

STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2011

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

Attendance: 60, Audience: 48, Board 12.

- Call to order** by Dan McManus, President of STNC at 7:20. **Board Members present:** John Blue, Richard Stewart, Araz Parseghian, Ricky Grubb, Olina Lowe, David Cain, Dan McManus, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Cindy Cleghorn, Belinda Woodruff, Jan Linsalato, and John Laue (who arrived late).

Introduction of LAPD Officer Joel Flores, Foothill Division, introduced himself. He's new at the Foothill Division and the Valley Traffic Division. Foothill Division Police Captain Sean Malinowski then introduced himself saying that area crime is dramatically down by 16% year to date.

Introduction of representatives: Jackie Keene, CD2, spoke about Hometown Heroes, the banner program initiated in the Sunland-Tujunga area which she said is the first of its kind in Los Angeles. Next Monday, Councilmember Krekorian will address questions on Prop O at the LUC meeting. Regarding shopping carts ending up abandoned all over the community, she said that funds have been allocated to provide services for picking up shopping carts. Funds are also available to remove graffiti that is cropping up in the community. She mentioned the repainting of a curb in front of a Chinese restaurant in Tujunga saying CD2 is working with the Dept of Transportation regarding better notification about the restriping of curbs. Finally, she presented former board member Ed Novy with a Certificate of Appreciation (on his 50th birthday) for his work with the McGroarty Arts Center which received a \$1,000 matching grant to fund programs for seniors and other improvement projects from the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council.
- President's Report & Announcements:** Dan spoke about his gratitude for being allowed to serve as Grand Marshall for the Sunland-Tujunga Annual Fourth of July Parade and as chairman and Emcee for the Family Fireworks Festival. He thanked the community for taking ownership of these two events with the collaboration of several different groups. Ultimately he said the money raised goes to fund the Community Grant Fund to benefit the community. Dan acknowledged former board member Ed Novy's efforts as McGroarty board treasurer. Robin Myers and Regina Clark talked about the way this matching grant is benefitting McGroarty's art program.

A grievance filed by Terre Ashmore against the board was found to be unsubstantiated. The report was read aloud. **(Cleghorn/Bowling) moved that STNC accept the grievance report as delivered. The motion passed with one abstention (Grubb).**

In response to this grievance, Cindy additionally recommended that the Bylaws Committee consider adding two, new locations to STNC's public meeting posting sites: Denny's and Century 21 at Lowell.
- Safety Committee** – Nina Royal reported that on August 23 First Aid classes will be held for \$30.00 along with CERT Trainings which will be free. National Night Out will take place on August 2nd at Little Landers Park. The annual Safety Fair will be held on Oct 29 with a special guest appearance by Bobby Sherman.

4. **Safety CERT Training** – Anna Tkatch, Battalion coordinator for the CERT training, announced that the free classes are important trainings for how to respond in a disaster. To sign up, go to: (cert-la.com/classmaps) or contact Nina Royal or Tomi Lyn Bowling through the STNC office at 818-951-7411. Both are helping to coordinate and outreach these classes.
5. **Open board seats: Parliamentarian and Region 4:** STNC is looking to fill two open board seats. Anyone interested in serving on the board is advised to contact Secretary Cindy Cleghorn, President Dan McManus or Office Manager, Ed Rock at the STNC office at North Valley City Hall.
6. **Letter to California Redistricting Commission:** Cindy reviewed what is going on with the redistricting process and outlined what STNC’s stand is on it: **(Cleghorn/Cain) moved that Nina Royal’s letter stating that STNC recommends Sunland-Tujunga be included in a Communities of Interest District with Kagel Canyon, Lake View Terrace, Shadow Hills, La Tuna Canyon, Sunland-Tujunga, La Crescenta, La Canada, Glendale, Burbank be approved and accepted. The motion carried unanimously.** Cindy asked that stakeholders to submit comments online in the next ten days to support this action.
7. **Environmental Rep Letter: (Grubb/Blue) moved, “That STNC approve writing a letter to Councilman Paul Krekorian requesting coordination with City Public Works Department 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.” The motion carried unanimously.**

Stakeholder Roger Klemm spoke about the need to remove invasive, non-native plants in Sunland so that they don’t seed and spread to other areas and to plant local native plants. Community volunteers will be enlisted to help with this project as it goes forward.

