

STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 9, 2011

North Valley Neighborhood City Hall

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

Attendance: 94, Board 16, Audience: 78

1. **Call to Order by STNC President Dan McManus at 7:17 p.m.** Dan thanked everyone who donated food to the potluck dinner prior to the board meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was taken and a meeting overview provided. **Board members present:** John Laue, Jodie Brittain, Cara DeCaro, Mary Mulally, Olina Lowe, David Cain, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Tomi Bowling, Mark Seigel, Belinda Woodruff, Brenda Fortune, Nanci Caillouet, John Blue, Richard Stewart and Barbara Johnson. Absent were: Lydia Grant (out of town); Ed Novy (work), Janet Linsalato (work), Arsen Karamians (illness).
2. **Crime Stats:** LAPD Tujunga Sr. Lead Officer Rich Wall said crime is down over 5% since last year. He provided further info on the number of crimes that have taken place in this area compared to previous years. In light of the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Presentation, he encouraged stakeholders to learn everything they can in advance as the police will not be able to help everyone following a major earthquake.
3. **President's Report:** Dan reminded board members to complete the City's Ethics Training.
4. **Presentation– Margaret Vinci from Cal Tech's Office of Earthquake Programs was introduced by David Cain, STNC VP Outreach.** Ms. Vinci gave an in-depth presentation on Earthquake Preparedness, citing that this was the anniversary of the 1971 Sylmar earthquake. Topics included earthquake hazards, the physics of an earthquake, where to go when an earthquake strikes, what provisions to have on hand, and what one can expect in the way of emergency services following a major 7.7 earthquake.

During an earthquake, Ms. Vinci suggested staying indoors and getting under a table or bed to protect oneself from flying objects. She suggested creating an evacuation kit for one's car and home with enough water, food, extra clothing, and anything used on a daily basis (toilet paper, whistle, flashlight, first aid kit, walking shoes, warm clothing, etc.) with enough supplies to last for two weeks. If driving when an earthquake strikes, she said it's best to pull over to the side of the road, set the parking brake and lie down under the dashboard. She urged stakeholders to always have a half a tank of gas in the car as gas might not be available after an earthquake.

To access water in an emergency, she pointed to the 30 gallons available in one's water heater, the toilet tank and using bathtubs to collect water. A 30 or 55 gallon container can be purchased with a built-in purification system. She cautioned people not to store plastic gallons of water on cement as it causes the plastic to disintegrate; instead store them on cardboard or pallets of wood.

If one is in a coastal area when an earthquake hits, a Tsunami might occur. In that situation, she said one should immediately head for higher ground. She suggested everyone set up an emergency family and neighborhood plan with phone numbers of each person and a brief history of their emergency training or medical skills. More information can be found at: www.shakeout.org. Emergency drills are planned all over the city on Oct. 20, 2011.

Clark Schikler, a licensed contractor, then explained ways to prepare one's home for an earthquake including securing and shutting off a water heater to isolate the water supply from the street supply. He suggested stakeholders have a pair of sturdy shoes by their bedside and a flashlight. He showed how to secure heavy items, such as electronics, to walls with flexible fastenings and cable straps and demonstrated using a stud sensor to find studs to fasten them to in the walls.

Sandy Caps of the Sheriff's Department. talked about what items to put in one's emergency supplies and first aid kit. She said she had access to surplus supplies from the U.S. Military.

Stacy Dancy, Field Officer and Emergency Evacuation Officer for the City of L.A. Department of Animal Services, then talked about supplies that need to be kept on hand for pets including a gallon of water, per pet, per day, for two weeks and 8 – 12 gallons a day for horses. In an emergency, owners will need to be responsible for their animals as emergency services may not be able to get through on the roadways. She suggested building a shelter where animals can go in an emergency and training them, in advance, to go in a kennel by putting them in one for an hour a day. Teaching them that a confined environment is safe will pay off in an emergency. She also recommended having an emergency kit in place for animals by the door which could be easily accessed in an earthquake. Finally, she suggested videotaping one's pets so that if they are lost, there is a record of them with you on a zip drive (as cell phones will be dead from lack of power).

Mark Seigel spoke about Ham Radio communications and how that will most likely be the only form of communication that still works (cell phones signals will be jammed after the earthquake and without power, they won't work). Mark teaches an 8-week Ham Radio class in L.A. He demonstrated its use and invited stakeholders to sign up now.

Paul Dutton, coordinator of the Crescenta Valley CERT Program, (Community Emergency Response Program through the L.A. Fire Department) spoke about what the program offers and how those who are trained CERT members will be the First Line to help others during an emergency. Volunteers are trained to help the Fire and Sheriffs Department and receive 24 hours of training on triage, rescues, emergency response, etc. More information is available on www.cert-la.com.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Linda Casteel, former Sunland-Tujunga librarian for 38 years, urged stakeholders to vote "YES" on Ballot Measure L (for libraries) on March 8th.
- Sheri Smith, Bolton Hall, invited everyone to the next Bolton Hall presentation on the original 1840 Rancho Tujunga Land Grant on Saturday, February 12th at 1 p.m.
- Susan Stewart announced the February 19th Sadie Hawkins Dance at the Elks Club at 8 pm. Proceeds benefit the July 4th parade.

6. Neighborhood Council Citywide Budget Survey – Dan encouraged stakeholders to take the online City Budget Survey at: <http://tinyurl.com/y95t6rd>.

7. Group & Region Representative Reports: None

8. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.** The following were unanimously approved, without objection.
- a. **The Board unanimously approved the January 2011 STNC Board Meeting minutes.**
 - b. **The Board unanimously approved the STNC Feb. 2011 Financial Report (copy included with these minutes).**
 - c. **The Board unanimously approved the LUC Recommendations:**
 - i. **Support for John Laue's Day of Service Project in the Tujunga Wash, City portion in coordination with the Rotary Club, Youth Group and Council District 2.**
 - ii. **RE: 7132-36 High Cliff Trail, Tujunga –LUC Recommends:**
 1. **that the Zoning Administrator hold an additional hearing on the project.**
 2. **that the applicant revise the building plans to address the concerns and comments of the ZA at the hearing held on 10-15-10**
 3. **that no variances or exceptions be granted to this project and that it conform to all of the requirements of the recently enacted hillside mansionization ordinance.**

Arts, Culture & Recreation Committee Report and Recommendations: Tabled.

9. **Final Board Comments:**

Tomi Bowling announced that LAPD is planning to do a presentation on Identity Theft for a future meeting, noting that the San Fernando Valley is now the “capital” of I.D. theft in the nation.

10. **Meeting Adjourned at 9:19 pm**

-Minutes provided by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-