

STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

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

Attendance: 93, Audience: 76, Board: 17

Prior to the meeting a potluck dinner was held with a Holiday performance by the Foothill Performing Art Center, directed by Tim Borquez.

1. **Call to Order at 7:11 p.m. by STNC President Dan McManus. Board Members present:** Mark Seigel, Jodie Brittain, Nanci Caillouet, Cara DeCaro, Olina Lowe, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Lydia Grant, John Blue, Barbara Johnson, Mary Mulally, David Cain, Brenda Fortune, Richard Stewart, John Laue and Arsen Karamians. Pledge of Allegiance, introduction of elected officials and police.

Berj Zadoian invited the board to the Crescenta Valley Armenian Center on Dec. 10th, 6 p.m. at 2623 Honolulu Ave., Montrose for an outreach and networking event. About six board members gave their RSVP.

2. **Healing from the Ashes Presentation:** Artist Ariyana Gibbon presented checks of \$860.00 to seven residents who lost their homes in the Station Fire: The money was raised through a series of community events including a poetry reading, a film screening and an art exhibition with the artwork created from remnants discovered in the ashes of homes that were destroyed. Those who received checks were present to say a few words. Ariyana also thanked board member and Rotary Club President Richard Stewart, for his promotional efforts, and Ray Mirzkhaniyan, owner of Century 21 Crest, for donating the space to hold the exhibition. All told, \$10,049 was raised before expenses. Another art exhibition will be held in the future for ten others who were not insured for their losses in the Station Fire.
3. **Crime Stats:** Rich Wall, Sr. Lead Officer for Tujunga, reported the clean up effort to remove a homeless encampment near Haines Canyon and Foothill. He talked about pending City Attorney action against the owner of a Medical Marijuana Dispensary at 10037 Commerce Ave., which he said was in violation of the City ordinance. Sr. Lead Officer Larry Martinez: also talked about their efforts to control the homeless population, vagrancy charges and other issues. He talked about a clean up of a homeless encampment under the 210 freeway by Foothill Boulevard.
4. **V-P President's Report:** Tomi Bowling urged everyone to vote for their favorite businesses in the annual Best of S-T Awards which concludes 12-31-10. A committee of local residents was set up to count the votes for this contest.
5. **Outreach Report** – David Cain, VP Outreach, announced the next meeting on Dec. 16th at the YMCA in Tujunga. David thanked everyone who participated in the pot luck dinner prior to the meeting.
6. **Public Safety Report** – Nina Royal, Safety Chair, said she is considering changing the date of her meeting due to low attendance. She is still hopeful to get the needed 25 participants to hold a CPR Training.

7. **Council District 2:** Nate Jones invited residents to the Councilmember Krekorian's Holiday Open House on Wednesday, Dec. 15th from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. at North Valley City Hall in Tujunga. He thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas Tree Lighting last weekend.
8. **PRESENTATION:** Genette Foster of LA Family Housing told the board about a 48-unit housing proposal they are putting together at 7750 Day Street in Sunland. The single units of housing would be studio apartments for low income who are now homeless giving them a chance to get back into society. Supportive services would be provided on site. They are currently in negotiations with the owner of the property. In addition to this proposal, L.A. Family Housing operates a homeless shelter in North Hollywood on Lankershim Blvd.
9. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**
 - Manny Hernandez asked the board for its support for a local Farmer's Market. He is looking at locations now.
 - Nicole Omirla, owner of Nikki's Olde Town Hair House, asked for help with some problems she has had with emptying a trash receptacle and in getting information about whether she is responsible for watering plants on Commerce near her store front.
 - Maja Trochimocryk, Poet Laureate of Sunland-Tujunga, read a poem she wrote for the Healing from the Ashes event.
 - Lloyd Hitt reported finding empty plastic vials at Little Landers Park in the children's play area. The vials come from the Medical Marijuana Dispensary on Commerce (SCI). He asked STNC to support the City Attorney's pending action against the Dispensary with a motion opposing SCI on Commerce.
 - Regina Clark, Little Landers Historical Society, invited the public to their Annual Holiday event on Saturday, Dec. 11th. They are currently producing a DVD on Bolton Hall. Their next program takes place on Jan. 8th about the St. Francis Dam Disaster.
 - Lydia Grant invited the public to attend a Holiday Boutique on Sat and Sun at 10040 Commerce. There will be room available for rent at that location for community activities. She also displayed red T-shirts with the STNC logo that were recently donated to STNC by Peter Babaian.
 - Sheri Smith, Little Landers Historical Society, asked for sponsors of their "Sponsor a Rock" promotion.
 - Nina Royal, talked about a Task Force that the police held in the Valley on Nov. 11 & 12th which resulted in a multitude of arrests for drugs, prostitution and other crimes.
 - Tomi Bowling reported that Home Depot is operating a Christmas Tree lot at the former K-Mart parking lot on Foothill.
10. **Group & Region Board member Reports:**
 - John Blue – Veteran's Rep – is working on getting two veterans recognition from the state for their efforts behind the scenes.
 - Lydia Grant – Parent Rep – talked about the historical vote taken by the State Legislation for the Parent Trigger bill, which gives parents the power to change their failing schools. The first school to make use of it is in Compton, CA. Seven states have added this Bill since it was passed in CA. and she said Canada and the UK are looking at adding it too. She thanked everyone who supported her efforts.
 - Barbara Johnson talked about holiday decorations and the low crime rate in her area.
 - Richard Stewart – Service Club Rep – acknowledged the Christmas Tree lighting event.
 - Brenda Fortune talked about holiday decorations and the Christmas Tree.
 - John Laue – Region 1 – said he was encouraged by the efforts to start a Farmer's Market and also by L.A. Housing's efforts to help the homeless. He talked about a recent accident

at Oro Vista by Big Tujunga Canyon at the dangerous bend in the road and hopes the new park at Oro Vista will help make that area a nice entrance to the National Forest.

