

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 9, 2008
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason Ave., Sunland, CA 91040**

Attendance: 72, Board: 17, Audience: 55

1. **Call to Order** by Dan McManus, STNC President. Flag Salute by Girl Scout Troop 1831. **Introductions:** Dan introduced reps for elected public officials: Jackie Keene and Dale Thrush from CD2. Also introduced, Grayce Liu from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
2. **Roll Call:** Tomi Lyn Bowling, Ricky Grubb, Belinda Woodruff, Ed Novy, Marti Marshall, Mark Seigel, Dan McManus, Cindy Cleghorn, Olin Lowe, Deborah Ray, Nina Royal, Lydia Grant, Bill Manning, Elizabeth Jahelka, Ben Vandertuin. Jenny Rodriguez and Vic Castro arrived later. Absent: John Blue, Mose Mose, Richard Stewart and Berj Zadoian.
3. **Approval of Minutes for June 2008 Board Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**
4. **Public Comment:**
 - Michael Carpenter, Program Manager for Heaven on Earth Ranch invited stakeholders to their 4th annual Community Concert, Friday, July 25th at All Nation's Church. Tickets are \$10.00.
 - Jackie Keene, CD2 gave updates from Council District 2:
 - Councilmember Greuel sent her congratulations on the two successful July 4th events – the parade and fireworks.
 - Seventeen, new historic lights for Commerce are ready to be installed.
 - Filming is taking place on Foothill Blvd. in Sunland-Tujunga for FX's new TV drama "Sons of Anarchy." If there are any problems with the filming, please call Film LA: 213 977-8600.
 - Community Beautification Grants are now available for specific projects.
 - There are flyers from CD2 on the new cell phone law.
 - Responding to a question about the Foothill Commerce Town Center under construction, the tenants will be mixed use retail.
 - Grayce Liu, new DONE project coordinator, introduced herself. She was trained as a lawyer and has a background as a community educator in domestic violence.

- She is also serving as rep to FTDNC and Sun Valley NCs. In doing so, she would like to set up some opportunities for regional outreach in area for all 3 neighborhood councils.
- On Aug 16, 8:00 – 12:30 p.m. at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys, DONE is holding basic and advanced trainings for board members.
- She congratulated STNC for reaching five years as a neighborhood council. Her phone is: 323 972-7805. Office: 818 374-6851.
- Belinda Woodruff, board member, voiced concern about the lack of police response on illegal fireworks in the community. She noted that flyers had been sent out by the police asking residents to call '911' if they saw evidence of illegal fireworks. But she said when a stakeholder called she was told it was not an emergency and there was no police response.

5. Presentation: School Supplies for homeless students.

STNC Education Chair Lydia Grant introduced Angela Chandler, LCSW and Tosha Freeman of LAUSD's homeless education program. Angela is responsible for helping homeless students across the SF Valley. She said there are about 2,100 homeless students that they know of in this area. Her program provides school supplies to students living in temporary housing like motels, shelters, and on the streets. She noted that Hope Gardens in Lopez Canyon, Lakeview Terrace is the nearest shelter for the homeless. She talked about the statistics of homeless children, possible reasons for homelessness, what assistance these kids need and the way her program can help. They need donations of school supplies as well as household items for hygiene. Call: 213 765-2880.

Lydia is organizing a drive for the homeless students. Information on that will be available at a future STNC meeting. She added that this program also helps teen mothers get an education. Lydia noted that the kids who live in motels are forced to move every three weeks because they are not allowed to be permanent residents at motels. As a result, some of these kids are forced to live in cars or other temporary shelters.

6. Presentation: 4th of July Events Recap and recognition – Victor Castro IV spoke about the success of the fireworks event which raised over \$6,000 for the grant fund. He said the money will help fund school programs although it won't go to the Football Program, which is already well funded. Dan McManus talked about setting up the community grant fund and that it will be a matching funds process to provide kid's programs all year round.

7. Dale Thrush's CD2 Report: CD2 Planning Deputy Dale Thrush provided the following updates:

The new RFA District is due to replace the current S-T Mansionization Interim Control Ordinance when it expires mid September 2008. The Planning Dept. is

putting together a hearing on Aug. 28 on this program. They will present at the Aug. 13 STNC meeting.

On the Foothill Commerce Town Center's possible tenants, Dale said the landlord won't decide who to rent to until construction is further along.

