

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2008
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason Ave., Sunland, CA 91040**

Attendance: 136, Board Members: 19, Stakeholders: 117

1. Call to Order by Dan McManus, STNC President at 7:12 p.m., flag salute.
Introduction of Board Members: John Blue, Elizabeth Jahelka, Mose Mose Jr., Cindy Cleghorn, Belinda Woodruff, Richard Stewart, Ricky Grubb, Mark Seigel, Dan McManus, Nina Royal, Olina Lowe, Tomi Bowling, Berj Zadoina, Marti Marshall, Lydia Grant, Ben Vandertuin, Deborah Ray, Ed Novy, and Shirley Kellstrom, parliamentarian. Jenny Rodriguez absent.

2. Police Report: Safety Chair Nina Royal introduced LAPD: Tujunga Senior Lead Officer Rich Wall and Sunland Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez. Officer Wall said crime has gone down largely due to efforts by their department's task force, which has made 104 felony arrests and confiscated a large cache of weapons. A homicide in Pacoima the previous evening involved two neighbors and resulted in an arrest of the suspect.

Dan introduced CD2 Planning Deputy Dale Thrush Field Deputy Jackie Keene and CD2 District Director, Nancy Hernandez.

3. Public Comment:

- CD2 Report: Jackie Keene thanked stakeholders who attended National Night Out and the 'Flip the Switch' ceremony on Commerce Ave. She announced a collection of hazardous wastes taking place Sat. August 16, a free Chip-a-thon for chipping horses with microchips, Sat. Oct. 4th and Councilmember Greuel's Annual Child Health and Safety Fair, Oct. 11 at Valley Plaza Rec. Center. She noted that she was wearing a purple ribbon to acknowledge the risks associated with the hot weather and urged pet owners and parents not to leave their pets in their cars during the summer.
- Andrea Manning of Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church announced a Bulgarian music concert taking place at their church on Johanna on August 24 at 6 p.m.
- Ricky Grubb spoke about the Community Plan update and how the new Specific Plans needs to offer protection for natural hillside areas with no up zoning and offer native plant rescued landscaping only. He asked everyone to get involved in planning the proposal of designated land uses for the community.

4. Open Forum with City Controller Laura Chick: Ms. Chick, a resident of Silverlake, said she was visiting STNC as City Controller. Chick will be leaving that position in ten months. She has formerly served as a L.A. City

Councilmember serving the West Valley and may consider running for a Councilmember seat again.

Ms. Chick gave an overview of some of the issues she is working on as City Controller. She also commented on the lawsuit City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo has filed against her to prevent her department from doing a performance audit of his office. In March, voters will decide on whether or not an audit should be held of the City Attorney's office. Stakeholders at STNC were overwhelmingly in support of this audit.

On disaster preparedness, she spoke about her audit to see whether the City is prepared for a major disaster. She noted that the City currently does not take advantage of services offered by the Red Cross for free stakeholder trainings. By performing this audit, she is looking for ways the City can do different functions better.

Next week, she will have a report out on her audit of the new City ordinance requiring mandatory spaying and neutering of dogs and cats. Question and Answer session: Stakeholders were then invited to ask Ms. Chick questions or express their opinions on her work:

- Marc Dodel spoke about 'pack rats,' – people who collect items and bring down property values for their neighbors and how he has gotten no cooperation from the City on a next door neighbor and a problem with rodents.
- Joe Barrett of the Sunland-Tujunga Alliance talked about the community's opposition to Home Depot and asked for help from Ms. Chick on this issue. Ms. Chick said she is very aware of the Home Depot issue here.
- Michelle Safron talked about her costs of cancer treatment and how the increase in fees for the trash collection are causing her hardship.
- Debby Beck talked about the beauraucracy involved with getting Building and Safety to sign off on her home addition, taking in excess of a year through Plan Check.
- Joe Panzarello talked about a need for change in City politics. His family is campaigning for Walter Moore for Mayor. He asked Ms. Chick if she supported Jamiel's Law (in reference to a child that was shot by gang members from Mexico, here in L.A.).
- Jose Compeau, Jr. asked how large a staff she has (24 auditors) and how her department functions. (She also uses outside firms to do audits).
- Belinda Woodruff asked about her solution to getting more police officers back on the streets by hiring civilians to do administration. (Ms. Chick said nothing has taken place despite promises by LAPD to support her measure).
- John Blue commended Ms. Chick on her work for the City.

For more information, go to: www.lacity.org/ctr

5. President's Announcements: Dan related how he and Mark Seigel went to a recent Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting where STNC was presented with an award from BONC, DONE and CD2 for Outstanding Service to the City of L.A.. Dan said that STNC is viewed by City Officials as very influential

and very effective as a NC. He was asked whether STNC members would be willing to speak to other NCs to share tips on effectiveness. Dan noted that STNC is effective due to the cooperation from the stakeholders to improve the community's quality of life.

