

STNC
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 13, 2013
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

Attendance: 64, Audience: 51, Board: 13

1. **Call to Order** at 7:18 p.m. by STNC President Mark Seigel. Pledge of Allegiance by Cindy Cleghorn. Intro of Board: Al Timins, Arsen Karamians, Cindy Cleghorn, Melodee Patterson, Mark Seigel, Nina Royal, Joe DeCenzo, Krystee Clark, Lydia Grant, Michael Jones and Wendy Smith. Quorum established. John Blue arrived at 7:30. Richard Stewart arrived at 7:55. John Blue left at 7:40 then returned at 8:10 p.m.
2. **Board Board, Group, Region Rep & Other Committee Reports:**
Joe announced that he gave a proposal to Roger Clemm to introduce nature quotes from local poets and writers for use in the Nature Garden by the Welcome sign.
3. **Introductions/Status report:** LAPD, LA City Representatives, CD7, LA County and others: **LAPD Officer Flores**, Traffic Safety Officer for the Foothill Division, asked stakeholders to contact him with any traffic complaints. (818) 644-8142. On traffic stats, crime is down 8%, but fatalities and DUIs are up. Hit and Runs are down as well as pedestrian/motorist accidents. If you see a motorist driving erratically, he suggested calling 911. He warned motorists to obey the speed limit on La Tuna Canyon and not to operate a vehicle on that road over 6,000 lbs. There was discussion about the new bicycle lanes and safety issues around them.

Senior Lead Officer Don Boon talked about an increase in property crimes from parolees/chronic offenders. Call 877-Ask-LAPD to report any suspicious activity in the neighborhood. The LAPD program aimed at shutting down Medical Marijuana Clinics is ramping up again. The recent transient and homeless count was very successful – 184 were counted which doesn't include those in the Tujunga Wash. By helping them find housing services, the police believe property crimes will go down as well as reports of indecent exposure. The "Lock it, Hide It, Keep it" campaign encourages safeguarding valuables such as purses, cell phones, loose change and cell phone chargers in cars. He was adamant that motorists be aware of and take measures to safeguard valuables at all times. Officer Boon can be reached at

Mary Benson, Field Deputy for CD7, thanked Roger Clemm for organizing the gardening work for the Welcome sign in Sunland. On May 18, 2013 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Friends of the L.A. River will be doing work at the Haines Canyon flood basin to remove shopping carts and other debris. She invited volunteers to join them.

4. **Greg Barts, DWP Liaison to the Community**, distributed a packet of information with moneysaving tips on lowering rates. He talked about the sewer charge, which is based on electric consumption. He said he has lowered his bill from close to \$100 down to \$15.00.
5. **Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2013:** The minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.
6. **Message from the President** – Mark Seigel spoke about the homeless count program and the value this information brings to placing the local homeless in long-term housing, particularly vets.
7. **Recommendation that STNC be caretakers of the Howard Finn Community Garden and allocate funds to City of LA. Recommendation that \$100 from STNC Budget go to Rec & Parks for registration fees.** Mark talked about reopening the Community Garden in Howard Finn Park which has been abandoned. **(Clark/Grant) moved that STNC provide \$100 to obtain receivership of the Community Garden at Howard Finn Park. The motion carried 11-2-0.** Stakeholder Susan Potthoff said there have been issues about how can use the plots as there is no one assigning rules and regulations as to who gets access to the garden. Mark also spoke about additional expenses that may be involved totaling \$1,648 for rights and use of the garden. Susan was opposed to funding this motion until more research could be done by a study group to find a sustainable way to operate this garden. Lloyd Hitt also spoke about the history of the Community Garden. Mark reminded the board of the upcoming STNC Board Retreat Saturday on March 23 from 9 am – 1 pm at NVNCH.

-Continued-

8. **Presentation: Stacia Crane, Public Information Officer for the USPS Inspection Service:** Stacia runs the federal investigation arm of the USPS. She talked about different hoaxes that target the elderly over the telephone and via email. She urged stakeholders to check on their older family members or neighbors who live alone and may be targeted. Once money is wired out of the country or mailed to these parties, she said it is impossible to get it back. The Foreign Lottery Fraud, as it is known, most often is initiated from Jamaica or Canada. To reach Stacia about post office fraud, call: 626 405-1285 or (661) 644-8106. Email: ismediainquiries@usps.gov.
9. **Purchase of Video Equipment for Outreach. (Cleghorn/Royal) moved that Outreach recommends that STNC purchase a video camera to record, post online and promote monthly board and some committee meetings at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.” The motion carried unanimously.** VP of Outreach Cindy Cleghorn explained that there are people who are unable to make it to Outreach meetings who STNC would like to reach out to by using a video presentation. Her proposal covered the cost of a Canon camera with extra equipment to make it function well. Joe Barrett recommended the purchase and said he would video meetings and train other volunteers to operate it.
10. **Watermelon Festival:** Regarding the change of venue from Sunland to Pasadena for this longstanding Sunland event, Cindy stated that her group has met with Rec and Parks about a proposal to put on a smaller festival at the Sunland Park, but there are other entities that need to be spoken to. She will update the board as this goes forward.
11. **Report: NC Budget Advocate / Mayor’s Budget Survey –Ed Novy, one of two STNC Budget Reps, reported on the community’s participation in the recent Budget Survey. Over 5,050 people filled it out citywide with STNC coming in 5th in the Valley and 9 or 10 citywide for neighborhood council participation. (Last year, STNC was 3rd or 4th). Regional Budget Day is scheduled for March 16th at Van Nuys City Hall. With the current budget deficit at \$100 million, NCs are being asked to take a 20% decrease, put off local elections or pay for their own elections. He believes police and fire departments are going to be most affected by the city’s budget cuts.**

