

# **Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042 - (818) 951-7411 FAX (818) 951-7412

E-mail: [secretary@stnc.org](mailto:secretary@stnc.org)

## **BOARD MEETING & INSTALLATION OF 2010 BOARD**

**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall**

**7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

**Wednesday, May 12, 2010**

**Attendance: 95, Audience: 77, Board: 18**

1. **Call to Order at 7:09 p.m.** by Dan McManus, STNC president. Pledge of Allegiance - Flag Salute. Introduction of STNC Board: John Blue, John Laue, Belinda Woodruff, Linda Casteel, Marti Marshall, Nina Royal, Richard Stewart, Tomi Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Mark Seigel, Janet Linsalato, Barbara Johnson, Ed Novy and Nanci Calliouet.
2. **LAPD Update by Sr. Lead Officer Rich Wall:** On May 18, 2010 there is a Senior Lead Summit Meeting at North Valley City Hall. There is a free program where motorists can exchange their license plate screws for secure screws to avoid theft of license plates. The program runs every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday. Motor vehicle burglaries are the #1 offense in this area. People are leaving laptops, GPS systems and purses in plain sight and that is contributing to the problem. There were ten homicides in the Pacoima area since the beginning of the year and 85 gang shootings.
3. **CD2, Mary Benson** reported that the first Clean Team training was held last Saturday (with 2 more events to take place in CD2). The Bureau of Street Services is sponsoring these events on May 15 and 22. Call the Council office for details.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Mark Seigel reviewed the two budgets he has prepared for the next fiscal year. One is for \$45,000; the other is for \$40,500. **(Seigel/Cain) moved that STNC pay Star Buslines for the buses that transported stakeholders to City Hall regarding the Home Depot case in the amount of \$1,202.82. The motion carried unanimously.**
5. **Budget Process,** Ed Novy is continuing to meet with other budget reps at the Mayor's office every other week to try to make suggestions on the budget for the city. The budget reps want to support Councilmember Smith's motion to restructure DWP's operations. He pointed out that cuts to the Recreation and Parks and the libraries will strongly impact this area.
6. **Approval of Minutes of April 2010.** The amended minutes for the STNC board meeting in April were approved by unanimous consent.
7. **STNC 2010 Elections Results** – Dan noted that the STNC 2010 Election has been certified by the City Clerk and that there were no challenges to the election results. STNC had the highest voter turnout of all the elections held in the region.

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## **8. Public Comment:**

Tracy Black – aka: Model A Man, asked the board to help find him a dumpster to empty trash into that he cleans up on the streets of S-T. He also requested other volunteers to help him and needs trash bags and other supplies to do the volunteer work he does. The Board asked the Council office to assist with this.

Nanci Caillouet – Historical Society Rep, announced the McGroarty Art Center's schedule of summer classes and the American Ceramics Society show on June 12 with an exhibit to follow. McGroarty will also host a free Puppetry Festival. The public needs to support this to the city that the community cares about McGroarty's services for future funding purposes.

## **9. Installation of 2010 STNC Board members –** Councilmember Paul Krekorian recognized the outgoing board of STNC and thanked those who will not be staying on the board for their service: Linda Casteel, Marti Marshall, Berj Zadoian, Nina Royal, Ricky Grubb, Elizabeth Jahelka and the late parliamentarian Shirley Kellstrom. He then installed the new board of officers: Tomi Bowling, David Cain, Mark Seigel, Cindy Cleghorn, John Laue, Janet Linsalato, Barbara Johnson, Ed Novy, Belinda Woodruff, Cara DiCaro, Lydia Grant, Thomas McAuley, Nanci Caillouet, John Blue, Jodi Britton and Olina Lowe. There are still four vacancies on the board: 2 seats in Region 2, 1 seat in Region 3, and the parliamentarian position.

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, Chair of the City's Education & Neighborhoods Committee, congratulated everyone for their service. He spoke about the importance of neighborhood councils and particularly the fine example of Sunland-Tujunga's NC. He noted that their involvement is particularly important right now with the fiscal problems and other serious issues facing the city. He said the need for government service is greater in difficult economic times and yet, the ability to provide more services is reduced – and that's where communities and neighbors come in, to pitch in.

He spoke about those people who helped out during the floods and how they were acknowledged at an event he attended last weekend. In terms of his job, he has been in office now for just over 100 days. During that time, he said DWP has tried to cram through rate increases that were "supposedly justified" to meet renewable energy goals. As a former Assemblyman, he said he was very familiar with this issue and that DWP failed to make their case to him. As a result, the City Council sent DWP back to rework their rate proposal and the end result was a lower rate increase.

He is opposing the Bureau of Sanitation's septic tank proposal saying it needs work and is the wrong time to impose their policy on homeowners. He is standing in opposition to this policy, particularly since CD2 has 40% of the impacted septic systems in the City of L.A. He then recognized his staff for their

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hard work: Damian Carroll, Jackie Keene and Mary Benson, saying they have created an air of transparency and openness with stakeholders. He will be hosting office hours in Sunland-Tujunga on Thursdays with an open house on June 24 from 2 – 4 p.m. His office has set up a way to communicate with him via iPhone and provide a weekly email update to those on their list. He talked about successes so far with the McGroarty Oaks issue and Oro Vista Crossing, having just introduced an emergency motion in Council, which was passed, to provide funding to allow an environmental study (required by the Army Corps) to divert water.

