

STNC Board Meeting Minutes
North Valley City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga, CA 91042
March 10, 2010

Attendance: 66, Audience: 49, Board: 17

Call to Order by Dan McManus, STNC President, at 6:15 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance. Board Member introductions: Dan McManus, Nina Royal, Tomi Bowling, David Cain, Mark Seigel, Cindy Cleghorn, John Laue, Marti Marshall, Janet Linsalato, Barbara Johnson, Belinda Woodruff, Ed Novy, Lydia Grant, Richard Stewart, Linda Casteel, and John Blue.

LA City Budget Updates: This Saturday is the final meeting of the NCs with the Mayor to give input on the budget. People will lose their jobs and city property will be sold because the city is in such bad shape financially.

Mary Benson, City Council District 2: City Clerk's office is looking for volunteer poll workers for upcoming NC elections. Training will be done for those who volunteer. Contact the STNC office for more info and application. Sign up as soon as possible.

Public Comment:

- Linda Casteel invited the public to the Sunland – Tujunga Public Library book sale organized by the Friends of the Library on Saturday, March 13, 2010 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Joe Barrett announced that a Pancake Breakfast will be held on Sunday, March 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at Dexter Park Community Center in Kagel Canyon. This event is being organized by the Community Alliance for Open Space in their fight to keep the Lopez Canyon Landfill as open space and not for a big rig trucking academy.
- Joe Barrett announced that Paul Krekorian will be contacting Mission College and Target for updates regarding the former Kmart site.

Motion to approve up to \$100.00 for Little Landers Historical Society Poet Laureate event in April 2010. **(Cleghorn/Royal) moved that STNC allocate \$100.00 for incidental expenses for this event. The motion carried unanimously.**

STNC Board Resolution regarding STNC Quarterly Treasurer Reports: Mark reviewed the monies still available in the account. \$8,000 was allocated for the election but Mark felt the monies actually spent would be closer to \$6,000. \$22,065 available and \$1,200 in petty cash. The petty cash account will be liquidated by the end of the month. Due to the desperate shape of the city, financially, operations will be streamlined. Mark then introduced a motion pertaining to a letter that has been written and if passed, would be sent with

quarterly reports. The letter puts to rest several years of work done by the current treasurer to find and appropriately submit partial treasury records not previously submitted from the previous STNC board treasurer. These reports go back several years in time.

(Seigel/Woodruff) moved, “That the Board of the STNC hereby resolves that expenses reported and audit submissions completed for the following quarterly period represents necessary and appropriate expenditures on behalf of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council with any exceptions noted. And concur that any original missing receipts or attachments were not available at the time of submission to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.” The motion carried unanimously.

Motion on creation of an Ad Hoc Committee: **(McManus moved, “That the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council approve the creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee for the purpose of exploring the options for entering Sunland-Tujunga into consideration for Google’s proposed experiment with fiber optic ultra-broadband Internet service and to authorize this committee to apply on behalf of the STNC and the community of Sunland-Tujunga. The deadline for application is March 26, 2010 and the committee will report its findings and actions to the STNC at the April 14, 2010 General Meeting and be duly dissolved upon receipt of said report. The motion carried unanimously.** Mike Wilkin of the Foothills Forum was appointed to serve as chair of this Ad Hoc Committee.

Land Use Committee: **“LUC recommendation regarding support for Tee’s on the Green. LUC Chair Tomi Bowling proposed that the STNC write a letter of support for Tee’s on the Green on behalf of their beer and wine license application. This motion was previously approved by the LUC.”** The motion carried unanimously.

LAPD Update: LAPD Senior Lead Officer Rich Wall returned from three months out of service due to a torn bicep. He reported that crime is down in the area but motor vehicle break-ins continue to be a problem. He advised stakeholders to remove any personal items of value from their parked cars, particularly at night. An arrest was recently made of a suspect involved in motor vehicle burglaries. He also spoke about the fatal shooting last week of two kids by gang members in Pacoima in which one person died and another survived.

Rotary Motion: Dan announced that a motion requested by the Rotary Club will be presented to the STNC on March 24th following the Candidates Mixer. This motion requests STNC allocate \$3,909 to its Outreach Budget to cover the City’s permit costs for the 2010 July 4th Parade. The motion also includes coordinating with the ST Rotary Club to add STNC on its promotions and signage to gain the PR and ‘team spirit’ of the whole community.”

- The meeting then took a break to allow for the set-up of the
 - Meet the Candidates Forum-

At 7:00 p.m., the **Meet the Candidates Forum** resumed. Joe Barrett of the S-T Alliance, introduced moderator Stephen Box, who is also the coauthor of the Cyclists' Bill of Rights. A producer and Hollywood native, Stephen credited STNC as one of the most influential neighborhood councils out of the 90 operating in the City of LA due to its community involvement and spirit of public engagement. Only two categories in the upcoming STNC March 27th election involve a race: seats for President and Region 1. There are three candidates running for "President" and four for "Region 1" (one can be elected for president and two can be elected for Region 1).

