

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting Minutes for April 13, 2005  
Mt. Gleason Middle School – 7 PM**

Ken McAlpine called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and appointed Cindy Cleghorn to take minutes until Ava Wrightsman's arrival at 7:06 PM. There were 20 Board members in attendance and 105 in the audience. Ken McAlpine welcomed newcomers and guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**Executive Committee Reports**

Hottest Topics: Julianne Maurseth announced the new EC Report of Hottest Topics. She briefly addressed Canyon Hills and Home Depot. There was a straw poll vote on possible dates for an upcoming town hall meeting on Home Depot.

Treasurer: Robin Meares went over her written Treasury Report, which was provided to all Board Members.

Recording Secretary: Minutes of 9 March 2005 were approved as presented.

**Board Reports**

Waste Management Grant: Robin Meares announced some information regarding the Waste Management Grant applications.

Repair of Upper Tujunga Canyon: Michelle Sahfran announced that the bulkhead project for the repair of the Upper Tujunga Canyon Boulevard landslide areas would be starting soon. She introduced Vahic Vartanians from the Bureau of Engineering who described the project and showed a map of the location. The work was to start by August 2005.

**Public Comment**

The following issues and concerns were brought up:

- Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office was thanked for closing down a project on Commerce Avenue that was in violation of the Specific Plan.
- The Sunland-Tujunga Historic Homes Tour was announced.
- Councilmember Wendy Greuel would be starting a column in "The Paper".
- A teacher announced that an honor student was fundraising to go to a medicine convention.
- A city employee offered his volunteer services in emergency and safety management and training, in exchange for a letter recognizing his contributions.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> Century PAC announced a breakfast to support Congressman Buck McKeon to become Chair of the Education Committee (Congressman McKeon is currently a member of that committee) on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 am at Coco's.
- A beauty supply shop announced its grand opening on May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- A Mother's Day Brunch at Bolton Hall was announced.
- WWW.NO2HOMEDEPOT.COM was announced and people were encouraged to attend the No Home Depot Committee's next meeting.
- Childcare Provider Week was announced as the first week of May.
- A non-permitted development was announced and the individual was referred to the DAC and to Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy for Council District 2.
- The musical "Working" was announced as selling out at the Performing Arts Center. Contact information: (818) 951-4696.
- Board Member Deborah Ray announced that people can call her at (818) 951-0793 regarding people serving overseas so that she can honor them, regarding Neighborhood Watch involvement and handling the increasing gang activity on Commerce Avenue. She also encouraged people to shop on Commerce Avenue.
- A Clean Community Night was announced for April 30<sup>th</sup> at Sunland Neighborhood Church.
- The Elks Breakfast was announced for Sunday.

**Committee Reports**

DAC: Richard Pozzo, Vice Chair, reported on three upcoming hearing notices in April. --He announced that the DAC had recommended minimum lot sizes of 7,500 square feet on two subdivision properties: 11104 Oro Vista and 11030 Oro Vista.

-A drive through car wash was proposed for a property at McVine and Foothill and that project would be reviewed at the next DAC meeting.

-A recycling center was being proposed for a property in the neighborhood and the DAC was not in favor of that use.

Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy for Councilmember Wendy Greuel, reported the following:

- Home Depot (Kmart): Preliminary discussions were underway. There would be a meeting with the developer and the STNC and then a larger meeting after that meeting. Nothing would be decided on this property's use without input from the community. Councilmember Wendy Greuel was on record as opposing Home Depot.
- Verdugo Golf Course – There had been a series of meetings. The Council Office was trying to preserve as much open space as possible. There were two proposals for this property: 1) 300,000 square feet shopping center and 2) Detached condos zoned RD3 density (3,000 square feet per unit), but with a large portion of the lot being devoted to open space, yielding a net effect of an RD6 zoning (6,000 square feet per unit).
- 10105 Commerce Avenue: This project was shut down and a meeting was planned between the Council Office, the Planning Department and the property owner to restore the look of the property and correct the use.
- 4 lot subdivision on Oro Vista: The DAC recommended RS zoning, rather than R1, which would mean 50% more land per lot than R1.

-4 ½ acre subdivision on Oro Vista: The DAC made the same recommendation for RS zoning. A meeting was scheduled and it looked as though the developer had seen the light and understood that the community wanted a quality development.  
-Mt. Gleason property: This non-permitted property was brought up in Public Comment and would be looked into.

A question and answer period occurred. The location of the homes and fire fence on the Oro Vista subdivision were not known at the time of the meeting. The Interim Control Ordinance that Councilmember Greuel introduced was announced in response to a question. The McGroarty 14/17 lot subdivision was not scheduled for a public hearing.

