

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
North Valley City Hall  
July 10, 2013**

*Attendance: 72: Audience 55, Board 17*

- 1. Meeting called to order at 7:08 p.m. by STNC President Mark Seigel.** Roll Call: John Blue, Al Timmins, Pat O'Brien, Thomas Smoker Jr., Cindy Cleghorn, Mark Seigel, Melodee Patterson, Kresse Armour, Joe DeCenzo, Lydia Grant, Michael Jones, Krystee Clark, Araz Parseghian, Paolina Milana, Arsen Karamians, Ed Novy, and Ani Barsegyan. Richard Stewart arrived late. Quorum established. Pledge of allegiance by Ed Novy.
- 2. Introductions:** No reports from public officials.
- 3. President's Message:**
  - Oro Vista Park is going forward. Rec and Parks have retrieved the contract and are making a presentation on what will be taking place there during this meeting. The Parade was a great success as were the fireworks.
  - The City Council voted unanimously in favor of designating the Tuna Detention Station as an historic designation. Mark recognized the committee members who worked on this historic designation.
  - DONE/Empower LA is requiring NC board members to take a Financing Training. Those who do not take it are not going to be allowed to vote. Also, for every vote that involves money, a roll call vote must be taken. Empower LA is asking NCs to submit a favorite project to be considered for their annual yearbook. STNC will be submitting the Tuna Canyon Detention Center historical status for the yearbook.
- 4. Definition of Minutes.** Mark read how Roberts Rules of Order defines the minutes as they pertain to board meetings. Pat Kramer then explained why it is necessary to list board members arriving late or leaving the meeting early as it applies to votes being taken. She showed three examples of board meeting minutes where this has been done in response to a complaint made by a board member whose name was noted in the minutes.
- 5. Approval of Minutes: (Smoker/Cleghorn) moved to accept the minutes for the June 12, 2013 board meeting as corrected. The motion carried.**
- 6. STNC Seats for Region 1 and 3.** Thomas Smoker nominated Sandra Baugus for Region 3 rep.

**7. Councilmember Felipe Fuentes**, CD7's new Councilmember, spoke about his goals for serving this area and thanked the community electing him. His Field Director is Wesly Hernandez. The office will be open from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. One of his office's goals is to help restore the Finn Community Garden. Mark stated that there is \$4,000 dollars in grant money to be used toward that garden. As far as his committee work, Mr. Fuentes is chairing the Energy and Environment Committee, Vice Chair for the city's Housing Committee, and is a member of the Personnel and Animal Welfare Committee (PAWS) and a board member of the Referred Powers Committee. There will be a community cleanup organized for August and he will be working to improve city services for tree trimming, sidewalk repair and fixing the streets in our community through the Housing Committee's Consolidated Plan which receives federal budget dollars for repaving.

**8. Board Reports:**

- John Blue handed out T-Shirts from a fundraiser for women veterans who he said flew planes during WW2.
- Al Timmins, Seniors rep, said he wanted to speak with the Councilmember about refurbishing Sunland Park.
- Pat O'Brien, Veterans Rep, talked about the Hometown Heros Awards recognizing local veterans on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the American Legion.
- Thomas Smoker Jr. spoke about the banner program for veterans which has come to an end and are being removed on Foothill Boulevard.
- Cindy Cleghorn, Outreach chair, thanked everyone who rode in the parade and worked for the Outreach team on the Fourth of July.
- Mark Seigel thanked Melody and Sandra for using their vehicles to promote STNC in the parade.
- Melody Patterson, Recording Secretary, spoke about the city program: [fixmystreet.lacity.org](http://fixmystreet.lacity.org) where you can ask the city to make street repairs and other improvements.
- Krystee Clark, Entertainment rep, thanked the city for their help with entertainment filming.
- Joe DeCenzo, Poets and Writer's rep, invited everyone to attend Bolton Hall's poetry reading on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 4:30 p.m.
- Lydia Grant, Parent's Rep, talked about a controversial program being considered by LAUSD to give ipads to students.
- Kresse Clark invited the community to submit press releases and stories to Voice of the Village for the local coverage as well as political information from the Council office.

- Araz Parseghian congratulated Councilmember Fuentes for his new position and said he is trying to plan more activities for Region 4.
- Ani Barsegyan asked for orientation materials for new board members.
- Ed Novy, Homeowners rep, talked about the process where homeowners can appeal their property tax rate through the L.A. Assessor's Office.
- Michael Jones, Region 3, said he would like to address illegal dumping.
- Mark Seigel: Street Services is asking for NC input on filling potholes starting July 30<sup>th</sup>. Send to Melodee for that list.

