

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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MINUTES of the TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tarzana Child Care Center
Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 7:00 pm
5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356
Chairman - Jeffrey Mausner

Minutes of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) meeting, July 16, 2015, at the Tarzana Child Care Center, 5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356.

1. Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M. Attending were the following committee members: Mary Aratounian, Eva Brusa, Lynn Davis, Janet Mausner, and Jeffrey Mausner. Eighteen other members of the public attended. Leonard (Len) Shaffer, President of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council; Eran Heissler, 1st Vice President of the TNC; and Harvey Goldberg, Treasurer and Chairman of the TNC Budget Committee, and his wife Joyce were introduced. The AWC and Volunteers thanked Len, Eran, Harvey, and the entire Board of the TNC for their support. Volunteers from the West Valley Shelter were recognized for all the work they do to help the dogs, cats, rabbits, and other animals there. People who work with rescues to get animals adopted or rescued from the Shelter were also recognized for their work. Over the past three weeks, at least 15 dogs who were on the Red Alert List (subject to being killed) were adopted or rescued through the hard work of the West Valley Volunteers and people who work with rescues.
2. Public Comments: Various matters were commented upon and discussed, including: misleading statements made in Shelter training about the Shelters being “low kill”; treatment of Volunteers at the Shelters; failure of the West Valley Shelter and Los Angeles Animal Services to provide public records that have been requested under the California Public Records Act (CPRA); lax enforcement of spay/neuter laws; the RACO (Reserve Animal Control Officer) program; and forming other neighborhood council animal welfare committees, including working with the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils for this purpose.
3. Discussion and motion: **Resolved that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee recommends that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council write a letter requesting Councilman Blumenfield and Councilman Koretz to introduce a motion directing the General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services, with the assistance of the Board of Animal Services Commissioners, to report back to the City Council within 30 days on the following: All efforts, procedures, and programs that are currently being implemented or planned to reduce the killing of healthy adoptable animals at Los Angeles animal shelters.**

Discussion took place regarding why the resolution is worded in this manner. Consideration was given to limiting the report back to the killing of dogs, but it was decided to request the report regarding all animals (cats and rabbits, as well as dogs). Discussion took place regarding the procedure that will follow if the resolution is adopted. Statements were made indicating that the West Valley Shelter and Los Angeles Animal Services (LAAS) were not doing all that they could to reduce the killing of healthy, adoptable dogs at Los Angeles animal shelters. Specific recommendations that had been made to reduce the killings of healthy, adoptable dogs were discussed, which had not been implemented by the West Valley Shelter and LAAS.

Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mary Aratounian, seconded by Lynn Davis. The motion to adopt the resolution passed unanimously, with Eva Brusa, Lynn Davis, Mary Aratounian, Janet Mausner, and Jeffrey Mausner voting in favor. No votes against or abstentions.

A straw poll was also taken of attendees at the meeting who are not committee members of the TNC AWC. The vote in favor was unanimous (18 in favor), none against.

4. Discussion and motion: **Resolved that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council Animal Welfare Committee recommends that the Tarzana Neighborhood Council write a letter requesting Councilman Blumenfield and Councilman Koretz to introduce a motion directing the person or persons working on the Trap Neuter Release (TNR) CEQA review to report back to the City Council within 30 days on the status of the injunction against City participation in the TNR program.**

Discussion took place regarding whether anyone knew what progress has been made to lift the injunction against City participation in TNR. No one was aware of any progress or what was being done, despite the fact that several attendees at the meeting had tried to find out. It was stressed that thousands of cats are unnecessarily being killed because of the injunction, but that the feral cat populations in our neighborhoods are increasing, because spay/neuter has decreased because of the injunction.

Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mary Aratounian, seconded by Lynn Davis. The motion to adopt the resolution passed unanimously, with Eva Brusa, Lynn Davis, Mary Aratounian, Janet Mausner, and Jeffrey Mausner voting in favor. No votes against or abstentions.

A straw poll was also taken of attendees at the meeting who are not committee members of the TNC AWC. The vote in favor was unanimous (18 in favor), none against.

5. Discussion took place of the spread of panleukopenia (aka panleuk), a deadly cat disease.

6. Discussion of issues regarding the West Valley Animal Shelter took place under Item 2 above. There was further discussion of some of these issues.

7. Discussion took place of the possibility of implementing a program for nursing homes in Tarzana, and the Jewish Home in Reseda, to adopt or foster dogs and/or cats.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.