

STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 14, 2011
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

Attendance: 53, Audience: 41, Board: 12

1. **Call to Order at 7:10 p.m.** by STNC President Dan McManus. Board Members present: John Blue, Araz Parseghian, Olina Lowe, John Laue, Dan McManus, Cindy Cleghorn, Tomi Bowling, Brenda Fortune, Belinda Woodruff, Janet Linsalato, Richard Stewart, and Mark Seigel. Quorum established.
2. **City Officials and Reps introduced:** Mary Benson and Jackie Keene from CD2. Jackie explained how budget cuts in the City have affected quality of life issues. Another Homeless Services Outreach Day is being organized as the homeless have moved back into the Tujunga Wash. Mary Benson participated in a homeless counting event in NoHo with L.A. Family Housing. She gave an update on plans to house 60 homeless and low income people at their new apartment units in Sun Valley. She distributed names and numbers for the companies responsible for shopping cart retrieval in this area.
3. **President's Report & Announcements:**
 - a. Specific Plan: Councilmember Paul Krekorian sent a letter to STNC stating that there are no funds in this fiscal year's budget to revise the Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan.
 - b. Passive Park at Oro Vista: Mary Benson said that plans are on hold for creating this park as the project has to be put out to bid. When it is created, it will have a large parking lot and a horse staging area as well as trails.
 - c. Congress of Neighborhoods - Sept. 24 at City Hall- Dan encouraged board members to attend.
4. **LAPD:** Officer Flores, Traffic unit of LAPD, talked about their impound program and traffic citation project where officers posed as pedestrians crossing the street in traffic. Motorists who failed to yield were written up. Stats: traffic collisions are down 66%, also DUI traffic collisions, hit & runs, vehicle vs. pedestrian accidents, and bicycle involved crashes were all down in August.
5. **Open Seats on the Board:**
 - Stakeholder Nigel Burns, a Tujunga resident and attorney, was appointed by unanimous vote the new Region 4 board member. (Candidates John Rogers, Barbara Stam, and Ginny Buonauro were not present for the meeting).
 - Ed Novy was appointed to the board as Group Rep for McGroarty Arts Center. The motion passed with one opposition (Lowe) and one abstention (Blue). This appointment fills the seat vacated by Cara DeCaro, Youth Rep who resigned to go to college.
 - Open board seats: Region 3 and Parliamentarian.
6. **Public Comments:**
 - Regina Clark, Little Landers Historical Society, announced their Sat. Oct. 8 Folk Tales program.
 - Eugene Hernandez, Green Party Candidate, announced his platform against overdevelopment and nuclear power and for the creation of more jobs.
 - Sheri Smith, Bolton Hall, invited the public to their next exhibit on the Boom Years (50's and 60's).
 - Marlene Hitt invited the public to a Poetry Reading, Sept. 25, 4:30 at Bolton Hall.
 - Jessica Betts, a Samoa Ave. resident, spoke against the proposed 64 unit development on Samoa saying there is a shortage of parking now and a problem with crime.
 - Nina Royal spoke on behalf of resident Mr. Kounev of Samoa against the Samoa proposed development.

- Nina Royal spoke for herself against the proposed development on Samoa stating a lack of parking and crime.
- Karen Zimmerman showed the board an article in “Fore” magazine on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course.
- Berj Zadoian asked for an update on the Foothill Corridor Specific Plan as it relates to auto businesses on Foothill Blvd.
- Jack Lindblad, Assembly candidate 39th District, announced his candidacy. He opposes land mining and encourages passive and active recreation.

7. Group and Regional Reps’ Report:

- John Laue said the Master Plan is out on Hansen Dam which connects with the Tujunga Wash.
- Ed Novy announced the Dec. 10 Holiday Boutique/Chili Cookoff at McGroarty Arts Center. As Budget Rep for STNC, he said new candidates are needed for the new budget season.
- Richard Stewart invited the public to the Rotary Club’s racing car challenge which will raise money to donate dictionaries to schools.
- Brenda Fortune announced that she is the new coordinator for VHHS’ Interact Club.

