

**STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 13, 2012**  
**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall**  
**7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

**Attendance: 92, Audience: 76, Board: 16**  
**with a quorum of twelve members.**

1. **Call to Order at 7:12 p.m. by STNC President Dan McManus.** Pledge of Allegiance and meeting overview. Dan acknowledged longtime CD2 Tujunga office staffer Jackie Keene who is moving to the North Hollywood office with Councilmember Krekorian. Jackie invited stakeholders to attend a Salute to the Foothills at City Hall with Councilmember Krekorian June 19 from 9 – 10 a.m. Dan invited everyone to attend the 4th of July Parade and the Family Fireworks Festival at VHHS. STNC Board members present were: Mark Seigel, Belinda Woodruff, Sonia Marquez, Kresse Armour, Richard Stewart, Wendy Snyder, Cindy Cleghorn, John Laue, Dan McManus, Tomi Bowling, Lydia Grant, Janet Linsalato, Olina Lowe, John Blue, Brenda Fortune, Araz Parseghian and Ricky Grubb.
2. **Approval of Minutes – (Cleghorn) moved that the minutes from May 2012 be approved as presented. The motion carried.**
3. **Public Comments:**
  - Susan Stewart – Rotary Club President- talked about the Hometown Banners to be installed for our local military.
  - Wendell Bowers talked about the Lions Club's donation for the banners and his own son's military service. Wendell helped initiate the Hometown Banners campaign.
  - Pat O'Brien – Commander of the American Legion - acknowledged the Bowers for the Banner Program and asked for sponsors to fund this campaign.
  - Candace Laughlin, Rotary Club, read a touching poem she wrote to acknowledge the veterans.
  - Sheri Smith, Little Landers Historical Society, talked about the exhibit at Bolton Hall.
  - Marlene Hitt, Village Poets, invited everyone to attend a Poetry Reading on June 24<sup>th</sup> at Bolton Hall.
  - Steve Crouch, asked for support with the Tujunga Watershed Urban Exchange, which will allow landowners to share their garden space with those who want to tend gardens but don't have the space to do so. [www.sharingbackyards.com](http://www.sharingbackyards.com) or contact Steve at: [info@twgx.org](mailto:info@twgx.org) (818) 259-1202.
  - Nina Royal, publisher of the North Valley Reporter, said the paper will be out this week. She asked for support with her Honorary Sheriff campaign by attending a dance at the Elks Club next Saturday.
  - Mary Schellenbach, Lion's Club, asked everyone to support the Watermelon Festival, Aug. 10-12 at Sunland Park.
  - Kresse Armour announced Brenda Fortune's bid for Honorary Sheriff with a comedy event at the Elks Club on June 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. There will be food, music, and comedy. The proceeds raised go to VHHS.
  - Belinda Woodruff informed everyone about a City Council proposal to end the live feeds to Van Nuys City Hall.
  - Stakeholder Phelan Fernandez asked for the board's help with the YDP program at Apperson Elementary which is being shut down. It is an after school program for kids.
  - Lydia Grant said she will fight for open enrollment in the schools. She talked about child trafficking "Traffic Youth" and announced that Councilmember Alarcon is sponsoring jobs for local youth. She also spoke about two films documenting the Parent Trigger legislation, which she helped push through the legislature: "Won't Back Down" is a feature film; there may also be a documentary made on the local effort behind the Parent Trigger legislation which S-T fought for.

4. **NC Budget Advocate Report** – Glenn Bailey, NC Budget Advocate from Encino gave an update on two important motions that have come before City Council: One to end live feeds to Van Nuys City Hall and the other to create Assessment Districts which would hold property owners responsible for sidewalk repairs. (See: [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org) for the budget motions).
5. **Safety Committee Report** – Nina Royal spoke about a local bullying presentation to take place and invited everyone to help with National Night Out on August 7th.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Mark Seigel gave the financial report for June. (Seigel/Grant) moved that STNC accept the June 2012 STNC Financial Report. The motion carried.  
(Cleghorn/Fortune) moved to approve up to \$1,000 to cover Graffiti Busters, payable to Sun Valley Chamber of Commerce, out of the *Budget category Community Improvement from FY 2011-12 budget*. The motion carried. Mark reiterated that the NC budget for FY 2012-13 will be reduced to \$37,000.
7. **Presentation: CD7 Councilmember Richard Alarcon: Sunland Tujunga is now in Council District 7 as a result of the Redistricting Process and the new boundaries and representation goes into effect on July 1. Therefore, as of July 1, Councilman Paul Krekorian is no longer representing Sunland-Tujunga. Councilman Richard Alarcon is our new City Council District representative.** Mr. Alarcon greeted stakeholders and answered questions. Councilmember Alarcon, grew up in Sun Valley and has been involved in the State Legislature as well as City government for many years. In answering questions, he mentioned that the live feeds to Van Nuys have already been cut from the budget as it was determined that there was not enough participation in attendance. (Councilmembers Greig Smith and Mitch Englander urged the Budget Committee to approve this cut).
  - Lydia asked the Councilman how he felt about tax subsidies to downtown hotels for development. He stated that development would create taxable income for the City and that development will greatly improve the downtown district.
  - Nina Royal asked about whether he will keep the local Council office open. He said he will be hiring people based on their qualifications to staff the Tujunga office.
  - In response to questions about Lopez Canyon monies, he talked about plans for the Childrens' Museum which was discontinued due to lack of financing.
  - On questions about Medical Marijuana issue, he said the original intent of the law was very unclear to everybody, including the courts. Regarding Cindy's question about whether he would help close the 12+ dispensaries, he said if they are in violation of the City's permits, then they need to be shut down. But he mentioned there is also discussion about a Gentle Ban, which would allow people to grow it at home. He said this is an issue that has yet to unfold.
  - Cindy then asked what his stand is on Community Care Facilities Ordinance. The Councilmember said that every community has issues with drug and alcohol problems and that a Community Care ordinance needs to serve these people. He has no problem with shutting down bad operators, but he does have a problem shutting down good operators.
  - Regarding the after school programs being shut down, he talked about his role in creating "L.A.'s Best" after school program for children and said he would look into whether he could help with some money for some of the local programs.
  - On the topic of homelessness and crime, he talked about his work in community policing and said he would be interested in attending Neighborhood Watch meetings.
  - Family Fireworks Festival: Councilman Alarcon contributed \$6,000 to the July 4th Family Festival and another \$900.00 (on his way out of the meeting) for the remaining Hometown Heroes banners.
  - Verdugo Hills Golf Course: The Councilman pledged to support preserving the Verdugo Hills Golf Course with Prop O funding. He asked the community to help this along by continuing to write letters and show up at meetings on the Water Reclamation project as it is ongoing. He introduced his deputy, Anna Grande, and asked everyone to reach out to her with any concerns.

