

# GREATER TOLUCA LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL



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<p><b>MEETING MINUTES</b></p> <p><b>Regular GTLNC Meeting</b></p> <p><b>February 20, 2007 - 7:08 to 9:50 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Toluca Lake Elementary School</b></p> <p><b>4840 Cahuenga Blvd.</b></p> <p><b>Toluca Woods, California 91601</b></p>
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**Chair:** Terry Davis, President

**Members Present:** Barbara Carroll, Ben Aiken, Betsy Mogul, Cathy Naugle, Cathy Saliba, Claire Collins, Craig Strong, Gary Gordon, Gene Elerding, Gene Klow, Jeff Rector, Jerome Williams, Jessica Sterling, John Moskal, Maria Tirado, Michael Weisler, Peter Hartz, Reyn Blight, Roy Disney, Steve Tatgenhorst and Terry Davis

**Members with Excused Absence:** None

**Members Absent:** Dexter Connor, Matt Waldeck and Edith Gursel (resigned)

**Standing Guests:** Jay Goldberg (Public Safety Chair), Richard Bogy (Past President TL Chamber of Commerce), Rob Benavidez (LAPD), Sheryl Appleton (Planning Co-Chair) and Taneda Larios (DONE)

**Grievance Committee Members Present:** Bonnie Holcomb and Tim Hawkins

**Stakeholders:** 31

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1.	<p><b>Meeting Opening and Call to Order</b></p> <p>Terry Davis, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM and extended a welcome to all.</p> <p>Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p> <p>Roll Call was taken. Edith Gursel has resigned due to schedule conflicts with the monthly meeting.</p> <p>Agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.</p> <p>Minutes from January 16, 2006 were reviewed and approved.</p> <p>Terry stated that she spends time in reflection prior to each meeting to stay focused and respectful and asked that all make an effort to do likewise.</p> <p>She announced that the two open vacancies on the Council will not be filled at this time.</p> <p>She reminded all of two upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Keep Los Angeles Beautiful, part of the Keep America Beautiful campaign, kickoff is March 3. LA/HBT is sponsoring a tree planting in Hollywood and Terry passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.</li> <li>▪ Mayor's Day of Service – April 28 &amp; 29 – volunteers will meet at Rio Vista School.</li> </ul> <p>She also related the story of how New York City cleaned up their streets and sidewalks, based on a plan originally from Los Angeles. She will be working on getting support and buy-in from neighboring NCs for a similar plan in LA.</p>	<p><i><b>Motion:</b> Reyn Blight moved that the minutes from January 16th be approved as submitted.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed:</b> 17/0/0.</i></p>	<p><b>Barbara</b> to mark as final and send to Karen for posting on the GTLNC web site (done).</p>

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2.	<p><b>Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation for past Council member service</b> Terry Davis presented a certificate of appreciation to Nancy Oppenheim, who served on the GTLNC as a founding member and into 2006.</p> <p>Terry also showed the certificate of appreciation that the entire Council was awarded for participation in the 2006 Mayor’s Day of Service, acknowledging particularly the services of Wendy Mogul, Richard Bogy and Terry Davis. This will be hung in the GTLNC office.</p>		
3.	<p><b>Open Forum for Stakeholders</b> Theresa Franklin discussed plans for a Rio Vista School organic farm and learning garden, to be located at North Weddington Park, and asked for support for signage to denote ownership and use and to deter vandals. This is a \$60K project, for which she received a community beautification grant of \$10K from the city of LA.</p> <p>Dave Shelton asked for support for the Snuggyst Music Festival to support the Special Olympics. He will produce the music portion and is asking for support for the remainder.</p> <p>Shirley Duenckel asked for a monetary contribution of \$5K toward the steam cleaning of sidewalks along Riverside from Sancola to Clybourn and toward the clean up of the median at Camarillo and Forman. Terry stated that the median maintenance is being addressed.</p> <p>Linda Hawkins inquired as to whether there were available funds to make a donation toward library books at Toluca Lake Elementary. Peter Hartz asked her for a specific proposal. Terry clarified that while we have supported the schools in our area annually, there is no annual commitment to do so.</p>		<p><b>Dave</b> to discuss with <b>Richard Bogy</b> re: TL Chamber sponsorship of this activity (done real-time at meeting).</p> <p><b>Peter Hartz</b> to contact Shirley to request an estimate for shared services with the TL Garden Club (done).</p>
4.	<p><b>City &amp; Neighborhood News and Announcements</b> <b>Council District 4 (CD4)</b> – Alice Roth was not present – no report.</p> <p><b>Toluca Lake Chamber of Commerce</b> – Roy Disney reported on the renaming of Barris Place (a previous motion from GTLNC) and the dedication to be hosted by Fritz Coleman on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 PM. He also stated that the Bakman house application for a historical landmark status was approved, which gives us one year to find a use and owner (see handout).</p>		

