**TARZANA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 25, 2025**

**Tarzana Child Care Center, 5700 Beckford Ave., Tarzana, CA**

1. **Call to Order at 7:09 p.m. by Len Shaffer, president of the TNC. Welcome remarks. Roll Call:** Matthew Clark, Barry Edelman, David Elan, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Paul Radenberg (left at 8:15 p.m.) Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer. **Quorum of 10 reached with 14 board members.**

**Absent:** Chris Ahuja (acknowledged as having resigned), Sylvia Bedrossian, Susan Lord, Bob Shmaeff and Esther Wieder (acknowledged as having resigned).

1. **Remarks by Representatives of Public Officials:**

**L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath’s field deputy, Daniel Decente,** gave updates: They are continuing work on the devastating Palisades fire with debris removal. The EPA has completed phase 1. Hazardous debris will be stored outside the state. The supervisor will be introducing a motion to consolidate homeless services be consolidated under one county authority. Currently, it is spread out over seven different agencies. She is looking forward to attending TNC’s Earth Day events. He is available at: (818) 880-9416 and Tracy Cooper Harris is available to help with case work: (213) 379-2729.

Regarding when PCH will be opened, he said there is no date set by yet by Caltrans; when it is opened, it will initially be for local residents use. As far as Mulholland being opened to traffic, he said he doesn’t have a timeline on that either. They are trying to prioritize safety first. As far as efforts to prevent another disaster, the county is working on roadside brush clearance, which includes 10’ setbacks, but since a lot of frontage is state property, they can’t control those areas. He pointed to the high winds are influencing the fire and could not have been prevented. A comment was made on how top soil can be a great remediation resource to fires. He answered questions about noise and racing complaints taking place on county property on the east side of Reseda Blvd., across from Braemar CC where people are hanging out at night and causing disturbances for residents. They have been seen lighting fireworks and shooting them off there. There is also a large encampment on Etiwanda that he was told about.

**LAPD Sr. Lead Officer Daryl** Scoggins gave stats for February 2025. Crime is down 32% since last year. In Feb. 2025, there were: 0 rapes, 1 robbery, 5 aggravated assaults, 6 burglaries, 8 cars stolen, 11 cars broken into, 10 thefts and 2 grand theft personal property. For the year: Jan 1, 2025 – Feb. 28, 2025: 0 rapes, 10 robberies, 11 aggravated assaults, 13 burglaries, 16 cars stolen, 23 broken into, 20 thefts and 3 grand thefts.

He said he can’t do anything about people loitering by the AM/PM as it is private property and it is not considered trespassing. AM/PM has to take a stronger stand for the police to get involved. As far as speeding, the cars that monitor speed come from the Valley Traffic division. Since the current speed survey has expired, they can’t lower the speed limit on Reseda/Ventura Blvds. He has only ticketed 13 speeders during the whole month. A Chilean gang was arrested three weeks ago for local break ins recently after they led police on a chase and flattened several police cruisers’ tires with their homemade spikes that they threw out on the road as they were being pursued by police. Len invited Officer Scoggins to attend the Disaster Preparedness Fair at Pierce College on April 19th, 2025.

**L.A. Metro, Rosalba Gonzalez**, spoke about the 18-mile Metro G Line Improvement Project, which is a part of the Orange line corridor ending at N. Hollywood. She is involved with construction, west of Van Nuys and the bike path going through Canoga Park. They are going to be installing gates east of Sepulveda and e. of Van Nuys. Part of the improvements in the W. Valley involve the tracks. Everything being built will be light rail-ready. She talked about ongoing conversations about safety issues at the Orange Line. There will be conversations during the next phase of the design. Red light cameras are already active on the Orange Line: cameras and are functioning; those tickets are being enforced at Reseda/Lindley and Tampa/Corbin by the L.A. Sheriffs. The Metro Transit Watch app is good for reporting graffiti or any other issues on their property. Email her at: Rosalba.gonzalezr10@metro.net.

1. **Public Comment:**

* Barri Worth Girvan, a candidate for L.A. City Council, introduced herself. She was born in Tarzana and raised in the Valley. She has nearly three decades of public service at multiple levels and knows how to get things done. Public safety and making government work better for those it represents are among her priorities.
* An individual tried to make a public comment without being called on. Len recessed the meeting due to a disturbance at 7:54 p.m./ The meeting resumed at 7:56 p.m.
* Atilla Veras, a Tarzana resident living on Bessemer Street, said there is a drug den on Reseda Blvd. behind the Smoke Shop where every day there are drug deals taking place and they are harassing local people. He is very frustrated because he can’t get through to the police. He feels nothing is being done even though he is taking video and trying to get help. Susan Rogen suggested he call Narcotics and speak to an officer. 818 374-7890.
* Jay Lack, a longtime resident living on Reseda Blvd., spoke about the deterioration of the neighborhood since the Tiny Homes came in. He has been pepper sprayed by homeless individuals. Joyce told him about a Sober Living program that will start in July at the Tiny Homes.
* Ed Hochman, a Tarzana resident, also spoke about the decline of the neighborhood, particularly at Bessemer/Reseda. He is thinking of moving.
* Angel Perez talked about homelessness issues and the rising crime rate. He is advocating for more police presence.
* Len explained what the neighborhood council does and that the TNC is advisory only to the city. He acknowledged that people come to the Tiny Homes who are not a part of it and they cause problems. He talked about the problems with the police enforcing issues and legal constraints.
* Angel said he understood what Len said but insisted that TNC should advocate more for the community.

The meeting was recessed again at 8:05 p.m. due to constant interruptions by the complainants./ The meeting resumed at 8:10 p.m.

Robert Dale, an Encino resident, talked about the rise in murders, stabbings, homeless people dying in the streets, and that the homeless are living in inhumane conditions. They are dealing and using drugs in the open. The police don’t take action. He feels that TNC needs to made public safety its priority. He talked about speaking with two councilmembers, but he said they aren’t helping residents. Joyce stated that the homeless issue comes and goes with the cleanups of the encampments, but it is a nationwide problem.

**LAPD Officer Scoggins returned to the meeting at 8:26 p.m. after being called.**

Sharon Brewer said it wasn’t fair to not allow the public to ask questions and express themselves. Regarding Bessemer and Reseda and the angry responses, she feels that an officer needs to be present at the TNC meeting to respond to complaints. She asked what could be done to synchronize the traffic light at Bessemer and Reseda, headed north for the lefthand turn. She said there are lines of cars backed up into the neighborhoods. Only two cars can get through each light.

Marilyn Younessi, a Silverhawk resident, said there needs to be brush clearance by the L.A. River as it provides cover for burglars hiding there who then break into area homes. She also spoke about the constant noise generated by racing drivers by Braemar CC late at night.

Kamy Abalkhod, a resident living on Silverhawk, spoke about motorists racing in the righthand lane around other cars on the road. There have been injury accidents and the speeders are really a problem. They race up to the top of Reseda Blvd. on a regular basis late at night at 2 a.m. He said his son, who is a young adult, told him that this is a known racing route.

Susan Rogen said they are asking for roundabouts to be installed in this area by LADOT.

1. **Budget Advocates Report:** No report.
2. **Executive Secretary’s Report:** Iris said one person has six absences. A few others are nearing expirations of their trainings. Barry was told that his financial training has expired and Duncan has not taken the anti-bias training.
3. **Approval of Minutes, Feb. 25, 2025 TNC Board Meeting. (Heissler/Goldberg) moved the minutes as revised. The motion carried unanimously: 13-0-0.**

**Voting yea: 13:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Absent: 5:** Ahuja, Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Committee and Other Reports:**

1. **a. Executive Committee: (Shaffer/Goldberg) moved, “Resolved,** **the TNC Board Adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to authorize the purchase of two (2) Zoom licenses through DONE for $440.00 that has been previously budgeted.**

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 5:** Ahuja, Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

1. **b. Discussion and Motion: (Shaffer/Greene) moved, “Resolved, the TNC Board Adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to authorize the purchase of one (1) Canva Pro License through DONE for an amount not exceeding $140.00. To be classified as Operations Canva Pro License. Funds to come from Unallocated.”**

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 5:** Ahuja, Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**7.c. Discussion and Motion: (Shaffer/Heissler) moved, “Resolved, the TNC Board Adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to thank Esther Wieder for her contributions to the Tarzana community during her 13 years as a board member and to accept her resignation.”**

Eran suggested that a certificate of appreciation be created by Councilmember Blumenfield and sent to Esther.

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 5:** Ahuja, Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**7.d. Discussion and Motion: (Shaffer/Goldberg) moved “Resolved, the TNC Board Adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to send the attached letter to CM Bob Blumenfield recommending no parking from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the east side of Reseda Blvd. from south of the Silverhawk Ridge development to the entrance of the Braemar Country Club.”**

Eran Heissler recused himself from the discussion and vote as he lives in that area.