Candidate Introductions:

Presidential candidates:

Dan McManus serves as STNC's president and is a 12-year resident in S-T. Previously, he served 5 years as an STNC board member. He became involved in the STNC to demonstrate to his son the importance of public service.

Nina Royal is currently STNC's Outreach and Safety Chair. She is a 25-year resident of S-T and active in Budget LA, ST-SERVS (Safety & Emergency Response Services) and CPAB (Community Police Advisory Board). Her goal is to educate the community about issues and help improve the community.

Steven J. Vanover is the non-board candidate. He is 25-years old and grew up in this community. He feels that economic development for businesses and education are the key issues.

Vice President/Community Improvement: Tomi Bowling is chairperson of STNC's Land Use Committee. She is a local realtor and interested in seeing the community improved.

Vice President/Outreach: David Cain is a former STNC board member and a property owner. His aim is to form tight community bonds for emergency needs. He wants to urge more participation and to lead by example for other communities in the city.

Treasurer: Mark Seigel serves as STNC treasurer and is a Land Use Committee member, as well as being involved in several community groups.

Secretary: Cindy Cleghorn is a local Commerce Avenue business owner, former STNC president, served on the Neighborhood Council Review Commission, and volunteers for the Valley Alliance of NCs and PlanCheckNC and is on the board of the S-T Chamber.

Region 1 Candidates:

John P. Laue is a STNC board member and an "activist" who is working toward preservation of the natural areas such as the Tujunga Wash. He is opposed to McMansions, is an Ad Hoc Bike Committee member and an advocate of non-motorized transportation.

Janet L. Linsalato is a recent addition to STNC as Union rep. She is a parent, having raised four children in the community, and interested in Union affairs for city and county workers. Her main goal is to protect the community from developers.

Randall Abegglen, a write-in candidate, was not present at this meeting.

Dana Miller Coburn is an animal advocate and a 6-yr resident of S-T.

Region 3: Barbara D. Johnson is a new board member and an area resident for 17 years. She wants to raise community awareness and involvement in STNC.

Region 4 Reps:

Belinda J. Woodruff is an STNC board member and a 34 year resident of S-T and raised her family here. She works for the Valley District office of the City's Bureau of Engineering for Public Works and wants to involve more neighbors in the spirit of change.

Edmund Novy is a newer resident to Tujunga and current STNC board member serving on the Budget and Bylaws Committees.

Stakeholder Group Reps:

Nanci K. Caillouet is representing the Historical Societies for STNC. The daughter of Shirley Kellstrom, the late STNC parliamentarian, she serves on the Little Landers Historical Society board, the League of Women Voters and Business and Professional Women of S-T. She feels a responsibility to be on the governing board.

Olina F. R. Lowe is a former board member representing Seniors. She was not present for this Forum.

Lydia Grant is running for Parent Rep. As current Education Rep for STNC, now running for Parent Rep, she is interested in helping coordinate School Reform to ensure that schools and parents work together. She is a 30 year resident of the community.

Cara M. Decaro is running for Student Rep. She is a VHHS student involved in leadership and community service.

Richard V. Stewart, a board member, is running for the Service Club seat: As Rotary Club president, he wants to help the community come together for community events and has coordinated several comedy events at the Elks Club as well as other community joint events.

Thomas J. Macauley is running for Student Rep. He currently serves as Student Body President at VHHS. Thomas feels he can offer the "youth" point of view. (Thomas arrived at the end of the Forum due to a family emergency).

Jodi Brittain is running for Education Rep. Jodi attended neighborhood schools and has raised her children here. She is the VHHS Booster Club president and leads a Girl Scout Troop. She wants to support the local schools and the kids.

John Blue is running as Veterans Rep. He is a Vietnam Veteran and has spent years working through the VA process to cope with injuries and illness he sustained in the War. He wants to help other veterans with his representation.

The moderator asked candidates of the two contested seats to comment on what they see as the core priorities of the City. Region 1:

- Dana Coburn – No comment.
- Janet Linsalato said it was to provide services to the community. She talked about the budget crisis and ways to resolve it.
- John Laue said it was to provide police protection, basic city services and to provide services that the city needs.

President:

- Nina Royal said it is to provide services and keep residents safe. She noted there are too many entitlements and that the city needs to get back to basics with City Council members making sacrifices.
- Dan McManus said city government's purpose is to provide basic city services noting that beyond that, most of the budget is extraneous. He feels there is a lot of inefficiency causing money to be wasted.
- Steven Vanover feels it is to provide Police and Fire Department services. Parks and Recreation, trash removal services, and paramedics. He said the job of the city is to serve the people of the city.