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4.	<p><b>LAPD</b> – Rob Benavidez gave an update on crime in the area, stating that is has been consistent for three months running, with an increase in car break-ins. Overall crime is down 6% in 2006 from 2005, which was down 8% from 2004. Rob has been doing “foot-beats” with new recruits for 10 days this past month and admonished all not to be alarmed if they saw several cops together walking the streets. He reminded all to call 311 for graffiti removal, which is important in deterring additional graffiti. He encouraged more to sign up for Neighborhood Watch. He did report that there were two kidnapping attempts recently with a black newer model Corvette involved.</p> <p><b>DONE</b> – Taneda Larios handed out a punch list of up-coming classes and meetings, a series of memos to NCs from Lisa Sarno, Interim General Manager of DONE, and the South Valley results on the Mayor’s budget survey. She announced that the next Congress of NCs is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Bonaventure in downtown LA. She also stated that NCs can pay time and a half for tree trimming or sidewalk repairs if desired, since the city does not have the resources to do all the required work.</p> <p>Terry congratulated Taneda on completing 15 years of service to the City of LA.</p>		
5.	<p><b>Committee Reports –</b></p> <p>1. <b>Planning &amp; Land Use Committee</b> – See minutes from February 8th meeting. Reyn reported on current activities and projects under review. Reyn stated that the city rarely stops tentative tract requests but our aim is to get the developer to meet with us and listen to our concerns. A hearing on the 4440 Talofa property is being held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM at Marvin Braude building in Van Nuys. The committee will be looking into rezoning all the properties behind the south Riverside alley that are zoned similarly. Terry asked the Council to do a straw poll to get a sense of the Council’s inclination and the straw poll showed that the Council unanimously supported such a move. Several stakeholders spoke in opposition to the development and in support of the motion: Julie Gilmette, Linda Teverbaugh, Frank Banya and Ruth Banya.</p>	<p><i><b>Motion --</b> Reyn Blight moved that the GTLNC retain a Planning Consultant to help create a community Design Overlay (CDO) for the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council area, with a budget not to exceed \$5000 from the GTLNC Planning Committee budget.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed: 19/0/1.</b></i></p> <p><i><b>Motion:</b> Reyn moved that the GTLNC oppose the tentative tract map request for 4440 Talofa to develop a 4-story, 8-unit condo project with 16 tenant plus two guest parking spaces, including a 10-foot deep excavation, and to support the zoning changes proposed for the five similar properties south of Riverside.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed: 20/0/0.</b></i></p>	<p><b>Reyn/Sheryl Appleton</b> to work with Peter Hartz on the budget request details (<b>done</b>).</p> <p><b>Reyn/Sheryl Appleton</b> to draft letter to City Planning and send to Terry (<b>done</b>).</p> <p><b>Terry</b> to send letter to City Planning stating our position on the development (<b>done</b>).</p>

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5.	<p><b>Committee Reports – cont.</b></p> <p><b>1. Planning &amp; Land Use Committee – cont.</b></p> <p>Reyn presented the motion for the over-height existing fence at 4700 Cartwright explaining that the owner had a 14 foot setback (1 foot less than required) and had planted flowers and a lawn in front, thereby meeting the spirit of the law. Only one neighboring homeowner has expressed dissatisfaction. Discussion ensued re: several issues and concerns: 1) homeowners have previously stated that they do not want over-height walls, 2) there is confusion as to whether the city requires a 15 or a 20 foot setback (and whether it is from the property line or some other boundary), 3) of at least 40 walls in Toluca Lake only 3 have permits and most do not meet code requirements, and 4) this motion did not follow our previous motion to enforce the code and not approve variances unless there is good cause.</p> <p>Reyn provided updates on other developments (see agenda and committee minutes), noting that there is no real update on the Universal development at this time.</p>	<p><i><b>Motion:</b> Reyn moved that the GTLNC approve a fence height variance at 4700 Cartwright.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed:</b> 10/8/2</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion:</b> That the GTLNC rescind their previous support of the Toluca Lake Florist project located at 10601- 10623 W. Riverside Drive as previously presented. The LA Cultural Heritage Commission finding on February 15, 2007 designated 10623 as a Historic Landmark (Bakman house, garage and landscaping)</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion deferred to March meeting.</b></i></p>	<p><b>Reyn/Sheryl Appleton</b> to draft letter to City Planning and send to Terry <b>(done)</b>.</p> <p><b>Terry</b> to send letter to City Planning stating our position on allowing the over-height fence <b>(done)</b>.</p> <p><b>Barbara</b> to place on March agenda <b>(done)</b>.</p>