Ken announced Kristin Asadourian from Councilmember Wendy Greuel’s office and Angela Motta from Mayor Hahn’s office.

Safety: Nina Royal announced the Safety Committee Meeting, the Safety and Preparedness Fair, the next Business Watch meeting, the next Basic CAR meeting and the Police Auxiliary League program for youth. Acting SLO Steven Briggs announced that Julie Carpenter was in supervisor school. Officer Briggs announced the Basic CAR meeting and went over crime statistics for Sunland and Tujunga.

Outreach: Mona Curry announced the next Outreach meeting and tentative Farmers Market on Commerce in June. Peter Babaian announced the tentative Farmers Market on Commerce in June. Attention would be paid to allowing for parking for the Farmers Market. Peter also announced an upcoming District 3 meeting.

**Program Speakers:**

**Julianne Maurseth, Sunland-Tujunga 2020, Developers are Not the Enemy**

Julianne described the need to recreate conversation regarding development and moving from war with developers to collaboration with them to create the community that we want. She described seeking out community-minded visionary developers and how that would save time and money. She stated that we need to protect open space and bring in the developers and businesses and homes that we need.

**Cliff Goldstein, JH Snyder**

Mr. Goldstein described the development process. He said that most developers don’t care about the community. There are many hoops to get through to get a project to completion. Developers can make a lot of money, but there is also high risk (for example her referenced a development that lost \$15 million last year). Mr. Goldstein listed out the steps of developing land.

Mr. Goldstein stated that statistics show that more people are coming and an area can plan for the people or try to persuade the people not to come. There are a lot of possibilities for this community. The Kmart/Home Depot site is an impact property for this community. He also mentioned that property values could be positively impacted by good development in the area. Further, the Sunland-Tujunga area can plan for development by getting properties zoned so that their highest and best use is what the community wants at that site.

In response to various questions and answers, the following were mentioned:

- Commerce is a great opportunity for mixed use (housing above retail). Mr. Goldstein also suggested that our area get a Community Development Area.
- The recruitment of the developer by the community is important.
- Revitalization of the community doesn’t mean big boxy houses. It means bringing back the good things to the community.
- An individual stated that she likes Sunland-Tujunga to be Podunky.
- The Sunland-Tujunga area is currently in a blighted condition.
- Julianne Maurseth mentioned that crime comes with blight and that the open space of the area needs to be protected.
- It is necessary to deal with the economic realities of the situation.
- Kmart should not be developed until there is a consensus by the community. Then that property should be zoned for what the community wants and incentives given to the developers and property owners.
- CRA’s cannot acquire property in an area without the right of eminent domain and they don’t automatically get this right.
- It is difficult to get a moratorium in Los Angeles, but variances can be used to get a similar effect.

Chairman Ken McAlpine stated that he grew up in Sunland-Tujunga and he wants the community to be back the way that it was when he grew up. Unless we are proactive regarding the development of Sunland-Tujunga, we will get more blight.

**Old Business**

1: **Support Transit Shelter Installation (Robin Meares):**

Motion: I move that the STNC support the installation of ten Transit Shelters by Viacom/JC Decaux tentatively scheduled for the following Bus Stop locations:

- |                            |           |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| WB Foothill NS Oro Vista   | NE Corner |
| EB Foothill FS Fenwick St  | SE Corner |
| WB Sunland NS Fenwick St   | NE Corner |
| WB Foothill NS Saluda Ave  | NE Corner |
| EB Foothill FS Tujunga Cyn | SE Corner |

EB Foothill FS Pinewood Ave SE Corner  
WB Foothill NS Pali (Island) NE Corner  
EB Foothill FS Pali SE Corner  
WB Foothill NS Pinewood NE Corner  
WB Foothill NS Mt Gleason NE Corner

95% of those installed will be the Boulevard Shelter types. They will be installed at no cost to the City. Our Council District will share in the revenues of the advertising. The maintenance will be the responsibility of Viacom/JC Decaux.

I further move that our approval is contingent upon approval of final locations of transit shelters and the opportunity to suggest design changes.

**Motion by Robin Meares**

**This motion was postponed at the request of Robin Meares.**

2: NC Coalition (Nina Royal):

Motion: That the STNC form a planning group coalition with Chatsworth, Granada Hills, Mission Hills, Northridge, Sylmar and Foothills Trails and any other Neighborhood Council that is interested. And that we elect or appoint representatives to that coalition from the STNC to address the issues specific to the Foothills.