**9. Presentation: Oro Vista Park** – Robert Oyakawa, Landscape Architect for the Department of Rec and Parks was joined by Jane Adrian, Landscape Architect for the City of LA, Bureau of Engineering and Margaret Kelly, Senior Park Maintenance Supervisor. Dept. of Rec and Parks. They told the board that there had been a problem with the previous contractor for Oro Vista Park so the contract was rescinded. Since then, they had to rebid the project. Now that they are ready to go forward again, funds are expected to be in place shortly after Labor Day for construction to begin. Of the 7.7 acres there, only two will be developed for the park. The amenities will include drinking fountains, horse watering stations, picnic tables, a trail that wraps around the whole acreage, a Tongvan Indian garden, a butterfly habitat, and a bird and hummingbird habitat.

-Thomas Smoker Jr. left the meeting. 8:25 p.m. -

**10. Presentation: Branding of Sunland-Tujunga.** Vice President Paolina Milana went over the strategic plan for a branding campaign for Sunland-Tujunga to show how our community is unique. The slogan will be "Gateway to the Angeles National Forest." Paolina has found that this name is available to trademark. Now that this has begun, she said the branding campaign will be doing outreach to residents via the Food Truck Night, website revamping, signage, and press releases. Strategic plan has been put forth.

- Paolina Milana left at 8:35. Richard Stewart arrived at 8:35. -

**11. Public Comments:**

- Nancy Oda of the SFV Japanese American Community Center in Pacoima thanked the community for supporting the Japanese Detention Center historical cultural monument.
- Lydia Grant talked about animal services issues. There's a proposal to eliminate abortions of pregnant females held at the pound to supply puppies for the animal stores.

- Roger Klemm announced a weed pulling party at the Sunland Welcome Garden on Saturday at 9 a.m.
- Cindy Cleghorn asked for candidates for Honorary Mayor. Anyone interested must partner with a non profit.
- Grace Swaim introduced herself as the owner of a new storefront on Foothill Blvd. selling vintage items and antiques.
- Bolton Hall's Sheri Smith invited the public to attend Bolton Hall's Centennial Celebration on August 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m.
- John Blue: talked about a \$1500 auto BuyBack program by the State of CA.
- Eric Owens, stakeholder, is running for Watermelon King at the Watermelon Festival.

**12. Council file motion 13-0793:** Cindy explained this proposal that would address oversized vehicles (18-wheelers) parking on public streets and asked anyone with interest to see her about serving on an Ad Hoc Committee.

**13. Council file motion 13-0859: (Cleghorn/Patterson) moved that the board approve Councilmember Huizar's Factual Based Stakeholder definition. The motion carried unanimously.**

**14. DWP Ratepayer Advocate: (Cleghorn/Grant) moved that STNC support the DWP Ratepayer Advocate's motion that the DWP should reevaluate the FIT-100 Program (regarding the fee and tariff for consumers). The motion carried unanimously.** Councilmember Fuentes said this will come before the Energy and Environment committee and he will be reviewing it.

**15. Appoint Cindy Cleghorn as STNC Elections Chair: (Seigel/Grant) moved to appoint Cindy Cleghorn as STNC's Elections Chair. The motion carried: 15-0-1 (Cleghorn).** She asked for anyone who wants to be involved in the election committee to contact her to serve on the committee.

**16. Monument Signage. (Cleghorn/Novy) moved that STNC support the restoration and permits for the monument sign at Wentworth and Foothill (no funding involved). The motion carried unanimously.**

**17. Treasurer's Report:** Cindy gave the Treasurer's report in Nina Royal's absence. She explained that the board must approve and submit to the City a Strategic Outreach Plan.

**(Cleghorn/Novy) moved to accept the June 30, 2013 Treasurer's Report. The motion carried unanimously.**

**(Cleghorn. Novy) moved that STNC approve the proposed budget as drafted by the Budget Committee for the fiscal year 2013 – 14. The motion carried unanimously (17-0-0).** Cindy indicated that the proposed budget has to be submitted in order for STNC to receive funding for the next fiscal year.

**(Cleghorn/Patterson) moved that STNC approve the draft FY 2013-2014 Strategic and Outreach Plan.**

**(Blue) made a friendly amendment to include protection and preservation of historical antecedents (sites relevant to the community) in the Strategic Plan. The motion failed: 2-11-0.**

**The board then approved the original motion: 14-1-1 (Blue opposed) (DeCenzo abstaining).**

#### **18. Safety Report:**

- Cindy announced for Nina that National Night Out is scheduled for August 6th at Sunland Park
- Nina's brother had serious surgery this week.
- The most recent CERT class was cancelled this past week.

**19. Land Use:** Cindy talked about an application for a condition use permit at 7656 and 7636 West Foothill Blvd. to permit the construction, use and maintenance of a one story 3,722 square foot drive-through car wash with 43 parking spaces. The comment period ends July 24<sup>th</sup>.

There is also a proposal for a wireless cell tower on the rooftop of an apartment building in Tujunga.

**20. Outreach: previously gave report.**

**21. Announcements** of committee meetings by the Recording Secretary.

**22. Meeting adjourned** at 9:37 p.m.