8. Land Use Committee Recommendations – Tomi Lyn Bowling

Storm Drains: (Bowling) moved that STNC support the LUC letter of support for homeowners in the 10900 block of Hillhaven Ave. and the 7100 block of Dos Rios Dr., Tujunga area for improvements to the storm drainage system and that it is urgent the US Forest Service (Federal), L.A. County and L.A. City need to coordinate and complete improvements to save these homes from future damage during rain season. Additionally the request asked that the letter be sent to surrounding jurisdictions.” Jon Von Gunten presented a slide show showing the severe erosion to hillsides affecting 29 residential properties on hillsides in Tujunga. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Samoa Apartments: (Bowling) moved that STNC support LUC’s letter to the Dept. of City Planning requesting the City reject the application from the developer for the Samoa Apartments proposed project until they address irregularities and missing information on the application. Additionally, that the letter be sent to community organizations and the Mayor of L.A. She pointed out that a team of stakeholders had reviewed that application and found many flaws in the paperwork which proposes developing 64 units of affordable housing on Samoa Ave. in Tujunga with only 81 parking spaces. **The motion carried unanimously.**

Updates:

- 6477 Foothill Blvd.: This auto related business has been closed down after it was pointed out that they were breaking regulations,
- 6737 Foothill (Chevron Recycling Center & U-haul Business): This business has been put on a “Stop Order/Order to Comply”,
- 7937 Foothill (Leolang/Foothill): This business has proposed an outdoor café but does not have the permits,
- Sunland Ralphs Shopping Center is being emptied out for remodeling.

Public Hearing Notices for 6348 Foothill Blvd. (Fresh & Easy) – Hearing will be held on Sept. 19 and 20th for Fresh & Easy’s Specific Plan variance for signage and Conditional Use for Beer & Wine sales.

Citywide Ordinances: Cindy reported on a citywide ordinance to allow Farmers’ Markets in different zones. The Planned Development Districts Ordinance Revision and staff hearing notice is for 9/28/11 (last day to submit comments 11/7/11).

9. Outreach Report – David Cain, VP Outreach - Absent no report

10. Safety Committee – Nina Royal announced:

- Sunland-Tujunga Safety Fair will be held Sat., Oct. 29 at the Elks Lodge. Volunteers are needed.
- Open House for the 50th anniversary of Foothill Division of LAPD, Oct. 8, 10 – 4 p.m.
- Police Academy training for stakeholders on police procedures: Sept. 29.
- Congress of NCs on Sept. 24 will have an emergency preparedness session.

11. Demand Warrant for The Foothills Paper: Mark introduced a bill from The Foothills Paper for \$50.00 for a display ad that no one on the board could validate. It is unknown whether the ad was authorized for the April 29, 2011 issue. Since the bill was sent several months after it was run it is unknown whether DONE will pay it. The board tabled this issue until David Cain is present to see whether he can vouch for the ad.

12. NC Reform Motions: Cindy Cleghorn suggested that STNC review the NC Reform motions. The motions will be agendized on the next STNC board meeting. Cindy reviewed the Ethics Training requirement for all board members serving on STNC.

13. Community Impact Statement, Council File 08-2020, Citywide Sign Ordinance. (Cleghorn/Blue) moved, “That Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council oppose adoption of the revised citywide sign ordinance now pending before the City Council Planning and Land Use Management committee because it would allow a proliferation of commercial advertising on both private and public property without a significant reduction in existing billboard and signage blight, and would allow new electronic signage without addressing energy use, light pollution, traffic safety, and other issues that could negatively effect communities throughout the city.” The motion carried unanimously (13-0-0).

14. (Cleghorn/Blue) moved, “That Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council voted to oppose any portion of a Citywide sign ordinance that allows billboards in any City park, land designated as Open Space, or any land currently managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks. Los Angeles’ parks are a retreat from the relentless commercialization permeating today’s society. Parks are a core city service and do not exist to generate revenue. Children are people who use our parks must not be offered up as marketing targets to the highest bidder. This defeats a park’s fundamental purpose.” The motion carried unanimously (13-0-0).

Kristin Sabo of FTDNC explained that this ordinance would allow commercial advertising in parks and other recreational areas and on public and city-owned property.

15. Secretary’s Report & Approval of Minutes – (Cleghorn) moved that the minutes for the August board meeting be accepted as presented. The motion carried unanimously (13-0-0).

16. Treasurer and Bylaws Reports –(Seigel) moved that the board receive the September 2011 STNC Financial Report. The motion carried unanimously (13-0-0).

17. Announcements: Mark is offering a free Ham Radio class for 8-weeks starting Sept. 22.

18. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services