

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

Attendance: 99, Board: 14, Audience: 85

1. **Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by First Vice President Tomi Bowling.** Pledge of Allegiance, Meeting overview, **Introduction of STNC Board:** Mark Seigel, John Laue, Sonya Marquez, Kresse Armour, Jan Linsalato, Richard Stewart, Cindy Cleghorn, Brenda Fortune, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Ed Novy, Lydia Grant Olina Lowe, Belinda Woodruff, Arsen Karamians, John Blue. Wendy Snyder took her seat on the board after Item 11. Absent: Ricky Grubb, Jodie Brittain, Nigel Burns, and Dan McManus. Tomi Lyn Bowling recused herself for Special Agenda item regarding 8100 McGroarty and Arsen Kramians recused himself regarding Agenda item 14.a.
2. **President's Report & Announcements:** City staff from CD2 announced that a new bike lane has been installed on Sheldon by Wheatland. A kick off bike ride will take place on Feb. 25th to officially open it. Jackie Keene talked about the conclusion of improvements on Commerce Ave. Mary Benson announced the Oro Vista Park community event on March 31st (at Grove/Oro Vista). Friends of the L.A. River will be organizing a clean up at the Tujunga Wash.
3. **Safety Report** – Nina Royal introduced new Sunland Senior Lead Officer Don Boon who recently replaced longtime Sr. Lead Officer Larry Martinez. Tujunga Sr. Lead Officer Rich Wall gave crime stats: There was a 30% crime drop since last year for this area. The City Attorney is focusing on Medical Marijuana dispensaries with an eye toward closing more down. There are currently 17 operating in the Sunland – Tujunga area. Neighborhood Watch will be held Feb 21 at N. Valley City Hall at 6:30.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The board approved the minutes for January 11, 2012 board meeting.
5. **Treasurer's Report: (Seigel/Novy) moved to have the February 2012 STNC Financial Report accepted. The motion carried unanimously.**
6. **Santa Monica Mountains & Recreation Authority** – Fernando Gomez, Chief Ranger MRCA, spoke about the Santa Monica Conservancy's duties to patrol and maintain the Tujunga Wash area formerly owned by Angeles National Golf Club. He is one of three rangers: Tim Pera and Tony Scattaglia are the other two rangers. He explained that this area borders the City of L.A, the Angeles National Forest and the Golf Course. With the new conservatorship, all dogs must be on leashes and owners must pick up after them. The SMMC is a full law enforcement agency as well as an educational service. They will be leading Interpretive Walks at the March 31st event. They can be reached via phone or email at: (310) 456-7049 - the 24-hour ranger services number, (use 911 for emergencies). Email: fernando.gomez@mrca.ca.gov or call: (310) 858-7272 (149), timothy.pera@mrca.ca.gov, tony.scattaglia@mrca.ca.gov They are looking for volunteers from the community to work with them. Jody.Thomas of their Santa Clarita office will organize volunteers.
7. **Oro Vista Park** – John Laue asked if plans for the Oro Vista Park could be integrated with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as an entryway to their Park land. Mary Bensen of Councilmember Krekorian's office said she would check into this. She then spoke about \$250,000 that the Bureau of Street Services will be using for weekend tree trimming, pothole repairs and clean up of illegal dumping of trash in the district.
8. **Sunland-Tujunga monument sign** at Sunland Blvd. and Fenwick – Cindy said this issue would be tabled since Rick Grubb was unable to make it to the meeting. He is working on replanting the area around the sign with native plants.
9. **VANC Anniversary: (Cleghorn/Fortune) moved that STNC approve up to \$100.00 for shared costs for the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils event with STNC recognition." The motion carried.**

