

## STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 8, 2011

North Valley Neighborhood City Hall

7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

**Attendance: 119, Board: 20, Audience 99**

**1. Meeting Call to Order at 7:15 p.m.** by Dan McManus, STNC President.

Pledge of Allegiance by Boy Scout Troop 394. Board members present: Dan McManus, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, David Cain, Mark Seigel, Janet Linsalato, Arsen Karamians, Brenda Fortune, Barbara Johnson, Belinda Woodruff, John Laue, Lydia Grant, Richard Stewart, John Blue, Jodie Brittain, Olina Lowe, Mary Mulally, Ricky Grubb and Araz Parseghian.

**2. Elected Officials:** Update from rep for CD2, Heather O'Connor.

**3. President's Report & Announcements:** Dan encouraged everyone to attend the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Family Fireworks Festival. He reviewed the need for board members to complete their Ethics training. A list of board members who have completed training and who have not completed training was distributed. Less than 50% of the board are in compliance with required ethics training. Next class is June 18 in Van Nuys.

**4. Recognition of Darron Sharp** (John Blue, STNC Veterans' Rep): *Tabled.*

**5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Regina Clark**, Little Landers Historical Society announced their program on June 11 at Bolton hall: A history of WW2 paratroopers and an ceremony honoring MIAs and POWs.

**Terre Ashmore**, "Goldleaf," suggested there is a need for a mediator to resolve ongoing disputes with small business. She suggested appointing David Cain as a mediator.

**Sonia Tatulian**, Rotary/Chamber of Commerce, talked about the program to celebrate Hometown Heroes who have served in the military since 9/11. She brought rubber wristbands to finance the banners (which cost \$250.00 each) @ \$5.00 per wristband.

**Sheri Smith**, Little Landers Historical Society, announced that the upcoming program will be their last until September – they are on hiatus for July/Aug.

**Alex Bey**, stakeholder, asked the board for a solution to olive trees on Apperson dropping fruit on the sidewalks making the ground slippery. He asked why potholes are not being repaired correctly and wanted to know how to get dog owners to pick up after their pets.

**Nina Royal** talked about the Redistricting Commission and the move to change the districts for Congress, State Senate, Assembly and City Council. She asked for a Straw Poll of stakeholders present that Sunland-Tujunga be together with Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, Sunland-Tujunga, La Crescenta, Montrose, Glendale and Burbank. Audience was 100% in favor of this combination. Next hearing is on 6/16 in Culver City. New maps will be released Friday 6/10 online at <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/maps-first-drafts.html>

**Lydia Grant**, Parent Rep, announced that a favorite teacher in the School District was laid off after 20 years. She asked the community to pull together and ask

Congress to allow local communities more say in how the School District makes cuts. On July 13/14 she will be going to Sacramento on behalf of the Parent Trigger legislation.

David Cain noted that pothole repairs were done on a holiday weekend at extra pay for those on the City crews – this during a severe deficit in City funding.

6. **Outreach Report** – David Cain, VP Outreach Committee, asked for people to volunteer at community events on behalf of STNC and to give input at his Outreach meetings. **(Cain/Bowling) moved that the board spend up to \$550.00 for 2,000 business card-sized magnets promoting STNC to be distributed at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Fireworks and future outreach events.** The motion carried unanimously. **(Cain/Bowling) moved that STNC approve up to \$2,500 to cover cost of two bus bench advertisements for 12 months promoting the STNC.”** There was quite a bit of stakeholder opposition to this motion. **(McManus/Stewart) then presented a friendly amendment that the board approve up to \$2,500 for Outreach purposes with the final expenditure to be determined at the upcoming Outreach Meeting, Thursday, 6/16/11 at 7 p.m. at the YMCA in Tujunga.** The motion carried.
7. **PRESENTATION: Jan Selder of LA Animal Services’ RACO program** gave an update on the RACO training program for volunteers who work in conjunction with paid animal control officers. The East Valley shelter is open 24 hours a day for emergencies by calling: 818 756-9323 ([www.laanimalservices.com](http://www.laanimalservices.com)). Volunteer applicants must be 21 or older. She then talked about how during the spring, 30 – 50 cats are taken in each day but they only have room for 30. This leads to euthanasia to a large degree. Right now, they have a foster care program for kittens coming in. They need people to foster kittens until they are old enough to be placed. Two events taking place: June 18 is Cat Days of Summer with reduced fee adoption. The next event, Catapalooza, provides a \$20 discount on adult cat adoptions.

