi, Majarian, Maronde, Sarver, Scott, Selesnick, Durant). (Abstaining: Garfinkle, Weidman.)

The board then voted on the original motion for the \$5,000 in funding to TCCC.). The motion passed 14-1-2. (Opposed:Heissler.) (Abstaining Goldberg, Reich.)

(i)(Levi/Heissler) moved, "Resolved that the TNC approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant to the Tarzana Community and Cultural Center for \$617.13 for the Community Projects budget for additional required emergency preparedness supplies for its Emergency Communications Center. The motion carried unanimously.

Paul Lawler returned to auditorium.

Harvey asked about monies that were advanced for different projects while he was treasurer for which he did not receive any accounting. He asked Evan to follow up on the projects.

5. **Report by Denise Schall:** Land Use Chairperson. Denise spoke about her background: She was the Council Planning Deputy for Laura Chick when she was on the City Council. She gave an update on a subdivision application for 5652 Calvin Ave., which may fall under the City's Mansionization ordinance and said the upcoming Land Use Committee meeting will focus on a presentation from the developer for Tarzana Crossing. Since there was no quorum achieved, there were no final recommendations were made by the Committee.

Matthew Austin recused himself from discussion and voting- left auditorium.

- a) **19219 Rosita St.** – Denise introduced this request to allow an 8' fence & 2 vehicle gates within the front yard setback.
 - (1) Leslie Barrett, the designer of the fence, said the fence was the only 7'.3" and fell within the city's 8' variance.
 - (2) Steve Webber, a homeowner in the area, said he was opposed to the fence as well as all other fences are limited by code to 6'.

(Delle Donne/Heissler) moved that TNC recommend the zone variance of 8' for the fence and the two gates." The motion failed: 5-9-3. Opposed: Garfinkle, Goldberg, Greene, Heissler, Majarian, Maronde, Reich, Shaffer, Weidman). Abstentions: Levi, Selesnick, Blauner).

Matthew Austin returned to auditorium.

- b) **18840 Ventura Blvd. – (Delle Donne/Heissler) moved that TNC recommend a change of use request from office use to medical use for 9,000 sq. ft. of a 25,000 sq. ft. office building. The proposed new parking plan would accommodate 69 parking spaces required for this new office/medical use. The motion carried with two abstentions: (Majarian/Shaffer).**
- c) **18530-18540 Burbank Blvd. – (Delle Donne/Levi) moved that TNC recommends a zone variance waiving the additional space requirement for 18530-18540 Burbank Blvd. " Kathy said the apartment unit will be less than 400'. The studio apartment will be created from a converted recreation room." The motion failed: 8-9-0. (Opposed: Garfinkle, Goldberg, Greene, Heissler, Majarian, Weidman, Durant, Shaffer, Sarver).** In the middle of the vote, Doug Sarver asked for the dimensions of the apartment which produced discussion about whether the unit was of a legal size.

6. **Report by Marina McLeod,** Energy & Environment Committee Chairperson, reported on the Second Annual Earth Day Celebration held on Saturday, April 13 at TCCC.
7. **Budget Advocate Report:** Jon Reich reported on the findings and recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates. There was discussion that the NCs should not have to pay for their own elections. He spoke about the letter asking for full funding to be restored at

\$50,000 to each NC. Len added that there is a proposal to cut funding to \$37,000 to each NC. **(Shaffer/Reich) moved, "That TNC send a communication to the Mayor to Councilman Krikorian, chair of the Budget Committee, and the rest of the City Council requesting that the City Council Budget Committee/City Council respect the portion of the Mayor's budget that pertains to NCs, that no further cuts take place, that funding be restored to \$50,000 and that no further sweeps of NC funding into the General Fund, that DONE's funding be increased to cover two new positions for staffing as needed and to implement these requirements."** (See motion language). The motion passed with one abstention (Garfinkle).

8. **Report by Joyce Greene**, DWP MOU Representative on the current DWP reported that the City Council signed a commitment to get the City off of coal by 2025. She then reported on the DWP/MOU meeting of April. Energy rates will be going up over the next two years by the DWP. The LADWP workshop is to come in May. The fracking bill goes to a hearing in early May.

9. **Committee and Representative Reports**

Animal Welfare Committee – Deanna Scott, Chairperson. The TNC website will feature animals that need a home. She is involved in training anew volunteers. Her committee is putting together a letter to address illegal breeding. She is trying to get a person to investigate this problem in the West Valley.

Outreach Committee – Denyse Selesnick, Chairperson. She talked about the success of the Outreach events. Over 500 people attended the Senior Symposium. She wants to increase Public Safety meeting involvement.

Public Safety Committee – Chair Elliot Durant spoke with Octaviano Rios about Tarzana Neighborhood Park issues. He talked about updating the children's equipment at the park and replacing unsanitary sand. (More on this at next month's agenda). He talked about forming a CD3 Public Safety Coalition consisting of 5 communities.

Transportation/Mobility Committee – Mark Weiner spoke about repairs to traffic issues, bicycle racks and a proposal for bathrooms at Metrolink stations.

Rules Committee – Joyce reviewed motions that came before the Rules Committee.

BONC Commission – Len Shaffer invited the board to attend a City Council meeting to recognize 7 neighborhood councils with Empower LA awards. He spoke about bylaw updates from LANNC which will be coming to the board.

10. **Board Member Comment:**

- David Garfinkle announced Tarzana Property Owner's Association Forum on May 7th.

11. **Future Agenda Items and other Calendar Events**

Encino NC Debate – April 24, 2013

VANCC Debate – April 27, 2013
12.Adjoinment at 10:45 pm