

**SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7 PM  
Mt. Gleason Middle School  
10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue, Sunland, CA 91040**

**Attendance: 91, Board: 18, Audience: 73**

**Call to Order** by STNC President Dan McManus at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Flag Salute. Introduction of STNC Board, Ed Novy, Linda Castillo, Berj Zadoian, Richard Stewart, Belinda Woodruff, Jenny Rodriguez, Ricky Grubb, Nina Royal, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Shirley Kellstrom, Tomi Bowling, Mose Mose, Marti Marshall, Deborah Ray, Lydia Grant, & John Blue.

**LAPD Senior Lead Officer** Larry Martinez gave crime stats. With summer on its way, break ins are also increasing as many people are leaving their windows open and unlocked when they leave home. Officer Martinez recommended closing and locking windows to prevent burglaries. He also spoke about last week's clean up and removal of the homeless in the Wash.

**STNC Chair Report** – Dan McManus acknowledged STNC's 6th anniversary as a neighborhood council and spoke about the City Council's proposal to drastically reduce NCs funding, thus rendering them ineffective. He suggested that stakeholders unite in opposing any future cuts to the NC system to keep the community representation strong. He also noted that he had received a thank you letter from the Little Landers Historical Society for a recent STNC vote to donate office equipment to them.

**CD2 Report** - Jackie Keene announced that filming is taking place on the streets of Sunland/Tujunga – Commerce Ave. in particular. Both a TV series and a motion picture are filming. Anyone with concerns can contact "Film LA," the city's liaison to the film companies: (213) 977-8600.

**Recognition: Lydia Grant presented Certificates of Appreciation from STNC to L.A. School Police Officers Robles and Kegeyan** for their efforts in subduing a man with a shotgun outside Mt. Gleason Middle School on March 16, 2009. Several other School Police officers were in attendance for the award. CD2 also presented Certificates of Appreciation to the Officers as did LAUSD Board Member Tamar Galatza.

**Group Rep Board Seat: The Board unanimously voted for Bill Manning to fill the vacant Group Rep position. Bill previously served on the STNC board in Region 1.**

**Letter of Resignation:** Newly appointed board member Luther Bedoyan resigned his board seat due to a scheduling conflict. **The Board voted to accept his resignation and will open the Region 1 seat for a replacement to be voted in at the next meeting in June.** Region 1 extends from the 210 freeway to Mt. Gleason Ave. and lies north of Foothill.

**Public Comment:**

- Century 21 Crest rep. Ira Bland talked about the impact the Mayor's proposed budget will have on homeowners. He pointed out that home owners will have to repair sidewalks around their property at the time of sale and also pay for tree removal costs if that is the

cause. He urged stakeholders to contact their City Council member and ask them to vote to remove this item from the proposed budget.

- Greg Bartz, DWP Government and Neighborhood Relations Liaison, explained rate increases and distributed info on the Mayor's 20 year Water Plan. He announced their Payment Assistance Program for stakeholders who qualify and pointed to their website: [www.ladwpneighborhoodnews.com](http://www.ladwpneighborhoodnews.com) which offers information on projects taking place in the community.
- Lloyd Hitt invited the public to their talent show, Sat. 5/23, which features music and comedy. This event is a fundraiser for Bolton Hall and will take place at the Elks Club. He also encouraged stakeholders to support the American Legion's Memorial Day Service or to attend other services in honor of fallen veterans.
- Kate, a stakeholder, asked what measures could be taken for noise abatement in her neighborhood. Her concerns are with loud, antiquated air conditioners from neighboring buildings.
- Mose Mose talked about his dedication to the local schools from a parent's perspective. He asked that everyone work together on any issues with the schools to resolve problems.
- Andrea Manning, Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church, invited the public to their annual Rummage Sale on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The money supports their mission work throughout the community.
- Richard Stewart talked about the Junior Rotary Club of ST's Anti-Drug Walk on May 30<sup>th</sup>. He asked stakeholders to support the students' efforts to raise money with this effort and others they are doing.
- John Blue asked the community to stand up to the City Council's budget cuts and work with the Ethics Committee to prevent NCs and the Ethics Commission from losing their funding.

**Safety Committee** – Nina Royal introduced Susan Potthoff who spoke about a recent CERT update training. She said that there are between 400 and 500 *CERT* trained residents in the area but only 3 attended the recent refresher training. She urged stakeholders to attend the refresher classes whenever they can as there are new techniques that have come about since the Chatsworth train tragedy. CERT trainings are free and offered as a service by the L.A. Fire Department to equip residents with basic training for first aid and emergency/crisis skills.

**Outreach Committee** - Nina Royal talked about the Sexual Predator Forum which will provide training to address this growing problem. She also announced the Our Lady of Lourdes Family Fun Days in Tujunga from May 15-17, 2009 and the Mountain View School's Neighborhood Carnival on June 6, 2009. Paul Armbruster added that this fundraiser, Fun in the Sun, features a Luau. It is being put together by the PTA with help from all the area organizations and associations to raise money to supplement the school's funding. They need donations of both time at the event and money. On May 30, the Valley Regional Congress will be held at

Panorama High School in Panorama City. Also on May 30, there will be a Zero Waste Citywide Conference at Cathedral Plaza in L.A.. Dan added that a rally will take place at City Hall on Friday, May 15 by all the city's NC to protest cuts to NC funding. He also talked about the S-T July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade & Fireworks at VHHS.

