

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 7 PM**  
**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall**  
**7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

**Attendance: 52, Board members: 17, Audience: 35**

1. **Call to Order** at 7:08 p.m. by Dan McManus, STNC President  
Flag Salute Ceremony led by Boy Scout Troop 50 from Sun Valley.

**2. Introduction of CD2 Planning Deputy Dale Thrush:**

- Dale announced that the new residential ordinance dealing with mansionization in Sunland Tujunga was to go the L.A. City Council that Friday; he predicted it to pass.
- Regarding Home Depot, the Dispute Resolution Program hit a snag by insisting on closed Meetings, which violate City statutes. As a result, the Council office is not permitting them to utilize any city facilities for their meetings.
- The purchase of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course is moving forward. Dale said those involved are now looking at some significant funding money as well as ways to structure the purchase from the current owners that will provide the seller with a tax advantage by working with the City (as opposed to selling the property to a developer). The Santa Monica Conservancy's tax lawyers are now working on this to obtain the property.
- The property at the corner of Oro Vista and Big T Canyon is under focus. It has already been approved for a large development of single-family homes under R-S zone. However, because that area is considered a prime wildlife corridor, they have asked the Planning Department to evaluate and address this. STNC Environmental Rep. Ricky Grubb asked Dale to let Council member Greuel know that the community is very interested in protecting this parcel of land, which is also part of the Rim of the Valley Trail.

**Crime Report: Sunland Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez** reported that crime is down – there were 20 crimes reported in the entire area (which includes adjacent communities in the Foothill District). Of those reported, 14 were in Sunland Tujunga. In Shadow Hills there were reports of someone causing property damage to mailboxes and bus stop benches. There have also been problems with food vendors warring with each other. There was a shooting over the weekend regarding a catering truck and a vendor. On another note, the new technology installed in the police cars (funded partially by STNC) to read license plates is no longer working. Officer Martinez said the warranty had run out and the software, though installed just last year, is already outdated. They are speaking with the vendor, in Canada, to try to get it working again. He reminded everyone to keep their doors and windows locked to deter would be criminals from breaking in to their homes and cars. He noted that most crimes are residential robberies. Finally, he warned stakeholders that there is a lottery ticket scam going on where a party offers to trade lottery tickets for jewelry or other valuable goods. The tickets are phony.

**Introduction of STNC Board:** John Blue, Tomi Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, Lydia Grant, Ricky Grubb, Elizabeth Jahelka, Bill Manning, Marti Marshall, Dan McManus, Mose Mose, Edmund Novy, Nina Royal, Mark Seigel, Richard Stewart, Belinda Woodruff and Berj Zadoian. Vic Castro and Deborah Ray arrived later.

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes were approved as presented.

4. **Secretary's report:** STNC Secretary Cindy Cleghorn noted that she has received a letter of resignation of Board member Olina Lowe, Region 1 rep.

5. **Item 10C. (Manning/Bowling) moved to approve Thomas Vincent Sickora as the new District 1 rep.** The motion carried: 11-1-1. Mr. Sickora gave a statement about his interest in serving on the Board: He has a home-based business in the garment industry and lives in Sunland. He has lived in this area since 1988. Mr. Sickora then took a seat at the table for the remainder of the meeting.

**6. Public Comment:**

Jackie Keene, CD2 Field Deputy announced: a "Chipathon" for horses on Sat. Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> at Stonehurst Park in Shadow Hills, a Child Health & Safety Fair sponsored by CD2 on Sat., Oct 11 at Valley Plaza Recreation Center in North Hollywood, the deadline for Neighborhood Beautification Grants is on Oct. 21, the Mayor's Day of Service (Big Sunday) takes place on Nov. 22. Jackie suggested that this service day could be used for community projects such as replacing trees that are dead or damaged along Foothill Boulevard through the Million Trees Program.