**(Shaffer/Goldberg) then amended the motion to strike the word “parking” and insert the word “stopping.”**

* Len defined “stopping” saying this would prevent motorists parking by the curb for any length of time after 6 p.m. and until 6 a.m.
* Kamy said they prefer this motion apply to both sides of the street on this stretch. This is aimed at those who come in after 6 p.m. and use the hiking route to break in to neighbors’ properties. People are afraid to come home because of intruders coming in to their homes and some are moving out of the area.
* Marilyn said the drivers for the getaway cars wait by the curb now for the burglars and that they know they have approximately six minutes to burglarize a house before security or police arrive after an alarm goes off. She also asked if the gate could be closed to Mulholland Park during these hours.
* Linda Friedman, a Braemar CC member who lives in Silverhawk, agreed that both sides of the street should be restricted for parking. She pointed out that a local woman was struck and killed by a motorist here. She also referenced the same group of people shooting off fireworks on the 4th of July which created a huge fire risk. There have been many 311 requests to fix the fences. The issues are murder, theft, burglary, racing, drugs and fire risk. She said there’s no reason for people to be there after dark.
* Len said he felt it might violate the Brown Act to change the motion to restrict parking on both sides of the street after 6 p.m. without proper public notice.
* A stakeholder said that no parking after 6 p.m. would prevent people who enjoy hiking the trails to use that area. Harvey added that another motion could be put on the agenda at the next meeting.
* Susan pointed out that hikers could park south of the restricted area still.
* Iris asked what the length of the block is that would require no parking. Harvey said it would be the length of a New York city block.

The motion as amended read: **(Shaffer/Goldberg) moved, “Resolved, the TNC Board Adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to send the attached letter to CM Bob Blumenfield recommending no stopping from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on the east side of Reseda Blvd. from south of the Silverhawk Ridge development up the hill to the entrance of the Braemar Country Club.”**

**Voting yea: 11:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 1:** (Sima Salek)

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 5:** Ahuja, Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried.**

Susan said they are holding a place for this motion for the next City Council meeting so she urged Len to get it to the Councilmember’s office before 3/28/25.

7.e. **(Shaffer/Goldberg) moved “Resolved, the TNC Board Adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation as follows: Based on the recommendation of an Accounting Clerk at the City Clerk’s office that our policy is classifying expenses for the TNC officers and committees be changed from a direct expense for that committee under Operations, General, to a sub expense for that committee under Operations, General, Office Expense. Also changing the expense category name, Budget Committee expenses, to Treasurer/Budget Committee expenses since currently, the same board member serves in both capacities. As a result, the following changes to the TNC Budget are to take place: reclassifying Operations, General; Budget Committee ($100) and President’s Expenses ($100) to Operations, General, Office Expense; Treasurer/Budget Committee ($100), Land Use Committee ($100), and President’s Expenses ($100). There is no change in the total budgeted expenses for Operations, General or the total budget.”**

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 5:** Ahuja, Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**7.f. (Shaffer/Goldberg) moved, “Resolved, the TNC Board Adopts the Executive Committee’s recommendation to Chris Ahuja for his contribution to the Tarzana Neighborhood Council and to accept his resignation from the board.”**

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 4:** Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**8.MER Motion: (Goldberg/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved, the TNC board approved the February 2025 expenditures for submission to the City Clerk (MER) and Financial Statements as of February 28, 2025.”**

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 4:** Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Harvey noted that any expenses for committees or financial requests for this fiscal year need to be turned in to the City Clerk by June 1st.

**8 b: NPG Request for Earth Day: (Goldberg/Elan) moved, “Resolved, the TNC board accepts the Budget Committee’s recommendation to approve the NPG request from the Woodland Hills / Tarzana Chamber of Commerce Community Benefit Foundation for $1250.00 to support a gift to five Tarzana schools of $250.00 each to purchase art supplies. Funds to come from Unallocated.”**

Harvey explained that each school gets $250 for art supplies if they participate in the Earth Day event. The TNC uses the Community Benefit Foundation of the Chamber as the non-profit to fund this.

