**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday January 28, 2025**

**Tarzana Child Care Center**

1. **Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA 91356**
2. **Call to Order** by TNC President Leonard J. Shaffer at 7:15 p.m. with welcoming remarks**.**
3. **Roll Call** by Eran Heissler: Quorum met with 16 board members: Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Sylvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, David Elan, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Sima Salek, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Bob Shmaeff, and Esther Wieder. Christopher Ahuja arrived at 7:29 p.m. Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Joyce Greene & Harvey Goldberg.
4. **Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

**LAPD:** Len explained that LAPD is still on tactical alert so LAPD Senior Lead Officer Daryl Scoggins was not available to attend and give a police report**.**

**Prabhjot Chamber is the new EmpowerLA rep for Tarzana, replacing Jose.** The new address for the website is: **neighborhoodEmpowement.lacity.gov.** Iris asked her how soon the website will be updated to show board members who are current with their trainings. Prabhjot said she thought it was updated every few days.

1. **Public Comments**:

* Jay Lack, a resident, said nine street lights have been out on one block between Bessemer and Erwin and he’s had no luck getting this taken care of using the 311 app. He asked TNC to help him with this.
* Rob Zeilon, who represents “A Safe Community,” talked about an erratic homeless woman who tried to set fire to a gas station pump at the Chevron Station. He called the police, who came and talked to the woman, and she went away. He said the homeless keep setting fires.
* Paraston Bassirat lives on Vanaldan and asked for speed humps between Ventura and Santa Rita due to reckless speeding by motorists. Her daughter’s car was recently hit while driving on Vanaldan. She is working on a petition for the speed humps.

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report**: Len gave a report for Glenn Bailey. Budget 101 is a presentation he suggested everyone attend. Budget Day will be held on the 3rd Saturday of the month.
2. **Executive Secretary’s Report**: Iris noted that Faryl Arbeitman has six absences. Len said she is resigning from the board. Another unnamed person has five absences.
3. **Approval of Dec 2025 Minutes**: **(Heissler/Shmaeff) moved approval of the minutes from the December 10, 2024 meeting.** **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**

**8. Committee and other Reports:**

Budget – Eran gave the report on behalf of Harvey. The remaining amount in the budget is a little more than $18,000 if all items on the current agenda are approved. Feb. 19, 2025 is the next Budget Committee meeting. Get any funding items to Harvey by 2/12/25.

Land Use – No report.

Outreach – Terry said they discussed Earth Day on Saturday, April 5th, at their last meeting. They also discussed elections and agreed to outreach at the Native Plant Fair in February. Terry said she needs help reaching out to different organizations and also need volunteers to work on the events.

Events – No report.

Transportation – Susan Rogen said there was a complaint about the turn from Hattaras to Tampa as there is nowhere to merge. She spoke with Silva who said there is nothing that can be done about it.

Public Safety – No report.

Rules – No report.

Government Action – No report.

Animal Welfare – Jeff says the city animal shelters are doing okay as many organizations and individuals have stepped up to adopt or foster dogs and cats. They are now at 76% capacity. Since Jan. 7, 2025, 180 dogs and 27 cats have been fostered; 384 dogs, 219 cats, 20 rabbits and 15 other animals have been adopted; and 512 dogs, 252 cats, 5 rabbits and 15 other animals have been taken by rescues.

Beautification – No report.

Homelessness – No committee meeting recently.

DWP MOU Report – No report.

VANC Report - No report.

LANCC Report - Len

NCSA Liaison – Terry said the 2nd Sunday of the month is when the next meeting will take place.

Ad Hoc VNY - No report.

Ad Hoc Election - No report.

1. **Approval of MER:** **(Heissler/Shmaeff) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the November 2024 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and Financial Statements as of November 30, 2024.”** **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**
2. **Approval of the December 2024 MER:** **(Heissler/Lord) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the December 2024 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and Financial Statements as of December 31, 2024.”** **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**
3. **Renewal of Funding for the Domain Name: (Heissler/Lord) moved, “Resolved: TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve an amount NTE $80.00 for the renewal of our domain name (tarzananc.org) registration and privacy protection for a 2-year period beginning March 1, 2025. To be classified as Operations, General, Domain Name. Funds to come from Unallocated.”** **The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**
4. **Funding for Outreach: Fire Emergencies: (Heissler/Ahuja) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to acknowledge that the TNC President is authorized by the LA City Clerk to spend up to $1,000 with various organizations for funding expenses related to the January 2025 fire emergencies in the area. Thus, we are budgeting and retroactively approving a $1,000.00 donation to the West Valley Food Pantry that will provide meals to persons displaced because of the fires and are living in hotels and other locations where they do not have cooking facilities. This expenditure to be classified as Outreach, January 2025 Fires. Funds to come from Unallocated.” The motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**
5. **Funding for Fire Emergencies for Organizations: (Heissler/Polonsky) moved “Resolved, the TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve the expenditure of up to $4,000 to fund expenses related to the fire emergencies in the LA area in January 2025. The TNC President is authorized to allocate no more than $1,000 to any organization/group as may be recommended by the Board. This is in addition to the $1,000 separately authorized. To be classified as Outreach, January 2025 fires. Funds to come from Unallocated.”**

Len suggested two organizations serving animals (West Valley Animal Shelter and the Large Animal Evacuation Center which In Defense of Animals could be distributing the funding. Also, the local Tarzana Fire Station which needs mattresses, a new stove and uniforms.

**(Polonsky/Elan) moved to add the following four organizations to this motion: Our Big Kitchen (OBK-LA), the L.A. Fire Department Foundation, World Central Kitchen, and In Defense of Animals.**

**The move to amend the motion carried unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**

**The amended motion passed unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**

1. **Reallocation of Funding: (Heissler/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to allocate $71.16 from the previously budgeted general category Operations, General, Meeting Expense, Other to Operations, General, Meeting Expense, Projection Screen and authorizes the purchase of such screen for the use at meetings at a vendor TBD.”** **The motion passed unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**
2. **Revision of Budget for Items 10 – 13: (Heissler/MacIntosh) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025 to include the above items 10, 11, 12, and 13, 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 passed unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**
3. **Land Use Motion:** **L.A. Fitness: (Shaffer/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: (ZA-2024-7857 18630 – 18632 Ventura Blvd) The TNC Board adopts the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to approve the application regarding the LA Fitness facility follows:**

* **Expand the facility by approximately 7250 sq ft by incorporating two unused adjoining locations; a Specific Plan Project Permit Compliance for change of use of the two adjoining locations; approval of an approximately 249 sq ft of bridge/walkway to connect the current mezzanine to the second story of an adjoining location; approval of a Shared Parking Agreement pertaining to the newly added locations; and relief from the Commercial Corner Hours of Operation to allow the newly added units to be open between 5 am and 7 am daily.”**
* Len explained that if there is a loss of 10% of retail, under the Tarzana section of the Community Plan, more medical facilities can come in to fill that gap. Also, in regard to their starting hours at the gym, in 2017 a change was approved to the commercial corridor hours from formerly 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.
* Ellen \_\_\_\_, senior land use consultant at Ackerman, said she was attending the meeting as she represents the owners of the shopping center on land use matters. She said that she got a message from City Planning asking them to revise their application to remove shared parking, as it is no longer required.

**The motion passed unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**

1. **APPROVAL OF CERT CIS:** **(Shaffer/MacIntosh) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS to CF 24-1600 (Board of Fire Commissioners report, dated December 17, 2024, relative to operational challenges due to the elimination of critical civilian positions and a reduction in Overtime Variable Staffing Hours) to be directed to the Board of Fire Commissioners, the City Council Budget Committee and the Mayor’s office as follows:**

**The Tarzana Neighborhood Council strongly supports the successful LAFD Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The CERT program trains community volunteers in best practices and how to respond in the event of earthquakes and other disasters. CERT trained volunteers are prepared to help themselves, their neighbors and their communities when an emergency happens, thus allowing the LAFD to concentrate their efforts in highest-need areas. CERT volunteers also consistently support the LAFD’s responses to their routine activities. This is especially critical during emergencies. Some CERT trained volunteers can and do continue their training in hopes of joining the ranks of the Call Out teams that are especially important during emergencies. So far this year the CERT unit has conducted the following trainings: 2,357 CERT students; 2,700 Hands-Only CPR students and 961 Fire Extinguisher students. A total of 940 hours of service has been performed by the CERT Call Out volunteers. Considering that we never know when a city-wide emergency might occur and considering that when it does the investment in the CERT program will contribute immeasurably to the resilience and recovery of the city, the Tarzana Neighborhood Council urges the city leaders to continue funding the LAFD CERT program.”**

* Len explained that the Fire Chief has designated CERT as one of their specialized units. CERT instructors are usually those who are on light duty due to injuries. When they are able to go back into the field, those CERT instructors are moved to an Early Call Out unit. If funding isn’t approved, there will be few or no CERT classes going forward. Because people who are CERT trained can work under the people at the battalion level and do limited search and rescue or triage, this will affect future disaster work. He noted that the CERT rescue team has been working on the recent fire areas to help with non-essential fire department work.
* Susan Lord asked if everyone is better prepared for the next emergency.
* Len named items necessary to be in your Go Bag, including: money in small denominations, a change of underwear, medication, a flashlight, provisions of food and water for three days, whistle, s charger for your cell phone, valuable documents, and a battery powered AM radio. Have it ready to go if you should need it. The Emergency Management website and the Red Cross website will have a complete list. Len later noted that he has five pairs of radios available if there is an emergency locally.

**The motion passed unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**

**17. Council Fire in support of an Olympic and Paralympic Website: (Shaffer/ Salek) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS supporting CF 24-1453 regarding the creation and maintenance of a city website detailing 2028 Olympic and Paralympic sites, activities, volunteer activities, and other pertinent information.”** **The motion passed unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**

1. **Reinstatement of a Call-in by Phone Public Comment**: (Shaffer/Saucier) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to send a letter to CM Blumenfield regarding the reinstatement of call-in-by-phone public comment for City Council meetings.”

* Len said, previously, three Councilmembers said they would support this when running for election to the City Council, but then supported discontinuing this service. He said many people who want to be involved in City Council meetings do not have time to drive to City Hall in person after working all day.
* Sharon Brewer said she supported the call-in service. She asked if there is some sort of policy for putting it back in service. Len said that the Council Fire that allowed this was only scheduled during the Covid-19 emergency.

**The motion passed unanimously: 17-0-0 with 3 absences: Arbeitman, Goldberg and Greene.**

1. **Board Business**:

* Len asked for a Special Meeting to approve the budget for the 19th annual Earth Day. He suggested the 5th or 6th of February.
* Duncan said his friend, a retired fire chief, stressed the importance of soil that is fire retardant.

1. **Meeting Adjourned**: 9:05 p.m.

* Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -