**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday February 25, 2025**

**Tarzana Child Care Center**

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

1. **Call to Order by TNC President Len Shaffer at 7:14 p.m. with welcoming remarks.** **Roll Call by Eran Heissler:** Leonard J. Shaffer, Eran Heissler, Jeff Mausner, Harvey Goldberg (left at 9:15 p.m.), Iris Polonsky, Sylvia Bedrossian, Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, David Elan, Joyce Greene, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, Bob Shmaeff, and Esther Wieder. Absent: Christopher Ahuja arrived at 7:28 & left at 9:24 p.m., Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek. **Quorum met with 15 board members.**
2. **Remarks by representatives of public officials:**

**LAFD Battalion Chief Mike Flynn** talked about the impending storm and the availability of sandbags. He suggested having portable space heaters with automated shut offs for safety and to check smoke detectors for live batteries. CERT classes are available through: lapd.org. (Len added that CERT trained over 6,000 individuals last year.) He talked about the distribution of donations for people who lost their homes. They sent teams to the Palisades fire and put in over 1400 hours. He worked on evacuating residents all night long along with LAPD. There were 30 engines holding the line as the evacuations were taking place. They are now making sure they have enough water for the summer months when fires often occur.

**Safi Lodin, from Councilmember Blumenfield’s office**, talked about the license plate readers. The LAPD vendor, Motorola, needs to provide a quote first. This is in conjunction with the Bureau of Street Lighting. They would then determine the locations based on a high crime rate (burglary, homicide, or other major crimes, not for traffic-related situations). As far as plans for the roundabout, there were some flaws in the plans so they are being redesigned.

* Harvey asked about street lighting that has remained out for some time and whether independent contractors could be hired to replace the lights.
* Safi said the fixtures are not working because they need copper wire to function. Copper wire costs have risen so that is also an issue. But Safi said if someone could send him specific locations, then he could try to expedite the bulb replacements. He said 13,000 lights have been restored throughout the Valley over the past several months. The department is also looking at using solar panels instead of copper wire to address this situation.
* Unknown board member spoke about copper wire theft in her neighborhood suggesting every 3rd light pole have solar.
* Barry said he would call Safi to talk further about updates to street lights.
* Safi also talked about the two cabin communities. The Councilmember has been setting up meetings with the residents who live adjacent to these communities to talk about any issues. The cabins near the Orange Line have become a magnet for transients. But he said the new district attorney has strengthened enforcement by LAPD for individuals to go to treatment facilities, instead of doing jail time. The Councilmember is looking to convert that site into a sober site. This will provide a significant impact to that area.
* Someone asked about the security that Metro employs for their parking lot. Safi said they rely on LAPD, rather than Metro’s security.
* Christopher asked why the Orange Line has become a magnet for transients. Safi said it is not just that location but across from Taft and near their office. He believes it is because that location provides services that transients want to use.
* Barry talked about improvements by the Orange Line and by the Arco station. Safi said LAPD funding was put into effect last year to target these sites so they have been heavily focused on doing that. Safi said if the site becomes a sober site, then those who don’t want these services will be placed by HOPE in other locations. This is just the beginning phase but that is their goal.

**Prabhjot Chamber from EmpowerLA** reported the department has updated their website to include a NC Resources section. It’s a one-stop-shop to facilitate document searches. Zoom updates: It’s time to renew your Zoom licenses (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026) at $200.00 per license. Upcoming events: Thursday, March 6, 2025 - Budget 101 Workshop; Thursday, Feb. 27th – an ICE-based info session called Keep Your Community Safe. Len asked who receives this information and is it based on the Brown Act? Prabhjotsaid the department is handling that info. She then presented TNC with an award to show appreciation for the work TNC board members have done over the past 25 years.

**3. Public Comments**: Sean McCarthy of the Community Benefit Foundation talked about the work his non-profit has done to beautify and clean up the community. They will be submitting a CIS to get funding from the Beautification Committee. They have ongoing work for years to come. Caltrans is not maintaining their fences on the backside of the Ross store and young adults are getting through to damage property with grafitti. Harvey suggested he submit a request for an NPG.

1. **Budget Advocate/Representative Report**: Glenn Bailey, Region 3 Budget Advocate, said they are in discussions to do a Town Hall and Budget for the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment. They also are scheduling a meeting to present their thoughts on the City Budget for the last week of April. Saturday, June 21, 2025 is Budget Day when they present their White Paper to city officials. Glenn talked about cuts to the budget in response to Harvey’s question about the city’s revenue. Jeff asked when the department reports will be approved and when the White Paper will come out. Glenn said there will be an opportunity for a supplemental report after the final session is held March 3, 2025. Jeff also wanted to know if the approval for the recommendations counted toward the approval of the report, itself? Glenn said he thought it did. There will be a meeting with the Mayor the 3rd or 4th week of March.

5.**Executive Secretary’s Report** – Iris said no one has missed six meetings although Faryl is resigning. Two people have missed five meetings. EmpowerLA has not updated the board members who have completed trainings.

6. **Approval of the TNC board meeting minutes for Jan. 28, 2025 and February 3, 2025:** **(Heissler/Goldman) moved approval of the revised minutes of the January 28 and February 3, 2025 meetings.** Jeff made a revision to the minutes. **The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0. (**Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek).

**7. Committee and other Reports**

**Budget –** March 19, 2025. Items to be approved should be submitted to Harvey by March 12, 2025. There is $18,750 in unallocated funding prior to tonight’s meeting. $13,700 will be available after tonight if all items on the agenda are approved.

**Land Use –** Len announced a meeting next month about a six-story building west of Tampa for mixed-use, across from the former car wash.

**Outreach –** Terry held a meeting on Feb. 13th, the Native Plant Day was a wonderful event. She thanked the board members who helped out. April 5th is Earth Day from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. She talked about the Poster Contest for Earth Day. March 17th is the last day to register for the TNC board’s election. She talked about outreach and promotion for the election.

**Events -** Esther announced this was last meeting after 13 years of serving on the TNC board. She said she would miss everyone. Eran thanked her and acknowledged her different commitments. Several other people thanked her for her service.

**Transportation & Public Safety –** Susan said they discussed getting the traffic lights in sync around the park. She talked about the license plate readers.

Rules – No report.

Government Action – No report.

**Animal Welfare** - Jeff said the animal shelters are getting crowded again and are at 97% capacity for dogs. He advocated to increase spay and neuter programs to help with this. He talked about Dolly, a cute dog who is very scared. He asked if anyone wants to help socialize her as a foster. The motion for the Sister City Project in Vietnam was introduced by C. Blumenfeld on Friday and CIS 25-0193 was filed. People can go on to the Council File to make a public comment on this.

**Beautification** – Iris recommended contacting Sean who appeared earlier in the meeting.

**Homelessness** – Joyce talked about LAPD’s sweep by the Orange Line at the homeless encampment. The Etiwanda encampment has been reported to various city agencies for a clean-up. She talked about LAPD’s efforts to deal with transients use of drugs and alcohol in public. **Call LAPD: 877-275-5273 to report this.**

DWP MOU Report – No report.

**VANC Report** – Len heard a report about the Sepulveda Transit at the VANC meeting with a stop at UCLA. And Scott Munson talked about what happened with the water shortage at the Palisades fire.

**LANCC Report –** Len talked about an informative Q & A session.

NCSA Liaison – No report.

Ad Hoc VNY – No report.

Ad Hoc Election – March 17th is the cutoff to register for the election for a board seat.

**8.** **Approval of the January 2025 MER: (Goldberg/Shmaeff) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the January 2025 expenditures for submission to City Clerk (MER) and Financial Statements as of January 31, 2025.” The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0. (**Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek).

**9.** **Approval of Funding for the Senior Symposium in May 2025: (Goldberg/Greene) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve $1,000.00 for participation in May 17, 2025 Senior Symposium to be budgeted as Outreach, Events, Senior Symposium. Funds to come from Unallocated.” The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0. (**Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek).

Terry suggested that volunteers first commit to working at this event before funding it. Len stated that it had to be approved first to purchase supplies.

**10.**  **Approval of Funding for the Portola Middle School’s Mock Trial Program:** **“Resolved: (Goldberg/Rogen) moved, “TNC Board adopts the Budget Committee’s recommendation regarding the NPG request from Portola Middle School for $3,910 to fund their 2025-26 Mock Trial program. If approved to be classified as NPG. Funds to come from Unallocated.”**

**The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0. (**Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek).

Heidi Merryweather, a teacher from Portola Middle School said the students love this program who gave an overview of this career introduction program. Harvey said his grandson has gotten a lot out of this program. Len agreed that this is a very good program.

**11.** **Approval of Revised Budget:** **(Goldberg/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 -June 30, 2025 to include the above items 9 and 10 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: 15-0-0. (**Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek).

**12.** **Resignation of Faryl Arbeiter:** **(Shaffer/Goldberg) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the Executive Committee’s recommendation to thank and accept Board Member Faryl Arbeitman’s resignation.”**

**The motion carried unanimously: 15-0-0. (**Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek).

**13.** **Appointment to default At Large Rep board seat: (Shaffer/Greene) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to approve an appointment to the open default At Large Representative board position.”**

* Len explained that if this seat is not filled after being advertised for 60 days (as Renter’s Seat) it defaults to an At Large position. He asked the board if this appointment should be filled at this time.
* Harvey said with the election coming up, he did not feel it would be fair to those who are running for that seat.
* Jeff disagreed, saying the seat should be filled as it would be three or four months before that seat could be filled. If someone is interested in it and wants to work, he said the board should accept their help.
* Eran said people who want to help could join a committee. He also felt that three months before the election would not serve the board.
* Joyce asked whether being an incumbent would make a difference in the election.
* Chris asked if someone is appointed to a seat, do they still have to run for the election? Len said they did.
* Len said they should review the bylaws as to the timeline of how close to the election, appointments should be made.
* Terry asked for confirmation on the number of people seeking this seat. There were two people running for this seat. She felt the board should only present one candidate.
* Esther pointed out that this is a great opportunity to get volunteers for the board.
* Len said a “yes” vote would mean they would then move on to Item #14.

**The motion failed 7-8-0:** Voting yea: Greene, Ahuja, Mausner, Clark, Shaffer, Edelman and Shmaeff. Voting no: Saucier, Goldberg, Heissler, Bedrossian, Elan, Rogen, Wieder, and Polonsky. **(**Absent: Faryl Arbeitman, Susan Lord, Duncan MacIntosh, Paul Radenberg & Sima Salek).

**14.** **Motion to Table this Item:** **(Heissler/Wieder) moved, “Resolved: The TNC Board approves the appointment of Parastou Bassirat/Jon Rawlings to the open board default At Large Representative position.” The motion carried: 12-3-0** (no reference to who opposed this).

**15**. **Board Business:** With theSenior Symposium, Earth Day and possibly a Disaster Preparedness Fair coming up soon, Len encouraged everyone to help with the booth. He stated that it was unfair to those who do show up if they don’t have replacements to relieve them for lunch and to walk around.

Eran said Councilmember Blumenfield announced a candlelight vigil by the Counsel General to Israel on Feb. 26, 2025 at 6:30 in the City of Orange to memorialize those who died in the Oct 7th massacre.

**16.**  Adjournment at: 9:34 p.m.

* Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -