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**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
 COMMITTEE MEETING
 Tuesday, June 2, 2020 @ 7:30PM**

ZOOM – Meeting ID 915 4576 1754

To join the Meeting

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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) 900-9128, 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 7:35 PM

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

 x_ Hannah Globus, *Co-Chair*
 x_ Katherine Hatton, *Co-Chair*

 x_ Kelly Cole
 x_ Aidan Welch
 x_ Geoff Tock
 x_ James Fitzpatrick

Non-committee/public in attendance: 12

3. Current Projects

a. Review and Approve GTLNC Environmental Affairs Committee Minutes

Motion A: Approve the GTLNC 5 May 2020 Environmental Affairs Committee Minutes, as amended. Full text of the minutes can be found at: <https://www.gtlnc.org/environmental-affairs-committee/>

FIRST: Hannah SECOND: Aidan

Amendment:

Katherine motions to include changes recommended by Jim to note Freddy Cupen-Ames’s name and position as our DONE rep in the minutes, and including “as amended” in Motion A; Jim seconds; Amendment passes 6/0/0

MOTION A VOTE: 6 / 0 / 0

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b. Vineland Median Beautification

- i. Next step will be reconnecting with Arthur
- ii. Question from Bob Scibelli: Who maintains Riverside median near Ledge? It was originally a Beautification Partners project. [Note Bob was able to get the answer before end of meeting, no follow-up requested]

c. LADOT Temporary Slow Streets Program

Background: In May the EAC considered a motion advocating for a program to be established so that we could have more space for people to exercise while maintaining social distance, as had been done in other cities. Ten days later, the Slow Streets program was established, which is a temporary option for residential streets that relies exclusively on street requests from residents of the area. The City is NOT picking the streets, though they have eliminated some streets as options due to other needs, like emergency routes. The streets are meant for open moving space, not gathering space. The goal is to provide local residents with this space, not encourage people to travel to gather on these streets.

Motion B: To ensure the health and safety of our neighborhood, the GTLNC requests the following streets be part of the City of Los Angeles's temporary Slow Streets network, which uses cones or other temporary infrastructure to slow down vehicles in order to provide shared open space for people to walk, run, and bike in while maintaining the necessary six feet of physical distance during the Covid-19 emergency situation:

~~— Streets to be determined at the 2 June 2020 EAC meeting based on community input.~~

- Hortense St – between Lankershim Blvd and Cahuenga Blvd (in coordination with North Hollywood Neighborhood Council)

- Forman Ave between Huston St and Valley Spring Ln

- Sarah St between Cahuenga Blvd and Clybourn Ave

- Huston St between Strohm Ave and Clybourn Ave

- Valley Spring Ln east from Cahuenga Blvd to the end (past Navajo St)

- Ledge Ave between Riverside Dr and Valley Spring Ln

FIRST: ___ Hannah___ SECOND: ___ Kelly___

Public input:

Comments received via slowstreets@gtlnc.org email prior to 2 June meeting:

- We produced a map based on all requests received, including requests for streets that NOT be included; a few requests were removed because they are not eligible per LADOT's map
- Aidan reached out via email to the TL Garden Club re making the signs look nicer but did not receive a response; will reach out again

Comment at 2 June meeting:

- Steve: Thanks Hannah for doing outreach and appreciates that this is not as intrusive as originally seemed. Asks who made requests? [Answer: various residents submitted emails requesting streets that be included or not included]; Stresses that he's not sure why we're doing this here if there isn't a problem. Also wants to know if we can change this? [Answer: YES, we can adapt it. We'll keep the slowstreets@gtlnc.org email open for ongoing comment and will look into a survey; we also encourage the public to attend these meetings to give their feedback]
- Ben Olson: Lives on Moorpark and thinks this is a great idea; it makes sense to have already

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slower streets in neighborhoods have a little more slowness to give people more safety when they go for a run or walk the dog, especially since we're using those streets more as gyms are closed

- Jackie Sharp: Submitted ideas for additional signs about mask-wearing because she sees a lot of people walking without masks, which is part of why people need to go into the street to walk safely. The Slow Streets option is especially helpful in her area north of the 134 that doesn't have sidewalks. She asks how do we combat people outside the area driving in to walk their pets? And are we doing something about parking? [Answer: This is aiming to be widespread, coordinating with other councils to make sure we don't become an attractive place to come to. We're specifically talking to Valley Village, North Hollywood, and Studio City so that we don't become the only neighborhood in the area with Slow Streets. This does not impact parking] Also asks how is the City marketing? [Answer: Mostly through Neighborhood Councils, but the LA Times and LAist have done articles. The City is NOT sharing which streets are approved to avoid people flocking there] Since Ledge north of Riverside is ineligible, she requests Forman; Also notes that Sarah St is particularly necessary. Per her email, she submitted streets in order of preference [Note: this is great because the City may not be able to approve all requested streets and this allows us to prioritize]

- Brandon Whalen: Lives in West Toluca Lake and really likes this program, would love to see it implemented in our neighborhood

- Andy Cahill: Lives right on Cahuenga and knows the traffic issues there. He reiterates Sarah and Forman are key to the initiative; Blix street would go into NoHo, but is a street commonly used to get to the CVS/shopping center on the corner. It can be tight, so might be a candidate.