(Cleghorn/Grant) “In light of the recent elections development, she proposed the following Budget Advocates’ motion for Monday Night. Whereas the City is asking the neighborhood councils to postpone their elections due to budget issues, and whereas the city is asking each NC to pay for their next elections, approximately \$7,300 per Council, and whereas the city continues to violate the Charter Section 911 by cutting NC funding, sweeping annual excess funds, and failing to fund NC budget advocates, we move that the City issue No Delays in the 2014 neighborhood council elections, that the City fully fund the neighborhood councils’ annual budgets, that the City cease and desist from any further sweeping of neighborhood council funds, in violation of Charter Section 911, that the Budget Advocates, on behalf of all neighborhood councils, file an immediate letter of complaint against the city for its violations of Charter Section 911.” The motion carried unanimously.
12. **Treasurer’s Report:** Cindy stated that she had researched the \$8700 missing from the current fiscal year’s budget after it was discovered at last month’s board meeting that DONE had double-charged STNC for the election expenses. The monies for the election had been carried over from last fiscal year’s budget for this purpose and Cindy said DONE had agreed to return the funding of \$8,700 to STNC in the next month. The Budget Committee recommended amending the current year’s budget to show this change and rebalance the budget as proposed. **(Royal/Smith) moved that STNC accept the February 2013 STNC Financial Statement. The motion carried.**
13. **Action- request to CD7 to set aside \$8,000 from the CD7 for Fireworks. (Royal/Clark) moved that \$8,000, donated to the STNC by Councilman Alarcon, be set aside from the budget and earmarked for the Family Fireworks Festival on July 4th. The motion carried unanimously.**
14. **Public Comment:**
 - Sheri Smith of Little Landers/Bolton Hall, invited stakeholders to their Centennial Celebration taking place April 13th at 1pm at Bolton Hall. The ceremony will include an historic reenactment of the laying of the cornerstone with local actor/board member Richard Stewart.

Public Comments, cont.

- Tomi Bowling spoke on behalf of Roger Clemm on the volunteer work taking place to create a native plant/nature garden at the Welcome sign to Sunland. Work crews removed most of the invasive grass last Saturday. The work will continue this Saturday and the following Saturday. 9 am to noon.
- Lydia Grant, Parent Rep, acknowledged the candidates who ran and didn't get elected.
- Amelia Anderson, Rotary Club, asked for support from stakeholders in purchasing tickets to their Motorcycle Ride on March 30 with proceeds going to Wounded Warriors 501C3.
- Ann Nolte spoke on behalf of Enrique Carrillo, owner of Americana Sunland 99 Cent store. She encouraged people to shop locally and purchase their party supplies party rentals there with free local delivery and pick up.
- Tomi Bowling spoke on behalf of the S-T Chamber of Commerce. She stated there are 72 places to eat in this area. The Chamber is sponsoring the S-T Food Lover Contest for those who show receipts for purchases at 50 or more local eateries. The prize will be a \$250 raffle and a matching grant to the VVHS Arts Program.
- Nina Royal gave STNC's Safety Report saying that LAPD Captain Albanese would be attending the next Safety Meeting, the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 p.m. at NVCH. Mary Benson will be honored for starting 50 Neighborhood Watches. Nina is trying to set up a local CERT class which will probably start in May and run for 7 weeks.
- Nina: As the publisher of the North Valley Reporter, Nina is desperate to find local businesses willing to support her paper with ads, as well as local writers.
- John Blue talked about a workshop being held on March 23 in Altadena for those who want to lower their mortgage rates and save their houses.

15. Land Use Committee Report Century 21, Sunland re: DVD site.

- Cindy gave the monthly Land Use Committee Report. The next meeting will be held Monday at Century 21 in Sunland to discuss the proposal to build multi-housing at the former DVD site on Foothill Blvd and why this might be an eyesore to the community.
- City Digital Billboard Visioning Group - Tomi Lyn Bowling attended the City's meeting on this issue. She said the City formed a group to establish policy for the introduction of digital billboards. At that meeting, reps for Clear Media/Summit gave statements on behalf of digital signage, while KH Consulting facilitated the meeting. She estimated that there are 6,000 legal billboards and 5,000 illegal billboards in the City of L.A.
- Facade Improvement Program, Trees and Monument Signs - Tomi Lyn said this issue will be revisited at the Land Use meeting next Tuesday.

16. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings: Mark announced the following:

- Land Use Committee – 1st & 3rd Monday of each month
 - i. Monday March 18 @ 7pm (Century 21 Training Center – 8307 Foothill)
 - ii. Monday April 1 @ 7pm (NVCH)
- Neighborhood Watch – Tuesday March 19 @ 6:30pm (NVCH)
- STNC Board Retreat – Saturday March 23 @ 9am (NVCH) – teach about parliamentary procedures, how the funding works,
- Executive Meeting – Wednesday March 27 @ 6pm (NVCH)
- Easter Carnival Friday March 29 – Sunday March 31 (Sunland Park)
- STNC Board Meeting – Wednesday April 10 @ 7pm (NVCH)

17. 2nd Public Comments – non agenda items: None.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

-Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One-