8. **Land Use Committee** - Tomi Lyn Bowling reported:
- The recent clean up at Tujunga Wash and the successful removal by the police of a homeless encampment which was creating a toxic trash site on this environmentally sensitive area. The site is still owned by the Angeles Golf Course but is in discussions with Santa Monica Conservancy to donate the land to them for their management and preservation as Open Space.
  - This Friday, the long awaited Draft EIR is expected for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Tujunga.
  - Target is still in discussion with Home Depot over the use of the former K Mart site, which is being proposed as a joint venture – possibly with L.A. Mission College for a satellite campus.
  - Tomi also is talking with Trader Joes about a future store in this area. This effort will require petitions to be circulated to show that there is interest in this community.
  - There will be a full day CEQA Workshop on June 7, 2009 at North Valley City Hall for anyone who wants to attend. The DEIR for VHGC will be reviewed.
  - The T Mobile cell phone tower proposed for Canyon Market on Tujunga Canyon Blvd. was denied by the Zoning Administrator after objections by the community.
  - At the next LUC meeting on May 18, 2009, there will be presentations by Discount Tire, 6511 Foothill and the owner of a property at 6826 Valmont being proposed for a 7-unit building.

**The Board voted to approve the Land Use Committee's recommendations:**

**1) Supporting the Los Angeles Department of Transportation in their objection to a change in the City's law regarding Taxi Cab parking in residential neighborhoods. The LUC is in favor of keeping existing laws intact. (CF-07-3326).**

**2) Supporting Assembly Bill 766, Assemblyman Paul Krekorian's Safe Streets Bill, which gives communities control over speed limits in their neighborhoods.**

CD2 Planning Director Dale Thrush noted that Councilwoman Wendy Greuel would not be able to attend the meeting as she was still involved in discussions with the City's Budget Committee. He reported that the NC funding had been restored from a low of \$11,000 earlier in the week up to \$45,000 (\$5,000 lower than the current budget).

He announced that the homeless encampment adjacent to the Angeles National Golf course was cleared out last week. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is considering taking the 288 acres owned by the Golf Course, which would preserve it from development. The Zoning Administrator is now reviewing the original approval granted to the Golf Course ten years ago when they acquired the land to build the golf course. About 72 conditions and a few hundred mitigation measures are being examined. Once a ruling is issued the golf course will be given a Short List which they have to fulfill. Another hearing will be held a year after this process is complete to review it again. Meanwhile, the Golf Course has finished their new clubhouse, which will feature a restaurant to open in a month. Also, new hiking and biking trails are going to be put in around the Wash.

Oro Vista Park – The ten acres purchased with Prop K money on Oro Vista and Grove are still frozen as funding is not available to tear down the house that is on that property. In the future, it will become a passive park.

Dale also spoke about concerns over speeding motorists as well as the reverse – concerns over having speed traps put in place in the community. He also gave updates on other community issues and addressed questions from stakeholders.

### **Bylaws Committee Report**

- a. Chair Mark Seigel presented the Board with recommendation on necessary STNC Bylaws amendments for the 2010 STNC Elections. **(Bowling/Ray) moved to approve the Bylaws Committee recommendations and forward to the City Clerk. The motion carried unanimously.** Mark noted that the City - run Election will take place next March 2010.
- b. Mark also gave an update on the need for Board members to complete the DONE Ethics Training.

### **Treasurer's Report.– Mark Seigel**

- a. Mark presented the Board with a detailed update on the STNC's budget and expenses. At this point in time, \$34,272.80 is remaining in the budget.
- b. Mark **presented the first draft of the proposed 2009-10 STNC Budget. He explained that this is a formula, not a strict budget. The Board approved the Draft Budget with one objection.**

### **Board Member Reports:**

- John Blue gave an update the West Nile Virus, which is present in our community and which he has suffered from.
- Lydia Grant noted that the L.A. School Board voted to support NCs in asking the City Council not to cut funding.
- Marti Marshall encouraged stakeholders to attend Memorial Day events noting the Boy Scouts' participation.
- Mose Mose talked about student testing now underway in the schools.
- Ricky Grubb announced that he will be giving up his Environmental seat on the Board next year.
- Belinda Woodruff asked stakeholders to support a Candidates Forum to find a new City Council rep for this area.
- Richard Stewart welcomed Bill Manning back to the Board. He encouraged participation in the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, which is still accepting sponsorship.
- Ed Novy talked about workshops being held on property taxes.

**Approval of Minutes** The board approved the acceptance of the STNC Minutes from the 4/8/09 meeting.

### **New Business**

- a. **(McManus/Marshall) presented a motion to approve a funding request of up to \$500.00 for the annual Sunland-Tujunga July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.** This money was previously approved for the Historic Home Tour, but it has been cancelled for this year. The theme of the Parade will be "Coming Together for the Future."  
**The board approved the motion with the condition that if the money is not needed, that it will be returned to the budget.**

b. (McManus/Marshall) moved, "WHEREAS the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee will be recommending to City Council that the Neighborhood Council funding program be reduced to a total of \$1M for next year – equaling approximately \$11,200 per Council as opposed to the current budget of \$50,000 per Council; and WHEREAS such a funding cut would effectively eviscerate the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council's mission and ability to function under the City Charter; BE IT RESOLVED that the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council actively lobby the City Council and Mayor to preserve Neighborhood/Community Council funding at a level of no less than \$45,000 per year; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council encourage its stakeholders to write and/or call their Councilmember, the Mayor, and other City Council members to demand the same; and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council work in cooperation with all other Neighborhood and Community Councils to oppose these proposed budget cuts." The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comments:**

- Dan reminded the Board of the upcoming City Election on May 19, 2009.
- Mose Mose acknowledged that over 100 students from the local schools will be running in the L.A. Marathon on May 25, 2009.

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 p.m.**

**The next STNC Board Meeting on June 10 will be held at North Valley City Hall.**

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One