Oro Vista Park – CD2 purchased 10 acres at the corner of Oro Vista and the Tujunga Wash (Big T) to develop a park. He said this project was stalled due to a lack of money. But under Prop K, the City's bond program for parks and rec., CD2 has submitted two requests which provide \$350,000 in funding to design and implement Oro Vista Park. He expects the project to be up and running in the next year. CD2 also has applied for Prop K monies to purchase a 225 acre parcel in the Verdugo Mountains.

Home Depot Update: HD's consultants and attorneys have submitted a project permit compliance review with the City. In April, they filed a preliminary application. In June, they submitted five reports on traffic, noise, air quality, phase 1 environment impact and economic urban decay. Under the 'stayed agreement' HD's project at the former K Mart will go through a review process with the City as long as they conduct a so called 'mediation' with the community.

Two months ago, they held a 'community dialogue' at Mt. Gleason School that they said was mediation. However, Dale pointed out that the response was overwhelmingly negative to HD from the 300 + community members who attended it. Also, this event did not meet the conditions set forth by the City for mediation.

Now HD wants to take another step toward mediation. They want to set up a meeting with a select group of people in the next round of their mediations. At this point, it is unclear who will participate or when this event will happen.

In response to a question about whether HD will have to complete a full Environmental Impact Report (as requested from the DAC), Dale said the Planning Dept has not yet made a decision about a need for an EIR.

A stakeholder asked Dale why LA Unified School District isn't opposing HD based on evidence of the proximity of their proposed store to the Woodward Elementary School. Dale said LAUSD doesn't have the power to veto projects.

Another stakeholder asked if CD2 has received all the documents generated at the community dialogue. Dale said they have not received any materials from that event.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course: Dale said this project is starting to move forward. CD2 has asked the Golf Course owner for an appraisal of the property. The owner wants a very high estimate but Dale said that won't affect the price CD2 offers for the property – it will just allow the owner to get a better tax deduction. Currently, CD2 believes they can raise \$6 million for that purchase to keep the Golf Course from being developed with housing.

In response to a question on the status of two vacant parcels adjacent to the golf course, Dale said some of that land is part of the 225 acres CD2 is purchasing under Prop K (north of La Tuna Cyn Rd). Another lot with ten acres

(the Duke property) is safe from development for the time being as an approval on that tract recently expired. However, he noted that the developer for Canyon Hills has been looking at that property.

Regarding a question about the Wired Café: Dale said that the owner of this business on Commerce is trying to resolve problems with DWP and the Planning Department. (This is an item that came before the DAC).

In response to a question about access to hiking trails at the FOND Family Open Space in Sunland, Dale noted that the FOND family purchase includes nearly 500 acres of open land with public access. (According to Bill Eick, board member for the Trust, there is a locked gate at the top of the road off of Sunland Boulevard, but hikers can access a section of this property from Sunland Blvd. by the 210 eastbound ramp, and from Teazel Canyon (a dirt road off of Sunland Blvd. by Johanna) and Rotta (off Sunland by Wheatland).

8. PRESENTATION: WHAT IS A Residential Floor Area District (RFA) DISTRICT FOR SUNLAND-TUJUNGA? - Freeman Baldwin, Tujunga

resident, presented an overview of Sunland-Tujunga's current FAR/ICO, the new Citywide Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, and Residential Floor Area District with Sample Calculations. Mr. Baldwin explained what the new mansionization ordinance covers and spoke about the differences between the old ordinance: FAR-ICO, which expires Sept. 19th, and the new ordinance, the Baseline Mansionization and RFA. Earlier this year, the City passed the new ordinance. While it exempts hillsides, it does restrict house sizes up to of 50% of the lot size. If the lot is 7,500 sq ft or greater, it limits them to 40% of lot size. Other definitions include an exclusion on basements and garages, a definition on breezeways and porches, and an inclusion of attics. Freeman suggested stakeholders who are interested in this ordinance attend the hearing the City is holding in August.

9. DWP Reclaimed Water Proposal: Ricky Grubb, STNC's Environmental Rep, talked about the DWP's proposal to reuse reclaimed water. He cautioned that the recycled water would not be tested or treated for chemical residue, such as prescription drugs that are present in wastewater. He talked about grey water and purple lines that would carry recycled water back into homes for irrigation purposes. He doesn't believe this proposal is legitimate for our area.

10. Design Advisory Committee, Victor Castro moved that STNC support the DAC's letter to City Planning opposing a change of use permit for 6736 Foothill Boulevard, formerly Arigato Drive In, for an auto use business. The motion carried unanimously.

