

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

@ 7:30PM

10154 Riverside Drive

Toluca Lake, CA 91602

1. **Call to Order:** Start Time 7:35 PM

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

X Hannah Globus, *Co-Chair*

EX Kelly Cole (7:48)

X Katherine Hatton, *Co-Chair*

X Aidan Welch

X Geoff Tock (8:15)

X James Fitzpatrick

Lee Jamieson

3. **Current Projects**

a. Toluca Lake Garden Club Partnership: Scheduling next cleanup date

We'll reach out to Garden Club about scheduling; potentially looking at 4/26 one week after Earth Day

b. Community Sustainability Plan

Motion A: To approve the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council Community Sustainability Plan, a set of sustainability guidelines for the GTLNC and its Committees to reference and implement as they do their work.

FIRST: Hannah SECOND: Aidan

Lee expresses need to stop development

Committee agrees that there's a need for reasonable density, but want to ensure it still reflects the unique character of the neighborhood

MOTION A VOTE: 5 / 0 / 0

c. Transit Field Trip – ~~Sunday March 15~~ Sunday in Spring 2020 (approx.)

Proposing a date change to allow for promotion at Earth Day event

Jason has asked us to do an Earth Day section of the annual Earth Day and Taste of Toluca Lake event; The committee is interested but our involvement is contingent on getting support (including financial);

We're also going to kick off the 3 Mile Challenge at Earth Day (request funding to pay for a prize); we'll aim to get materials from Metro/Via/NextGen/city bus redesign to hand out at Earth Day to inform people of transit options

Motion B: To approve up to \$90 for the purchase of LA Metro TAP cards for participants in the Transit Field Trip within the current fiscal year ~~on Sunday, March 15, 2020.~~

FIRST: ___Hannah___ SECOND: ___Kelly___

Motion amended per discussion to reflect “current fiscal year” rather than specific date to reflect plan to reschedule for after the Earth Day event

MOTION B VOTE: __6__ / __0__ / __0__

d. Urban Tree Canopy

Motion C:

Whereas, the Sidewalk Repair Program Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) proposes to allow the tree canopy to decrease over 1.5% during 30 years by removing 12,869 large trees, only reaching 2017 levels again in 2047, and

Whereas, the EIR proposes to mitigate tree loss at different ratios during different years of the project, only planting the minimum number of trees necessary to return to 2017 levels in 2047, and

Whereas, the EIR claims the project to have minimal environmental impacts, and

Whereas, tree canopy is an essential first line of defense against extreme heat days, which will become more frequent during the next 30 years and localized tree loss will result in a dangerous increase in local temperatures, especially on extreme heat days,

Whereas, loss of tree canopy also means reduced air quality, loss of habitat, loss of stormwater filtration, and loss of aesthetics and property values,

Therefore, the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council requests:

1) that every possible effort be made to redesign sidewalks around trees utilizing bulb-outs and meandering sidewalks

2) that only those trees absolutely necessary to be removed for sidewalk repair be removed, with no preemptive removal of trees not causing problems

3) that all trees removed for the sidewalk repair program be mitigated at a ratio of 4:1 with species of equal size at maturity and located in the same neighborhood as those removed

4) that the EIR be amended to consider tree removal a significant adverse impact with binding mitigation measures

5) that every tree removal continue to have the due process of notification through an Urban Forestry Division tree removal notice and that removal of 3 or more trees at a given site continue to have a Board of Public Works hearing

6) a 60-day extension in the scoping period to allow all neighborhood councils the opportunity to agendaize and submit their motions

7) that the City of Los Angeles be mindful that this is not the only program that is eroding the tree canopy within the City.

FIRST: ___Aidan___ SECOND: ___Kelly___

- The committee is very supportive of meandering sidewalks.
- We want to acknowledge that development is also decimating trees in the city and part of why we're asking for these additional steps is because the tree canopy is being reduced in that area as well. Committee agrees to amend the motion to include statement that other programs are reducing the tree canopy.

MOTION C VOTE: __6__/_0__/_0__

- e. Plastic Parking Permits – Update from Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance
 - If we don't hear back from the NCSA, then we'll draft a statement for Bob to bring to them
- f. Identifying areas to pursue specific multi-modal transit improvements.
 - Committee identifies areas to focus on:
 - Improve sidewalk repair
 - Safe bike & pedestrian access to the Universal Metro Station
 - Safe access to Toluca Lake Elementary School
 - Safe access to Toluca Lake businesses from North Hollywood and Universal Metro Station
 - Access to the Chandler Bike Path
 - Committee mapped areas where sidewalks, bike lanes, and crossing light beg buttons could be requested, including
 - Sidewalks
 - west side of Vineland between Moorpark and Riverside
 - on either side of Riverside between Cahuenga and Ledge
 - on Cahuenga between 134 and Camarillo (approaching TLES)
 - Bike Lanes
 - on Moorpark from Colfax to Ledge
 - on Cahuenga from Moorpark to the Universal Metro Station
 - on Camarillo from Cahuenga to Clybourn
 - on Forman from Camarillo to Riverside
 - on Biloxi from Magnolia to Chandler
 - Goal is to get additional community input and take it to City Council office by end of the year

4. Potential Projects

- a. Scooter parking
- b. Comment or CIS regarding the TOC rules defining major transit intersection (intersecting lines rather than distance between actual stops)
- c. "Share the Street" educational video
- d. Future TL Garden Club Projects
- e. Tree Planting Initiative
- f. Reducing Waste at GTLNC Board Meetings
- g. GTLNC Website "Green Resources" Page
 - this is a good opportunity to partner with Outreach

5. Public Comment

- Request that we ask the Council to re-invite SoCal Gas, DWP reps – people have a lot they'd want to ask them; there have been issues with Nest and other rebates; This should be brought to Exec Committee
- Aidan will reach out to Garden Club
- Interest in a compost workshop locally
- Suggestion that we advocate for buying carbon credits

6. **Close Meeting:** Close Time __8:56__ PM

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, Mar 3 @ 7:30pm – 10154 Riverside Drive, Toluca Lake, CA 91602

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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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