(Grubb/Lowe) moved, “That STNC approve the expenditure of up to \$140.00 in current fiscal year funding, pending approval of the new fiscal budget, 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.” The motion carried unanimously. John Laue suggested that Ricky Grubb also help with the planting at Oro Vista Park.

8. **Discussion/Action: Regarding proposed DWP Rate Increases.** Cindy explained that the DWP is proposing a rate hike effective November 1st and that the STNC does not want to see any increase go through until the Ratepayer Advocate is in place to represent the ratepayers on this matter. She suggested that outreach be done to stakeholders and that this resolution be taken up at the next board meeting:

RESOLUTION: The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council endorses the following resolution that was unanimously approved by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition on July 2, 2011. "The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition strongly urges that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the City Council not consider or act upon the proposed water and power rate increases until the Ratepayers Advocate is established and has thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the proposed rate increases and presented such review and analysis to the Ratepayers and the public for their careful consideration. LANCC cannot support any rate increases until the Ratepayers Advocate has reviewed and analyzed these rate increases and discussed the review and analysis with the Ratepayers and the public." DWP has been notified that STNC will be considering this motion in accordance with the DWP Memorandum of Understanding with Neighborhood Councils.

9. **Shopping Cart motion: (Bowling/Grubb) moved, "That STNC create an Ad-Hoc committee to work with Council District 2 regarding shopping cart containment at our local markets and explore funding for small shopping cart donations. Budget category: Community Improvement. And that a letter be sent to Councilmember Krekorian asking him to initiate a motion to strengthen the current shopping cart ordinance in S-T."**
Note: The Ad-Hoc committee will consist of stakeholders and STNC board members and be subject to Brown Act meeting and agenda posting. A video was shown of an electronic system that creates an invisible beam that works to lock the wheels of shopping carts from leaving the property. A video was shown demonstrating how the wheel lock system works. Systems like this are being used now in Glendale. **The motion carried unanimously.**
10. **Animal Waste Stations in Sunland-Tujunga. – (Bowling/Woodruff) moved that STNC create an Ad Hoc committee for the purpose of researching the creation of animal waste courtesy stations in Sunland and Tujunga."** Tomi explained that there are several areas where dog owners are not picking up after their animals. By having these disposable bags available along with signage reminding pet owners to pick up after their pets, it is hoped that pet owners would take the initiative to pick up their animals' waste. Belinda suggested using public works signage. **The motion carried unanimously.** Tomi will chair the Ad Hoc Committee with members Ricky Grubb and Pat Kramer.
11. **Should the STNC host a Day in the Park?** – Tomi suggested that STNC might consider doing something similar to what Councilmember Krekorian did recently. She will bring this item up for discussion at the Outreach Committee.
12. **Land Use Committee Recommendations** – Tomi Lyn brought the following recommendations approved by the Land Use Committee for board approval:
 - a. That STNC support the Sister Elsie neighbor appeal. Recommendation Approved by STNC Board.
 - b. That STNC support expanded notification on Cell Towers in local parks (expand noticing to neighbors and NC, already approved by LUC). Recommendation Approved by STNC Board.
 - c. Tomi reported that arrangements are close to fruition on the Angeles National Golf Club agreement with the MRCA, a branch of Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, to transfer the protected section of land on their property.
 - d. Tomi gave an update on the Solar ICO draft position and that Elaine Brown has taken the lead on this issue.

