

STNC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 12th, 2012
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

Attendance: 67: Board: 14/Audience: 53

1. **Call to Order at 7:10 p.m.** by Mark Seigel, STNC President. Second VP Cindy Cleghorn led the Pledge of Allegiance. **Roll Call:** Mark Seigel, Cindy Cleghorn, Paolina Milana-Edwards, Tom Smoker Jr., Pat O'Brien, Al Timins, Arsen Karamians, John Blue, Nina Royal, Richard Stewart, Krystee Clark, Kresse Armour, John DeCenzo, and Michael Jones. Quorum established.
2. **Introduction of CD7 rep Kresse Armour.**
3. **Approval of Minutes.** November 14, 2012 meeting minutes approved as corrected. Minutes of Supplemental Board meeting of November 28, 2012 approved as presented.
4. **Message from the President** – Mark Seigel reminded the board to take their Ethics training, which all board members are required to complete. Mark offered to provide board members access to a PC in the STNC office, if needed.
5. **Discussion/Action of open positions and approve new board members**
Region 4 – Wendy Alane Smith volunteered to serve as the Region 4 board member. She has worked on several fundraisers in the community including one for the Vogel Flats residents who lost their homes in the Station Fire. **(Cleghorn/Smoker) moved that Wendy be appointed as the Region 4 rep. The motion carried unanimously.**

Group Rep – No appointment was made.

6. **Public Comments – non agenda items:**

Sheri Smith, Bolton Hall Historical Society, talked about their upcoming centennial celebration, calendar and exhibit, the 2nd Saturday of every month. She presented Cindy Cleghorn with Honorary Membership in Little Landers Historical Society.

Barry Geller, Software Elements, reviewed his domain name services for a community initiative.

Krystee Clark thanked the board for helping her get enough signatures to get on the ballot as City Council rep for CD7.

Nina Royal, publisher of North Valley Reporter, asked for input on ways to improve her paper next year. Email her at: informnvr@aol.com.

John Blue read quotes that he has collected by famous historical people.

Jesse David Barron thanked everyone for helping him with his candidacy for City Council District 7.

Susan Stewart asked for contributions for the Rancho Tujunga coffee table book to be published in April 2013 to raise money for Bolton Hall. Poems by local writers will accompany historical photographs. On Saturday, a dance will be performed at Bandito Park.

Nicole Chase, candidate for City Council CD7, talked about growing up in this area and her experience. She will be circulating a survey on how to improve the community.

- 7. Discussion/Action approve comment letter to the City Planning Commission regarding Citywide Design Guidelines Ordinance:** LUC Chair Dean Sherer explained the letter he has drafted on behalf of STNC regarding the ordinance. John Blue commented on paragraph 4 suggesting the word “fairly and sincerely” instead of simply “sincerely.” **(Smoker/Cleghorn) moved to approve the letter with suggested revisions. The motion carried unanimously.**
- 8. Homeless Count Presentation –** Mark Seigel announced the homeless count to take place January 29-31, 2013 with teams of four people to count local homeless in our community. Thomas Smoker suggested it would be safer to have a security person go out with each team. Mark showed a promotional video by 100,000 Homes which has helped get homeless people services and housing. He explained that the vulnerability index and survey is administered by Jose Rodriguez, CD7 staff saying that money is allocated to help the homeless based on these numbers. To accommodate local homeless, they have to first be counted. Thomas suggested that it might be hard to find the homeless as many live in the canyon and the Wash where they go after dark. Mark said local authorities are aware of this.

On a separate note, L.A. Housing is building a 48-unit housing complex for permanent housing for persons coming out of homelessness. The site is on Day Street behind Tommy’s Burgers in Tujunga. Groundbreaking for this site will be coming up in January.

- 9. Discussion/Action to send letter of support for the recommendations by DONE General Manager: (Cleghorn/Smoker & Royal) moved that a letter be sent to DONE including the following points:**
- *No cut to NC budgets*
 - *Support \$250,000 for as needed DONE staff*
 - *That DONE retain control of elections*
 - *That we include in our letter this is supported by BONC, LANCC and VANC*
 - *And STNC to participate in the Elections Task Force meetings that will explore a collaboration with the City Clerk for elections.*

The motion carried unanimously. Cindy stated that NC members are needed to represent STNC on the Task Force.

