

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Monthly Board Meeting & 2008-2009 Board Installation
Mt. Gleason Middle School
May 14th, 2008

Attendance: 114, Board: 13, Audience: 101

1. **Call to order:** 7:12 p.m. by Cindy Cleghorn, STNC president with Colors and Flag Salute presentation by Boy Scouts Troop #307.

Roll call and introductions: Richard Stewart, Ricky Grubb, Nina Royal, Cindy Cleghorn, Linda Brand, Dan McManus, Bill Manning, Olin Lowe, Lydia Grant, David Cain, Vic Castro, Mark Seigel.

2. **Introductions and announcements by elected officials and representatives:** Cindy introduced DONE rep. Melvin Canas, CD2's Dale Thrush, and LAPD Officer Wall, who announced the upcoming Neighborhood Watch meeting in Tujunga. Crime wise, there were three homicides in the division, all gang - related homicides, occurring in Pacoima. There was also a kidnap and robbery of an Albertson's employee at the Tujunga store. A task force is investigating these crimes.

3. **Minutes.** The board unanimously approved the April STNC board meeting minutes.

4. **Public Comments:**

Cindy announced that this meeting was also the celebration of the STNC's five year anniversary. She read portions of her comments during the STNC Certification hearing of May 2003.

Judith Valles, President of Mission College (former mayor of San Bernardino) announced the future opening of a satellite campus in Sunland at the former Security Bank building on Foothill Boulevard. The purchase of the building by the College will be brought before the voters as a bond issue in November.

Daniel Wiseman, the producer of "Your Neighborhood Council" on Channel 25 (Thursday evenings) said that five community members will be appearing on their upcoming show speaking about their concerns regarding the Home Depot project in S-T.

Lydia Grant, STNC Education Rep, attended a parent's summit on April 12, 2008. She gave comments about the new healthy food program being introduced in the schools.

Roberta Cole, a stakeholder, congratulated the STNC for their leadership role for the entire neighborhood council system in L.A. and thanked Victor Castro and the DAC for their holding the line with Home Depot at their meeting on May 12th, 2008.

Mike O'Gara, Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, asked everyone to support

his son's candidacy for Superior Court Judge. Michael J. O'Gara has been a DA with the City for 17 years and is widely recommended by police organizations.

Andrea Manning, Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church, invited the public to their BBQ at the church on Sunland/Johanna on May 17th. They are raising money for a beautification project and already received a \$10,000 grant. Their annual Fundraiser rummage sale is June 7th.

Victor Castro, head football coach at Verdugo Hills High School, announced that the boy's varsity baseball team won its first league tournament in 40 years.

Michelle Sahfran, stakeholder, expressed concerns about paving her street on Tranquil Place in Tujunga.

Cindy asked the board and stakeholders to share their input with Burbank's Bob Hope Airport on noise issues and nighttime air traffic. She also announced that SB1818 for bonus density is being challenged.

5. DONE Announcements: DONE rep. Melvin Canas congratulated the new board members who were to be installed and announced an upcoming DONE training, to be held at North Valley City Hall, on Sat, May 31.

6. Prop 98 and 99: In the absence of the official spokesperson on these Prop issues, Cindy encouraged stakeholders to read up on them saying they are both controversial issues.

7. President's Presentation: Outgoing STNC President Cindy Cleghorn presented three President's Awards to outstanding members in the community and on the board:

- Education Rep Lydia Grant
- Sunland-Tujunga Alliance President Joe Barrett
- STNC Bylaws Chair Mark Seigel.

8. STNC Board Reports:

- Richard Stewart, Interfaith Rep, thanked Cindy for her important service as STNC President during some very troubling times.
- Ricky Grubb, Environmental Rep, reminded the board that the new Community Plan is still in the formative process where interested persons can give input to guide the future of the community for the next 20 years.
- Nina Royal, Safety Rep, said that the First Aid class previously scheduled, had to be cancelled due to low attendance. But the CERT class is ongoing. To reschedule the First Aid class, 20 people must RSVP to Nina. The fee is \$20. S-T Servs will meet on May 15 at N. Valley City Hall.
- Linda Brand, Treasurer, said as of 5/11, STNC had \$33,500+ left in their City account. She reminded the Board they need to ratify the new budget at the June meeting and need good ideas for funding that will directly benefit the community of Sunland-Tujunga.

- Bill Manning, Transportation Rep, said that due to the City's budget deficit, he has been notified that needed work will not be done to repair the roads and streets in Sunland-Tujunga.
- Olina Lowe spoke about her work with the Sunland Senior Center.
- Dan McManus, Outreach Chair, announced the next meeting for Thurs, May 22. He reminded the Board that they had approved \$5,000 for the July 4th event and encouraged the stakeholders to stay in town for the Holiday, which falls on a Friday.
- Lydia Grant, Education Rep, informed the Board that LAUSD had offered to establish two Charter School campuses at Mountainview and Pinewood Elementary. However, due to opposition, Pinewood has been removed from the Charter School list. She introduced the new Youth board member for STNC, Elizabeth. She reported that the Girls Junior Varsity won their division, which the Girls Varsity is still in the competition. For the July 4th event, Lydia said they are working on getting the school police to work the event. Lydia is also trying to get fines increased for traffic crimes committed in school zones, and to expand the zone. She said this will help keep the kids safer and raise money to pay for police officers.