- Kamela McAllister, a stakeholder and parent of a student at VHHS asked for community support to remove the head baseball coach there, whom she said has taken money from the Boosters Club and misspent funds the kids have earned.
- Sue Dingman, another parent of a student at VHHS reiterated the call to action saying this struggle has been going on for the past year and a half. She said the parents have gone to LA Unified School District as well as the police but have not made much progress. They need community support and plan to have a petition at the next meeting.
- Marc Dodell suggested the community should sue the City regarding the proposed Home Depot.
- Andrea Manning of Shadow Hills Prysbyterian Church announced their "Mission Possible" project on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. To raise money for working on community projects, the church is holding a fundraiser on Sept. 15 where, starting at 5 p.m., a portion of the proceeds of all sales made at the Wired Café will go to their project. She asked for community support by making a purchase at the Café on that evening.
- Carole Lutness, a Democratic candidate for the 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, announced her campaign platform which includes: protecting the environment, providing affordable health care, ensuring school funding, and balancing the budget. [www.lutness4assembly.com](http://www.lutness4assembly.com).
- Mark Seigel is soon going to offer free, Ham Radio classes (Date TBA) on Tuesdays.
- Cindy Cleghorn spoke about the upcoming Kiwanis Duck Splash fundraiser on Oct. 18 at Verdugo Park. Adopt some ducks.
- Tomi Bowling invited the public to a community bake sale for the Sunland Tujunga Alliance and COBRA at the Wired Café on Sat. Sept. 20 on Commerce Ave. She also noted that the City trashcans along Foothill Blvd. need to be emptied and maintained. She asked for help from the community in contacting CD2 to help with this as it will improve the entire look of the area and is good for business.
- Lydia Grant spoke about giving support to the parents and community members on the STNC's Education Committee and introduced two committee members present [REDACTED].
- Nina Royal spoke about "Saving Los Angeles Project," (SLAP) an effort to hold City government accountable. Their next meeting takes place Oct. 4 in East LA. [www.ronla.com](http://www.ronla.com).

7. **Speaker: Judith Valles, Mission College President on their proposed Satellite Campus for Sunland- Tujunga.** Ms. Valles gave an overview of the campus they are planning

(providing they receive funding) which would be located in the vacant stores across from Starbucks on Foothill Blvd. in Sunland. She noted that there is an unmet need for a college in the area and that, currently, students taking courses at Mission College have to take two buses to get there; whereas, to get to Glendale College, they only have to take one. She talked about how in this unstable economy the local workforce needs to be retrained and retooled to compete in the global marketplace. And how adults and kids need to be prepared. With Mission College located at the proposed site on Foothill Blvd., they will be able to do so. She asked for the community's support on Measure J in November, a bond measure to benefit community colleges.

**8. Treasurer's Report:** Mark Seigel reported that STNC is solvent, however, there is a problem with he and Ed Rock (STNC Administrator) getting clearance to use the STNC's credit cards for board business. They are working on getting that straightened out.

**9. Design Advisory Committee Report:**

DAC Chair Victor M. Castro introduced the following recommendations by the DAC for approval by STNC:

- a. **Approve Chas. Van Alst, a general contractor raised in Tujunga to the DAC. The motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Van Alst introduced himself to the board and noted that while he is a contractor for a living, he is also a longtime resident and is interested in preserving the historical features in the area.
- b. **Motion to approve up to \$500 from the DAC budget for a Business Outreach Brochure. The motion carried unanimously.** Tomi Bowling, who designed the brochure with her husband, told the board that the brochure sample has already generated interest in the community by the owner of a Cineplex. As a commercial realtor, she would like to contact the current owners of the used car lot (Sanland Auto) across from Burger King on Foothill regarding possible use of this site.
- c. **That the DAC send a letter of disapproval to the City Attorney regarding the process of Mediation Dispute now underway (in reference to Home Depot). The motion carried unanimously.**

Vic then gave an overview of the Community Update Plan and where it stands right now. He then gave a status report on the DAC's new committees:

- The Community Improvement Committee is still in the formation process. For the remainder of the year, they will coordinate and define their goals.
- Community Events Team is already up and running under Jerry Hovesejian and in coordination with the STNC Outreach committee.
- Environmental Controls Team led by Ricky Grubb will deal with "conditions accountability" for future and current projects approved by the DAC.
- Better Business Team led by Tomi Bowling will monitor businesses in the commercial area. Community Beautification Team under Cindy Cleghorn will coordinate and facilitate improvements to the community such as having a median that announces motorists are entering Sunland-Tujunga, trash can replacement, code enforcement for illegal signage and the raising of STNC banners.
- Traffic and Transportation led by Bill Manning will investigate, research and implement solutions to our current "overly impacted" community.

On all the committees, the DAC will spend the remainder of 2008 coordinating and populating committees, then in 2009, begin meetings.

**(Castro/Cleghorn) moved that STNC approve Ricky Grubb's appointment to the DAC's Community Improvement committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

Vic then invited the public to attend upcoming football games at Verdugo Hills High School, for which he is Head Coach.

#### **Other DAC Announcements:**

Cindy announced that the STNC website now had new documents related to the Home Depot including their Environmental Study, the rebuttal to that study, and other new documents. Public hearings will be forthcoming for a proposal by an auto repair facility at Plainview and Apperson. An effort is underway to get all the ordinances and codes passed by the L.A. City Council updated. Information on the Zoning Code Reform can be seen on the STNC website. A proposal to expand Caesars Banquet Hall on Foothill Boulevard has been opposed by the DAC. There are also zoning and public safety issues there.