**Motion by Nina Royal, as amended by Robin Meares and Julianne Maurseth.**

**The motion passed with one opposed and one abstaining.**

3: That the STNC sponsor the Commerce Street Faire. (Deborah Ray):

**This motion was postponed at the request of Deborah Ray.**

4: DAC Appointments (Robin Meares):

Motion: To accept the recommendations of the Design Advisory Committee, the following members of the DAC: John LaRocca as Committee Chair, Cindy Cleghorn, Penny Blackwell, Robert Actor-Thomas, Debby Beck, Tomi Lyn Bowling, Deborah Ray, Julianne Maurseth, Lloyd Hitt, Mark Seigel, Richard Pozzo, with Alternates Shelly Albert, Don Breeding, Ed Duke, Ed Rock.

**Motion by Robin Meares.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

**New Business**

1: NC/DWP MOU Signing (Louise Clarke Stone).

Motion: I move that the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council (1) approve and sign the Intra-City Memorandum of Understanding Between Certified Neighborhood Councils and the Department of Water and Power (version approved by the Board of Water commissioners on April 5, 2005); (2) (STNC) shall designate a representative who is responsible for interfacing with the LADWP Liaison(s); (3) (STNC) shall agree to the appointment of a NC's LADWP Oversight Committee; (4) the STNC Chair shall appoint or designate the individual who will serve as STNC's representative; and (5) *subsequent to STNC's signing and approval of the MOU*, STNC shall date and sign the form entitled Delegation of Authority to Neighborhood Council's LADWP Oversight Committee (the authority of said Oversight Committee is to (1) designate a matter as "significant" under section 2.1 of the MOU, and (2) to negotiate modifications to the MOU with LADWP).

**Motion by Louise Clarke Stone.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

2: Outreach Funding (Mona Curry).

Motion: I move that the STNC support the purchase of items needed to facilitate the Outreach Committee's goal of marketing to the community. Cost not to exceed \$350.00 for shirts, \$250.00 for lanyards, \$250.00 for pens and \$500.00 for miscellaneous items and that the STNC support the Outreach Committee's participation at two (2) various local events not to exceed \$350.00 for miscellaneous costs per event.

**Motion by Mona Curry.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

3: Planning Letter to Silver Lake NC (Julianne Maurseth).

Motion: I move that the STNC approve of the draft letter in support of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council's position regarding City Planning reform and Neighborhood Council empowerment.

A copy of the three-page letter was provided to all board members in the Program packet of the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting.

**Motion by Julianne Maurseth.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

4: Strategic Planning Amendments (Julianne Maurseth).

Motion: I move that the STNC approve of the updated Strategic Plan, per March 2005 recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee.

**Motion by Julianne Maurseth.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

5: STNC Letter to Mayoral Candidates (Ed Condit).

Motion: I move that the STNC send a letter to the candidates for Mayor of the City of Los Angeles asking for their positions on issues important to the Sunland-Tujunga community as follows:

Dear Candidates,

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests that you forward your positions in writing on the following issues by close of business April 29, 2005:

1. Planning Commission Reform: the experience of the STNC with the Planning Commission has led us to conclude that the Planning Commission seems to make decisions in an arbitrary manner without regard for community concerns. They have seemingly bypassed the community's well thought out and professionally presented questions and recommendations. They seem to have dismissed the decisions of their own hearing officers without explanation and apparently have limited accountability to the people of the City.

Therefore, what would you do, if elected, to reform the Planning Commission?

2. Oak Tree Protection ordinance: Currently the City's Oak tree protection extends only to lots larger than one acre. Our community loses Oak Trees every month that have taken hundreds of years to grow. Developers are actually pleased to find out that Sunland and Tujunga are part of Los Angeles and not other surrounding cities as that makes it much easier for them to cut them down.

What is your position on strengthening the Oak Tree Ordinance?

Thank you for your prompt reply.

**Motion by Ed Condit.**

**Motion carried unanimously with one abstaining.**

6: Canyon Hills follow-up letter (Lisa Keene).

Motion to send the letter to Committee (Julianne Maurseth).

Motion: I move that this letter go to Committee and that Lisa Keene work with Roberta Actor-Thomas and Debby Beck to send a letter with the same intent but integrating reference to our last letter to the Planning Commission.

**Motion to send the letter to Committee by Julianne Maurseth passed unanimously.**

There were no public comments.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:12 PM**

*Minutes taken by Ava Wrightsman, 2005 Recording Secretary*