

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 2009**  
**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall**  
**7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

Attendance: 74: Board: 14, Audience: 60

1. **Meeting called to Order** at: 7:05 pm by STNC President Dan McManus. Pledge of Allegiance. Chair announcements. Dan referred to the S-T Parade and Family Fireworks as a “great success.” Monies raised go to the Verdugo Hills High School Community Grant Fund to offset budget expenses and cutbacks. There will be a candidate forum for CD2 candidates on August 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Board member attendance:** Mark Seigel, Belinda Woodruff, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Nina Royal, Bill Manning, Marti Marshall, Linda Casteel, John Laue, Berj Zadoian, Mose Mose, Lydia Grant, John Blue, and Elizabeth Jahelka.

2. **Public Comments:**

- Michael McCue, Candidate for CD2, introduced himself. He serves on the Studio City NC and has been for three years. He is putting together a grassroots campaign for this seat.
- Tamar Galatzan, candidate for CD2, is the Neighborhood Prosecutor in the Van Nuys division. She has prosecuted a dozen cases against Home Depot in that area and opened a noise abatement division in the City Attorney’s office to deal with Home Depot complaints.
- Joe Barrett, Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, informed STNC about the auto store that took over the Coffee Stop site at 7937 Foothill Boulevard and was erecting 14’ light poles without permits. Cindy took immediate action to contact City Planning who agreed to revoke their permit. They said it was granted ‘in error’ to the auto business although no one informed STNC or LUC of the initial permit or the approval of that permit. Joe read emails received from City Planning and the Dept. of Building and Safety to remedy this situation.
- Nina Royal noted that STNC received the David vs Goliath Award at the Valley Congress of Neighborhood Councils event May 30, 2009.
- Lydia Grant introduced Ainsley Richert, a candidate for the Watermelon Festival Queen. She acknowledged Ainsley’s work collecting school supplies for homeless students. She is a part of the Students Helping Students Program.
- Ainsley Richert spoke about her interest in becoming Watermelon Queen for the August Festival. Voting is done by purchasing tickets for \$1.00 each. There are ballot boxes around town at local businesses to vote for her as well.
- Marynance Schellenbach, Lions Club, spoke about the upcoming Watermelon Festival August 14-16, 2009 at Sunland Park.
- Elaine Brown said the Lions Club contributed \$200.00 to COBRA for the new clock on Commerce Ave. She requested stakeholders support the merchants on Commerce during this slow economy. Elaine also requested help with clocking motorists at busy intersections as part of the response comments for the Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course campaign.
- Michelle Sahfran complained about police not responding to her complaints about a teenage drinking site on Tranquil Place. She believes these teens pose a safety hazard.

- Nanci Caillouset spoke on behalf of Mary Benson's candidacy for CD2. Mary is the only local resident running for this seat and is knowledgeable in environmental and city planning issues. She needs 500 signatures to get on the ballot.

**3. Presentation:** Dan introduced City Controller Wendy Greuel, whom he called "an ally to the people of Sunland Tujunga." Wendy thanked STNC stakeholders and talked about developing partnerships in this area and how Sunland-Tujunga was the battleground that determined her initial election as a Council member. She said she felt more at home in this area than anywhere else due to the fights they participated in together as a community. She reminisced about the issues that made up her candidacy such as establishing Finn Park, the Community Garden, work at Sunland Park, the hundreds of acres saved in the Verdugos, and defeating Home Depot. She thanked her staff for working hard on each of the issues. She talked about the most recent accomplishment, which was winning an extension from the Planning Dept. for comments on the Draft EIR for Verdugo Hills Golf Course.

She's excited about her new role as City Controller; she has an open door policy and invited everyone to visit if they are at City Hall. She wants to know how to do things better in the City of L.A. and to spend tax dollars more wisely. She spoke about how she has appealed the court's decision refusing to permit the last City Controller to audit the City Attorney's office. She is asking the court to dismiss the former lawsuit brought by the City Attorney against the City Controller's office. In the future, she plans to ask the voters to grant her office the ability to allow the City Controller to audit programs in city officials' offices. She stated that the Controller's office is about financial management and being the financial watchdog for the City of L.A. as well as addressing the pension crisis and other critical issues.