9. Presentation: Council Member Wendy Greuel: The Councilmember reported that the Budget Committee has approved the City's budget and will not be cutting any neighborhood council funds next year. During their research into the proposed \$7 billion L.A. City budget, they found \$92 million. This money will also help reinstate the libraries and Recreation and Parks to the current level. Some of that money came from what she called 'budget dust.' A property that was being allocated for a police headquarters was not needed – that generated \$38 million; a lawsuit was settled with the Redevelopment Agency – that generated \$28 million, and money was saved by choosing to pay the City's pension plan early rather than quarterly. The budget now goes to full City Council on May 19th and she expects it will be approved. She also announced that if a City Council member introduces any new programs, they also have to find a way to cut the same amount out of the existing budget.

Board Member Installation: The Councilmember then installed the new board presenting Special Proclamations to STNC outgoing president Cindy Cleghorn and incoming president Dan McManus. The new board members are: Dan McManus, President, Victor M. Castro, IV – 1st Vice President – Community Improvement, 2nd Vice President – Outreach, Mark Seigel, Treasurer, Cindy Cleghorn, Secretary, , Nina Royal, Cindy Cleghorn, Bill Manning, Olina Lowe – Region 1 reps, Jenny Rodriguez (not present) and Berj Zadoian – Region 2 reps; Deborah Ray and Ben Vantertuin – Region 3, Belinda Holm and Ed Novy – Region 4, Lydia Grant, Mose Mose, Elizabeth Jahelka, Richard Stewart, Ricky Grubb, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Marti Marshall and John Blue – Group Representatives, Shirley Kellstrom Parliamentarian.

Questions from stakeholders:

Mark Dodell mentioned how the reps for Home Depot refused to sign an oath at the DAC meeting. The Councilmember assured the board that everyone is watching this process to ensure that it's on the up and up and that HD follows the rules. She said that she is watching the Planning and Building and Safety Departments, as well, to make sure the process is open and transparent

and that people follow the rules. Michelle Sahfran spoke about pothole problems at Upper Hillhaven Ave. 9500 –9400 and Tranquil Way and an area where the street has caved in and signage is missing. The Councilwoman told her that some streets are going to have to wait to be reconstructed if the damage is great. Other streets that are not as damaged will receive slurry seal.

A stakeholder asked whether government department will have their funding absorbed by the City if they don't spend it by the end of the fiscal year. The Councilwoman said some of those monies will be swept into the General Fund to balance the budget. But if funding is already allocated, those departments can keep it and carry it over. It all goes through a review process.

Another stakeholder thanked Wendy for the repair of a street problem on Foothill.

Ricky Grubb thanked the Councilwoman for helping defeat the Las Lomas project. He reminded her that the issue of preserving the environment is very important to this community and thanked her for her preservation efforts. He then asked how she can help facilitate the movement of wildlife to cross the freeways? The Councilwoman noted several preservation projects that apply to open space in the area: The newest is a private contribution of 500 acres on Sunland Blvd across from the 210 freeway. On June 1st, Prop K money was secured to purchase 225 acres of land in LaTuna Cyn. Another 150 acres were purchased above La Tuna Canyon making it the second largest park in the SF Valley. And there was the 600 acres that were purchased from the Canyon Hills Project. She will continue to look for strategic parcels of land to preserve and part of that is looking for the wildlife corridors.

Richard Stewart thanked the Councilwoman for keeping trash off LaTuna Canyon.

The Councilwoman then asked the board to consider approving the budget item for Q Star cameras and she will provide matching funds. Vic Castro reminded her that she is invited to do the annual Season Opener coin toss on Sept 12 for the first home game at Verdugo Hills HS.

Dan McManus then assumed leadership of the new STNC board and asked the community to pull together and move things forward.

10. DAC Report: Chair Vic Castro introduced CD2's Dale Thrush who gave the following report:

- Verdugo Hills Golf Course: The City and Council District are still working on an Agreement. Some progress has been made and a price is under negotiation. He believes the sale will go through with the current owner receiving tax credits from the IRS.
- Home Depot: On April 26, the community meeting was held, attended by the hundreds of people. The facilitators are compiling a report from that session. On Monday, the DAC held a special meeting for HD's presentation. The actual presentation lasted for only 10 minutes. But the next four hours consisted of questions being asked of the HD reps. It was once again

clear that the community is steadfastly opposed to HD. HD is scheduled to make a presentation to the Foothills Trails District NC Land Use Committee on the first Tuesday in June. Dale said they may present to Sun Valley NC, as well. Their lawsuit with the City is on hold so but a community dialogue/mediation is still needed. HD has filed a Project Permit Compliance Review application with the City but the City has not yet accepted it. Christopher Joseph is the consultant they are using for their environmental report.