8. **Sunland Park**– Nicole Royer, Sunland Park Director, announced the opening of Art Camp, a free kids program in conjunction with McGroarty Arts Center which will be held in the Park during July. (Note: since the July STNC meeting, this has been cancelled.) There will also be programs with gymnastics, ballet, crafts, aikido, games, and a free summer lunch program at noon every day for kids up to the age of 18. The Sunland Senior Center, which she directs, is also offering some new programs including an expanded Art program for seniors, dance classes, fiber arts and design, and two-dimensional design, free to anyone 55+. In the Fall, a Flag Football program will begin for kids (between 3 and 6 p.m.). There will also be classes for tennis, ballet, cooking, and arts, all free. She talked about formulating a program for after school for kids to substitute for the one that is being lost. She asked anyone with concerns about this to contact her at the Senior Center at Sunland Park.
9. **Neighborhood Council Board Elections:** Cindy reviewed the process for becoming a candidate for the next STNC board term (two years). Candidates may file until July 5<sup>th</sup>. The election takes place on August 4<sup>th</sup> at North Valley City Hall. There is information online at: [www.empowerla.org](http://www.empowerla.org). Just click on the map for the Sunland Tujunga area to follow our specific election information.
10. **Environmental Rep Ricky Grubb** presented a motion concerning protection for the Arroyo Toad. He presented a letter that asks L.A. County officials to refrain from the sediment removal. **(Grubb/Woodruff) moved, “That STNC send a letter to L.A. County stating, “Please release some sediment and sand to replenish our river’s sandy rills and sand bars and allow these stream bed structures to persist sufficiently for Arroyo Toads to thrive once again in Sunland’s portion of the Big Tujunga River Wash. Please pass us some sediment and sand from the dam.” The motion carried unanimously.**
11. **Support for Crenshaw Community:** Lydia Grant reported to the board on efforts by Metro to build infrastructure at the Leimert Park Station that the community objects to. **(Cleghorn/Stewart) then revised the original motion declaring that STNC support the Crenshaw’s community’s effort for an environmental review process for the Leimert Park Station and Park Mesa Heights Tunnel. The motion carried.**
12. **Oro Vista Park:** John Laue updated the board on issues and delays around the creation of the park.
13. **LA Animal Services RACO Fall Class** –*Tabled to next meeting.*
14. **Comment letter to City Planning Commission:** Medical Services Professionals Ordinance. Cindy read a letter to the board and informed them of the issues surrounding this matter. **(Cleghorn/Seigel) moved to support sending this letter to City Planning. The motion carried unanimously.**
15. **Report to Education & Neighborhoods Committee** regarding Waste Separation of Recyclable Materials: Tabled to allow the board to review this information.
16. **City Planning Department’s Vision & Priorities Transportation & Mobility Plan.** Cindy explained this Plan to the board. No action was taken.
17. **LAND USE COMMITTEE** – Tomi Lyn Bowling
  - Verdugo Hills Golf Course – Karen Zimmerman spoke about the Watershed meeting the criteria for Prop O funds, however due to a lack of quorum, the Prop O committee did not vote on making the funds available. She noted that the community needs to maintain their involvement with letter writing and emails.
  - Updates: The board previously discussed the Medical Marijuana issue with Councilmember Alarcon saying he would help put pressure on those stores that are not in compliance. Cindy noted the Citywide Sign Ordinance will be back again this summer with new billboard restrictions.
  - Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan Workshop will be held in the Fall. More details soon.

18. **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** – Brenda announced that her committee could use better participation. Outreach will be manning a booth at the Watermelon Festival at Sunland Park.
19. **Group, Region Rep & Other Committee Reports:**
  - Richard Stewart announced there is still time to submit new entries for the Sunland 4th of July parade.
  - Dan announced that Councilman Alarcon agreed to donate the remaining monies for the Hometown Heroes banner program. Tomi Bowling also contributed \$100.00 to buy the last banners for the program before the parade.
  - Union Rep. Janet Linsalato said her SEIU union is donating \$1,000 to the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.
  - Senior Rep. Olina Lowe thanked Pat Kramer for donating bingo prizes to the Senior Center.
20. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

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