

**MINUTES:**

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, Regular Meeting of 06/11/2003**

Ken McAlpine called the meeting to order at 7:02pm at the Mt. Gleason Middle School with over 137 people in attendance. Announced our recent certification. The Girl Scouts Troup 1247 led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the Hello song. Students from Mt. Gleason continued the greeting in many languages. Ken welcomed Dale Thrush, Rosalind Stewart, Gary Washborn and all newcomers (approximate count of 44) were welcomed and introduced.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nedd Brown, Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,019.64. The increase is for additional tshirt sales.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Cindy Cleghorn read the letter of resignation from John Van Vliet in its entirety. Questions were held until the DAC Report.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the May 14, 2003 Regular Meeting were approved as written.

**Action Team Reports:**

**Design Advisory Committee (DAC):**

John LaRocca gave a report on the last DAC meeting from Monday night (June 9). Items discussed included:

- The group is learning and they are trying to grow with the community.
- Squeaky Clean Car Wash (at 6501 Foothill Blvd.) made a presentation to the committee.
- Next regular meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the month and they are open to the community.
- 1-800-Autopsy will return at a special meeting on June 23 at Bolton Hall at 7:00p.m.
- Minimum hours that a business can stay open hasn't been clearly established. The DAC met to discuss this topic as it relates to the target area – 20 hours per week, Monday thru Saturday before 10:00p.m. at night as a recommendation. Voted unanimously on this recommendation.
- John took a few questions and concerns:
  - Squeaky Clean hand car wash – the area is close to a school and there are many accidents in the area.
  - Meeting times, agendas will be posted before the meeting, including on the web site.
  - No one has filed a variance yet for overflow parking – need to pull a building permit for that.
  - Signage issue – see John after the meeting.

**Safety:** Nina Royal discussed the following:

- Cert Training starts on September 9 at 6:00p.m. She asked people to sign up. CERT training takes 7 weeks, one evening per week & continuing training each year. You must sign up in advance and this training is free.
- Unsung Heroes dinner at the Elks Lodge on June 22, cost is \$7.50.
- National Night Out is on August 5 (Tuesday), local parties in your area and the local police come to your party to meet all your neighbors.
- IRP (Integrated Resource Plan) Committee – she needs volunteers.
- Captain Albanese is a no show due to other commitments but will try to come to the next meeting.
- Unknown came and spoke briefly to the council.
- Julie Carpenter, Senior Officer for Tujunga spoke briefly. She went over some Tujunga statistics – Burglaries, vehicles, in particular, GTAs. The helicopter helped to catch the perpetrator. She has a newsletter that she puts out. Bulky item pickup – lots of problems. Larry Martinez, Senior Officer for Sunland.
- Her contact information is (818) 352-5504, pager (818) 816-4543, [nroyal9259@aol.com](mailto:nroyal9259@aol.com).

## **Outreach:**

Marti Marshall discussed general outreach efforts.

- There were 30 new people at our last meeting and a large number of new people appear to be at this meeting too.
- The Bulky Item Pickup event had STNC representation there and flyers were included with the information that most residents received from the effort.
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July – we need a vehicle, a driver, volunteers.
- Watermelon Festival in August by the Lions – we need to sell 300 raffle tickets – see Jennifer Bell at the back of the room.
- There will be an Outreach Committee meeting on June 19.
- Block Captains – we have some already and need more to hand out flyers and information to your block / neighborhood.

**FALCON:** Steve Crouch updated on current activity with FALCON - Anyone who is interested in environmental issues, preserving the hillsides and canyons, or concerned about zoning and land use issues should be in touch with FALCON (Foothill Area League of Conservation Organizations and Neighbors), which shares information amongst all the area community groups to keep everyone informed about issues that arise in every area. The group is made up of volunteers (citizens like yourselves, who care about what we have here in the Foothill communities) and gets together to do something about it. The more people get involved, the easier it is on everyone when the organizing work is shared. Send an email to CAPViews@attbi.com to be added to the mailing list.

## **Certification Update:**

John Waters updated the community on what is happening post Certification and what still needs to be done:

- Bylaws are still being worked with DONE and will be presented to the council as soon as all changes have been finalized.
- Elections will be held in the next 120 days (less three weeks since the hearing) to fill the voting member position. Total officers needed include 21 members, including 5 officers, 8 stakeholder representatives and 8 geographic representatives. There is also a non-voting parliamentarian.
- Boundary issue – this was something that we did not miss or give up. It was an agreement made between Foothill Trails and our group. We discovered a few days before the hearing that BONC understood public use as public owned, although this was not clear before when the initial agreement had been made. This issue will be worked to find a solution that works for both councils. The STNC needs the involvement and cooperation of the community.
- Finally, the STNC needs everyone's help and involvement. The entire community has to be included in the upcoming election. This will take a great deal of participation to get this information out to people who are not currently aware of what is going on here. Contact Marti if you are interested in getting involved.

