

**STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010
NORTH VALLEY NEIGHBORHOOD CITY HALL
7747 FOOTHILL BLVD., TUJUNGA, CA 91042**

ATTENDANCE: 194, AUDIENCE: 179, BOARD: 15

1. **Call to Order** at 6:38 p.m. by Dan McManus, STNC President. Dan asked for prayers for Parliamentarian Shirley Kellstrom who has been very ill. Flag Salute and introduction of STNC Board: Nina Royal, Lydia Grant, Linda Casteel, Richard Stewart, Marti Marshall, Mark Seigel, John Laue, John Blue, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Belinda Woodruff, David Cain, Barbara Johnson, Ed Novy, & Tomi Bowling.

2. **Presentation: Community Drug Issues Affecting Our Schools** – STNC Education Rep. Lydia Grant introduced VHHS Principal Diane Klewitz and her staff who talked about the increased use of drugs in high school, principally ecstasy. Mrs. Campbell, who heads the Impact Program at VHHS, said ecstasy drug among high school students starts in the middle school. She noted that the drug kids are using most frequently is ecstasy, which is laced with heroin and methamphetamines. It is highly addictive and can cause permanent nerve damage. The Impact Program is a referral system by parents/teachers and students for kids with drug & alcohol problems, anger issues and other family crises. Another teacher stressed parents' role in talking to their kids, while Assistant Principal Arturo Barcenas offered parents practical steps for finding out if their kids are using drugs. VHHS' staff and Mt. Gleason are collaborating on this issue to find ways to deal with this problem. Deborah Acosta, principal of Mt. Gleason, also spoke about this issue and how her staff is working to address it.

Tony Bylsma of Narc-Anon Drug Prevention, a drug education speaker, added that family dinners and get togethers can reduce the incidence of drug use by half. Students Noemi Agagianian and Krista Lynn Baysdorjian of the Delphi and Verdugo Interacts Clubs asked everyone to support their Drug Free Walk in May where students and parents walk from Bolton Hall to Sunland Park. There will be educational booths at the park and many other services to address drug usage. They asked for ideas and suggestions on ways to better their Walk.

- John Laue suggested looking at the smoke shops down Foothill Blvd. where kids buy drug paraphernalia.
- Nina suggested that schools provide after school activities so kids aren't roaming the streets all afternoon.
- Dan suggested parents deal with this issue head-on to find solutions and stay away from blaming others.

3. **LAPD's Community Relations Rep. Harold Egger** talked about a pipe bomb incident that took place 1/7/10 on Mt. Gleason Ave. at 2:30 am. Police noticed a vehicle committing a traffic violation and when they pulled them over, found an explosive device

in their trunk which was later found to be 'live' and could have caused devastating damage to the community. The LAPD Bomb Squad were involved evacuating neighbors of the Valmont address where the suspects were living and later, the FBI were called in to investigate. In reference to this incident, Nina spoke about the efforts of the Community Police Advisory Board and invited stakeholders to attend this and future Safety Meetings by STNC.

4. **Paul Krekorian – Los Angeles City Councilman, Council District 2**, was introduced by Dan. The Councilmember encouraged the community to stay on top of the problem so they can get a handle on it. On the subject of medical marijuana shops, he said that the City Council would be voting on two options next week. Both would reduce the number of MM outlets in the city by 85%. On another issue, he announced that the oak trees on McGroarty that were in danger of being cut down as required by Public Works during their street widening project are now protected. He then introduced as his staff members, Pat Davenport and Mary Benson.

5. **Presentation – Best of Business Awards** – Tomi Lyn Bowling announced the winners of the Best of Sunland – Tujunga Awards for 2009, while City Councilmember Paul Krekorian handed each a plaque and posed for photos with the winners:

- Best Restaurant: Joselitos West
- Best Personal Service: Image West:
- Best Fast Food: Panda Chinese
- Best Food Delivery: Pizza Hut
- Best Overall Business: Do It Center
- Best Storefront: Sunland Martial Arts
- Best Post Office: Sunland Post Office
- Best School: Verdugo Hills High School
- Best Café: Old Town Café
- Best Entertainment: Steel Pit
- Best Delivery Service: UPS
- Best Supermarket: Vons
- Best Community Supporter: C & M Printing
- Best Clothing Store: Fashion Gal
- Best Community Group: Little Landers.