STNC Secretary Cindy Cleghorn noted that she has contacted Carl's Jr. franchise about this property and they are potentially interested in it.

Victor moved that STNC support a letter from the DAC to Carl's Jr. and the proposed auto business owner asking them to have a phone conversation about this opportunity before making a final decision The motion carried.

The next DAC meeting will include a field trip to either Foothill Blvd. by Haines Canyon or a tour with Mr. Baldwin to see properties related to the new RFA. Meanwhile, Victor reported that the DAC is working on getting Home Depot to come to another meeting to respond to questions about their latest reports.

11. STNC 2008-09 Committee Appointments – Cindy Cleghorn, Secretary presented the following motions:

- Design Advisory Committee: New Member: stakeholder Charles vanAalst. Tabled.
- **Motion to establish STNC's Community Improvement Committee.** The purpose of this committee would be to seek out ways that STNC can improve the community in other areas. **The motion carried.**
- **Motion to establish an STNC Education Outreach Committee with Lydia Grant (chair), and committee members: Mose Mose, Carol Triunfo, Marie (Pinewood), Cheryl Powers, Mark Seigel, and Deborah Ray.** The purpose of this committee is to substitute for the absence of an active and effective PTA to surface and share practices employed by local LAUSD schools and parents for the purpose of improving the educational environment in the Sunland-Tujunga area. **The motion was amended to include Elizabeth Jahelka to the committee. The motion carried unanimously.** (It was noted that new board member Mose Mose has missed two consecutive board meetings. If he misses a third, he will be off the board per STNC bylaws).

12. Treasurer's Report – Mark Seigel presented the Budget Committee recommendations from their 6/26/08 committee meeting. **Mark moved that STNC approve STNC's revised FY08-09 Budget which totals \$79,675 for 2008-2009. The breakdown includes: Operations: \$29,225; Outreach: \$35,000, and Community Improvement: \$15,450. The motion carried unanimously.**

13. Outreach Committee - Nina Royal reviewed plans for outreach events for the next quarter including: National Night Out, Aug 5th 5 – 8 p.m. by Bolton Hall on Valmont and the Watermelon Festival, Aug. 8, 9 and 10th at Sunland Park. The Outreach Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month following the Safety Committee meeting at N. Valley City Hall. Their next meeting is Thursday, July 17th at 7 p.m.

Safety Committee: Nina invited stakeholders to attend the Safety Committee meeting on July 17th at 6 p.m. at N. Valley City Hall. She spoke about a parking issue the police are working on involving mobile homes. She also spoke about an upcoming safety class during the last quarter of the year.

14. Board Member Reports:

(Seigel/Bowling) moved that STNC Office Administrator Ed Rock receive a credit card to conduct STNC business. The motion carried.

- Cindy spoke about the DWP Oversight Committee meeting.
- Deborah Ray asked for suggestions on how to deal with a growing Day Laborer problem along Foothill Boulevard. She said 120 day laborers were counted recently on Foothill between Lowell and Sunland. She also spoke about a community improvement project that will involve apartment buildings.
- Marti Marshall announced a Scouts recruitment event in Sunland Park in Sept.
- Lydia Grant said she has spoken with the new District Superintendent for LAUSD who wants to work with the STNC to set higher standards for local schools. She also attended a meeting before the School Board to hear about a resolution being proposed for students' safety.

9. Old Business

Discussion/Action regarding coordination of DWP rate increase event in coordination with neighbor NCs. Tabled.

10. New Business

(McManus/Ray) moved to approve a letter to the Mt. Gleason School Principal to invite the formation of a Community Based Committee. The motion carried.

11. STNC Chair Report – Dan said that ABC 7 TV is willing to come to Sunland-Tujunga to film a community Town Meeting in November. Based on the board's interest in participating, he will try to secure a date.

12. Public Comments (non agenda items)

- Cindy referred to a DAC letter sent June 2nd to City Planning regarding 8040 Foothill, the former Kmart site. She has not yet received a reply.
- Dan asked the board to help him in moving the meeting along at a more efficient pace so they don't lose stakeholder's interest.
- Cindy reminded the board about a meeting before the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners on July 21 to share Best Practices. She will find out if that date is still good.
- Nina spoke about the American Heroes event at Hansen Dam and a classic car show on Roscoe Boulevard.

13. Meeting adjourned: 9:40 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One