6. Report on 2008 Family Fireworks Festival: Victor Castro said the STNC 2008 Family Fireworks Festival was a huge success raising \$8,000 for high school programs. Vic noted that Michael Lucas, former president of S-T Rotary, came up with the idea for a matching grant for every donation up to \$500. Money will go back to the high school's programs – up to \$500. The July 4th event was held at VHHS and the amount raised was the highest to date from this annual event.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Sergeant Herrold Egger for LAPD security and Jackie Keene from CD2.

Certificates were also presented to the following volunteers who worked on the Family Fireworks Festival: Andrea & Bill Manning (Entrance & Transportation), Tomi-Lyn Bowling (STNC Sponsorship Development), Tim Borquez (Entertainment Director), Mark Seigel (Event Security), the Verdugo Hills High School Football Team (Before, During & After Site Management), and Victor M. Castro, IV (Overall Event Coordination).

Sponsors of the event were acknowledged with framed certificates. These were awarded to:

American Realty Advisors
DVD World
Glen Pyle - Century 21 Crest
Kim's Pet Palace
Montrose Travel
Moore Brothers Sons & Daughters Construction
North Valley Reporter
Sunland-Tujunga Coordinating Council - Fran & Ray Loiselle
Sunland-Tujunga Lions Club
The Fish Lady
TheFoothillsForum.com
Tomi Realty, Inc.
Do-It Center
Councilwoman Wendy Greuel
Sunland-Tujunga Shadow Hills Rotary Club
Bank of America
Bonners Equipment & Party Rentals
C&M Printing & Copying
Foothill Performing Arts Council

CD2 also presented certificates to volunteers:

Dan McManus, STNC
Victor M. Castro, IV, STNC
Cindy Cleghorn, STNC
Mark Seigel, STNC
Nina Royal, STNC
Andrea Manning, STNC
Bill Manning, STNC
Regina Clark, Sunland-Tujunga Alliance
Jim Moore, Sunland-Tujunga Chamber
Sonia Tatulian, Sunland-Tujunga Chamber/Rotary
Fran and Ray Loiselle, S-T Coordinating Council
Jerry Hovsepian, Community Member
Tomi-Lyn Bowling, STNC
Pat O'Brien, American Legion
Ellis Robertson, S-T Rotary
Marynance Schellenbach, S-T Lions
Marti Marshall, STABLE
Tim Borquez, STNC
Verdugo Football Team

On a similar note, Nina Royal announced an STNC Certificate of Appreciation for businessman Gene Perino for his donation of kids toys and promotional items at National Night Out and at the August 5th Safety Fair. .

7. Presentation: Department of City Planning Department, Residential Floor Area District for S-T Community: Milena Zasadzien of City Planning provided an overview of the new, proposed ordinance to replace the Interim Control Ordinance in Sunland – Tujunga. The ordinance is needed because the ICO can not be extended again and has expired. The ordinance would govern the height and width of new builds (or add-ons) in the S-T area. Milena gave an overview for the formula being used to determine house sizes. She also showed how, historically, 80% of the existing buildings in S-T were built before the 1960s. Since that time, houses have doubled in size. She also spoke about exemptions, hardship exemptions, bonus provisions, and garage exemptions. The Planning Department will issue a staff report this week. On Aug. 28 there will be a presentation at the City Planning Commission, which will be the first step in getting this ordinance passed. She noted that the Council office is working hard to see that this ordinance passes speedily but letters of support would be helpful. She encouraged stakeholders to attend the City Commission meeting and public hearing. Comments can also be mailed to City Planning. Email: Milena Zasadzien@lacity.org 818 374-5054 or Bob.duenas@lacity.org 818 374-5072.

DAC Motion: (Castro/Grubb) moved that based on the DAC's motion, that STNC support a maximum residential floor area of .30 for the Sunland-Tujunga RFA (Residential Floor Area) including the floor area bonus provisions as recommended in the draft regulations. The DAC also moves

that the ordinance enacting the RFA for Sunland-Tujunga retroactively include project applicants under the new RFA standards who may have filed, or intend to file, permit applications but have not yet received permit approvals through the Planning Department or Building and Safety during the period between the time the regulating provisions of the ICO expires and the new RFA regulations become effective." The motion carried unanimously.

8. Calling of Special Meeting: Dan then closed the regular Board Meeting and opened the Special Meeting at 9:04 p.m. (McManus/Stewart) moved to approve the draft letter of support to McGroarty Arts Center – a non financial request. (See letter). The motion carried unanimously.

Claire Knowlton, director of McGroarty Arts Center then explained that they are seeking a grant to provide free art classes to seniors in the S-T area who live in assisted living facilities and other non mobile seniors.
The Special Meeting was adjourned at: 9:07 p.m.