## **Programs:**

**Commerce Revitalization Plan:** Jonathan Goldhill and Assocs. were hired to do a study on the commercial revitalization of Commerce Ave. Mr. Goldhill gave a quick overview of the results. More information will be sent to the STNC to post in their website. Summary of challenging issues:

- Small lots
- Code Violations
- Weak auto and pedestrian counts.
- Lowest age, lowest per capital income
- Fairly remote distance from the Freeway onramps
- Inadequate parking
- 87 % residents felt optimistic

- 67% willing to help

**Tree People:** Chip English, of the Sun Valley Watershed Stakeholder's Group spoke to the Council. The Tree People (<http://www.treepeople.org/>) is one of the stakeholders of this group. He explained how watershed issues are vital to any community, especially in Los Angeles, to capture fresh water for the community to use as drinking water. Many of our parks are set up to protect these. Because Los Angeles hasn't done this properly in the past, the area has been forced to pump water from other areas. It is really important that the community learn to capture water in an environmentally sound way. Chip gave ideas on how this problem can be resolved – planting trees is one great way. His group's web page can be found at <http://www.sunvalleywatershed.org/>. There will be a townhall meeting in the end of September. Although it is not listed on the webpages yet, it will get posted here in the near future.

**Mt. Gleason Middle School:** Mr. Gary Ireland, an educator at Mt. Gleason spoke to the group. He spoke very highly about what is going on at the school. Test scores have been going up. He is trying to focus on technology and science. He spoke about the importance of the students understanding and being excited about space, since this is critical to our futures. He has been working with the school to establish a Planetarium at Mt. Gleason. This will be for everyone, not just the students. They have found a building to put the planetarium into and are working grants to get the money to purchase the equipment – from Disney, the National Science Foundation and Toyota. They have already developed a connection with the Telescopes in Education program with Mt. Wilson. He wants to encourage the community to get behind this effort. Anyone wanting more information can contact him directly at [kidzteacher@aol.com](mailto:kidzteacher@aol.com).

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

None

**Business was adjourned at 9:05 pm.**

**Open Forum/Announcements:**

Concerns and announcements included:

Library / Parking Lot Steps – Students from Mt. Gleason mentioned the lack of stairs from the parking lot to the park behind the Municipal Building going to the Library. There are insufficient parking spaces at the library and steps would really help resolve this problem. Elsa Waters will draft a letter to bring to the next meeting and will ask the STNC approve sending this letter to Wendy Greuel's office to get this work done. It is important that the students see we take their concerns seriously.

Stop Light for Mountain View School was brought up by Julie Andrewski. This is the intersection by the new McDonalds on Foothill. She passed around a petition and asked everyone to consider adding their name to this effort. Rosalind Stewart mentioned that Wendy Greuel's office has already sent a request to the right organization to get them to look into the problem. Rosalyn is watching this personally and will keep the STNC informed. This will be discussed at next month's meeting to see if the STNC wants to send a letter in support of the stop light here.

Graffiti in the Forest was discussed by Peggy Tveden. Now that you require a pass to go into the mountains, the trash has become even worse. She is very concerned about this problem. The trash is piling up just feet away from parking area and no one seems concerned enough to clean it up.

Ed Rondinone says that Apperson and McVine fill up with dirt whenever it rains because parts of McGroarty are not paved. He is looking for ways to get this area paved. Some discussion led to

a possible solution. Funding might be available through Dust Abatement. Some people offered personal experience and were interested in providing him with more information. Lloyd Hitt discussed the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. There is an effort to get all Korean veterans to attend the parade to be honored. If anyone knows anyone who is a veteran of the Korean war, they should contact the Little Landers or Bolton Hall for more information.

Brendan Gibson discussed Verdugo Hills High School student outreach efforts. He discussed:

- A program that provided counseling for troubled students.
- Second Chance program that included parents and troubled students.
- Diversity Mural being painted by a group of students at the school.

Alice – McGroarty Poetry

Mark Seigel discussed two issues:

- CERT Training is really fun and very important. Everyone should do it.
- He wants to start a Ham Radio Club in the community, called TRC. See him for more information.

Seven Hills Café on Commerce opens in the next month.

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

Minutes taken by: Elsa Waters, Recording Secretary 2003