

MINUTES:

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, Regular Meeting of 05/14/2003

Ken McAlpine called the meeting to order at 7:03pm at the Elks Lodge with over 115 people in attendance. Ken led a quick discussion of the Certification process. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and newcomers (approximate count of 30) welcomed and introduced. Visitors included Roselyn Stuart, District Director, and Laura Stoll, both from Wendy Greuel's office.

Treasurer's Report: Nedd Brown, Treasurer reported a balance of \$919.64.

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Cleghorn gave a brief report to see how many people received their postcards (large numbers) and emails. She asked everyone who hadn't received their card to please check their address and email in the back sign-in books.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 9, 2003 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

Action Team Reports:

Safety: Nina Royal explained her role and discussed that Captain Waters and members of the Battalion #74 were here. New Commanding Officer of the LAPD could not attend but will come at a future date. Nina finally managed to get the database from the CERT program so we can get our own CERT group active – something she has been working on for a long time. Disaster Preparedness Director, Captain Don Lee agreed to write a letter in support of getting some funding for this CERT effort. Next Disaster Preparedness class will begin September 9, 2003. It will require 25 people minimum, and be held on Tuesday night at 6:00p.m. for seven consecutive weeks at the Municipal Building. National Night Out program is being held in August and Nina will provide more information in the near future. Her contact information is (818) 352-5504, pager (818) 816-4543, nroyal9259@aol.com.

Julie Carpenter, the community Senior Lead Officer gave a short report about upcoming events. She mentioned the Bulky Item Cleanup that would be held on Saturday, May 31 in the Kmart Parking lot.

Planning/Design Advisory Committee (DAC): John LaRocca gave a brief report. He explained the function of this organization is to advise the community about the potential types of businesses interested in coming to the community and reviews presentations from these companies. City planners are working with the group to keep them involved in the overall planning of this community. John discussed numerous businesses that have come to the group recently. A number of questions were asked as well. Dale Thrush was available to answer some of these questions, whenever possible. There was discussion about 1(800)Autopsy and it was determined that the owner should be invited to a future meeting. Ken stated he would talk to Tom Rath about this issue.

Certification: Mark Seigel gave a recap of the certification process. Elsa Waters (for John Waters) discussed the changes of the bylaws that had been made since the last presentation to the group. Ken and Mark answered some questions from the audience. The Hearing will be held on May 27, 2003 and the audience was encouraged to attend and give their opinion to BONC.

Outreach: Cindy discussed the recent outreach efforts to Mt. Gleason Middle School. Two students from Mount Gleason came to speak to the group about what they thought was important. Some of the ideas they brought to the group included steps behind the library, more flowers, more trashcans. We send out cards for new people. Marti asked if anyone was interested in signing up for the Outreach Committee.

FALCON: Steve Crouch explained what FALCON does. He sends out an e-newsletter and had samples for anyone who was interested. He asked anyone who was interested in receiving this newsletter to contact him directly. The group wants to have a series of workshops about the plan, ordinances, etc.

Programs:

City Council Updates: Councilmember Wendy Greuel spoke to the group. She gave a quick update about things that were going on in the community and answered some questions. She had members of her staff at the meeting with her so they were also available for questions. Some of the issues discussed include:

- Starbucks is moving forward.
- Commerce revitalization funding is starting to become available.
- Sunland–Tujunga Park parking has taken almost five years and is almost done.
- The new sign is representative that this is a neighborhood that is to pay attention to.
- Budget - Top priority to her is to increase the number of fire department officers in the area to 10 and obtain an additional ambulance.
- Business tax reform – A letter was sent out to a large number of people (the wrong people, many didn't even know they owed these taxes). It was a nasty letter, telling them they owed major back taxes, including interest and principal. They have realized the mistake in sending this letter out and are trying to learn from these mistakes and look for needed policy changes.
- They are looking at redoing the Council offices in this community.
- Still working on sewer connections, streetlights, pot holes.
- Ms. Greuel is visiting each and every school in her district to see what they need – things like trees, parking, etc.
- She believes in the grass root efforts. She would like to meet with small groups of local residents and has asked those willing to participate to contact Pat Davenport in the Municipal Building. These meetings should be at one neighbor's home and should include 20 or so other neighbors.
- Is there going to be a Samoa park? Not sure yet.
- The Scenic Plan - by Friday, getting the draft ordinances out. Dale will be convening groups after two weeks to discuss.
- Concern about the new McDonald's jaywalking traffic – is anything going to be done? Dale thinks it is being looked into.
- Synchronization of the street lights on Foothill – they will look into this.
- May 15th at 11:00a.m., there was a celebration for the new light going in across from Tierra del Sol.
- Wendy was given a gift of diapers and other essentials by Mark Seigel, in honor of the expected addition to her family.

Sunland Park Activities: Greg Kekahuna gave the group an update of some of the activities going on at Sunland Park. He says that they are handling the programs that keep younger kids in the community out of trouble. He asked everyone to please keep supporting the park.

Old Business:

Calendar Planning – Postponed for one month.

New Business:

Booth Rentals – Brenda McAlpine discussed some of the events that are coming up in the near future, including the Watermelon Festival in August (we will be selling tickets) and the Commerce Street Faire in October.

Brenda also said STNC Tshirts are still on sale.

Rotary Club 4th of July Parade. – Bob Schiele told about this event and how the community can support the effort by putting ads in the paper put out by the Rotary – due in two weeks. The theme is Unity in Community

Business was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Open Forum/Announcements:

Concerns and announcements included:

Street Cleanup – Olina Lowe, as Block Captain, brought up some concerns about her neighborhood – excessive trash and it isn't cleaned up often enough.

JPL Open House – Announced by Elsa Waters

Vic – He encouraged everyone to bring friends, even if they don't speak English. The STNC will work to accommodate them.

Mary Hernandez – Discussed needing support for a shelter for women of domestic violence. She needs a place to store donations of clothing and stuff until these items can be distributed to those who need them.

The meeting and open forum adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Minutes taken by: Elsa Waters, Recording Secretary 2003