The moderator asked the candidates what they feel the priorities are for the NCs? Region 1:

- Janet said it is to serve the community. She feels STNC needs to do more outreach so more people come and participate in the meetings. The other priority is to fill empty stores and clean up the community.
- John said the STNC's job is to get more community members involved, reach out and find out what their concerns are. He believes the biggest priority is land use with many areas getting decimated through zoning for housing. The NC's overall job is to hear community members' concerns.
- Dana said the Council should serve as a core place for the community to go to for help. She thinks more issues should be addressed and wants to bring the community in to do that.

President:

- Dan said the core priority is to engage the community in city and local government to give this area a voice and to represent its unique needs and interests to City government. To be effective, the NCs need to learn how to work with city government to speak with a common voice and to join other NCs for a voice on community service.
- Steven said the NC's priority should be in building the Council, then making sure needed services are provided to the community such as economic development for businesses. He believes the community needs to address those businesses they want and don't want.
- Nina said the NC's job is to be an advocate on behalf of community members, to be their voice. She described her outreach in bringing awareness of the former Kmart closure and community opposition to a Home Depot at the site. Also, efforts in the Verdugo Hills Golf Course preservation campaign. She said the NC needs to have a line directly to the City and Councilmembers and also needs to outreach to see how people feel about the issues.

The moderator asked the candidates, "If there was something that you could change about the community what would it be?"

Region 1:

- John said it would be to improve the commercial corridor on Foothill making it more customer and pedestrian friendly, getting businesses in

- that people want, bicycle-friendly areas, preservation of the natural environment and improvements to the public schools.
- Dana commented on her role as an animal activist saying she believes this area is underserved with animal services and education on spaying and neutering programs. She'd like to help educate the community and improve their access to the services available like: www.fixednation.com and Best Friends Animal Society.
 - Janet said Oro Vista needs to get repaired -it has too many potholes and is a mess. There is also too much development going on and she does not think the LAUSD measures up to what is needed.

President:

- Steven wants to see more young people involved in community decisions and events so they are better prepared to carry on for the future.
- Nina said she wouldn't change anything about the people but she foresees a big change in City services. She wants businesses to take more responsibility for keeping areas clean in front of their property.
- Dan said the STNC needs to support the Specific Plan and see where it may need some adjustments over time. He doesn't accept the concept that the City has no money; he believes it has been spent inefficiently.

The moderator asked, "How are you, personally, going to work to coordinate these efforts to lead and engage people?"

- Nina said she will continue her work with the Fire and Police to get Neighborhood Watches going again (saying they are down to one from 25). She wants to include young people in this effort and will be organizing the community's Total Disaster Preparedness Drill in the fall.
- Dan will engage community groups and maintain their involvement. He will take action to try to get a consensus of people to work together to pass motions and move things forward by building bridges between groups that have a stake.
- Steven said he will build relationships with people on a personal level as engagement begins with the people on the board.

The moderator asked what each candidate would do to correct the problems on Oro Vista, the "flooding street."

- Dan believes STNC needs to hear from the neighbors and what they want, then needs to approach the Field Deputies for the Council Office and ask them to put the heat on City Services. He stressed speaking loudly with a consistent voice.
- Steven said the neighbors need to join in if they want it fixed. Then speaking to the Field Deputy at the Council Office to find out what can be done before turning up the heat on that issue.
- Nina said she would call Bill Robertson, Director of Street Services, and ask him to move Oro Vista up on his priority list of streets to repair.

The moderator asked what personal skill or proficiency the candidates bring to the role of President:

- Steven said it was new ideas, new thoughts, and his experience in student government. He was involved in the VHHS Leadership Program and was a Student Trustee at Cal State Northridge. He has a Bachelor's degree and knowledge of government.
- Nina said her experience as an activist for 25 years. She was involved in forming S-T Involved Residents before the STNC was born. She has organized Town Hall meetings and knows how to get people to work together, how to do publicity, and how to work effectively with the city.
- Dan said his asset was his ability to communicate and think clearly about problems.

The moderator asked, “If you are not elected, how would you like to serve?”

- Dan said he would accept another position on the board or would serve in one of the groups in the community.
- Steven said he would consider serving in another capacity.
- Nina said she would continue to be involved in safety issues and on the Police Advisory Board and Emergency Response Volunteer Services.

If you are elected, how will you balance the responsibilities of the job?”

- Steven said he has time available but would also accept help from other people on the board.
- Nina said she is unencumbered and already is very active attending City Council and other NC meetings.
- Dan said his responsibilities are to execute the parts of the job listed. He noted that there is always someone on the board with the passion to be of service and he would utilize their help. It's about organizing time and focusing on what needs to get done.

The final question asked to the Presidential candidates was, “What is your specific style?”

- Nina said her style is to be flexible; everybody deserves a chance to be heard but she would also deal with the time constraints at meetings.
- Dan said he tries to listen and keep people on point.
- Steven said he would engage everybody in the process and be cognizant of the time.

The Meet the Candidates Forum ended at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services.