- e. She briefly reported on Citywide Planning issues including: Development Reform, Cell Towers, Multiple Approvals, Community Care Facilities Ordinance, Parking Modification, Permeable Paving, Shopping Carts, Solar ICO, Citywide Urban Design Guidelines, Bicycle Ordinance. Tomorrow is bicycle, paving and parking modification ordinances.
- f. North Glendale Community Plan height limit on Foothill Blvd. Cindy attended this meeting and stated that there are currently problems with height requirements/modifications for the business area between Lowell and Pennsylvania Ave. in the latest draft of their Community Plan. It is agreed that some work needs to be done on making the Foothill Corridor heights of buildings compatible with S-T, La Crescenta, La Canada-Flintridge.
- g. Report re: FBCSP letter to CM Paul Krekorian – There was no update on this item.
- h. Verdugo Hills Golf Course / Prop O: The meeting with Councilmember Krekorian is scheduled for 7-18-11. All stakeholders urged to attend.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Steve Pierce invited stakeholders and the board to a free event at the La Crescenta Library on Thursday, July 28 at 4:30 p.m. to hear from L.A. County Fire experts. He also spoke about his non profit: Assisting Seniors Through Enhanced Resources (ASTER) Steve offers a program where seniors receive discounts by using a membership card. The card is free; you just need to be 60 or older to get one. There are currently 40 vendors participating in his program giving discounts on their services to seniors throughout the Crescenta Valley and the Sunland-Tujunga area. (See: www.theaster.org).
 - Sheri Smith, Bolton Hall, invited everyone to the current exhibit, “On the Homefront.” In Sept. there will be a new program.
 - Carol Chrysona, the Duck Lady, brought her pet duck to address the board about a growing problem with domestic ducks being abandoned in this area in flood channels and being unable to survive. She has taken in many young ducks that have been disposed of. She is holding a fundraiser at Big Jims Café on July 30 with performances by The Lucky Duck Trio and two other bands. Proceeds go to benefit the Lucky Duck Rescue & Sanctuary in Sun Valley. Tickets are \$20.00. (www.luckyduckrescue.org).
 - Nina Royal announced that her paper, the North Valley Reporter, is coming out soon. She asked board members and stakeholders to not do business with any organization that is not supporting STNC and the community.
14. Discussion / Possible Action: Board Policy and Process in reference to approved board motions. Tabled.
15. Outreach Report – David Cain, VP Outreach Tabled. (David left early due to an injury).
16. **Outreach Meetings:** Tomi announced that for the next three months, the Outreach Committee will be combined with the Executive Committee meetings to help invigorate Outreach. Opportunities will be explored to help improve business climate in Sunland-Tujunga.
17. **Group, Region & Committee Reports**
- a. **Parent Rep – (Linsalato/blue) moved that STNC presented by Lydia Grant, Parent Rep and send it to LAUSD/CD2/City E&N Committee asking them to stop duck hatchings in schools.** Carol noted that she started her 501C3 in June 2009 after finding an increased number of young domestic ducks in the flood channels. She noted that once they are domesticated and fed by humans they cannot function in the wild on their own. The ducks are being hatched and released by LAUSD teachers. **The motion carried unanimously.**
 - b. **Region 3 Rep – (Cleghorn/Stewart) moved to approve up to \$1,000 additional funds for security camera at Little Landers Park as recommended by board member Araz**

Parseghian, pending approval by the Budget Committee. The board approved \$ 2,500 in last year's fiscal budget for this expense. **The motion carried unanimously.**

18. **Secretary's Report & Approval of Minutes**

- a. **Approve Minutes from June 8 meeting. (Cleghorn/Stewart) moved that the board approve the board meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**
- b. **Report: 2011 Congress of Neighborhoods** on Sept. 24, 2011 at City Hall. Cindy talked about this important event and asked the full board to attend.
- c. **CM Krekorian motions regarding Neighborhood Councils** – Cindy requested that the STNC consider supporting/commenting on any or all of the motions? City Council action is expected Fall 2011. Cindy requests that the motions be circulated and that discussion take place at either the Aug or Sep 2011 meeting.
- d. **Board resignation** – Cindy reported that Region 3 rep Barbara Johnson has resigned leaving a board vacancy.

19. **Treasurer and Bylaws Reports**

- a. **(Cleghorn/Stewart) moved to receive the July 2011 STNC Financial Report as presented. The motion carried.**
- c. **(Cleghorn/Stewart) moved to approve the STNC Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-12. The motion carried.**
- d. Status on quarterly report filings – Cindy said that Mark is requesting assistance with this and anyone with numbers/detail experience is welcome to assist.

20. **Announcements:** The Watermelon Festival takes place Aug. 12-14 in Sunland Park. **There will be a meeting with the team from Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market at the Aug 1 LUC meeting. They plan to move into the space next to PetSmart in Tujunga.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-