**Stakeholder Marsha Perloff** noted that there is an animal control facility in Mission Hills but it is not being used or staffed. She suggested stakeholders lobby the City to use it to relieve animal overcrowding at the East Valley Shelter. For more info, email: [contact@devildogranch.com](mailto:contact@devildogranch.com).

8. **Vote of Confidence: Board member Tomi Bowling**, who had previously posted her intent to resign, asked the board for a Vote of Confidence on whether she could continue to serve: Tomi had received many emails and phone calls asking her to reconsider her resignation. **The board voted: 15-1-2 for Tomi’s favor.**
9. **Safety Committee** Nina Royal spoke about upcoming news regarding National Night Out & Safety Fair events.
10. **Land Use Committee Recommendations**
  - a. **Verdugo Hills Golf Course Prop O.** – Tomi explained that Councilman Krekorian is proposing using Prop O funds to purchase the Golf Course. Cindy reported that L.A. Family Housing gave a report at the last LUC meeting on the proposed plans for low income housing: Day Street Apartments. L.A. Family Housing will be doing a community presentation in the near future on this project. LUC recommended they first do a parking demand study for the site which has a portion of it that sits in a residential/commercial zone.

b. **Interim Control Ordinance:** Cindy said the old Bonner site is operating for another auto body. In order to oppose this usage, STNC has been urged by the Building and Safety Inspector to initiate an Interim Control Ordinance, modeled after the one North Hollywood did, to prevent further auto related uses in the Specific Plan area. The board recommended accepting both Land Use recommendations.

c. **Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan Amendments Letter.** LUC board member Dean Sherer, reviewed the need to update the Specific Plan for the Foothill Boulevard Corridor. He stated that the old plan is outdated and that there were five areas that have been identified that need amending. He stressed that there are inconsistencies regarding auto-related uses. He suggested the board approve the letter to open the door with Councilmember Paul Krekorian on amendments to the Specific Plan which is 15 years old.

- Debi Statland talked about the Specific Plan being flawed.
- Peter Moen, stakeholder, also expressed his belief that there is a need for amendments.
- Ed Novy expressed confidence in Abby Diamond and Dean Sherer's judgment and advice.
- Elaine Brown opposed changing in the Specific Plan, saying the City would try to take away the current protection. She asked the board to postpone a vote until they do more outreach in the community.
- Terry Hake-Church talked about the City watering down the Scenic Plan previously until it was ineffective. She fears the final ordinance will end up being nothing like what was created.
- Marsha Perloff said the Specific Plan is more beneficial to big business than small business in the community and that needs to change.
- Robin Meares asked the board not to give in to the fear and instead establish stronger rules to govern the community.
- Sonia Tatulian also suggested the board not be governed by fear.
- John Laue suggested this be tabled for a month due to a conflict in opinions.
- Mark Seigel asked those presenting the motion what the ramifications would be for delaying a vote.
- Cindy said problems in the community need to be addressed and after many LUC meetings, its time to open a conversation on this with CM Krekorian. Fast-tracking through the Planning process is moving at a fast pace.
- Nina suggested the Plan be simplified and submitted with the letter.
- Belinda said the Specific Plan's vagueness has caused problems with City Planning; that City Planners have told her this is the case. Decisions become "someone's decision" rather than the Plan's intent or rule.
- Tomi suggested drafting a paragraph to clarify the purpose of the letter.
- Dean suggested the following language: "The purpose for the submittal of this letter is to open the conversation on a potential update process for the Foothill Corridor Specific Plan."
- Lydia Grant asked if the letter could include amendments to the Plan.

