

**STNC Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 14, 2012**  
**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall**  
**7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042**

**Audience: 77, Board: 16, Audience: 61**

Refreshments provided by Comfort & Joy Café on Commerce Ave., Tujunga

1. **Call to Order** at 7:02 by Mark Seigel, STNC president. Flag salute led by STNC Veterans Rep Pat O'Brien honoring Veterans, Sons of the American Legion.
2. **Status Report: LAPD Officer Contreras** gave crime stats: Arrests were made at Little Landers Park connected to vandalism, LAPD continues to work on the homeless in the park, and new mounted patrol units are being brought into this area. To reach our Senior Lead officers, call: 818 756-8866 before 6 p.m.
3. **Intro of Board/Roll Call:** Board members present were: John Blue, Michael Higby, Pat O'Brien, Arsen Karamians, Araz Parseghian, Paolina Milana Edwards, Melodee Patterson, Cindy Cleghorn, Mark Seigel, Nina Royal, Lydia Grant, Kresse Armour, Krystee Clarke, Richard Stewart, Joe DeCenzo, and Michael Jones. A quorum was reached.
4. **Introductions:** CD7 Field Deputy Mary Benson invited the public to the Neighborhood Watch meeting next Tuesday, Nov 20 at 6:30 p.m. for a one hour review of emergency communications procedures. The Tree Planting Program for Foothill Blvd. is moving forward. Jeff Miely (323 926-2163) is the person to contact for suggestions on locations to plant. Business owners are needed to water and care for each tree planted in the main business area. CD7 is holding an East Valley Job Fair at 13520 Van Nuys Boulevard, NE Valley City Hall, in Pacoima on Thursday Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

LAFD Captain Tim Werle spoke about "Spark of Love," the Fire Department's collection of toys for needy children during the holidays. Toys can be donated to Fire Station 74 on Foothill Boulevard or call: 818 756-8674.

Pat O'Brien, Commander of the American Legion, introduced Steve Rundle who talked about the Flag Program on Foothill Boulevard. The Legion puts up and takes down the flags to honor major holidays. They are looking for businesses to make a \$30 donation to sponsor the program for different holidays. The money goes to upkeep of the flags.

Mark recognized the veterans in the room:

- Ed Novy served as Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> class in the Navy, 1983-1990.
- Don Martin served in the Air Force as Airman 2<sup>nd</sup> class, 1956-1960.
- Pat O'Brien served in the Air Force in Vietnam from 1966-1969.
- John Blue served as Platoon Combat Medic in North Vietnam
- Lloyd Hitt served as Army Machine Gunner & Intelligence Sergeant in Korea, 1953-54
- Bill Skiles served as Specialist 5<sup>th</sup> Class and Company Clerk in Vietnam, 1967- 1969.

Kresse Armour, Field Deputy for CD 7 said Councilman Alarcon will stay in office until June 30. He did not win his bid for the State Assembly. The field office phone number: 818 352-3287.

5. **Approval of minutes: (DeCenzo/Blue) moved to approve the minutes of the Oct. 10, 2012 STNC board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.**
6. **DOT Presentation on Bicycle Lanes on Foothill Boulevard:** Nate Baird and Steve Gaur showed a slide show on the proposed locations for the Foothill Blvd Bike Plan. Two locations are to be installed: In December 2012, the first will be on Foothill Boulevard in Tujunga from Hillhaven to Sunland Boulevard – a 2-mile stretch. Then Haines Canyon to Lowell Ave. on Foothill Blvd. in Tujunga. For more info, visit: [www.ladotbikeblog.wordpress.com](http://www.ladotbikeblog.wordpress.com).
7. **McGroarty Grant Request:** Ed Novy representing McGroarty Arts Center presented a grant request of \$5000 to improve and upgrade the front entrance to McGroarty Arts Center. **(Grant/Royal) moved that STNC send a letter of support for McGroarty for \$5000 for the proposed entrance upgrade. The motion carried unanimously.**

(Paolina Milana left the meeting. 7:50 p.m.)

8. **President's Message:**

**Open Board Seats:** Mark Seigel announced that a candidate has stepped forward to fill a board seat in Region 4 but not present at the meeting. Discussion and/or action on this was tabled to the next board meeting. There are still openings on the board for a Group Rep seat as well as Region 4.

**Code of Civility:** Mark requested that board members review the City's recommended Code of Civility for neighborhood councils drafted by EmpowerLA. All Neighborhood Councils in the City are encouraged to have board members sign the Code of Civility. Mark read the Code of Civility and asked each board member to sign it and turn a copy to the Secretary. Board member John Blue objected to signing the Code of Civility and stated that he would not sign it. There was discussion about his refusal to sign it. He stated that if he signed it, it would be used against him by the board. Discussion followed. **Motion: (Grant/Royal) moved that each board member sign the Code of Civility and that those who don't should not be allowed to vote.** After discussion, the motion was withdrawn and the board may or may not take up this issue again at a future board meeting.