10. Community Improvement Committee – 1st Vice President Paolina Milana Edwards is starting a Community Improvement Committee that will launch in January. She asked stakeholders and board members to attend the meetings and to participate in the community.

11. Treasurer’s Report – (Royal/Cleghorn) moved to accept the November 2012 STNC Financial Statement. The motion carried unanimously.

12. NC Budget Advocates report -- Budget Day: Krystee Clark said over 200 members participated in the Mayor’s Budget Day and 22 out of 32 recommendations by the Budget Advocates were taken into consideration by the City. One of the suggestions was to restore NC’s budgets to \$50,000. She named the two regional budget reps for the northeast Valley.

13. Land Use Committee Report – Cindy Cleghorn reviewed a presentation on Apperson/Foothill for a Drive-Through Car Wash which would be replacing auto repair shops. It’s in its preliminary stages now. Bill Skiles reviewed what is going on with the controversial low income housing on Samoa where the developer has reduced the units from 64 to 48. It is now considered a “by-right” project as they own the land but City Planning has not yet approved it. Cindy added that LUC is still trying to give input to the project by asking the developer to improve

the frontage of the building. Another 40-unit development is proposed on Scoville behind DVD World. The developer for that project was to appear at LUC's recent meeting but postponed.

14. Safety Committee Report – Nina Royal said crime has increased in our area with burglaries to homes and cars. The police are asking everyone to keep their cars locked at all times and keep valuables out of sight. The Sunland Post Office was robbed on Saturday. Another robbery occurred on Sherman Grove at Foothill in broad daylight. Despite that, Nina said this area is the safest in the Foothill Division. As Safety Chair, she suggested letters be written to the County Supervisor asking that felons not be let out early based on the four homicides in Northridge last weekend. Nina invited stakeholders to register for the next Community Police Volunteer Course, a 2 hour a week for 8 weeks course to learn how to help the LAPD.

Cindy added that language is being revised by the City Council on the Community Care Facilities Ordinance after last weekend's homicides in Northridge. She said the language would pertain to homes that house newly released inmates limiting occupancy at these places. She asked those who are candidates for City Council to help this legislation get passed.

15. Mark announced the next dates for STNC Committee Meetings as:

- a. Land Use Committee – Monday Jan 7 @ 7pm
- b. Budget Committee – Monday Dec 17 @ 6:30pm
- c. Neighborhood Watch – Tuesday Dec 18 @ 6:30pm
- d. Executive Committee- Thursday Dec 20 @ 6:30pm (STNC Office)
- e. Safety Committee – Monday Jan 7 @ 6pm
- f. STNC Board Meeting – Wednesday Jan 9 @ 7pm

16. Board, Group, Region Rep & Other Committee Reports:

John Blue handed out literature for veterans and their families to file online for disability benefits. **Pat O'Brien** invited veterans in the community to the American Legion where they can assist them with any issues they may be having.

Thomas Smoker Jr. asked to list Old Business, New Business, and a Moment of Silence to the STNC agenda.

Wendy Smith thanked the board for her appointment and looks forward to serving on the board.

Richard Stewart welcomed Wendy and thanked Paolina for her community improvement work.

He is continuing to organize the Belly Busters group which adopts streets and picks up litter.

Kresse Armour asked people to report disposal of old furniture or other bulky items so CD7 can call it in for pickup.

Krystee Clark invited everyone to the Chili Bowl event at McGroarty Arts Center and Holiday Boutique. She talked about Teen Wolf's return to production in Northridge and how that will add jobs.

Joe DeCenzo talked about the Poets and Writer's group and congratulated the L.A. City's poet laureate. This appointment helps bring this type of culture to the forefront. He noted that S-T has had poet laureates for 12 years.

Michael Jones talked about the great turnout for Santa's visit and the Winter Festival at Bolton Hall.

17. Meeting Adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-