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 4:** Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**8.c. Valley Preparedness Fair: (Goldberg/Rogen) moved, “Resolved, the TNC board accepts the request from Transportation and Public Safety committee to purchase exhibitor space at the West Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair in April 2025 for $500. To be classified as Outreach, Events, West Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair. Funds to come from Unallocated.”**

Sharon Brewer said she thought the TNC could present at this event for $100.00 by bringing their own table and chairs. Len said the $500.00 provides a preferred space and supports the nonprofits that are participating in this event. This is something that other NCs are doing and is a great outreach opportunity.

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 4:** Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**8.d. Revised Budget motion: (Goldberg/Polonsky) moved, “Resolved, the TNC board approves a revised budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 to include items: 7.a, 7.b, 7.c., 8.b. and 8.c. and approves all necessary forms and paperwork required to update the budget, and directs the Treasurer and/or the President to prepare such and to submit it to the City Clerk’s Funding Division.”**

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 4:** Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Len asked everyone to show up to attend this event. Susan has sign-up sheets for time shifts.

**9.a. Land Use: (Shaffer/Polonsky) “Resolved the TNC board adopts the Land Use Committee’s recommendation to send the attached letter to CM Bob Blumenfield requesting he file a motion to oppose AB79.”**

Two members representing (I have no names for this) United Neighbors, a coalition community group, spoke about their efforts to oppose this bill. She said the bill is very complicated; it is a 29-page-long transit bill that will allow 75’ high apartments in residential zones that are a half mile from a bus or light rail stop. There are no affordable units required with this bill. But if they do offer affordable units, they are given a density bonus of height. This bill does not protect the historic districts. This will take precedence over any other zoning requirements. It was proposed by Senator Scott Weiner. This is designed to take away local control over zoning. She shared LA Metro’s bus map that defines single family areas that would be impacted. This would greatly increase density to 6 or 7 story buildings, 9 or 11 units, and buildings that are up to 50K square feet. It puts a lot of density on all the commercial corridors while removing single family homes. Also, there is no parking required if they are within a half mile of a Metro line. This group is trying to get all NCs in the city to oppose this bill.

Len suggested individuals independently contact Senator Henry Stern and Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel asking them to also oppose this bill.

**Voting yea: 12:** Matthew Clark, David Elan, Barry Edelman, Harvey Goldberg, Joyce Greene, Eran Heissler, Duncan McIntosh, Jeff Mausner, Iris Polonsky, Susan Rogen, Sima Salek, Terry Saucier, and Len Shaffer.

**Opposed: 0**

**Abstaining: 0**

**Ineligible: 1** (Barry Edelman)

**Absent: 4:** Bedrossian, Lord, Radenberg and Shmaeff.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Outreach Report:** Terry Saucer spoke about the upcoming Earth Day event, Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at TNC Recreation Center/Tarzana Park. She went through the different activities for which board members need to be present, including set up, the poster contest, awards ceremony and tear down. She talked about the outreach she has been doing to promote this event and the different representatives who are expected to show up.

**11. Events Report**: None.

12. **Transportation/Public Safety:** Susan Rogen reviewed the clean up effort at Van Alden tunnel which is now unlocked and people are camping out there again.

**13. Animal Welfare:** Jeff spoke about the city shelters being crowded again. The rescues are also becoming full. Today, the shelters are at 112% for dogs and increasing. He said increasing spay and neuter programs will help reduce this problem in the future. The NC Budget Advocates’ White Paper has been released and is available on the Budget Advocates’ website with the recommendations he wrote for improving Animal Services. They are asking for increased funding over the current fiscal year budget to reduce overcrowding and achieve and maintain a no kill program. This includes: increasing the sterilization fund, increasing the community cat program to meet minimum requirements of the environmental impact report, achieve and maintain no kill for cats, work with the state Fish and Wildlife Dept. to develop programs that humanely deal with the increased presence of coyotes in our neighborhoods, increase staffing at the shelters, and restore the RACO program. Jeff’s full report can be read on the budget advocates’ website.

**14. Beautification**: No report.

**15. Homelessness:** Joyce said there is a phone number you can call if you see an encampment. This expedites getting the social workers out there: 1-800-773-2489. Send photos of each encampment and give service request #’s to Safi to follow up.

**16. Rules:** No report.

**17. Govt. Action:** No report.

**18. Ad Hoc VNY:** No report.

**19. Ad Hoc Elections:** No report.

**20. NC Sustainability Alliance:** No report.

**21. VANC:** No report.

**22: LANCC:** No report.

**23. DWO Mou:** No report.

**24: Board Business:** No comments.

**25: Adjournment: 10:02 p.m.**

* Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One -