

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Minutes**

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

BOARD MEETING

**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

Attendance: 67, Board 15, Audience: 52

1. **Call to Order** – Dan McManus, STNC President, at 7:14 p.m.
 - Renee Jones, Director of the North Valley Regional Area office of the Community Development Department and Chris R., the Deputy Director, spoke to the board about CDD. Chris stated that their role is to be a watchdog for the city for federal and state funding. When grants are approved, they distribute the money through the RFP process to eligible non-profits. Coincidentally, their office is at N. Valley City Hall, where the board meeting was taking place.
 - President’s report: Dan announced the passing of political maven and Sunland resident Anne Finn, the wife of late L.A. City Councilman Howard Finn. Anne served on several City commissions through the years and knew everyone in L.A. city politics. Her memorial will be held on April 24 at Tierra Del Sol and will be a celebration of her life.
 - Mary Benson, Field Deputy for Councilman Krekorian, stated that the Council Office is opposing the proposal to use Lopez Canyon land for a truck driving academy. She also announced the formation of a Clean Team for CD2, which stands for Community Leaders Educating and Assisting Neighborhoods. The Clean Team will train volunteers to work with city agencies to identify, report and resolve quality of life issues in the neighborhoods. There will be 3 training sessions: Sat. 4/24, Sat. 5/8, and Sat. 5/15. RSVP is requested. On May 8th, the Councilmember will honor volunteers who assisted in giving aid during the recent storm season. This event to honor outstanding volunteers takes place at the S-T Municipal Bldg. at 9:00 a.m.

2. **STNC 2010 Elections Results:** Dan announced that the results of the election were posted on the board in the room where the meeting was being held and that there were no votes contended. As a result, the results were being certified that evening with the new board being seated for their first board meeting on May 12. He also noted that STNC’s election generated more votes than any of the other 8 NC’s involved in elections that day.

3. **Los Angeles City Budget**
 - Union Motion: That STNC support SEIU 721 recommendations for FY 2010-11 LA City Budget **(Linsalato/Seigel) moved that STNC support the**

statement written by SEIU 721 on recommendations for the LA City Budget, FY 2010-11 in preserving healthy neighborhoods. Julie Butcher, who resents city workers, talked about the reasons they are not willing to make concessions or pay cuts to 22,000 unionized city workers when they present their budget to the city this week. She said their budget would end "brown outs" in the Fire Dept. STNC board member Ed Novy, one of two North Valley budget reps to the Mayor, said that the budget reps had discussed this and could not support the letter by SEIU at this time. His group is meeting with the Mayor next Monday to try to prevent budget cuts wherever possible. He predicted a tough next year and an even tougher year following. The only way through this, he said, would be as a result of investment by private enterprise and widespread city volunteerism. **Ed asked that the motion be tabled until the next meeting.** He also suggested that the SEIU meet with the NC budget reps. Julie agreed that this was a good idea. **The motion to table the vote carried: 13-3-0.**

4. Presentation by Brent Lorscheider, Division Engineer, City of L.A. Bureau of Sanitation. Mr. Lorscheider and Chandra Silaban of the Bureau of Sanitation gave an informative presentation about septic systems and regulations affecting them saying that the CD2 area has one of the highest densities of septic tank systems in the City. The Bureau of Sanitation is presently working on creating a Septic Tank Ordinance for city properties with a deadline of passage of Sept. 2010. Mr. Silaban noted that if home and business owners do not keep up with the maintenance of their systems, their septic tanks could pollute groundwater and the environment. A copy of the proposed ordinance will be sent to property owners the city followed by a hearing of the Board of Public Works. Passage will take place a year after it is approved.

4. Public Comments:

- Marc Dodell asked for help trapping feral cats on his street.
- Nanci Caillouet, STNC's new Historical Society rep, announced an event on Sun. 4/25 at McGroarty Art Center to recognize the new poet laureate. On May 8th, at Bolton Hall Museum, the presentation will spotlight women's contributions during WWI and WWII. And on June 6, there will be a puppet festival at McGroarty, open to the public.
- Teresa Woolson of Valley View Vaulters, talked about her organization's work to benefit disabled and non-disabled children. She asked for volunteers, financial contributions, and referrals to children who need this program.
- Diana Shaw, candidate for the 38th Assembly District, introduced herself and talked about her interests.
- Richard Stewart, Rotary Club president, said they will be holding fundraisers to cover the \$5,000 street closing fee for the July 4th parade.

The first event will be a dance at the Elks Club with a 12-piece band following this Saturday's Relay for Life fundraiser.

