

MINUTES:

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, Regular Meeting of 02/12/2003

Ken McAlpine called the meeting to order at 7:07pm. Brief discussion about the certification issue and that there is a second group who has submitted an application for certification. Introduced new officers. There were about 60 people in attendance. A volunteer was selected to lead the Pledge of Allegiance and Ken welcomed newcomers.

Treasurer's Report: Nedd Brown announced that the current balance was \$700 approximately. Our next event is the Easter carnival on the weekend of April 18-20, 2003. Signups will be collected next month. Another note of concern is that postage is becoming a costly item for the group.

Action Team Reports:

Planning: John Van Vliet – DAC committee report. There is an effort going on in the group to take photos of all businesses in the area.

Outreach: Ken McAlpine announced that Marti Marshall is the new chairperson for this committee and she is looking for volunteers.

Safety: Nina Royal announced that we lost our Lead officer from Sunland to a promotion. A new officer has been temporarily assigned - Officer Coyle. Crime seems to be fairly level in the community. There will be a CERT refresher course on April 27. If you are interested in taking CERT training, contact Nina directly.

She introduced Bruce Barber, the Battalion Chief for the Los Angeles City Fire Department in this neighborhood. He discussed specific areas of concern for the community.

FALCON: Steve Crouch reiterated what FALCON stood for - the formation of the Foothill Area League of Conservation Organization and Neighbors. He announced that representatives from various community groups are participating in FALCON so that information can be distributed to all of the community groups.

Minutes: The minutes of the January 8, 2003 meeting were approved as written.

Certification / Bylaws: Mark Seigel presented an update on the status of the certification process. There was a vote by the committee that the organization needs to get certified as quickly as possible. There was a real issue about the existing Town Hall format not being approved by DONE. The bylaws committee has developed a new set of bylaws that should be consistent with the new requirements. A chart was developed that compares the existing Bylaws, the new proposed Bylaws, and the bylaws proposed by the Sunland-Tujunga splinter group. There was a discussion about the timeline. There is a requirement that this group must submit at least a Letter of Intent within 20 working days after the splinter group submitted their paperwork for Certification. However, it was strongly suggested by DONE representatives that the entire Application should also be submitted by this date (March 26). A hearing date has been set for the splinter group and this will be the date when BONC will decide how to handle the issue of two groups requesting certification for the same area (May 27). John Waters discussed what would happen if two groups submit paperwork for Certification – only one group would be selected as the official organization to represent the community. By the end of May, one or the other will prevail. Per Mark, Town Hall formats aren't dead, they will just be approved too late for us to use in this current Certification process.

Discussion continued on this issue and John brought up some key issues to consider:

- Standing Committees – none were added because of the strict guidelines they must adhere to. However, if the group wants some of these groups included as Standing Committees.
- Initiative Procedure – A group from the neighborhood can present initiative for consideration.
- Geographic Breakdown – The area was broken down into five areas but this may not be the best choice.

There would be a special meeting on Tuesday, February 18 to decide which set of Bylaws to proceed with. There was discussion on the importance of having a good turnout at this meeting and how to effectively do that.

Programs:

Board of Trustee Candidates: All Board of Trustee candidates for the upcoming election were invited to the meeting. Most had conflicts since there was a Board of Trustee's meeting earlier that evening. Some sent literature to be distributed. However, Wilma Bennett and Donna Warren spoke to the group.

Old Business: No activity.

New Business:

Brenda McAlpine discussed whether it was time to consider moving the monthly S-TNC meetings. She wanted the group to consider moving it to another day to allow others who currently cannot attend to make the meetings. She has been looking at the community calendar. Some people will not be able to attend, no matter what day is selected. Brenda agreed to bring up a chart at our next meeting if the group is interested.

Business was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Open Forum/Announcements:

Concerns and announcements included:

- Maryellen Eltgroth came to discuss her concerns about the YMCA Expansion. She believes the community behind the YMCA will be badly impacted by this expansion.
- Ken asked that we all be respectful on all open forums, keep comments brief and to the point.
- Tomi Lyn Bowling volunteered to help get a full house at our special meeting by making phone calls to those on the contact list.
- Valerie Nelson spoke about rezoning variance to the Zoning Commission in St. Esteban as it relates to the YMCA. The fax number Office of Zoning Administration, Mr. Nicolas Brown, Fax (213) 978-1334 or Phone (213) 978-1318. The official rezoning number is DIR2001-4624(PUB)
- Steve Crouch stated that this is the exact reason why FALCON was created. He wonders where is the early notification of rezoning issues. The group should know about things like this well in advance so issues can be discussed and decisions can be made. FALCON can help.
- Ken McAlpine announced the next agenda meeting and regular meeting of the NC.
- Ryan Blowers wants the issue of Day Laborers on Haynes Canyon and Tujunga Canyon addressed. There is a serious safety issues. Some of the areas of concern include no restroom facilities, drinking, people stopping in the middle of the street and holding up traffic, drug sales. Nina Royal said the community needs to be educated to ignore the day laborers. If they don't get work there, they will go somewhere else.
- Elektra Kruger of Shadow Hills Property Owners Assn. (SHPOA) is sponsoring a Community Cleanup Day on March 22, at 9:00a.m. They will start at Stonehurst Park and move up Wentworth and back to Stonehurst. There will be a barbeque afterwards. Everyone is invited to participate. The two communities might want to consider some joint effort next time to help clean up both communities and the area in between.
- Mike Hall brought up how important early notification was. For example, he had known about the YMCA issue for some time since he was a member of the Y.
- Greg Valencia wanted to bring up his concern about the people selling fruit along Apperson. He feels this is extremely dangerous. There have been many close calls in this area because people are stopping to buy the fruit from these street side vendors.
- Nancy Becker [(818) 352-3255 – Director of YMCA] addressed the group about the concerns regarding the YMCA expansion. The facility was built in 1989 with plans to expand into the

property behind already at that time. In 1996, the High School did a survey that showed that there wasn't much for that age group to do in the community. The YMCA came up with a plan (2.3M campaign). She explained that this isn't a new idea and has been in the works for many years. She also explained that the feeling is that the parking will be adequate for the expansion. There is separate parking for the staff.

- Lydia Grant [(818) 352-3371 or Cell (818) 389-4844] discussed that 9-12 students were recently assaulted in plain view of students and the counseling offices at Mount Gleason Middle School. She explained what she knew about the situation. Two students came forward and many students have been witnesses. The school appears not to be willing to do much about the situation and many of the students have serious concerns about their safety. Various suggestions were given. Mr. McLaughlin is the School Principal.

The meeting and open forum adjourned at 9:16 pm.