

**STNC BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, July 14, 2010**  
**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall**  
**7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

Attendance: 117, Audience: 102, Board: 15

1. **Call to Order:** 7:17 p.m. by STNC President Dan McManus. Pledge of Allegiance.  
**President's Announcements:** Dan thanked David Cain for organizing the pot luck BBQ which many attendees contributed to for a great meal. He summarized the meeting last week with Congressman Buck McKeon (25<sup>th</sup> District) where STNC members updated him on specific issues including the efforts to save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course and a request for help with getting federal funds for the McGroarty Arts Center. In early August, Dan said a meeting will take place locally to talk about plans to help the Angeles National Forest in the aftermath of the Station Fire.  
**Introductions of STNC Board:** Belinda Woodruff, Ed Novy, Brenda Fortune, Barbara Johnson, David Cain, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Mark Seigel, John Laue, Olina Lowe, Lydia Grant, Jodie Brittan and John Blue. Richard Stewart arrived late.
2. **Introductions of Elected Officials:**
  - Jackie Keene, Field Deputy for Councilmember Krikorian, thanked members of the community who cleaned up Foothill Boulevard prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The Councilmember will be in S-T at his field office every fourth Thursday starting in July. Commerce Avenue is getting needed more improvements but volunteer efforts are still appreciated. There is concern about the homeless community in Sunland Park which seems to be increasing. The Office of Public Safety is increasing their patrols and arresting people for drinking alcohol in public. Also, attempts are being made to get people into homeless shelters.
  - Field Deputy Mary Benson, who is now working out of the Councilmember's North Hollywood office, said she would appreciate any reports on where the homeless are camping so they can do outreach with city services. To protect kids who are now on summer vacation, lawn signs have been printed alerting motorists to watch out for kids playing. Mary also gave an update on funding efforts to establish mountain trails for recreation and to produce countywide trails manual.
  - Jarrod DeGonia, Assemblyman Smyth's office, informed the board that wild animals have been poisoning in the unincorporated area of Lopez Canyon within the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Police are investigating this crime but would appreciate any leads from stakeholders of any suspicious activity.
3. **Outreach Report** – David Cain, VP Outreach, requested the help of volunteers to serve on the Outreach Committee.
4. **Public Safety Report** – Nina Royal, Safety Chair, thanked the police for their help with the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. She announced two upcoming events: National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 – 9:00 at Little Landers Park. It will be a "Pot Luck" picnic with free entertainment plus local service reps from the LAPD. On Saturday, August 21, the Family Safety Fair will be held at the Elks Lodge from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be government agency reps at information tables and refreshments. Nina requested support for this event.

**(Cleghorn/Bowling) moved that STNC support National Night Out and the Family Safety Fair to be held in August 2010 with water, STNC table, and volunteers. The motion carried unanimously.**

**5. Group & Region Board Member Reports**

**Community Service Awards:** Region 4 Reps Ed Novy and Belinda Woodruff presented a Community Service Award to Lloyd Hitt of Bolton Hall for his many years of leadership and dedication to the S-T community. It was announced that Sheri Smith is now taking over Lloyd's duties at Bolton Hall.

They also presented Claire Knowlton, executive director of McGroarty Arts Center, with a Community Service Award for her efforts to make McGroarty Arts Center a multifaceted educational center for the arts. Claire announced that on August 29, McGroarty Arts Center will hold a World Music Concert for the community.

**(Novy/Grant) moved to form a Standing Committee on STNC called the "Arts Culture & Recreation Committee," which Ed will chair. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Education Report: (Grant/Blue) moved that STNC approve a letter of support to expedite a petition and guidelines regarding local school improvements. The motion carried 13-1-0. A straw poll of stakeholders heavily favored this motion.**

Speaking against this motion were:

- Debby Acosta, Principal, Mt. Gleason Middle School
- Carrie Schwartz of LAUSD.

Ms. Acosta presented the board with information that showed progress in the educational scores for students at Mt. Gleason, over the past five years, due to their effort to increase English and Math to 90 minutes per day. Ms. Schwartz talked about how problem students have improved due to parent shadowing and other programs aimed at keeping them in school. She also spoke about "Mustang Dollars" which are used as a reward system for those with academic achievements and good behavior. Mt. Gleason also celebrated students with a "No Tardy Party" this year.

Teachers have been instructed in professional development designed to show positive behavior as opposed to 'disciplinary action' when faced with problems

Speaking on behalf of the motion were:

- Jarrod DeGonia of Assembly member Smyth's office, who talked about a way to increase school funding. He stated that the Assemblyman feels community involvement is the key to better performance in the schools.
- Nina Menart, a stakeholder who supports "Parent Trigger."
- Michael McCue, a board member of the Studio City Neighborhood Council, who spoke about the benefits of "grassroots democracy."

**6. Secretary's Report:** Cindy Cleghorn reported that new board member and Youth Rep Thomas McAuley has resigned due to a sudden relocation out of state. The board accepted his resignation.

**7. Minutes:** The board unanimously approved the June Board meeting minutes.

**8. New Board Member Appointments:** The board voted 13-1-1- to accept the appointment of **Arsen Karamians** as the new **Region 2 rep**. Arsen is a general contractor with a degree in civil engineering and a licensed sewer contractor. The board

also voted 14-0-1 to accept the appointment of **Mary Mulally** as **Senior Rep.** (joining Olina Lowe as Senior Rep).

