

STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
“MEET THE CANDIDATES”
Wednesday, July 11, 2012
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

1. **Call to Order** at 7:00 p.m. by Dan McManus with the Pledge of Allegiance.
President’s Report & Announcements – Dan McManus introduced Rudy Rodriguez, the new Senior Lead Officer for Sunland: He has been with the Foothill Division for 15 years. (818) 634-0705 33940@lapd.lacity.org. Call dispatch for emergencies. (818) 734-2222.
Board member resignation: Dan announced the resignation of Senior Rep Olina Lowe, who has moved out of the area.
2. **Public Comments:**
 - John Blue announced a 15% discount for veterans with AT&T. He also had forms for utility exemptions for seniors and low income.
 - JoAnn Baiocco, a stakeholder, spoke against the cell phone tower proposed for Our Lady of Lourdes Church at Apperson & Tujunga Canyon Blvd., Tujunga, which may remove the Station of the Cross meditation area. A public hearing is to be held July 19 at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd. on this proposed tower. Joann asks neighbors to submit letters or call: (818) 374-5046 and speak to the City Planner assigned to this case.
 - Joe DeCenzo, Village Poets, will have an exhibit at the Watermelon Festival.
 - Sheri Smith: Little Landers Historical Society needs volunteer docents.
 - Wendall Bowers, Hometown Heroes banner program, thanked the community for its support.
 - Roger Klemm spoke about native plants and invasive species, which are more flammable than native plants and also are taking over hillsides.
 - Nina Royal, North Valley Reporter, is looking for writers and advertisers.
 - Tomi Bowling talked about reinstalling the Sunland-Tujunga sign, Ride for a Cure, and poppy seeds donated to community volunteers by Councilmember Paul Krekorian.
 - Kresse Armour, Voice of the Village, is looking for contributors to write pieces. She invited everyone to Sunland Park, August 10-11-12, for the Watermelon Festival and spoke about Little Landers’ efforts to collect stories about people’s ties to this area.
 - Mary Benson, now with Councilmember Alarcon’s office, said the office is now open from 8:30 – 5 p.m. He’s initiated several programs including \$500,000 for sidewalk repairs in CD7. He is funding NC’s with an extra \$10,000 for shortfalls with expenses. He’s proposed five motions to help the equestrians, open space and rural trail areas in his district, which includes trail mapping and maintenance. Dan added that the Councilman is staffing his local office with local residents.
3. **Consent Agenda** – The board accepted a motion to receive both the July 2012 STNC Financial Report and the Board Meeting minutes from the STNC June 2012 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **PRESENTATION: MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR THE STNC BOARD**
Independent Election Administrator Glenn Bailey reported on the increase in the number of candidates this year – 150 – for the region, which amounts to a 72% increase. He stated that STNC combined advertising with the other Region 1 NCs to promote the upcoming August 4th election. A candidates training session (Leadership Academy) will be held by EmpowerLA on

Sat., July 14 at 3 p.m. in the area (location TBA). Volunteer poll workers are needed for the upcoming election, Aug. 4th at North Valley City Hall from 2:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Glenn introduced the candidates for the executive board positions, each of whom stood up to give a brief statement on their candidacy. The three candidates for president of STNC were: Tomi Bowling, Mark Seigel, and Ben Wallace. Cindy Cleghorn, candidate for 2nd Vice President for Outreach and Nina Royal, Treasurer candidate, talked about their experience on the board. The sole candidate for 1st Vice President – Community Improvement, Paolina Milana, was not present.

Region One rep candidates Kresse Armour and Melodee Patterson introduced themselves. The third candidate, Angela Vick, was not present. Melodee indicated an interest in serving in the vacant Secretary position on the board, if elected. Region Two candidates current STNC board member Arsen Karamians and Thomas Smoker Jr. next gave statements, followed by Region Three candidates Michael Jones and Michael Higby. The Region Four candidates, board member Araz Parseghian and Karen Zimmerman were not present.

The remaining eight Group rep positions on the board are all uncontested. The eight candidates include four current board members: Union Rep Janet Linsalato, former Service Rep (now Environment Rep) Richard Stewart, Veterans Rep John Blue and Parents Rep Lydia Grant. The other four candidates are Veterans Rep Patrick O'Brien, Entertainment Rep Krystee Clark, Senior Rep Al Timins and Poet & Writers Rep Joe DeCenzo. Lydia Grant and Al Timins were not present at the meeting.

Glenn suggested anyone interested in the candidates can go to the EmpowerLA website, then click on the link for STNC. A Candidates Training is scheduled for July 23 at 6:30 p.m. with a Candidates Outreach event on July 30, prior to the August 4th election. The final election ballot is subject to change and will be announced and posted on the EmpowerLA website. The election polls open at 2:30. There will be a BBQ in the park behind North Valley City Hall starting at 1:30 p.m.

The open slot of Secretary and any other positions not filled during the election will be appointed by the new board after the election.

5. **Report to Education & Neighborhoods Committee** regarding Waste Separation of Recyclable Materials: Cindy said Councilmember Parks is asking neighborhood councils to report to the City Council how they are outreaching to their communities on this topic.
6. **DWP Water Rate Increases** – Cindy stated that the water rate increase notices have been sent out to homeowners around the City. She described a letter by Chuck Ray of the Mar Vista NC that opposes the rate hike and suggested the board consider supporting it. (Cleghorn/Woodruff) moved that STNC support the Committee resolution concerning the DWP increase in water rates.” The motion carried unanimously. A hearing takes place on the water rate before the City Council on 8/22/12.
7. Tujunga Watershed Garden Exchange project with Steve Crouch – Tabled.
8. **LAND USE COMMITTEE** – Tomi Lyn Bowling
 - a. Verdugo Hills Golf Course – A meeting will be held October 10, 2012 at STNC on this issue. Dan encouraged everyone to show up to support this issue on Prop O funding.

- b. City Planning Department's Vision & Priorities Transportation & Mobility Plan – Cindy said she has received a packet from the City with a map. A meeting will be scheduled to get input from the community on ideas for transportation improvements.
- c. Citywide Issues Updates: Mural Ordinance Staff Report. The City was to review this at City Council on July 12, 2012.
- d. Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan Workshops schedule: A workshop is being planned for September on the Specific Plan.

9. OUTREACH COMMITTEE, Brenda Fortune thanked the Rotary Club for a successful parade. The Watermelon Festival takes place on August 10 – 12, 2012 at Sunland Park. She asked board members to take shifts to meet the stakeholders. The festival organizers are working on setting up a shuttle parking service to accommodate festival-goers.

10. Group, Region Rep & Other Committee Reports

- a. STNC Safety Committee, Nina Royal: August 7th is National Night Out at Little Landers Park with a live band, food and police reps. The Safety Fair is being organized and Nina needs volunteers.
- b. STNC Budget Committee: Mark invited stakeholders to get involved in the NC budget.
- c. Environmental Committee: **(Cleghorn/Bowling) moved to write a letter of support for the Roger Klemm's native plant grant request. The motion carried.**

11. Board member Richard Stewart asked stakeholders to acknowledge and thank Dan McManus, outgoing president for his years of service, followed by a standing ovation.

11. Adjourn: 8:55 p.m.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services-