- Daryle Anne Giardino: Is a longtime resident of Toluca Lake for over 30 years; she's very opposed to this and does not want the streets blocked. She thinks the signage looks horrible, and believes that we cannot control people coming into the neighborhood – after all we can't even get them to wear masks. She thinks Valley Spring is a big mistake. She notes that there have been robberies on the street. She asks why can't people go to parks? [Geoff asks why she thinks the Slow Streets program will impact robberies] Answer: Believes that more people in the neighborhood will lead to more break-ins because those people will be coming in to look at the houses and see when people are there.

- Danielle M: Concern is that people won't stay contained to those streets and will overflow to others

- Steve: Will this still have volunteers? [Answer: there was previous discussion of volunteers, but we've clarified that the focus of volunteers would be on the infrastructure, like making sure the signs are in place and not vandalized; volunteers will not be responsible for making people wear masks] Expresses concern that Valley Spring already has a lot of activity – could it become too busy if people are walking on this small number of streets?

- Kelly: Asks to clarify – if it isn't working, can we remove it? [Answer: YES. We need to notify LADOT and they will let us take it down]

- Danielle M: NoHo might be doing this, but Toluca Lake is already one of the nicest walkable neighborhoods and would become really attractive to people from outside the neighborhood to come here.

- Jim: Was the map sent out before the meeting? [Answer: No, it was produced from email requests and did not want to send out the map before the meeting as we want this to be a working meeting] Jim would prefer to have the map in hand to be able to print and make notes

- Jackie Sharp: What happens to construction traffic and people that live on the street? [Answer: No restriction to residents, but Hannah will look into what impacts there are on construction traffic]

Committee Discussion:

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- Geoff: If the street is longer, is that better (ex. for running)? [Answer: LADOT suggests long connected routes and even distribution.
- Kelly and Geoff: request Hortense, and the Neighborhood Watch captain has also requested Hortense
- Katherine: Although Valley Spring has had requests that it not be included, there have also been requests that it be included. There was a hit and run there recently, and residents asked for a speed tracker to be brought in (it was) and an officer be stationed there to slow traffic.
- Aidan: Agrees because there have been a lot of people using that street and it's worth trying. If it doesn't go well, then we can remove.
- Hannah notes the current speed reduction options would be very short-term (10 days), while the Slow Streets would be a longer-term option (though still temporary). Also, it's best to put Slow Streets where pedestrians already naturally go.
- Huston is very important for Toluca Woods east-west access, especially to Forman
- Forman is also important to include, and is supported by the Chamber
- Jim: There's a safe crossing light at Forman, can we automate that?
- Hannah will inquire about automating the crossing light at Forman and Camarillo as well as at Riverside.
- Ledge cannot go north of Riverside per LADOT map, but it was requested and we can ask for the section south of Riverside that connects to Valley Spring
- Sarah is perfect street! It's heavily used and would be great connector.
- Order
 - Tier 1: Hortense, Sarah, Forman
 - Tier 2: Valley Spring, Huston
 - Tier 3: Ledge

Amendments:

Katherine motions to amend Motion B to include the street segments as discussed at the meeting and requested via email comments (see above); Kelly seconds; Amendment passes: 6/0/0

MOTION B VOTE: 6 / 0 / 0

Motion C: To approve up to ~~\$100~~\$250 for GTLNC-specific signage for ongoing outreach related to Slow Streets implementation within the GTLNC boundaries.

FIRST: Hannah SECOND: Geoff

Discussion:

- In addition to keeping the slowstreets@gtlnc.org email open, we're exploring a survey option. Outreach is discussing doing an ongoing survey that updates over time, which could be an option.
- Katherine likes the idea of tying this question to the general survey as it could be an issue that gets people to engage (and then we can get them to answer additional questions about community needs and wants)
- Hannah also proposes attaching baskets to the Slow Streets signs themselves with some paper and pens available for people to submit comments.
- Katherine expresses concern about asking residents to use communal pens/baskets during a pandemic where surface transfer of the virus has been a concern.
- Aidan suggests we could create posters to attach to the signs that include our website for the survey, the slowstreets@gtlnc.org email, and any other valuable info – people can take pictures with their phones so that there's no need to touch anything.
- Committee in favor of this idea – Hannah will price out the signage.

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Amendments:

Hannah motions to increase the funding request from \$100 to \$250, with the caveat that we hope to keep it lower; Katherine seconds; Amendment passes 6/0/0

Katherine motions to include “for GTLNC-specific signage”; Hannah seconds; Amendment passes 6/0/0

MOTION C VOTE: 6 / 0 / 0

4. Potential/Future Projects

- a. Plastic Parking Permits – Drafting language for motion to bring to Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance
- b. Tree Planting Initiative
- c. GTLNC Website “Green Resources” Page

5. Public Comment

6. Close Meeting: Close Time 9:26 PM

7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 7 @ 7:30pm – Zoom Meeting ID 915 4576 1754

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- 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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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."

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