

MINUTES:

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, Regular Meeting of 04/9/2003

Ken McAlpine called the meeting to order at 7:10pm at Skyward Christian School with approximately 100 people in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and newcomers (approximate count of 26) welcomed and introduced. Visitors included Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy and Pat Davenport, Field Deputy both from Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office; Troy Boswell from Animal Regulation; Mark Chapa from the Mayor's office.

Treasurer's Report: Nedd Brown, Treasurer reported a balance of \$574.14. He also passed out a basket for donations for Skyward Christian school to thank them for hosting our meeting site tonight. Nedd also explained the history of how we raise money for our treasury and what its used for.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Cleghorn gave a brief report on her attendance at the Alliance of Neighborhood Councils on March 15. This is a group of other neighborhood council members who meet bi-monthly to share best practices and network. This particular meeting focused on the soon to be 7 Area Planning Commissions.

Cindy also attended the Certification of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council which took place on March 25, 2003. Overwhelming unity in this neighborhood council made for a very smooth hearing and BONC approval of their certification application including their desire to preserve open space within their mission statement even though the City Attorney's office recommended it be removed.

Cindy reported on the Congress of Neighborhood Councils on April 5, 2003 where she sat in on several workshops and collected a number of handouts from various City agencies. Cindy expects to make these items available for the council at any time.

Shirley Kellstrom attended the BONC meeting of Neighborhood Councils and that they are forming a group to meet regularly as an advisory group.

Minutes: The minutes of the March 12, 2003 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

Action Team Reports:

Planning/Design Advisory Committee (DAC): John VanVliet submitted a written report to the council which was included with the agenda and these minutes. There were many audience questions. An announcement that the Ford property at Commerce and Foothill is in its third escrow. The main issue has been the ground contamination and that Ford refuses to take responsibility for its clean-up. Question raised as to what we can do about it? Recommendation that community write letters. It is believed that every letter written represents 5,000 constituents. Resident asked about the zoning of "manufactured homes" in Sunland-Tujunga and that a property has placed one in the area.

Safety: Nina Royal announced that the CERT Refresher course is on April 26. Flyers available at the back table and to see her for more info.

Julie Carpenter, the LAPD lead officer for our area, discussed crime statistics in the community. Burglaries have been up but they caught the guy. Crime lately has been property and grand theft auto. They are also cracking down on the local auto repair stores who leave customer cars on the street overnight. They are supposed to be garaged on the auto repair business' property. They are working on this in conjunction with Wendy Greuel and L.A. Dept. of Bldg & Safety. Dept. of Transportation will impound the autos. Also, cracking down on unregistered cars, For Sale cars parked along Foothill over the 72 hr. maximum time limit. Reconfirmed that its not just Foothill

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but any City street. Julie also fielded many audience questions. Specifically, McVine drag racing where cars are being hit and then abandoned. Julie stated that it is difficult to catch them unless they have auto damage. Concerns about traffic around schools. Valley traffic is set-up around schools and this is a critical Wendy Greuel issue. Julie also reported that the Neighborhood Watch has resulted in Samoa and Commerce getting a paved alley within the next month. Julie gave out her phone numbers: (818) 608-4100 to leave a message, Cell (213) 509-0256.

Outreach: Marti Marshall asked for more volunteer Block Captains.

Certification / Bylaws: Mark Seigel announced the date for mediation between our council - Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) and the Sunland Tujunga Council (STC) would be next Monday, April 14 at Bolton Hall. Mark answered several questions regarding the process and questions that came up regarding "why two groups". BONC hearing is scheduled for May 27, location not yet announced.

FALCON: No report this month.

Programs:

Animal Regulation Dept.: Troy Boswell gave a very enlightening presentation on the animal regulation issues in the area. He reported that coyotes are considered vermin in the State of California but that L.A. City does not really do anything about coyotes unless there is a serious problem. They will come out and assist you with recommendations to coyote proof your home. It is against the law to feed them and any wild animals as it leads to continual problems. If you know of someone feeding coyotes and other wild animals you can make an anonymous report to his office. He talked about the dog leash law -- all dogs must be on leash. There is a 3 dog limit per household. All horse owners must have horse licenses for their horses. Contact info: E. Valley Shelter (818) 756-9323, W. Valley Shelter (818) 756-9325. Email Troy at tboswell@ani.lacity.org with any wildlife issues.

Lions Club: Presentation by Marynance Schellenbach. Lions is the oldest service club and their goal is to eradicate blindness. They give money to several local schools and clubs. They welcome new members. For more info see Marynance after the meeting.

Neighborhood Team w/Mark Chapa: Mark Chapa arrived later and gave a very energetic and interesting presentation. He also said he had forgotten the address of our meeting but was happy to find it in the local paper after he made his way up to our area. He said that this was the largest neighborhood council he has ever presented to. Mark's job is to field citizen complaints with regard to building and safety, code enforcement issues, sanitation, auto mechanics working in their backyards, recycling centers, slum lords, graffiti, to name a few. His office is looking for reports on visual blight and wants to earnestly work on improving neighborhoods. He distributed his business cards and problem report forms (copies contained within these minutes) and wants to hear from citizens. He said that simple items will be easy and more difficult items such as street repaving will be hard but he is looking forward to the challenges.

Old Business: Easter Carnival - Nedd Brown announced the dates of April 18-20 for the carnival and that STNC will have a booth at this event to raise money to fund our treasury which is primarily used for mailing meeting notices. He passed out a sign-up sheet to work the booth at the carnival.

New Business:

None.

Business was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Open Forum/Announcements:

Concerns and announcements included:

McGroarty Art Center is hosting a latin Jazz concert on April 27 at 4 p.m.

Reminder: CERT Training - Call Nina Royal

Bolton Hall will host the tour of homes Sunday, April 12

Shouting Coyote Poetry Festival is scheduled for September 20, 2003 and is in the planning stages. If you want to get involved contact Katerina Canyon.

YMCA Indian Guide Pancake Breakfast will be Sat., May 3

Pat Davenport gave a brief report that people in our area are really involved. Its been a tough time financially with the City. They appreciate volunteers in the office even to do filing. There is a community bulletin board that needs updating and also a community garden behind the building.

The meeting and open forum adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Minutes taken by: Cindy Cleghorn, Corresponding Secretary 2003