**9. Resumption of Regular Board Meeting:
Public Comments:**

- Marc Dodel suggested that STNC consider demanding that the City require a full EIR of Home Depot, and if they do not require this, that the community should pursue a lawsuit against the City.
- Susan Potthoff, Safety Committee and SERVS member, asked that stakeholders enroll in the next Disaster Preparedness Training offered by the LA Fire Dept. The training will be held on Sept. 6th from 8 a.m. to noon and the fee is \$20.00. It is mandatory that twenty people enroll or the class will not be held. She recommended that this is one way area residents can take advantage of resources offered by the City to prepare them for disaster planning.
- Lydia Grant introduced Jodi Britton, president of the VHHS Boosters Club. Jodi said they need volunteers to help. See: www.verdugodons.com.
- Lydia spoke about a recent presentation by the Homeless Children Program at LAUSD. There is a great need for school supplies for kids who are homeless or living in temporary shelters. She said there are about 60 children known to be homeless in the S-T schools. Donations can be delivered to C&M Printing, 10034 Commerce, Tujunga. A 'Wish List' will be posted on the STNC website. Supplies are urgently needed for the start of school.
- Elaine Brown, COBRA, spoke about the Commerce Street Improvements and thanked Councilmember Greuel for donating \$500 toward the purchase of an old fashioned street clock for Commerce Street. The clock will cost \$15,000. Future fundraisers include an event on Aug 24 and a plant sale at Bolton Hall on Aug 23, 2008 as well as Art in the Park at Bolton Hall on Oct 18th.

- Tomi Bowling spoke for the Sunland Tujunga Alliance about an upcoming Bake Sale to raise money to fight the Home Depot. The event will be held on Sept. 20th at the Wired Café on Commerce. They need people to donate baked goods as well as customers to buy them.
- Deborah Ray circulated a petition to help the Wired Café in their efforts to improve their property on Commerce Street in time for their Grand Opening in Sept.

10: **Other DAC News:**

S-T Alliance's Sheri Smith asked stakeholders to write letters to City Planning on behalf of STA's stand re: HD. She said that efforts are moving forward by the City's Dispute Resolution Program to bring HD officials and supporters back to this area for a formal mediation. The STA is disputing the need for such a mediation since the public is overwhelmingly opposed to the opening of a HD store in this area.

CD2's Dale Thrush noted that the Stonehurst community in Shadow Hills won their request for a Historical Preservation Overlay Zone this week for the original stone houses there.

- He spoke about the Housing Element of the General Plan, which is a state required component of The Plan. He said the Housing Element is the City of L.A.'s response to the state showing how it can accommodate a certain number of new housing units – 113,000 citywide.
- He also spoke about the Day Laborer Ordinance, which the City Council approved this week. The proposal states that any new home improvement stores in the city will have to go through the conditional use process. He said this proposal might have no bearing on HD because it is not considered a 'new' building.
- He then responded to questions regarding street maintenance work on Foothill Blvd., check cashing stores that violate the Specific Plan, and efforts to close Discount Tires due to previous rulings by the city on that business.

11. **New Business:**

(McManus/Grubb) asked that Items b – d be voted on as a group and that Item a be considered separately.

b. Motion that STNC approve up to \$5,000 for 2009 Fireworks deposit to Pyro Spectaculars.

c. Motion to adjust the STNC FY08-09 budget by reducing STNC's elections by \$5,000, leaving \$3,000 in that line item and moving to STNC 2009 Fireworks line item.

d. Motion that STNC support the application for City of L.A. Historic Cultural Monument designation for Griffith Park filed by the Griffith Charitable Trust under the direction of Colonel Griffith and to send a letter of support to LA City Heritage Commission, Tom LaBonge, Chair of the LA City Council's Arts Parks Health and Aging Committee, Council members

Wendy Greuel, Recreation and Parks Commission, and Recreation and Parks GM Jon Mukri. The motion carried unanimously.

a. (McManus/Cleghorn) moved “That STNC create and ratify a Community Events Committee to coordinate various events to improve the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga. The committee chair will deliver monthly progress reports to the VP of Community Improvement.”

(Royal/Seigel) made a friendly amendment to the motion changing the word ‘events’ to ‘improvement projects.’ After lengthy discussion, (Bowling) called the question and the board approved closing discussion to take a vote.

The board then voted on the amendment to the motion. The motion carried.

The board voted on the full motion, **“That STNC create and ratify a Community Improvement Projects Committee to coordinate various improvement projects to improve the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga. The committee chair will deliver monthly progress reports to the VP of Community Improvement.”** The motion carried.

12. Approval of July 2008 Minutes: (McManus/Seigel) moved to approve the July 2008 Board Meeting minutes. The motion carried.

13. Board Member Reports:

Outreach Committee: Nina’s committee has voted to accept proposals to put on four events this year in the S-T area that have been recommended by Jerry Hovsepian. Reminded each Region Rep to attend Outreach meetings as required.

Safety Committee: Nina asked that board members show up for this meeting or send a representative each month. Lack of attendance is hampering their efforts.

Design Advisory Committee: Vic asked stakeholders to advise him of any community improvements they would like to see. To date, the top two requests are for improvements to traffic and business on Foothill Blvd.

Environmental Committee: Ricky Grubb asked the board to make the effort to get involved with the Community Plan while there is still time to designate land uses for this area. Otherwise, the community will be locked in to a plan they may not like for the next twenty years.

Meeting adjourned: 9:58 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One

