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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
 COMMITTEE MEETING
 Tuesday, August 4, 2020 @ 7:30PM**

ZOOM – Meeting ID 915 4576 1754

To join the Meeting

Zoom Meeting Online or by Telephone
 Enter This Webinar ID 915 4576 1754

Dial (669) 900 - 6833 and enter/dial 915 4576 1754 and # (pound)

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) AND DUE TO CONCERNS OVER COVID-19, THE BOARD OF GREATER TOLUCA LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED ON ZOOM AND BE ACCESSIBLE TELEPHONICALLY.

Persons on the phone wishing to attend the Board telephonically may also dial (669) 900-6833, and enter the Meeting ID number above and then press # twice to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comments will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting.

1. **Call to Order:** Start Time 7:36 PM

2. **Attendance** – Please mark X=present EX=excused AB=unexcused absence

<u>_x_</u> Hannah Globus, <i>Co-Chair</i>	<u>_x_</u> Kelly Cole	<u>_x_</u> James Fitzpatrick
<u>_x_</u> Katherine Hatton, <i>Co-Chair</i>	<u>_AB_</u> Aidan Welch	<u>_EX_</u> Arielle Stern
	<u>_x_</u> Geoff Tock	

3. **Current Business**

a. Review and Approve GTLNC Environmental Affairs Committee Minutes

Motion A: Approve the GTLNC 7 July 2020 Environmental Affairs Committee Minutes. Full text of the minutes can be found at: <https://www.gtlnc.org/environmental-affairs-committee/>

FIRST: Hannah SECOND: Kelly

Hannah notes importance of accurately capturing public comment, committee agrees that they were well captured

VOTE:

<u>_y_</u> Hannah Globus	<u>_y_</u> Kelly Cole	<u>_y_</u> James Fitzpatrick
<u>_y_</u> Katherine Hatton	<u>_absent_</u> Aidan Welch	<u>_absent_</u> Arielle Stern
	<u>_abstain_</u> Geoff Tock	

b. Review of prior year

- Geoff expressed frustrated at being singled out by another meeting attendee for expressing his views; stresses that land doesn't vote, and the amount of land owned does not make one voice more important than another
- Hannah shares some of the committee's frustrations, particularly the concern that GTLNC isn't representing all voices in the neighborhood but rather actively has represented a small portion of the voices that can afford to put in more time to attend the meetings
- Katherine notes that we do hear from some underrepresented voices at EAC, but they tend to be told at the general meeting that their opinions don't count, and it's unlikely that EAC can make significant changes to that issue
- Kelly believes that is a function for outreach and an issue with education. Kelly has heard from some groups, like the HOA, that believe they represent a larger percentage of the population than they do because there isn't an awareness across Toluca Lake of the different stakeholders
- Katherine is concerned by the misinformation that we were unable to counter at the meetings due to the virtual meeting format which limited time and positioned our speaking as "opinion" rather than factual information
- Hannah asks the committee if we picked the right "fights"
- Geoff things there's value, whether motions pass or fail, in asking people to explain their positions on these issues

c. Planning & priorities for upcoming year

- Kelly suggests we think about how to communicate the facts since these tend to be very dense issues
- Hannah recommends bringing in people from the city or an experienced firm to present on these issues (waste reduction, mobility issues, recycling, etc) on why these are important to fight climate change, inequity, etc so that the board understands the why and the baseline facts
- Katherine notes that wealthier and whiter communities contribute more to climate change, but communities of color and less wealthy communities suffer more of the effects, and as one of those wealthier and whiter communities based on city-provided demographics, it's likely that we are some of those high-contributors
- Hannah would like to have someone talk about connection between mobility and racial justice as well as gender justice; will look into 2 people
- Katherine cautions against overloading on transportation
- Kelly would like a speaker about the urban tree canopy and the impact of their private property to the greater good in a neighborhood with limited public green space
- Jim brings up concerns about vacant lots with no trees, like the clearing of the lot at Riverside & Ledge where we lost trees, making it not just an eyesore but bad environmentally. Committee agrees this might be more for Planning and Land Use
- Geoff is interested in increasing housing density, but isn't certain EAC needs to work on that given the State is working intensely in the area. Does believe that trees are popular, and also recommends we speak to transportation concerns in a practical sense
- Hannah has stats that show 77% of TL are interested in improving mobility
- Geoff asks if education or mobilization will be more effective?
- Kelly notes we're in a very stressful time and the community is opposed to change in less uncertain times. Suggests bringing in partners through Chamber, etc to allow the community to enjoy the benefits of a "15 minute city" before we have the more difficult conversations about flashpoint issues like bike lanes
- Katherine feels that the previously planned 3-Mile Challenge would have been a good opportunity to incentivize people to get out of their vehicles, and there's an opportunity to revisit in the fall to partner with the Chamber to also incentivize people to patronize our local businesses
- Hannah saw a lot of businesses from the GTLNC/Chamber business survey that want to continue al fresco dining even after Covid is done. Other cities have taken parking spaces to use for that outdoor dining, and there's advantage to getting people out of their cars so there's less