- Linda Casteel spoke on behalf of the S-T Library. She was a worker in the library system for 38 years. She announced that the city is cutting the library's hours to: M, W, and Sat. 10 – 6:00; Tu & Th, 12 – 8:00, and Fri 1:30 to 5:30.
- Abby Diamond, S-T Alliance, announced an "All you can Eat" pancake breakfast fundraiser to benefit Save the Verdugo Golf Course at the former Wired Café now Gobble Green on Sat., 4/24, 8 – 2 p.m. for \$13.00. She also asked for support in appealing the Lopez Cyn truck driving academy proposal, put forth by the Bureau of Sanitation.
- Nina Royal, outgoing STNC board member, announced she will continue to chair the Safety Committee as well as serving as secretary for Saving L.A. (SLAP). She announced a meeting on Saturday for plan the Sunland-Tujunga Safety Fair on August 21st at the Elks Lodge. On August 3, National Night Out will once again be held. Nina asked for volunteers to help with the delivery of the North Valley Reporter.
- Dr. Tom Williams, an El Sereno resident, asked for STNC's support in opposing the 710 N. Extension. Nina stated that STNC had already opposed its opposition. Dan said that he would put this item on the next agenda to reiterate the board's opposition.
- Lloyd Hitt, Little Landers Historical Society, announced their annual plant sale, April 24, 9 – 1:00 p.m. on Commerce. They will have about 1,000 plants for sale.
- Ed Novy, announced the May 16 Art Auction taking place at McGroarty Art Center with 80 pieces of art to be sold. The monies raised will benefit the Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, McGroarty Arts Center and Bolton Hall. [Note: this event has been cancelled for the time being.]
- Lydia Grant announced that she had met with Senator Romero prior to the STNC meeting. She spoke about Senator Romero's Parent Trigger legislation and said she was organizing an event with the politicians who supported this. She is also working on the Federal Volunteer Program, for which STNC has been certified. Volunteers logging hours at different community events and organizations will be able to have their hours certified for recognition by the federal government. This will especially help students who need to show volunteer time for credits. She is hoping to get children and teens more active in their community with this program backed by STNC.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – Mark Seigel reported that the board is just two quarters away from being caught up on years of backlogged work. The new basic budget has been drafted but since he doesn't yet know if the NC funding will be \$45,000 or another amount, there is a need to draft a tighter budget. He announced that

Ed Rock, STNC administrator, is taking a day off each week to save money. Mark asked for volunteers to help him create a new budget with the next Budget meeting to take place on April 29, 2010, 6:30 p.m. at N. Valley City Hall.

6. **Mission College Satellite** site in Sunland-Tujunga – Postponed.
7. **Safety and Outreach:** Nina attended a City Council meeting this week to oppose reducing the city's police department. She announced that police can not work overtime anymore and that the city's specialized units have been dismantled, including Senior Lead Officers and other investigative units. Basically, all officers are being put back on the street. However, there are no party cars to track excessive noise at night and she predicted there would be less response to reports that don't involve life threatening emergencies. She urged everyone to write letters to the Council regarding this fight.
8. **Approval of Minutes** – The March board meeting minutes and March 24 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
8. **Land Use Committee Report** – Tomi Lyn Bowling, LUC Chair, said Land Use heard a great report from a UCLA student on greening vacant lots. A 5-week class on Planning with Dick Platkin, former planner for the City of L.A., is being organized. Dick will review ways to strengthen the Foothill Corridor Specific Plan and make it more applicable to current issues. The former Coffee Stop is now being proposed as a Propane Tank Filling Station. Opposition is rampant. LUC will hear from the proposer at their next meeting on 4/19. She reminded the board/stakeholders to show up to oppose the Lopez Canyon Landfill Appeal hearing on 4-15. She said that Councilman Alarcon would be bussing in his supporters for this hearing. The Angeles National Golf Club has been observed digging wide trenches, 5' deep, as booby-traps for motor vehicles that are driving on the course in off hours. She noted a proliferation of transients in Sunland, behind Coco's and in the Sunland Park. She suggested everyone write letters to the police, City Council and Mayor.
9. **Board Members Statements:** As this was the last meeting for outgoing board members, most thanked the public and the board for allowing them to be of service.
 - Marti Marshall, Scouting Rep, said that she will be leaving but her work in the Scouting arena would continue with many scouting activities coming up.
 - John Laue announced that he was part of an effort to get a new bicycle lane created on Wentworth Ave. between Foothill and Glenoaks. He is organizing a pleasure bike ride from Sunland Park to Hansen Dam, possibly on May 22.
 - Lydia Grant talked about attorney Tamar Galatzan's motion to hold DWP accountable to LAUSD for \$11 in extra fees per year. She will be speaking (personally) in support of this motion, particularly because of water restrictions that killed the new girl's soccer field at Verdugo Hills High School.

- Mark Seigel has started new Ham Radio classes on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at N. Valley City Hall.
- David Cain was looking forward to working at First V.P. of Outreach and needs volunteers.
- Tomi encouraged everyone to support the Bandito for Honorary Sheriff.
- Nina reiterated that although she is leaving the board, she will be staying active as an advocate for Public Safety.
- Dan acknowledged Councilmember Krekorian, who he said is a great asset to the community and helps improve the quality of life in S-T with STNC.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 p.m.

- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services -