

DRAFT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

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**MINUTES of the TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday November 14, 2016 at 7:00 pm
Tarzana Child Care Center
5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356,
Chairman - Jeffrey Mausner

Committee members: Mary Aratounian, Eva Brusa, Lynn Davis, Michael Gross, Shelley Gross,
Janet Mausner, Deanna Dylan Scott and Renee Shamloo

Minutes of the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) meeting, November 14, 2016, 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 7:05 P.M. Attending were the following committee members: Mary Aratounian, Eva Brusa, Janet Mausner, and Jeffrey Mausner. Also attending were Heidi Okuhara and Renee Disisto, Volunteers from the West Valley Animal Shelter; and Lisa Young and Lorraine Aldenette from the Rescue Train.
2. Minutes from the June 16, 2016 meeting were approved, unanimously. Moved by Eva, seconded by Mary.
3. The Tarzana Neighborhood Council (TNC) Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) is one of very few Neighborhood Council standing committees devoted entirely to animal welfare. As such a standing committee, the AWC will establish regular quarterly meeting dates for 2017. After discussion, the following dates were selected for the quarterly meetings: February 20, 2017; May 22, 2017; August 21 2017; November 20, 2017.
4. Discussion and possible action regarding the high attrition rate of new Volunteers at the West Valley Animal Shelter: The Los Angeles Department of Animal Services (LAAS) has done a good job of publicizing the orientation classes for new Volunteers at the Shelters. There are 25 to 50 new potential Volunteers at the orientation class at the West Valley Shelter every month. They all seem very excited about becoming Volunteers. However, we are getting few, if any, new Volunteers who actually make it through the training program and end up helping with the animals. What happens with all of the potential Volunteers who come to

the orientation? What discourages them from becoming at least Level 1 or Level 2 Volunteers who can take dogs and cats out? We need more Volunteers so that all dogs and cats can be taken out and cared for each day. Why are we not getting them, and what can be done about it?

It was determined that the Chairman would send an email to General Manager Brenda Barnette asking her to look into why there is such a high attrition rate. Suggestions included having the new Volunteers fill out surveys regarding the training process, one survey after the orientation and then successive surveys during the training process, to determine if and why there is dissatisfaction or if the training program has become too difficult to complete. It was also suggested that experienced Volunteers could participate in the training process, since part of the problem may be lack of sufficient staff to adequately train the new Volunteers in a timely manner.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding the rights of Volunteers, including the right to a hearing regarding disciplinary matters: This matter was tabled, since the person suggesting this topic could not make it to the meeting.

6. The AWC passed the following resolution: **The Animal Welfare Committee requests that the Budget Committee approve the purchase of an approximately 12 x 20 foot canopy for the use of the Volunteers at the West Valley Shelter, for an amount not to exceed \$250. This will provide shade for the Volunteers when they take the dogs into the play yard.**

The resolution was moved by Janet and seconded by Mary. The resolution passed unanimously, 4-0, with Mary, Eva, Janet, and Jeff voting in favor.

7. The Rescue Train: Lisa Young, Executive Director, and Lorraine Aldenette, Board Member, made a presentation regarding the work of the Rescue Train. The Rescue Train is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides intervention services for people who come into the East Valley Shelter to surrender their dog or cat, to help them keep the animal rather than turn it into the Shelter. They provide free spay/neuter, vaccines, and low cost referrals to vets. They pay pet deposit fees for renters, and license and redemption fees at the Shelter for low income individuals. They provide dog training when needed. They run a pet pantry where free food is provided. They have helped 1100 dogs and cats stay at home, rather than entering the Shelter. The possibility of the Rescue Train expanding its services to the West Valley Shelter was discussed, and everyone agreed that it would be great if they can do so.

The AWC passed the following resolution: **The Animal Welfare Committee requests that the Budget Committee approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) from the Rescue Train in the amount of \$400, to be used to fund 4-6 shelter intervention cases at the West Valley Animal Shelter and introduce**

The Rescue Train's "Shelter Intervention Program" to the staff and volunteers. Funds would be used towards spay/neuter, redemption fees, vet bills, and/or dog training, depending on what each case needs to keep their pet out of the shelter and home where they belong.

The resolution was moved by Jeff and seconded by Eva. The resolution passed unanimously, 4-0, with Mary, Eva, Janet, and Jeff voting in favor.

8. Discussion regarding what else the AWC can do to support and participate in events and programs sponsored by animal welfare groups: Mary will look into what else we can do and report back.

9. Discuss the matters set forth in the Animal Welfare Committee Report to the Tarzana Neighborhood Council (which is posted at: <http://tarzananc.org/docs/1353-1287.pdf>); the mobile adoption events that took place on October 16 and 23; status of the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) in connection with the injunction against City participation in the Trap Neuter Release (TNR) program; and issues at the West Valley Shelter.

a. The Temporary Animal Foster Parent Program that was instituted at the West Valley Shelter over the 4th of July period, to decrease overcrowding, worked very well. Sergio, the West Valley Supervisor, has told me that no healthy adoptable dogs have been killed or will be killed. The Temporary Foster Program, as well as other measures that were taken, like use of temporary kennels and doubling up some dogs in kennels, literally saved the lives of dozens of dogs. The Temporary Foster Program is still available for people who want to foster a dog or cat for a few weeks.

b. LAAS has started to get delivery of the Animal Control trucks that have air conditioning for the animals. All of the trucks will be delivered by next summer.

c. Update on the status of Rockin' Rescue's zoning variance. We are still awaiting the ruling of the Zoning Administrator.

d. The project to use the abandoned South L.A. Shelter as a rescue is proceeding. Council President Herb Wesson's office is working on an RFP (Request for Proposals).

e. At the mobile adoption event at the Sherman Oaks Street Fair, 6 dogs and 4 cats were adopted, from both the West Valley and East Valley Shelters. Jeff, Janet, and Mary participated in the mobile adoption.

f. Up to \$800,000 is going to be appropriated in the City budget, to conduct an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), in order to overturn the injunction against City participation in the Trap Neuter Release (TNR) program for feral cats. Discussion took place that the position taken by the plaintiffs (including the Urban

Wildlands Group and Audubon Society) in the lawsuit against the City was causing the City to spend this large amount of money in order to save the lives of cats through TNR.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

For more information about the Tarzana Neighborhood Council please visit our web site at www.tarzananc.org. For information about the Animal Welfare Committee and the Temporary Animal Foster Parent Program at the West Valley Shelter, and for an application to become a foster parent, please visit: http://tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=25 and <http://tarzananc.org/docs/1307-1082.pdf>

For information about dogs, cats, and rabbits available at the West Valley Animal Shelter, please visit our Featured Shelter Animals page at http://tarzananc.org/shelter.php?dbshelter_categories_id=1

Any materials that may be distributed to a majority of the Board less than 72 hours prior to the above scheduled meeting are available for review by the public at 19040 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335.

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the committee in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: www.tarzananc.org/committees.php?committee_id=4, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact us at tnc@tarzananc.org or 818-921-4992

Process for Reconsideration – Reconsideration of Board actions shall be in accordance with the Tarzana Neighborhood Council bylaws.

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