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6.	<p><b>Committee Reports – cont.</b></p> <p>2. <b>Public Safety/Traffic/Public Works Committee</b> – See minutes from the February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and Attachment C: Scope of Work on Cahuenga Blvd. Widening (purple handout). Jay Goldberg reminded all to collect the 311 magnets and use them to call for graffiti removal. Jay referred all to the purple handout on the details of the widening of Cahuenga, which will include a drop-off lane at Toluca Lake Elementary and left turn signals at Cahuenga and Camarillo, Riverside and Moorpark intersections. Jay explained that we the city will not install a traffic light at the Trader Joe’s corner (Talofa) since the distance between the lights at Mariota, Forman and Tolofa would be too short. He recommended that we develop a campaign and send a petition to Tom LaBonge about this, since two accidents have occurred at that intersection recently. Jay, Alice Roth and Richard Bogy walked the businesses along Riverside that would be affected by creating one-way alleys behind them and found that most were in favor of such a move.</p> <p>3. <b>Outreach/Elections/Hospitality Committee</b> – See minutes from the February 1st meeting. Jeff Rector stated that they are moving forward with the purchase of digital cameras, projector and laptop and that the prices are coming in lower than expected. March 1<sup>st</sup> is the revised date of the GTLNC potluck at Terry’s house – details to follow. Pictures for the web site will be taken next month. Next month’s meeting will be on the 8<sup>th</sup> and not the 1<sup>st</sup>. The scoreboard has been repaired at North Weddington and a plaque crediting the GTLNC has been affixed to it.</p>	<p><i><b>Motion:</b> Michael Weisler moved that the GTLNC allocate a maximum of \$2500 to purchase Neighborhood Watch signs and decals and to pay for installation costs of the signs.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed:</b> 19/0/0.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion:</b> John Moskal moved that the GTLNC allocate up to \$1000 to have the Public Works survey distributed. It was recommended that we might coordinate efforts with the TL Chamber of Commerce and TL Homeowners to share costs.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed:</b> 16/2/0.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion:</b> Peter moved that GTLNC approve \$1000 for a sign at the new Rio Vista learning garden (sample shown), with our name spelled out rather than abbreviated.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed:</b> 18/0/0.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion:</b> Peter moved that GTLNC approve a contribution of \$1301 toward a concrete bench for Old Lankershim Village.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion withdrawn and deferred to March meeting.</b></i></p>	<p><b>Jay</b> to coordinate both budget items with <b>Peter Hartz</b>.</p> <p><b>Jay and Maria</b> Tirado to work on a petition to Tom LaBonge, requesting a traffic light or special crosswalk at Trader Joe’s for better traffic control and safety. Location to secure signatures perhaps at Trader Joe’s.</p> <p><b>Peter</b> to place order for sign per draft sample and motion.</p> <p><b>Barbara</b> to place motion on March GTLNC agenda (done).</p>

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5.	<p><b>Committee Reports – cont.</b></p> <p>4. <b>Administrative Committee</b> – The <i>Ad Hoc</i> committee did not meet. Cathy asked that all Chairs submit records from 2006 to the office, attention Karen Goldwasser. Cathy thanked Gary Gordon for his work in compiling the overview of all the activities taking place over the next month plus (refer to yellow sheets). Gary asked that all complete the web survey on the 912 Commission.</p> <p>5. <b>Environmental Affairs Committee</b> – See minutes from January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Terry Davis turned over the Chair to Gene Elerding while she reported for the committee. Terry announced that the committee approved a motion to support the enforcement of current laws that require property owners and businesses to clean up their property. She indicated that this will need broader support from other NCs but this is a start toward that end. Taneda Larios recommended that she consider a community impact statement with other NCs.</p> <p><b>NB – Remaining motions deferred to next meeting.</b></p>	<p><i><b>Motion:</b> Terry moved that the GTLNC request that the City Council and the Mayor of LA adopt or enforce existing laws requiring all property owners, both residential and commercial, be responsible for keeping sidewalks, curbs and gutters clean and free of debris, with appropriate penalties imposed for non-compliance.</i></p> <p><i><b>Motion passed: 18/0/0.</b></i></p>	<p><b>All GTLNC Members</b> to complete web survey:  <a href="http://www.ssrc-at-@csuf.com">www.ssrc-at-@csuf.com</a>  (wrong address – need correct one)</p> <p><b>Terry Davis</b> to follow-up with other NCs to gain their support and to research the process and template used in New York based on LA.</p>
6.	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <p>See financial profit and loss report from Peter Hartz. Peter has just heard that NCs with less than \$100k remaining in their budgets may rollover the entire amount to the new fiscal year (GTLNC has approx. \$64.5K remaining). He is seeking formal confirmation and recommends that we wait on any additional approval of funds until that is confirmed and more thoughtful choices can be made. Taneda Larios recommended that we consider use of the budget templates in the memos she handed out earlier, which would ensure there are line-items for specific projects and eliminate some of the need for motions to approve amounts that are in the budget and under a specified amount.</p>		
7.	<p><b>Open Forum &amp; Announcements</b></p> <p>None.</p>		
8.	<p><b>Meeting Close and Wrap-Up</b></p> <p>Terry Davis adjourned the meeting at 9:50 PM. She thanked Cathy Saliba and Reyn Blight for arranging for the food for tonight’s meeting.</p> <p>The next meeting is March 20th at Toluca Lake Elementary.</p>		