10. **Safety Committee**, Nina Royal talked about an Earthquake Preparedness Drill being planned in November for this area. (Details forthcoming).
11. **Outreach Committee**, Nina announced: Shrek 3 will be the Movie in the Park, shown on Saturday, Sept. 20 at Little Landers Park. On Oct. 13, "Top of the Rock," an event honoring outstanding community members will be held at Caesars banquet hall on Foothill Blvd. On Oct 18, there will be a multicultural festival in Tujunga at Valmont and Commerce (block party) held in conjunction with Art in the Park at Bolton Hall.

#### **12. Board Member Reports**

Mark Seigel talked about a statewide proposal for the California Bullet Train, which will be a new high-speed commuter train planned for CA. The train will have stops along the way from San Diego to San Francisco. He estimated that it would take only 2 hours, 20 minutes to go from L.A. to S.F. on that train and that it will go under and over existing infrastructure. The estimated cost is around \$33 billion. Mark noted that the Governor has signed a bill to approve this project and that it would be a wonderful advancement for CA commerce.

#### **13. New Business**

- a. **(Grubb/Blue) moved that STNC approve a motion to establish the board's support to design two, new specific plan overlays for inclusion in the new Community Plan: one for Hillside Area Native Habitat Protection and one for the Tujunga Wash Wildlife Corridor and Habitat Protections. The motion carried unanimously.** Cindy suggested that Ricky provide the DAC with regular updates on this as he progresses. Lydia commended Ricky for his environmental efforts.
- b. (Grubb) presented a motion, which was later withdrawn, to seek out and apply for grants as a rep of the board from the National Parks Service Rivers and Trails Assistance Program. And with board approval, to seek out and enter into alliances with government agencies and non-profits who protect open space and wildlife, trails and watersheds in furtherance of this effort. Dan McManus told Ricky that board approval was not necessary. That, as STNC president, he would appoint him to serve in this function for the Board.
- c. **(Cleghorn/Ray) moved that STNC approve up to \$500 from the STNC's Election budget to support the audio/videotaping of the Oct. 11, 2008 Congress of Neighborhoods event in L.A. at City Hall in conjunction for Mayor's Budget Day.**

**The motion carried 15-1-1.** Cindy said that this donation would be part of an overall project funded by several neighborhood councils, who will all get copies of this event. She noted that the Congress would be a great training tool for board members providing all the tools and contacts for getting things done in the City.

- d. Discussion/Action to request L.A. City Council's Education and Neighborhoods Committee to extend time for review of Financial Disclosure for neighborhood council boards 90 days CF08-0351. Since this item has been taken off the docket at present, Cindy said there was no need to vote on this. She will keep an eye on this and inform the STNC board when it comes up again.
- e. **(Cleghorn/Seigel) moved, "Be it resolved that the STNC supports the formation of the new "DWP Committee" and, "Be it resolved that the STNC's Cindy Cleghorn and alternate, Ricky Grubb, be appointed to the new DWP Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**
- f. **(Cleghorn/Seigel) moved that STNC support a resolution regarding Annual Growth and Infrastructure Review based on illegal development that has taken place in the LaBrea/Willoughby area and a subsequent lawsuit. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **14. Board Reports:**

Lydia Grant favored the use of the North Valley City Hall for future STNC meetings. She feels it is a better location and that she feels pressure from the school (as Education rep to STNC) when meetings are held at their facility. She also noted that the Mt. Gleason Observatory project is on again after five years of work. Mr. Ireland has decided not to accept another offer at a different school. As a result of a lead-contaminated building being removed on campus, there will be room for a giant outdoor learning center to be used by the community.

Mark Seigel asked the board to use the accounting forms when making a motion for a purchase by STNC. Otherwise, DONE will not approve the funding.

Nina Royal reminded the board about the Mayor's Day of Service on Nov. 22. She would like suggestions on projects to be done in the community. She can accept up to 20 projects. Nina also asked that the board schedule a Special Meeting to discuss Measure J and Prop B, to name a few.

DONE Rep Grayce Liu apologized for being late. She is working on a project for another NC and will be late for future meetings. She noted that the Congress of Neighborhoods takes place the same day as the Mayor's Budget Day. The Mayor is asking each NC to send two reps to the Budget Day event.

A general poll of the board showed that they were in favor of holding future STNC meetings at North Valley City Hall. Cindy noted that the Oct and Nov meetings have already been funded for Mt. Gleason, but after that time, they can change locations.

#### **15. Meeting Adjourned: 9:40 p.m.**

**Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One.**