She talked about how her office received a bill this week from the Emergency Planning Department of the City of L.A. asking for payment of \$48,000 for 3,500 box lunches\* for those who worked at the Michael Jackson memorial on Tuesday. She pointed out that not only was this an exorbitant bill but upon further research she found that the lunches were ordered from a business in Wrightwood, not from an L.A. restaurant, which accounted for the high cost. Although she was obligated to pay this bill, she said in the future, she will recommend services be provided by LA City businesses. (\*The police protective league is contributing \$1500 toward the costs).

In closing, she noted that a second sweep had been done of the homeless encampment in the Tujunga Wash and that her staff would continue to work with the community up until the Special Election in September.

Tomi Bowling then presented Wendy with a Plaque of Appreciation from STNC for her efforts through the years.

- 4. Award Presentation:** On behalf of STNC, Dan acknowledged that a beautiful etched glass award was to be presented to Sonia Tatulian of Bank of America, who headed up the Family Fireworks Festival this year. The award will be presented to her at the next Rotary meeting.
- 5. Safety Committee updates** – Nina Royal spoke about National Night Out to be held on Tuesday, August 4, '09 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Little Landers Park. It will be a potluck event and a show of support for the local police. It is a free event with entertainment and prizes. Parking

will take place at the Elks Club and Seventh Day Adventist Church as Commerce will be closed to traffic on Valmont between Commerce and Samoa.

**6. Outreach Committee updates** - A CD2 Candidates Forum will be held on Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. at North Valley City Hall. It is being held in conjunction with the Sunland Tujunga Alliance and is an opportunity to meet all the candidates and hear their qualifications.

**(Royal/Casteel) moved to approve \$300 for food and refreshments for National Night Out from the Safety Budget. (Royal/Marshall) moved to approve up to \$175.00 for refreshments on August 8<sup>th</sup> for the CD2 Candidates Forum (\$125 for chairs & \$50 for refreshments) from the Outreach budget.** The police department is contributing \$250.00 toward National Night Out. **Both motions carried unanimously.**

**7. Land Use Committee Chair Report**– Tomi Lyn Bowling reiterated that LUC heard about City Planning’s granting of the extension of the comment period for the Draft EIR for Verdugo Hills Golf Course to a 90-day comment period. There was a standing room only crowd at the Town Hall event held on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for many functions to oppose the development of a large housing tract on the Golf Course property at the intersection of La Tuna Cyn. and Tujunga Canyon Blvd.

**LUC Recommendations:**

- a. **(Bowling) moved that STNC through its Land Use Committee urges the City Council to create an oversight effective mechanism/element within the Department of City Planning to guarantee that the recommendations in this report are instituted so that the approvals and conditions placed upon a development by the City are upheld and completed in accordance with those conditions and approvals as recommended in this audit.**
- b. **(Bowling) moved that the STNC through its Land Use Committee urges the City Council to modify the City Attorney’s proposed motion by incorporating the recommendations put forth by the Sierra Club and supported by the National Resources Defense Council.**

**Both recommendations passed unanimously.**

Tomi invited the public to attend the next LUC meeting on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. A presentation is being scheduled regarding auto uses in the community. More details soon. She urged stakeholders to write letters to comment on the VHGC DEIR.

**8. Treasurer’s Report.**– Mark Seigel reported that he submitted the STNC budget to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment but due to new staffers, DONE lost the records. He has since straightened it out.