need for parking in the area. How can we encourage people not to drive when they come to Riverside? Recommends as a project to discuss at September meeting.

- Katherine wants someone to present not just on waste reduction, but on conscious consumption because reduce comes first in “reduce, reuse, recycle” but most focus is on recycle
- Action item: think about ways to get people out of vehicles in the neighborhood, take a look at the “15-minute city” article
- Hannah encourages expanding membership

- Katherine recommends the committee is strategic about approaching contentious topics, concerned that votes for other motions have been impacted because there’s some possibility there’s uncertainty and distrust about our committee that comes from how more contentious motions have been presented

- Hannah cautions against being swayed by people voting on motions a particular way because of other motions they dislike, though if there is a personal distrust that needs to be addressed
- Katherine clarifies that the concern is that people may be uncertain about trusting us because they are hearing misinformation that isn’t effectively countered
- The committee notes that sometimes facts don’t win, like the way the Riverside bike lane became the issue when it wasn’t even part of the motion
- Kelly reminds that semantics matter; arguments can be coopted easily so we need to have a way to, in the least amount of words, say “this is not xyz” and move on so that the argument doesn’t get diverted

- Do we continue with CIS? How do we want to address contentious issues?

- Geoff recommends picking one thing we’ll likely lose, but try to win the rest
- Katherine agrees it’s great to identify issues that people are widely supportive of because that builds trust that allows us to have a baseline trust for when we bring more controversial issues; frontload those
- Kelly supports doing the no-brainers that will be easy to pass, but also make sure that we don’t put excessive time into things we know may not pass
- Hannah wants to identify the “hills to die on” – issues that we feel very strongly about putting the time into fighting for
- Katherine has been struggling to get information on the CIS process since nothing that’s been passed has been officially submitted as CIS; until we have a process in place to effectively submit them then our CIS are basically moot
- Hannah recently learned that when we pass a CIS, we get time at the City Council meeting to speak on it, and we should take advantage of that
- Jim believes that governmental affairs should be bringing information about City Council action to us; Also agrees with the plan to pick one big issue to fight for; Believes in committing to John Lewis’s ten principals of being a good global citizen and recommends everyone give it a read as it’s a good roadmap even for our tiny fights here

Game Plan for the Coming Year:

- do speaker series
- 15 minute city mobility project
- wait and see how we proceed with tree planting initiative given we can’t get together (trees are a win-win popular goal)

4. Potential/Future Projects

- a. Tree Planting Initiative
- b. GTLNC Website “Green Resources” Page
 - Katherine invites anyone to reach out if they’re interested in working on this project

- c. Vineland Median Beautification
- Katherine will check in with Arthur
- d. Public Input Process for 2035 Mobility Plan

5. Public Comment

- Jim would like to see a different photo for the EAC since it currently is the Garden Club (who aren't members of the committee); Robyn notes that most of the photos on the website are from Earth Day and we really need more opportunities to take photos so we can update them frequently

6. Close Meeting: Close Time __8:37__ PM

7. Next Meeting: Sept 1 @ 7:30pm – **Zoom Meeting ID 915 4576 1754**

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public is requested to dial *9, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS – The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS - GTLNC agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Community Kiosk - On the side of the Discovery Shop - 10124 Riverside Dr. Toluca Lake, CA 91602;
- www.gtlnc.org; or
- You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.htm>

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PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: gtlnc.org 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 Juliann Miles, Board Secretary via email at Juliann.Miles@gtlnc.org

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS

For information on the GTLNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the GTLNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.gtlnc.org

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Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Juliann Miles, Secretary de la Mesa Directiva, por correo electrónico Juliann.Miles@gtlnc.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal."