

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 9, 2011**  
**North Valley City Hall**  
**7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

1. **Meeting Called to Order** by STNC President Dan McManus. Boy Scout Troop 555 led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Board members present:** John Laue, Jodie Brittain, Cara DeCaro, Mary Mulally, Olina Lowe, David Cain, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Tomi Bowling, Ed Novy, Belinda Woodruff, Richard Stewart, Arsen Karamians, Barbara Johnson, Janet Linsalato, John Blue. Absent: Lydia Grant, Mark Seigel and Brenda Fortune.
2. **Introductions: Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez.** Officer Martinez noted there has been a 22% decrease in crime for the Foothill Division this year. The STNC area has the second lowest crime rate in the Valley and the third lowest in the City. On March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. LAPD will conduct a meeting on Identity Theft at North Valley City Hall. Officer Martinez then gave crime stats for both Sunland and Tujunga. **Introduction of CD2's new intern, Dora** who announced that brush clearance notices are being sent out to residents who live in high fire zones. They need to complete the affidavits and submit them on time or face a \$26 inspection fee. Dan acknowledged Councilmember Krekorian's re-election.
3. **Greg Bartz, Community Liaison for DWP.** Mr. Bartz announced that Ron Nichols is DWP's new General Manager. On 3/10 a Renewable Energy Workshop will be held. He spoke about solar energy and Measure I which refers to the Ratepayer's Advocate. He mentioned a testing for Chromium 6 levels in the ground water but said it is lower than the federal level for contamination. He talked about work being done on power poles in the area and suggested a way for stakeholders, who have billing problems, to resolve their issues with DWP. For more info go to: [www.lapowerplant.org](http://www.lapowerplant.org).
4. **President's Remarks:** Dan asked the board to complete their Ethics Training as there is a movement by BONC to restrict NC board members from voting unless they complete required Ethics Training. It can be completed online. Also a new round of workshops will be starting in May.
5. **Public Comments:**
  - Sheri Smith, president Little Landers Historical Society, talked about their April 9<sup>th</sup> exhibit and their annual plant sale on April 30<sup>th</sup> behind Commerce and Greeley Ave. (off the alley)
  - Wendall Bowers, who represents the Military Outreach Program said banners will be placed along Foothill Boulevard around Memorial Day to honor hometown veterans from Sunland-Tujunga. They are looking for the names of any veterans who have served, going back to Sept. 9, 2001. The cost for the banners is \$250.00 each. STNC is the first NC to be implementing this campaign. They will be looking to raise \$10,000 to get started. The Rotary Club will be handling donations.
  - Nina Royal, Safety Committee chairperson, talked about plans for National Night Out and the next Safety Fair. A planning meeting is being held March 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Elks Lodge.
  - Ricky Grubb, former STNC Environmental Rep., asked for a status update on the Community Plan. He was told it is on hold. He suggested that STNC establish its position and make a commitment now so there are no conflicts that come up later. (*Note: Mr. Grubb referred to the Land Use Committee.*)

- Dr. Susan Swim said she has just relocated her non profit agency to Tujunga. They do Equine-Assisted Psychotherapy for the underserved. Her group is holding a fundraiser on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and hoping to raise \$50,000 for underserved and at risk populations in L.A. County.  
[www.nowiseeaperson.com](http://www.nowiseeaperson.com)
- Tomi Lyn Bowling talked about the CERT training that begins on August 23<sup>rd</sup> with classes offered on Tuesdays for seven weeks. She is participating in a fundraiser for the March of Dimes. She reported that meetings are being organized all over the city on the new ordinance for those with septic systems. A meeting takes place on 3/24/11 here at North Valley City Hall.

**6. Neighborhood Council Citywide Budget Update & Survey Results:** Ed Novy reported that STNC placed the second highest in the City (out of 93 NCs) for participation in the Citywide Budget Survey. Of the 12 questions, he reported the following:  
 There was overwhelming support for funding for libraries. Measure L did pass in the election. Rec and Parks received support from 57% of the survey participants to maintain current funding.  
 The Fire Department was listed as a top priority by 60% of participants.  
 The North Valley lagged behind the City with 49% supporting maintaining current Police funding. 40% wanted to reduce Street Services by 40%.  
 64% wanted to cut Capital Projects funding by \$40 million for renovation of City- owned property.  
 45% wanted to cut Administrative Services by \$15 million.  
 Only 25% of those who took the survey balanced the City budget.  
 78% wanted to reduce funding for Elected Officials.  
 38% wanted to keep Employee Pay at the current level.  
 80% felt Pension Reform is necessary.  
 50% felt a Reserve Fund was a good idea.  
 49% were against increasing City fees to raise revenue.  
 The results will be presented to the City Council and Mayor with a White Paper. The City faces a \$400 million deficit next year.

Cindy thanked Ed for his involvement with the Budget Process. The board applauded Ed for his hard work. Ed noted that no other City allows for direct input by stakeholders. He then mentioned that he has won a commitment from the Director of the Department of Recreation and Parks to fund a two-year service term for Cable TV for the Sunland Senior Center.

- 7. Outreach Committee Report:** David Cain asked the community to invite their friends to upcoming STNC meetings. The Outreach Committee needs volunteers. Meetings are held monthly at the YMCA in Tujunga to create events that benefit the community. A meeting will be held to organize a Disaster Response Committee on Monday, 3/14 at 7 p.m. at N. Valley City Hall. These meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays.
- 8. Motion: Funding for L.A. Animal Services:** Paul Darrigo, Volunteer, Reserve Animal Control Program, talked about the volunteers who are contributing their time without pay to work as Volunteer Animal Control Officers for L.A. Animal Services. These volunteers are people in the community who receive training from the Police Academy. They need uniforms and he asked STNC to cover the training cost for one volunteer. Presently, a class is starting for 12 volunteers with another class to begin in June. He noted that STNC will receive acknowledgement on their website for the RACO Program: [www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com). Ricky Grubb offered to serve as the contact person for this area on wild animal calls.

Cindy noted that the budget motion was to approve up to \$1,500.00 and that there is currently \$30,438.13 remaining in the budget for the fiscal year. If monies are not used, STNC will probably lose them. Since STNC will not hold an election this year, there is \$8,000 available under "Election Outreach.". **(Bowling/Lowe) moved that STNC allocate \$1,500 to fund a volunteer officer from STNC's "Outreach/Miscellaneous" fund. Cindy made a friendly amendment to use the "Elections Outreach fund", instead. The amendment was accepted. The motion carried: 11-4-2.**

**9. Funding for Family Fireworks Festival – David Cain. (Cain/Novy) moved that STNC support the Family Fireworks Festival as its Title Sponsor and provide payment to Pyro Spectaculars for fireworks display in the amount of \$5,000 from the budget category "Outreach" and "That STNC support the annual Sunland-Tujunga 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade as Title Sponsor in the amount of \$1,000. This amount is payable to the Rotary Club to help offset City fees and expenses for the parade from the budget category 'Outreach.'"** (Richard Stewart recused himself from both motions). **The dual motion carried unanimously.**

**10. Arts, Culture and Recreation Ad Hoc Committee - Ed Novy:** Ed said the Committee is still discussing their purpose so the motion to define this was tabled as well as whether it would be a Standing Rules or Ad Hoc committee. **(Novy/Woodruff) moved to add three members to the previously-approved Committee: Andrew Longo, Bill Skiles and Maja Trochimocryk (and reapprove the six already added to the Committee). The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Land Use Committee Recommendations -Tomi Lyn Bowling** reported that a mini soccer field has been under construction at 10178 Tujunga Canyon Boulevard without a permit and without a project permit compliance review from City Planning for the change of use. **LUC moved that the STNC accept their recommendation for a position paper on this project. The motion carried unanimousd.**

- Tomi reported that there is a proposal for 10046-56 Samoa to construct a 64-unit apartment complex with 208 bedrooms. The units will mostly be 3 and 4 bedrooms for large families. She noted this is double the size of what was previously presented and that there is only parking for 72 cars included in the proposal. Neighbors are concerned that this is too large a project for this area in number of units, height and lack of sufficient parking. The project is set to be an SB-1818 project which allows the developer concessions if the project is built as an affordable housing project. The project is opposed by the committee and neighbors.
- T-Mobile is proposing a cell tower at Graystone and Mather.
- The LUC is considering a proposal for \$100.00 per month for a subscription to a Neighborhood Council Case Tracking service.
- Cindy reported the Chevron Station at 6737 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga has been approved for a recycling station. Neighbors on Apperson are appealing a cell tower co-location to the existing 105' tower with their appeal scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> at the North Valley Area Planning Commission. She also spoke about several Citywide issues. Dan acknowledged Cindy's letter to the Planning Department which he said "took them to task" on not bringing issues before STNC before approving them.