**The board then moved the recommended letter with the added paragraph: The motion carried 13-0-3. (Cain, Linsalato, Brittain abstaining).**

## 11. Group, Region & Committee Reports: Tabled

Environmental Rep – *Ricky Grubb* – Both i. and ii. were Tabled.

- i. That the STNC approve letter to Councilman Paul Krekorian requesting coordination with City Public Works Department to remove the invasive fountain grass; that STNC will improve the landscaping with local native plants at the "CD2 Welcome to Sunland-Tujunga Shadow Hills" monument sign located at Sunland Blvd./Fenwick and the 210 freeway; that the STNC's Environmental Representative, Ricky Grubb will work with the Council office and applicable city departments to improve the area surrounding the monument sign; that Ricky Grubb will assist with replanting and maintaining the landscaping in the future; that the use of native wild seed and plants collected nearby from Sunland-Tujunga, i.e., "Local Native Plants"; that community member Roger Klemm will contribute to the landscaping plans, planting and maintenance; that other groups and volunteers interested in our local native plants are also welcome and encouraged to participate in this community improvement project.
- ii. That STNC approve expenditure up to \$140 in current fiscal year to cover the cost of native plant seeds, soil, pots, and custom printed stickers and labels for stakeholder and neighbor outreach purposes, also to promote and encourage use of local native plants for drought tolerant landscaping and gardening in the community. *Budget Category: Outreach/Community Improvement*

**12. Secretary's Report & Approval of Minutes – Cindy Cleghorn. The minutes were accepted and approved as submitted.**

- Ed Novy's Resignation: Cindy announced that Ed Novy has submitted his resignation to the board and it has been accepted. There is now an opening on the board for Region 4.
- 2011 Congress of Neighborhoods takes place on Sept. 24, 2011 at City Hall.
- Cindy announced that more cell towers are going up in the S-T area. The City Attorney has issued a report saying that they will set controls regarding aesthetics for above ground facilities. She asked the community to attend upcoming hearings on this subject and express their sentiment on the need to control the way the cell towers look, as we cannot always prevent more of them from coming in and being built. Contact Cindy for more info on this issue at [secretary@stnc.org](mailto:secretary@stnc.org)

**13. Treasurer and Bylaws Reports – Mark Seigel:**

**a. The board unanimously accepted and approved the June 2011 STNC Financial Report.**

- b. Status on sound system. Mark pointed out the new sound system which was previously approved for funding and purchased at a cost of \$2,375.00.

**14. Community Monument Sign: The board approved spending up to \$3,500 to cover costs for a Community Monument Sign at the West Foothill entrance to Sunland-Tujunga (by the Angeles Golf Course).**

15. Discussion/Action to create an ad-hoc committee to work with Council District 2 regarding shopping cart containment at our local markets; explore funding for small shopping cart donations. Budget category: Community Improvement: Tabled.

16. Discussion / Action for STNC to host a day in the park. Tabled.

**Board Meeting Adjourned at 9:48 p.m.**

*-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-*

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**Special Board Meeting Agenda**  
**Wednesday, June 9, 2011**  
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall  
7747 Foothill Boulevard, Tujunga, CA 91402

1. **Call to order: 9:48 p.m.** by Dan McManus, STNC President.
2. **Board motion:** Resolution to approve up to \$1,000 to McGroarty Arts Center for “Tile Wall of Friends Senior Program” with the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council tile in place at the MAC. Budget Category: Outreach. **(Cleghorn/Bowling) moved that STNC approve \$1,000 for the “Tile Wall of Friends Senior Program” for McGroarty Arts Center.**

**The motion carried: 15-1-0.**

3. **Meeting Adjourned:** 9:53 p.m.

*-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-*