6. **STNC President's Report/Comments**. Dan announced that the filing period to run for a seat on STNC ends 1/26/10. The election will be held March 27th at North Valley City Hall. Go to www.STNC.org "Elections" for more info.

7. **Citywide Budget Discussion/ Mayor's Budget Survey** - Ed Novy attended an emergency session of the LA Neighborhood Council Congress last Sunday and reported that the City of LA is \$150 million in debt. Stakeholders should anticipate drastic cuts in city services and an increase in fees on certain things. He encouraged stakeholders to fill out the Mayor's Budget Survey but instead of choosing the options

presented to reduce spending, to add comments at the very end which include: listening to the NCs, playing hardball with the Unions, and taking input from those who are giving feedback. Cindy suggested forming a Neighborhood Services Committee to poll the community on needed, prioritized services.

To take the survey visit: <http://mayor.lacity.org/Issues/FiscalManagement/index.htm>

In response to the Mayor requesting that all the city's parking lots be sold to outside entities, an idea that was firmly rejected by the Congress of NCs, (Cleghorn/Royal) moved that the STNC recommends that no City assets be sold or leased in an effort to solve the City's budget crisis. This recommendation is supported by the LA Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC). The motion carried unanimously. For more info, go to: www.budgetla.org.

8. Public Comment & Announcements (non-agenda items):

Millie Jones, rep for Supervisor Michael Antonovich, thanked STNC for working with Kagel Canyon residents to oppose the proposed truck driving school. She affirmed that the Supervisor is firmly opposed to this zoning variance request. She noted that in response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti, that the LA County Fire Heavy Taskforce was mobilized and leaving for Haiti to offer aid. She reviewed stands taken by the Supervisor on various other matters.

Robin Minkler, stakeholder, asked if anyone knew of an employment opportunity in administrative work. She would like to work in this area.

Brian K. Cecil, a Valmont resident, talked about how his family was inconvenienced by the pipe bomb incident last week. The suspects, who live at 7733 Valmont Street, are his neighbors and have caused many police incidents over the years. He asked for help in dealing with this ongoing issue.

Linda Casteel, Friends of the S-T Library, reported plans for a large-scale book sale on March 13.

JoAnn Baiocco, Tujung stakeholder, asked for assistance in dealing with a marijuana smoking neighbor whose smoke is blowing into her apartment. To date, the police have said they cannot help her.

Sheri Smith announced programs coming up at Bolton Hall.

Ed Novy reported the passing of 91-year old community activist Joe Cohen, who was well known to many service groups. A memorial service will be held at the Elks Club in February.

Ariyana Gibbon, who has organized the free workshop "Healing From the Ashes" on 1/30/10, is seeking workshop space for her non profit artist workshop. Ariyana will lead a team of artists in creating mosaic tiles from remnants of the Station Fire. The artwork will be sold and proceeds raised will go to help families who lost everything. She needs studio space for six months with tables, chairs and running water.

Nina Royal talked about the Saving LA Project (SLAP) which addressed community wide issues. They will focus on the Parent Revolution at their next meeting 1/23/10 in Hollywood.

Dan McManus thanked Lydia Grant for going to Sacramento on behalf of the Parent Revolution, a grassroots group of people who are bringing a new idea to lawmakers. Lydia Grant reported that on her recent trip to Sacramento, which resulted in a new ordinance being passed by both the House and Senate, she met with Senator Gloria Romano who added it to her bill. Lydia and her daughter gave input to the Assembly Education Committee, the Senate Education Committee, Senate Appropriations Committee and sat in on proceedings at the State Assembly and Senate. With her input, the bill on education was passed. On 2/8/10, she will speak about this further at her Education Committee meeting at North Valley City Hall.