**9. New Business:**

- a. **Election Sites:** Recording Secretary Cindy Cleghorn noted that the City has chosen a date for STNC’s new election – it will be **Saturday, March 27, 2010** and will be run by the City Clerk’s office. FTDNC and SVANC may possibly share outreach efforts to promote the elections but each NC will hold their election within their boundaries all on the same day. The City has requested five possible locations for the election. Cindy suggested: North Valley Neighborhood City Hall, Sunland Senior Center, Elks Lodge, Bolton Hall Museum and the American Legion. **(Cleghorn/Blue) moved that these five locations be forwarded to the City Clerk NC**

**Elections Division as possible sites for the March 27<sup>th</sup> election next year. The motion carried unanimously.**

- b. **Executive Committee recommendation: (Cleghorn/Marshall) and STNC moved that LADWP fund an Independent Rate Payers Advocate to advise the LADWP Commission, LA City and LA City Ratepayers on the status of the LADWP budget activities. The motion carried unanimously.**
  - c. **Water Saving Motion– (Seigel/Jahelka) moved that Mark Seigel’s water saving technique, explained to the board, be forwarded to the LADWP on factoring residential toilets in stakeholders’ homes so that an extra gallon of water is saved per flush. The motion carried unanimously.**
  - d. **Water Presentation:** Nina explained that this motion was being tabled while awaiting input from the Metropolitan Water District. The motion was that STNC promotes and affirms that it is in the best interest of all citizens that the California Peripheral Canal be funded, built and operated. Nina recently was part of a 25 person delegation that traveled to Sacramento to speak with specialist Phyllis Ortman about this measure. Nina noted that MWD ordered Ms. Ortman to cancel her visit to speak to STNC on this issue. No reason was given.
  - e. **Flash Cam Camera: (Cleghorn/Mose) moved that STNC support an expenditure of \$3,818.29 for the (previously approved) Flash Cam Camera upgraded installation.** After discussion and many unanswered questions, Cleghorn withdrew the motion and moved it be further researched by the Safety Committee which will send their recommendation back to the board.
10. **Approval of Minutes:** The board approved the minutes of the last board meeting: June 10, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.
11. **Board Member Reports** on subject matters within the Board’s jurisdiction.
- Tomi noted that the new water saving showerheads were very helpful. More are available for stakeholders for free. She also thanked Linda Casteel for baking the chocolate cake that was available at the beginning of the meeting.
  - Linda, in turn, offered her recipe to anyone who wants it.
  - Tomi also recommended that the City implement a moratorium on development due to the current drought conditions and water shortage.
  - Lydia Grant suggested stakeholders tune in to the School Board’s televised vote on July 14, 2009 on a motion that could give parent more oversight on LAUSD spending.
  - John Laue spoke about Chapel of the Hills church on Oro Vista which is building a new parking lot and using a dead-end street for access.
  - Marti Marshall talked about the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and how they are attending LUC meetings even though they are on school vacation.
  - Nina noted that Capt. Curreri of LAPD Foothill Division is leaving. She recommends stakeholders request locally – born LAPD Officer Captain Minsel as his replacement to the Foothill Division.
  - Cindy will be presenting two resolutions at the next board meeting. One will request DWP limit energy cost increases in their 2009/10 budget. The other relates to DWP’s infrastructure. She thanked the board for their help at the VHGC event on July 7<sup>th</sup> - particularly Ed Rock, who

purchased new tables for the presenters from the Do It Center. She also thanked former board member Olina Lowe for her help with the Family Festival on July 4<sup>th</sup> for manning STNC's booth.

- Tomi added that the LUC will talk about Survey LA at their upcoming meeting.
- Belinda Woodruff is attending the City's Transportation Meeting on Saturday regarding updates on the LADOT MOU with Neighborhood Councils.
- Dan posted a video on You Tube showing the finale of the Family Festival Fireworks (See: Sunland Tujunga 2009 4<sup>th</sup>).

**Additional Comments:**

- Michael McCue congratulated the board on their spirit of cooperation.
- Marynance Shellenbach spoke about the Watermelon Festival being named as a "destination event" by Westway Magazine and asked where out of town guests can park when they come to the festival. She was referred to board member Bill Manning for that.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:18 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One.