10. **Foothill Blvd. Improvement Workshop:** Cindy said the workshop takes place on February 18 at 12 noon at North Valley City Hall. The Specific Plan covers plans for about 4.5 miles along the commercial corridor between the Sunland 210 exit and Lowell.
11. **Region 2 Representative board position – (Linsalato/Novy) moved that STNC appoint stakeholder Wendy Snyder to the Region 2 seat.** The motion carried unanimously. Wendy works for JPL and has an interest in sustainability and going green.
12. **Outreach Committee recommendations** – Brenda Fortune made the following motions as part of her monthly Outreach report:
 - a. **(Fortune/Novy) moved that STNC allocate \$200.00 to the S-T Poet Laureate event. The motion carried unanimously.** Ed Novy talked about this tradition which started with John McGroarty, first poet in CA. Ed offered to match that amount. Brenda noted it was part of our historical contribution to L.A.
 - b. **(Fortune/Stewart) moved that STNC allocate \$200.00 for rental of chairs for the community faith Easter Sunday event. The motion carried unanimously.**
 - c. Brenda spoke about the **Good Food Day of Service Project on March 31**, which will take place at Oro Vista Park. Kresse Armour added that there will be two Interpretive Walks/hikes held as a celebration of the Mayor’s Day of Service as well as a picnic at the proposed park at Oro Vista and Grove Streets in Sunland.
13. **L.A. CITY REDISTRICTING:** Nina Royal and Cindy asked the board and stakeholders to independently oppose the draft maps for redistricting at the workshops taking place around the city. The redistricting would take STNC out of Councilmember Krekorian’s area and put it into the Council District governed by Alarcon along with Lakeview Terrace and Sylmar.
14. **Land Use Committee Report** – Tomi Lyn Bowling
 - a. **Change of Use: Café at 6915 Foothill: – (Bowling/Woodruff) moved to approve this change of use request for a café at the site of a former auto business at Marcus and Foothill Boulevard in Tujunga. The motion passed with one abstention (Seigel).** Board member Arsen Karamians recused himself from the vote. Arsen has helped design the site which will feature outdoor seating and international food. There was discussion about whether hookah pipes would be installed at this café. Arsen said he didn’t think the owner would have them if there was opposition from the community.
 - b. **Medical Marijuana dispensaries: (Cleghorn/Seigel) moved that STNC support Council Files 11-1737 & 11-1737-S1 which provides a “gentle ban” on dispensaries in the City of L.A.”** Ed spoke against the motion saying that it would prevent those who needed marijuana for medical purposes access. **(Fortune/Novy) moved to table it for more discussion. The motion to table failed by: 7-9-1. The board then approved the original motion: 10-0-6 abstentions.**
 - c. Other Land Use updates: Tomi gave updates on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, 7650 Day Street project, Kmart site, 10046-50 Samoa, LA City Sidewalk Ordinance, and 8100 McGroarty: Canyon Hills Academy. **(Bowling/Seigel) moved that STNC support the conditional use permit for 8100 McGroarty. The motion carried.**
15. **Public Comment:**
 - Carol Chrysong, The Lucky Duck Rescue & Sanctuary, presented the board with a letter of appreciation for donating funding to build a safe enclosure for her wild ducks.
 - Bob Snyder, pastor of Verdugo Hills Ministerial Association, thanked the board for funding the Easter Service.
 - Sheri Smith, Bolton Hall Museum, invited stakeholders to their monthly program on the history of winemaking with a speaker from the Stone Barn Winery in La Crescenta. She announced that April 21 is the date for Bolton Hall’s annual plant sale.
 - Richard Stewart and Susan Stewart invited the public to volunteer for their Belly Busters Club, committing to clean up trash on a city streets in the STNC area.

- Nina Royal, publisher of the North Valley Reporter, asked for advertising support.
 - Cary Brazeman announced his candidacy for City Controller.
 - Lydia Grant gave an update on LAUSD's redistricting and how that will affect this area.
 - Kresse Armour invited the public to the March 3rd Rotary Dance Night at the Elks Lodge. Proceeds raised go to the July 4th S-T parade.
16. **Budget Rep Report/LA CITY Budget Survey:** Ed Novy asked the board to fill out the Mayor's Budget Survey and reported that this area is in the Top 3 communities responding to the survey. As Budget Rep, he said the City is in the hole by \$160 million dollars. Possible cuts to the City budget could negatively impact Bolton Hall and McGroarty Arts Center by taking away comps for free utilities.
17. **Group and Regional Board Reports:**
Treasurer Mark Seigel asked for volunteers to help him prepare the budget for next fiscal year.
- a. Ed Novy spoke about free art classes for seniors (55+) at McGroarty Arts Center which will be held every Tuesday and Thursday, 2:30 – 4 p.m. at Sunland Senior Center. In March, McGroarty will hold its Art Fair and Gallery "Just CA" with contemporary art.
 - b. Veterans Rep John Blue said he is trying to establish a program where veterans are contacted by the V.A. and transported there. He asked whether the Day Street low income/transitional housing could set aside 10% priority acceptance to veterans.
 - c. Richard Stewart announced a Barbershop Quartet would open next month's STNC meeting.
 - d. Lydia Grant announced a meeting by the City of L.A. on job training and occupational center funding.
18. **New City Council Committee chairs:** Cindy reviewed this item on the agenda.
19. **Neighborhood Council Reform Motions:** Cindy and Nina talked about how DONE will go before the City Council over the next few weeks to propose further reforms on the NC system.
20. **Neighborhood Council Elections Committee:** Cindy talked about the next STNC election in 2012, which will be combined with Sun Valley NC and FTDNC. She asked for volunteers to participate on this Ad Hoc Elections Committee to work on the logistics of advertising and outreach and getting candidates to run. Elections will most likely take place in Sept.2012.
21. **LADWP Updates:** Cindy announced the following:
- a. Dr. Frank Pickel is the new Ratepayer Advocate for LADWP, confirmed by City Council last week.
 - b. The City Council approved a rate increase for water bills on Feb. 1st, against the wishes of STNC. It is subject to a later review and analysis by Dr. Pickel, the Ratepayers Advocate.
 - c. LADWP – Recycled Water & Review of Draft Master Planning Documents – Public comments are due by Feb. 10, 2012 to serge.haddad@ladwpc.com She asked the board to decide whether STNC submit its comments.
 - d. DWP MOU with NC – (Cleghorn/Fortune) moved that **STNC renew the existing MOU with DWP for five years and name Nina Royal as STNC's rep. The motion carried. (Seigel/Stewart) to name Cindy Cleghorn as the rep to the DWP Committee.**
22. **Meeting adjourned at:** 9:37 p.m.

- **Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-**

BOARD and LAND USE COMMITTEE SPECIAL AGENDA
Wednesday, February 8, 2012
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1. Call to Order: 6:45 p.m. Tomi Bowling, 1st Vice President
2. **(Bowling/Skiles) moved to approve the comment letter to LA City Planning regarding 8100 McGroarty Street, Sunland, to extend Conditional Use Permit for continued use and maintenance of a private school in the RE11-1 and RE40-1 Zones for five years. The motion carried.**
3. Meeting Adjourned: 6:50 p.m.

- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-