### **8. Public Comment, (cont.):**

Diana Shaw, Candidate for the 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, introduced herself and spoke about her attendance at the City Council's Land Use meeting on the septic tank proposal. She has posted her thoughts on this on the Foothills Forum.

Susan Bolan, of the Crescenta Valley Community Association, and Dr. Clyde 'Tom' Williams from El Sereno, spoke about their opposition to the 710 freeway extension through So. Pasadena, Pasadena and El Sereno.

Ed Novy noted Richard Stewart's artwork on building rock sculptures on Tujunga Cyn Blvd. and said he had a Community Spirit Award to give to Richard, who left the meeting early.

Luke Deasy, a general contractor, said he would like to become more involved in STNC. He is concerned about issues in Region 3 such as restricting those who scrap metal and other materials from people's trash cans.

Nina Royal, chair of Saving LA Project (SLAP), a political action committee in the City, talked about the organization's efforts to remove dysfunctional City Council members. She then spoke about her role as Safety Committee chairperson, S-TServes and the Community Police Advisory Board.

**10. Land Use Committee Report, Tomi Lyn Bowling, LUC Chair,** reported on actions take at the April 19 & May 3 meetings with emphasis on the community's opposition against the Bureau of Sanitation's proposal to levy new fees against septic system owners.

Jacob Lohr said he believes the Bureau's motivation is to raise profits by hooking up systems and charging ongoing monthly fees. He talked about organizing a recall movement for the Mayor.

Philip Tabbi, S-T Chamber of Commerce board member, shared that he uses a chemical in his septic tank every two weeks that helps clean his tank and drains. He said he hasn't pumped his septic system in 35 years.

David Cain, board member, spoke about the original Assembly bill, on which the septic system proposal is based. He believes there should be some regulations for 'high risk' home systems but feels it should only financially impact those who is has to, rather than acting as a monetary stream for the City of L.A.

**(Bowling) moved the LUC's recommendation that STNC support the FTDNC Community Impact Statement regarding septic systems. The motion carried unanimously.**

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**(Bowling) moved the LUC's recommendation that STNC oppose the proposed propane filling station at 7937 Foothill Blvd., Sunland.** The zoning change received conditional approval from the Planning Department this week despite conflicts with the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan. Cindy Cleghorn noted that this facility will industrialize Sunland and goes in the opposite direction of what the community wants. Both Cindy and Tomi asked stakeholders to write letters supporting STNC's stand. **The motion carried unanimously.**

- Tomi reported that the Angeles National Golf Club is very close to signing an agreement with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy which will turn over an area at the Tujunga Wash that is now open space inhabited by transients. Once SMMC acquires the land, their rangers will monitor it and turn away transients, teenagers partying and others who are causing problems in that remote area.
- Commissioner Andrea Alarcon will attend the May 17th LUC Meeting to address the issues around the access road (Arizona Crossing) to Riverwood Ranch.
- Ed noted that CB Realty is doing a great job marketing the vacant K Mart real estate. Ed has a copy of the 8 page marketing report.
- He noted that several trenches have been dug across the land occupied by native oaks at 8330 McGroarty.
- Tomi talked about the loss of the former 50/50 City Sidewalk Repair Program. Now property owners are being held liable for all the costs related to repairs and maintenance of their sidewalks.
- Tomi showed the board a list of municipal violations that the city will fine residents for in regards to neglecting their properties. This list was reviewed at the Clean Program hosted by Councilmember Krikorian the previous weekend. Tomi recommended that anyone who notices foot-high weeds in a yard, cars parked on the lawn, or cars that are in disrepair sitting on a driveway report them to the city. The info on violations will be posted on the STNC website.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report (cont.)**

Treasurer Seigel had to leave early. In his absence, **(Bowling/Linsalato) moved that STNC approve the draft treasury budgets for FY2010-11 proposed by STNC's Treasurer. The motion carried unanimously.**

The next Budget Committee meeting date is May 27, 2010, 6:30 p.m. at NVCH

#### **11. Secretary's Report:**

Verdugo Hills Golf Course: Cindy told the board that a motion is needed to update STNC's position on this issue and to also update the letter of support for Verdugo Hills Golf Course to Councilmember Krikorian. **(Cleghorn/Grant) moved that STNC update the STNC position on Verdugo Hills Golf Course and requested the letter be sent to an expanded list of public officials. The motion carried unanimously.**

Vacancies on the Board: New board members need to be appointed to fill vacancies on Region 2 and 3 seats as well as the parliamentarian.

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Committee Appointments: Dan asked Nina to continue chairing the Safety Committee. She accepted. Mark Seigel was appointed to continue serving as Bylaws Committee chair; Lydia Grant will continue to chair the Education Committee. An Ad Hoc Committee was created to uphold STNC's role as a certifying agency for volunteers earning hours toward educational programs. **(McManus) moved to create a Volunteer Committee with Lydia Grant as chair to establish a vibrant volunteer roster for the community, and to ratify the current membership of the Land Use Committee of STNC. The motion carried unanimously.**

12. **President's Comments:** Dan asked the new board members to review STNC's Code of Conduct. He talked about an upcoming DONE Training, advised them to take the online Ethics Training, and to show up for the meetings regularly and fulfill the requirements as elected reps for the community while always looking to find common ground.
13. **Bylaws Committee:** In Mark's absence, Cindy reviewed the changes in the committees under the bylaws. She advised the board of a DONE training the following weekend.
14. **Meeting Adjourned:** 9:18 p.m.

- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services -