9. **Public Comments:**

- Holly Hughes addressed her concerns with regards to noise issues at Code Blue at 7937 Foothill Blvd., Sunland happening as late as 3 a.m.
- Sheri Smith announced the Little Landers events happening including the Winter Fest Tree Lighting event on Friday December 7<sup>th</sup> at Bolton Hall.
- Arthur Koo of Shiloh Mission Church on McGroarty in Tujunga stated that his church is now providing free tutoring to elementary school students as a public service. To contact him, email: [arthurkoo@gmail.com](mailto:arthurkoo@gmail.com) or call: 818 441-6052.
- Nina Royal talked about her upcoming deadline for the North Valley Reporter.
- Krystee Clark announced that she will run for City Council, District 7. She asked for signatures to help her get on the ballot.
- Monica Ratliff, a local teacher, announced that she is running for the Board of Education. She also asked for signatures. (Phone: 818 925-5797,

- o [monicaratliff2013@gmail.com](mailto:monicaratliff2013@gmail.com)).
- o Antonio Sanchez is running for a seat in District 6 on the School Board and also asked for signatures.
- o Lydia Grant spoke on behalf of Mayoral candidate Kevin James and asked for signatures.
- o David Barron spoke about his candidacy for District 7 on the City Council. (818 974-5054) and asked for signatures.

**10. Treasurer's Report:** Nina Royal presented the monthly Treasurer's Report: **(Patterson/Clark) moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for November 6, 2012. The motion carried.**

(Araz Parseghian left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.)

**11. Land Use Committee,** Cindy Cleghorn stated:

- "Code Blue" on Foothill Boulevard in Sunland may not have completed their original operating permits for the current use, including landscaping and hours of operation.
- A proposal for a car wash has been submitted for the corner of Apperson/Foothill and the owner's representative will be presenting detail plans and renderings at the next LUC meeting.
- A church for the Jain religion is exploring locating at the corner of Valmont/Commerce across from Bolton Hall. This site was previously RDC Dance Studio. The LUC expressed concern for a church use at this site due to the intensity of the surrounding church uses and lack of parking.
- A developer is proposing a 40-unit apartment complex at the site of the former DVD World at Foothill/Scoville. The owner's representatives are expected to present plans for the site soon. A haul route hearing was rescheduled to December 18.
- Cindy, Mark and Nina attended the Consolidated Plan Meeting regarding future federal funds for projects in the City of L.A. She talked about efforts to capture some of those funds for improvements to Foothill Boulevard for economic improvement and to Oro Vista to address flooding issues. There will be another round of meetings in January to discuss federal funding.
- Cindy has been selected Acting Chairperson for PlanCheckNCLA an alliance of Land Use Committees for neighborhood councils and community groups across the city. At the most recent meeting, she suggested that the City implement "Mini/Major Project Reviews" to allow public input on these projects. Example: Scoville and Foothill, Commerce and Foothill and others.

**12. Safety Chair Report:** Nina Royal asked the board to help familiarize LAPD's new Senior Lead Officer with the issues in the community. She is meeting with Officer Boon as a liaison to the STNC. She asked for volunteers for the Safety Committee to support the Fire and Police department.

**13. Group and Committee Reports:**

As President, Mark reported that STNC's efforts may have been successful to prevent the cell phone tower installation at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Recently, Metro PCS contacted the Masonic Lodge to explore the option of using their location.

John Blue: announced that the VA has a pick up service for vets who need to apply for services. Vets can arrange a ride by calling: 818 895-9569.

Michael Higby encouraged everyone to shop in Region 3 and attend upcoming events.

Pat O'Brien said the American Legion is open to all vets in the area. Meetings are held on the first Sunday of the month.

Arsen Karamians said he needs help to get DOT to take care of a problem at the southeast corner of Tujunga Boulevard and Foothill where humps in the road have caused accidents.

Melodee Patterson: Is working with the Outreach team to set up a new contact system to reach board members when there are issues in their Regions and the city as a whole. New sign up sheets will ask for contact info to be included in this new contact system.

Nina Royal introduced the treasury forms that board members need to use when requesting funding. They must then attend the monthly Budget Meeting, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. The Budget Committee will review their request and if appropriate, will bring to the board.

Lydia Grant said she has been attending meetings at City Hall and shared information: The new express lane on the 110 freeway is a toll lane and requires a transponder to use it. The City voted on Friday to initiate 'Meatless Mondays' as a suggestion to stakeholders to improve their health.

Kresse Armour is working on educating stakeholders to use the City's "311" hotline to pick up bulky items to keep this area free of ugly bulky items in our neighborhoods.

Krystee Clark reported that the Magnet Program has passed and will be initiated at Verdugo Hills High providing a performing arts program for students in this area. Friday is the deadline for 9<sup>th</sup> graders who want to enroll. Additionally, she's looking at production incentive ideas for the community.

Richard Stewart, environmental rep, said he now has 25 people involved in his Belly Busters program which is a voluntary trash pick up program for city streets in the area. He is now looking for a clean-up project to initiate work crews. He announced that the Sunland welcome sign is moving forward with native plant landscaping. Volunteers are needed to help improve the area around the sign.

Joe DeCenzo talked about the new for trash cans to increase disposal of trash in public places. He invited the board to Bolton Hall for the Poets Meeting.

Michael Jones said he is looking at the need for pothole repair in Region 3 as this is a major issue for folks in his area.

#### **14. Public Comment 2:**

John Blue talked about a city vote on creating garbage management districts which he said came from a suggestion he made. *[Clarification: This issue is actually the Waste Hauling Franchise issue opposed by apartment owners and neighborhood councils as it will limit the waste haulers and force using only 4 waste haulers and removing competition, driving up costs to owners and renters.]*

Brenda Fortune invited the board to attend the Rotary Club's Winter Fest, Dec 7<sup>th</sup> at Bolton Hall.

**15. Meeting adjourned:** 9:37 p.m.

*-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-*