9. **Approval of Minutes:** (McManus) moved that the minutes of the December STNC board meeting be approved. The motion carried with unanimous consent.

10. **Board Member Reports**

- Region 4 Representative presentation – Ed Novy announced the fundraiser art auction to benefit McGroarty Arts Center, Bolton Hall and the S-T Alliance to take place in late March.
- David Cain alerted the board to impending heavy next week which could impact hillside areas burned by the Station Fire. Sandbags are recommended.
- Belinda Woodruff reported on the recent DWP presentation at the Marvin Braudy Center on Urban Water Mgmt Plan for 2010. Belinda represented concerns of the community asking about how to get cisterns for this area. She also inquired as to why the Angeles National Golf Course was allowed to build in the Flood Control Channel with the potential of negative impact to the aquifer). She suggested those with comments on these matters email: chris.repp@ladwp.com at DWP.
- Cindy Cleghorn will attend the Valley Alliance for Neighborhood Councils meeting this month where she and other board members will discuss camouflaging cell phone towers. She reported that the City Controller has released an audit of DONE and DONE GM has responded to it. She asked the board to stay on top of the Citywide Budget as the financial situation with the City is changing every day.
- Mark Seigel gave a short update on treasurer matters saying he has filed necessary info with the City with help from his committee members.
- Marti Marshall said that the city is considering taking away Petty Cash from the NCs as a cost saving measure. She announced that among the many activities coming up for Scouts are Girl Scout cookie sales.
- Richard Stewart reported that there will be higher fees for the 4th of July Parade as a result of the City no longer waiving the Special Event fees for providing roadblocks. This could result in \$4,000 - \$5,000 in higher costs.
- Lydia Grant said her upcoming Education Committee meeting takes place at 6 p.m., Feb. 8th at North Valley City Hall. She thanked everyone who participated in the earlier meeting on drug use on campus and said she would attend the

SLAP meeting on Jan. 30 which will address how NCs can affect their community.

- Nina Royal announced that her Safety and Outreach Committee meetings will now be held at the YMCA in Tujunga. The next meeting is Jan. 21 at 6 pm for Safety with Outreach to follow. Her committee has voted to sponsor another Safety Fair in April on Commerce Ave. They will also be participating in the “Beyond the Call of Duty Awards.” If anyone would like to reach Sgt. Egger about crime problems, he can be reached at: 818 756-8866. She said a new police captain will be on hand this month who is very community oriented, as well as a new Deputy Chief.
- John Blue announced he will provide the photos he took at the meeting to Cindy.
- Dan McManus invited the board to attend the U.S. Census Bureau event on Jan. 20th at 2 pm in Burbank.

11. **Land Use Committee Chair Report** – Tomi requested stakeholders support the City Council’s Medical Marijuana ordinance which would drive MM shops out of S-T. The number of cell phone towers in the area is expanding but efforts are also underway to organize controls over them. There is an upcoming L.A. DWP Workshop taking place on Jan. 20. The City Council has posted the Sober Living draft report on its website. On the issue of Accessory Dwelling Units (aka: Granny Flats), Tomi said that there was no City ordinance yet. However Belinda told the board that in the absence of an ordinance the state law applies.

12. **New Business:**

a. New Group Rep Appointment: **(Cleghorn/Laue) moved to fill one of two STNC board vacancies with Janet Linsalato as SEIU Union Rep. *The motion carried with two abstentions.* Note: this position replaces seat vacated by Bill Manning who resigned.**

b. STNC Christmas Parade: **(Bowling/Laue) moved that the STNC, in coordination with other community groups, form a committee, sponsor and bring to fruition the first ever Sunland Tujunga Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony in Sunland Park. The committee is to report on aspects at each meeting to keep progress moving and all of STNC informed. *The motion carried unanimously.***

13: **Meeting Adjourned** at 9:55 p.m.

- *Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-*