- Mary Mulally and Olina Lowe talked about a Wish List for the Sunland Senior Center which includes: bookshelves, tables, a TV, pool table, Cable TV, a couch and gift cards for prizes. They are also seeking talented people to entertain the seniors who have not been using the Center as much as they used to and are unhappy with the caterer.

11. Secretary's Report, Cindy Cleghorn reported on the following:

- Citywide Budget – The Budget advocates are working on a survey to try to find a way to balance the City's budget. That survey will be distributed at the end of January and will be available online. The goal is to generate 10,000 surveys citywide.
- Workshop on Integrated Resource Plan for DWP – Cindy suggested going to www.lapowerplan.org to learn about DWP efforts to go green and submit comments to the plan by December 10.
- 710 Freeway Expansion – Another neighborhood council has voted to oppose the 710 Freeway Expansion. The STNC stands with other NCs and communities in opposition.
- Plan CheckNCLA - Members of this committee met recently with City Planning Director Michael LoGrande and asked that any appeals filed be noticed to neighborhood councils. In less than 10 days the City is now distributing notice.
- The Valley Alliance of NCs was to meet on Dec. 9, 2010 to hear from City Attorney Carmen Trutanich regarding billboards and other updates from the City Attorney's office.
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Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

10. Land Use Committee Report – Tomi Lyn Bowling, LUC Chair reported:

- a. LUC has recommended approval of a conditional beer and wine license for: 10045 Commerce – The applicant is the owner of the former Wired Café and Gobble Green Restaurant. Currently there is a 30-day hold on the application pending more documentation from the applicant. Public hearing was held on 11-22-10.
- b. Update re: 6342 Sister Elsie: A public hearing held on 11-22-10 on this single family residence proposal, which neighbors opposed. The neighbors were asked to submit more information to the Zoning Administrator regarding the limited access, steep slope and public right of way areas. The STNC previously voted to oppose this construction until all environmental issues are completed.
- c. Update re: Oro Vista Park plans. – The plans are pretty much set on the passive park that is planned for the corner of Grove and Oro Vista. Representative from Recreation and Parks attended the LUC meeting with the rendering for the proposed park. The plans are going back out to bid in January due to the time lapse in moving forward. The budget for the park is very limited and cannot support any major changes to the plans already completed. The park will be locked at night.
- d. Update re: WTF and AGF applications in S-T including 7309 Summitrose. LUC is looking to change the policy the City now has for utility providers, who are erecting towers on public property for their profit making ventures.
- e. Announcement: NC Case Tracking Workshop – Dec. 18, NVCH, 9am-1pm. Land Use Committee Members and interested stakeholders can attend.

11. Treasurer's Report – Mark Seigel gave the monthly financial report and **(Seigel/Cleghorn) moved to accept the Dec. 2010 STNC Financial report as submitted. The motion carried.** Motion to approve up to \$1,200.00 for mixer board and related equipment for STNC sound

system for meetings. **(Seigel/Bowling) moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$1,200.00 by STNC for a mixer board and related equipment to provide sound at STNC and other board related meetings. The motion carried unanimously.**

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **PRESENTATION by L.A. Animal Services Volunteer Program:** Officer Brown from L.A. Animal Services reported to the board on what his department does. He has worked with the Dept. for 12 years, 9 of those years at the East Valley Animal Shelter. Due to budget constraints, they have lost staff and not replaced them. However, they are now training 19 new reserve animal control officers who will be available in about 5 months. To offset the cost for uniforms, equipment and outside training, Officer Brown asked the Board for \$1,500.00. After discussion, the board requested Officer Brown come back to STNC's January meeting so this item can be addressed on the agenda. The STNC will also look into which budget category the funds can come from should the board grant the request. The Officer promised to commit time to follow up on any community concerns regarding animals or wildlife.
- b. **Define committee purpose** and members of the newly-formed Arts, Culture & Recreation Ad-Hoc Committee. Postponed to the January 12, 2011 STNC meeting.
- c. **Standing Rule** for STNC procedure to request funds, including statement of community benefit(s). David Cain explained that there is a need for specific language to be used on any funding requests and that language should address how each funding request will benefit the community of Sunland-Tujunga. **(Cain/Blue) moved to have a standing rule with the language to be presented at the next meeting. The motion carried.**
- d. **Discussion** regarding Councilmember Krekorian's Neighborhood Council Report, Dec. 1, 2010, "Perspectives on Neighborhood Empowerment.". Dan suggested the board review the recommendations and be prepared to take action at the January STNC board meeting. Dan acknowledged that the Councilman was instrumental in preserving funding for the neighborhood councils throughout the City in the amount of \$45,000.

12. **Board Announcements:** Cindy is involved with organizing of the next Congress of Neighborhood Councils. The next Land Use Committee meeting is January 3, 2011; STNC Board meeting is January 12, 2011.

13. **Meeting Adjourned:** 9:18 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services