Returning to the STNC meeting, (Ray/Royal) moved that a letter be written to FTDNC asking them to support STNC in their opposition to Home Depot. The motion carried: 13-4-1.

Victor then announced that Consensus Planning (hired by HD) was taking notes and asked them to remind HD that the next DAC is on Monday, June 2nd for the wrap up of their community presentation.

Other DAC Announcements:

- Community Planning meetings will take place Tues, May 20, at Fenton Ave. Charter school and Thurs., June 5th from 7 – 9 p.m. at McGrorarty Arts Center in Tujunga.
- There will be a Community Plan update at Bolton Hall, Thursday night at 7 p.m.
- Baseline Mansionization Ordinance: Tomi Bowling reported that the City Council passed on May 6th this ordinance, citywide, to limit mansionization. She noted that the original mansionization plan was written in Sunland-Tujunga and is stricter. Everyone was informed to tune in to Channel 5 at 10 p.m. on Thurs., May 15th for a program on this.
- Sunland- Tujunga Alliance: Abby Diamond, STA secretary, accepted the President's Award for Joe Barrett and thanked the board for it from Joe. She said the STA looks forward to another year of open space, preservation, keeping things transparent, and a continued campaign to oppose HD. Mr. LoGrande, the City's Chief Zoning Administrator will be reviewing HDs environmental documents to determine what level of environmental review is required. She asked for letters to be written to Mr. LoGrande to let him know an EIR is needed.
- Also, STA is sponsoring Joe Barrett as Honorary Sheriff for S-T in June. You can support his campaign by purchasing tickets for one dollar.

The DAC put forth two motions: To recommend Aram Avayan be appointed to the DAC. To approve a signage plan for 6501 Foothill Blvd. The motions were approved unanimously.

- The Home Depot has been invited to return to the DAC on Monday, June 2nd. The meeting will take place at North Valley City Hall at 7 p.m.

11. Treasurer's Report, Mark Seigel reported the STNC account balance stands at \$33,508.26. With the rollover of these funds to next year plus the new allocation, he estimates the budget to be \$82,200. **(Seigel/Royal) moved to accept the budget presented for the next fiscal year. The motion carried unanimously.**

12. New Business:

1. Q Star: The Safety Committee postponed moving on the approval of up to \$3,500 for the Q-Star Camera to study it further.

2. Motion to ratify STNC committees for the 2008-2009 year.

(McManus/Cleghorn) moved to ratify the continuation of the Bylaws Committee and Safety Committee with Mark chairing Bylaws and Nina chairing Safety. The motion carried unanimously.

The other committees were not taken up at this time.

3. ABC7 Listens Town Hall event: Cindy explained that ABC would film a Town Hall meeting for the community at large to discuss any relevant issues. STNC would coordinate this with a possible date to be scheduled after July 4th.

4. DWP Event: Cindy reported that the DWP would like to do outreach with the local communities about their rate increase. Cindy will organize a local meeting with the other two NCs in the area. The Board was in favor of moving forward with this idea.

5. Signage Funding: Family Fun Days. **(McManus/Stewart) moved that STNC spend \$200 for signage from the Outreach Budget for the Family Fun Days event May 16 – 18, 2008 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Tujunga. Vic Castro made a friendly amendment to increase that amount to \$225 to get a sign right behind the stage for better visibility. The motion carried unanimously.**

6. Support the charter of the L.A.N.C.C. **(Cleghorn/Bowling) moved to approve and support this organization.** Cindy said that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition is a great place to get information on a wide range of issues. The organization has a lot of influence on City matters and she encouraged the Board to attend their meetings and to approve support for this organization. **The motion carried unanimously.**

7. SB1818: **(Cleghorn/Grubb) moved that the STNC communicate to the City Council the need for a moratorium on the City's implementation of SB1818 Bonus density ordinance.** Cindy said this ordinance eliminates public participation in the approval process for multifamily housing. **The motion carried unanimously.**

8. STNC support the Governor's Budget Stabilization Act. **(Cleghorn/Stewart) Moved that STNC support the Governor's Budget Stabilization Act.** Cindy explained that this for the State to continue putting aside excess profits during the year, so when it is needed, they can draw upon it. **The motion carried unanimously.**

9. STNC Chair report: Cindy asked stakeholders and board member to fill out the assessment form. The deadline is June 30th.

Board Comments:

- Vic Castro asked the board to review all the information presented in their binders.

- Dan McManus suggested the new board take the free online Ethics Training provided by DONE.
- Nina Royal attended the City's PLUM and heard about the new sober living ordinance. She suggested everyone write a letter to the City Council asking them to pass this ordinance. She also requested it be put on next month's STNC agenda.
- Mose Mose asked the Board to acknowledge Mt. Gleason Principal Debra Acosta and the others at the meetings.

The next meeting will be held Wed, June 11 at North Valley City Hall.

Meeting adjourned: 10:15 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One