**12. BONC recommendation on Ethics Training:** Cindy announced that BONC is considering a policy that board members must take Ethics Training within 60 days of taking office or they may lose their right to

vote on issues. She talked about proposals for the format of the next STNC election and announced a date of Sept. 24, 2011 for the next Congress of Neighborhood Councils to be held at City Hall.

13. **STNC Bylaws:** Cindy noted that STNC's bylaws need to be modified to bring in compliance with the new NC bylaws template. This will be discussed in detail at a future board meeting as the date to comply is May.
14. **STNC Disaster Preparedness: David Cain. (Cain/Woodruff ) moved that STNC create an Ad Hoc committee whose purpose will be to prepare a Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Preparedness Disaster Plan with David Cain as chairperson and five committee members. The motion carried unanimous.**
15. **2011 "Best of Outreach" Ad Hoc committee – Tomi Bowling.** Tomi reported that some ballots were misfiled in the voting of the "Best of Sunland-Tujunga" contest. She proposed that a process be implemented to accept nominations for each category from March – October. The top two or three candidates will then be put on the ballot in November for a vote by stakeholders. She also wanted to add the new category, "Best Outreach Resource." **(Bowling/Cain) moved that STNC create an Ad Hoc Best of Outreach Committee. The motion carried unanimous.**

**16. Group and Regional Reports:**

- John Blue said he was unhappy that some of the awardees from the "Best Of" Sunland-Tujunga contest did not show up to pick up their awards.
- Jodie Brittain announced a fundraiser on March 25 for Sunland schools. Univision, a Spanish language TV station, will be highlighting VHHS on their news program.
- Olina Lowe spoke about donations for the Sunland Senior Center which is pleased about the contributions they have received. The Sunland Senior Center will be a Disaster HQ in the event of an emergency. Seniors are able to get meals served at the reduced price of \$2.50 so it is a great resource to the community. She said they are still in need of financing.
- Belinda Woodruff reminded the board to keep on promoting efforts to Save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Stories on this are needed for the local newspapers.
- Janet Linsalato is trying to commit local churches to help with the April 30th Community Clean up.
- Richard Stewart talked about efforts to clean up an area on La Tuna Canyon where motorists are dumping their garbage. An auger is needed to dig post holes for posts there. He is participating in a Cancer Walk on April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- John Laue talked about funding for the April 30 trail maintenance and clean up in the Tujunga Wash. He thanked the Rotary Club and Interact Club for their commitment to help with this clean up and asked for volunteers to help improve trails. He also spoke about Oro Vista Park, which he said is moving forward and being put out to bid.
- Dan McManus noted that help is needed to fold up tables and put away chairs after the meeting.

**17. Approval of Minutes for Feb. 2011 Board Meeting: The minutes were approved as presented.**

18. **Secretary's Report:- Cindy Cleghorn.** STNC received a subpoena for records and responded to the request. STNC Board Member Nanci Caillouet, has resigned as she has moved out of the area. Longtime Sunland resident Ivan Cole passed away recently. A memorial service will be forthcoming.

STNC received a grievance and submitted it to a grievance panel. The grievance has now been withdrawn.

**19. Motion: Treasurers Report: (Cleghorn/Brittain) moved to approve an invoice from OK Trophy for in the amount of \$475.00 for the “Best of Sunland-Tujunga” awards from the Outreach Committee funding. The motion carried.**

**(Cleghorn/Cain) moved to accept the monthly financial report. The motion carried with one opposed (Novy).**

20. Announcements: April 13 is the next STNC meeting. CERT classes begin on August 23, 2011. Contact Tomi Bowling to sign up.

21. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services.