## 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mark Reed, Republican candidate for 27<sup>th</sup> District, U.S. Congress, outlined his platform.
- Jan Brazil, of the S-T Food Bank, announced they are distributing food for people who are struggling from 9:00 – 11:30 at 7747 Foothill Blvd, Tujunga (North Valley City Hall). She asked for the board's help in supporting their efforts and protesting cutbacks from the city in paying full price for their rental of a room in the building.
- Abby Diamond, Sunland-Tujunga Alliance, announced upcoming events to support the community including:
  - An appeal to the use of the former Coffee Stop as a proposed propane station.
  - A fundraiser on July 15th at Dominicks Italian Restaurant in La Crescenta to support the preservation of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course.
  - A bake sale over the weekend at N. Valley City Hall and Lakeview Terrace Library.
  - A Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m. art auction and sale at McGroarty Art Center to support Little Landers Art Society.
- Marc Dodell voiced his displeasure with the LAPD for not responding to an emergency phone call about a potential shooting at VHHS.
- Bob Arnold, a stakeholder of a neighborhood council, announced he needs support with his group, Dam Flyers, who fly remote control model aircraft at Hanson Dam. They are currently barred from doing so and need help to overturn this with a board motion.
- Nina Royal announced the upcoming fundraiser for "Clean Sweep L.A." which vets out members of the City Council and finds more efficient and educated candidates to replace them.
- Sheri Smith, incoming executive director of Little Landers Historical Society, invited the public to view their current exhibit on "**Water**" at Bolton Hall, which runs until Sept. 21, 2010: In October, the next exhibit will be "Out to Lunch," about the historical restaurants in the Sunland-Tujunga area. [www.littlelanders@verizon.net](http://www.littlelanders@verizon.net). Sheri is also putting together a cookbook with contributions from the community. It will also contain advertising and a household hints section. On Sept. 25, 4:30 – 6:30, the Poets of S-T will do a reading of their poetry. Marlene Hitt is the featured poet.
- Diana Shaw, candidate for the 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, spoke about her desire to be involved with the community. She also contributed a Waldorf Salad to the potluck.
- Marynance Shellenbach asked for everyone's help with the Watermelon Festival, Aug. 13 – 15 at Sunland Park. They need volunteers.
- Jamie Ellis of the Lions Club reported problems with their Watermelon signs being taken down and asked the public to report who might be responsible.
- Charles Miller, who formerly wrote for the Record Ledger, suggested the board help with traffic control on Commerce Street, which he said is averaging over 1,000 cars every day. He is asking for a proposal to create traffic controls.
- Luke Deasy, a local contractor, spoke about problems with scrap metal collectors who are going into people yards and taking property that they can trade for money. He pointed to the United Nation's "Agenda 21" for relief.
- Ariyana Gibbon spoke about her non-profit, "Healing from the Ashes," which is creating art from the Station Fire destruction. She has 20 artists who want to help create artwork but needs an indoor location donated to continue this effort. Their plan

is to create an 8' mosaic of the Phoenix rising from the ashes. She is looking for volunteers to help with this.

- David "Doc" DeMulle reported his efforts to find out what is causing homelessness in this area. He has talked to homeless veterans on the streets and attributes the four main causes to alcohol, liquor stores in our community selling alcohol to people who are intoxicated, homeless receiving money from underage kids to buy alcohol for them, drugs/substance abuse, mental handicaps and the economy. He talked about how a homeless man living inside the 210 freeway underpass set fire to the bridge by the Tujunga Wash and how another homeless man died from falling through a hole in that structure while he was intoxicated. He suggested that those who want to eliminate homelessness look at the reasons and take action to resolve this problem.
- Michael McCue of the Studio City NC, distributed a flyer alerting the public to a new LA City Ordinance (**#171-890, #112.04c**) which prohibits the use of gas/fuel powered leaf blowers within 500' of a residence at any time. He spoke about the health problems caused by gas powered leaf blowers, which include seniors and children suffering from asthma and other respiratory problems.

**10. PRESENTATION:** Representatives of Evergreen Group, a realty/broker and investment and development company, have 102 trees they would like to donate to the community. Evergreen is donating a tree for every unit of housing they rehabilitate. They were referred to the LUC which will discuss options for trees donated.

**11. Land Use Committee Report – Tomi Lyn Bowling, LUC Chair**

- a. Recommended STNC support a LUC recommendation for changes to the Mobile Gas Station at 8505 Foothill Blvd. The owners want to eliminate the recycling facility and replace it with a drive-through car wash. Although LUC voted unanimously to support this, the board had many questions about this change of use. This issue was tabled until the August STNC meeting when the Mobile Gas Station owners can attend.
- b. A new. 80' cell tower has been proposal for 11370 N. Alethea Drive by Big Tujunga Canyon.
- c. A proposal has been filed to build a new home at 6346 Sister Elsie Drive, which is referred to as a very steep hillside street.

**12. LA City Budget Report** – Ed Novy, Citywide NC Budget Rep. told the board that they are pretty much finished with their work now that the new budget is in place.

**13. Treasurer's Report & Updates on STNC Funding** – Treasurer Mark Seigel asked the board to approve four motions which carried: 14-1-0. (Novy opposed). They include:

- a. Motion to approve the July 2010 STNC expense report.
- b. Motion to approve up to \$100 to cover the cost of new STNC name badges.
- c. Motion to approve \$150 to The Foothills Paper for an Election outreach insert.
- d. Motion to approve up to \$100 to improve Wi-Fi access for the NVCH meeting room.

**14. STNC 2010 Elections Report** and working with the City Clerk – Cindy Cleghorn distributed information on regional NC election feedback meetings for the City Clerk's office/Election Division. There will be a roundtable meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup> for this area to critique the recent elections. Cindy also announced Planning Classes on Tuesday nights to work on the Specific Plan adjustments.

**15. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services -**