

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**Board Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2005**  
**Mt. Gleason Middle School – 7 PM**

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by Chairman, Ken McAlpine. Cindy Cleghorn was appointed as acting Recording Secretary as Ava Wrightsman was out of town. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Robin Meares.

**Executive Committee Reports:**

**Grievance Report:** Cindy Cleghorn, Recording Secretary pro tem, read a grievance received from stakeholder Gina Tanner regarding Robin Meares. The chairman referred this to the Grievance Committee which consists of John Waters, Shirley Kellstrom, and Lloyd Hitt. Robin Meares was given time to speak to the grievance at request of board members present.

**Recording Secretary:** The minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

**Treasurer's Report:** Robin Meares, Treasurer, reported that June already has a lot of expenses coming in so they can get in this fiscal year. To date, \$3,133 in expenses have been recorded.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire Safety:** Captain Terry Waters and Firefighters from Station 74 reported that the new station 77 is about to open in two months. Captain Waters discussed the importance of brush cleanup for fire prevention. He pointed out that it was important during the summer months especially, but also all year round. Several board members commented on the following:

- Help was needed on an area along Airlie Drive.
- There are absentee owners and not all of their properties are cleared, despite a county program to do so. It appeared that there was not sufficient funds to handle all of these properties, despite billing the absentee owners.

**Board Reports:**

**Neighborhood Council Planning Coalition:** Nina Royal reported that neighboring neighborhood councils are getting together to work on changes within City Planning and how the process works through the City. Dates for the upcoming meetings would be published in the Foothills Paper. Recommend stakeholder comments be sent to the STNC.

**Hottest Topics:** Louise Clarke Stone reported that the hottest topics for this meeting were:

- Home Depot
- Verdugo Hills Golf Course Town Hall
- Canyon Hills (additional information would be available at Cap Views)
- The Planning Director Process

- Interim Control Ordinance regarding the Floor Area Ratio (FAR)

Board members and Stakeholders in attendance were informed that these topics would be addressed within the meeting.

Home Depot: Don Breeding and John LaRocca gave an update on behalf of the Home Depot Strategy Team. A meeting had been held recently that included STNC board members, DAC members, Dale Thrush from CD2, No2Home Depot reps. Home Depot reps included one real estate rep and four consultants. The main goals were 1) to establish open communication 2) to inform Home Depot that our community has a plan and vision for 2020 3) to inform Home Depot of the community's desires. Another meeting would be set up at a future time. There was a question and answer period in which the following were mentioned: 1) Sunland-Tujunga is working with a team of professionals (urban planners) to design the community. 2) Concern as to whether Home Depot had approached the trailer park to purchase it. 3) The community does not want a Home Depot. 4) Would Home Depot consider the community's information? Home Depot reps will contact Dale Thrush as point of contact when there is something next to report.

**First Public Comment:**

- An individual and his daughter commented that they would like to have Kmart back and that they would like fireworks to be held this year.
- An Emergency Management Pamphlet "10 Ways to Prepare for Disaster" was available in the back of the room.
- A Neighborhood Watch meeting would be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> for the North Sunland area.
- John Waters, Co-Chair of the Elections Committee, announced there are 3 members of the committee and they are looking for 4 more volunteers who will not be running for office. Duties would include helping with candidate socials and handing out ballots on Election Day.
- Verdugo Hills High School's swimming pool is available for all. People were invited to come out and swim.
- Nina Royal was congratulated for receiving Rocky Delgadillo's L.A. Pearl award for her community work.
- An individual suggested that the STNC work on buying out the billboards on Foothill Blvd. one by one to clean up Foothill Blvd.
- Roberta Actor-Thomas and Robin Meares, dressed in funeral attire, gave a short prepared skit "Farewell to 7220 Hillrose", another historic home torn down.
- Robin Meares announced McGroarty Art Center's 2nd Annual Ceramics Show and that registration was open for summer classes. The recent fire at McGroarty was contained within two rooms and McGroarty was only closed for 1-day.
- Barbara Howell commented that in lieu of flowers for the funeral to please give a donation.
- Steve Crouch commented that he mourns the loss of the historic home and that there will be a Funeral Rally this Saturday at Faith Lutheran Church to raise awareness. He asked that people write letters.

- Nina Royal reported that the Foothills Paper needs volunteers as writers, proofers, and advertisers. The Paper was planning to go to a twice a month distribution starting in July.
- Mark Seigel announced that he would be starting a Ham Radio and CERT leader class for anyone interested. Mark also asked people to pray for Nina Royal, as she had had multiple surgeries this past year and would be going in for more tests soon.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Safety:** Nina Royal reported that Frank Avila would start on June 26 as Tujunga's Senior Lead Officer. An increase in graffiti was reported in Tujunga, in addition to an increase in gang units and tagging crews. People were urged to call 311 to report it.

It was announced that the Above and Beyond Award would be honoring the Fire Department this year. A Valley Surveillance Team was being coordinated that would work alongside Senior Lead Officers. People were invited to contact Nina for more information.

**DAC:** John LaRocca reported on projects that have recently come before the DAC for review:

- A 30 home development on Oro Vista is now down to 25 homes.
- 9811 Hillhaven: The owners wished to preserve the old house and develop the remainder of property into 9 homes (ten total). A historic home application had been filed to keep it intact. Open House will be held Aug. 15.
- A cell phone tower at the Community Christian Church (near the Tujunga Post Office) was seen for the second time. The proposal was for either a monopine (fake tree) or tower up to 60 feet high, which does not fit within the guidelines. The DAC and recommended that the presenters come before the full STNC board.
- There were also presentations from a proposed tanning salon and a jewelry store in the IHOP/SavOn retail center.

It was noted that two City Planning representatives regularly attend the DAC meetings, as well as Dale Thrush or Kristin Asadourian from Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office.

Council District 2 Planning Deputy, Dale Thrush reported the following:

- Interim Control Ordinance/Floor Area Ratio was scheduled to be before the City Council on the following Tuesday.
- Planning Reform – Councilmember Wendy Greuel wanted representatives from all neighborhood councils (there were 8 in Council District 2) to go through the big picture concepts. A charter amendment was suggested.
- The property at Foothill and Apperson had been sold to an occupant who intended to develop the property. This was viewed as an opportunity to implement Vision 2020 with real concentrated uses and to eliminate the blight that had populated Foothill. It could be a first major step to realize the Vision 2020 concept.
- Councilmember Wendy Greuel met with FALCON representatives regarding Canyon Hills. Emily Gabel-Luddy would be in charge of the Slope Density issue.

Details on slope density were requested by Councilmember Greuel's office. A meeting with Ms. Luddy was agreed to and would be scheduled in the future.

- Home Depot: A meeting was held and the spirit of the meeting was encouraging. A response letter from Home Depot was expected any time and would be forwarded when it was received.

A question and answer period was held and the following concerns and comments were raised:

- 1) Canyon Hills and the Slope Density Ordinance (SDO): It was wondered if the discrepancies Mr. Eick aired on Slope Density had been responded to by Emily Gabel-Luddy. Ms. Luddy did not report with detail, so further clarifications had been needed from her. The City Attorney is looking into the interpretation of the Slope Density Ordinance. The City Attorney consistently supports Ms. Luddy. City Planning has been asked three times to disclose the analysis of the SDO, but they have yet to respond.
- 2) Home Depot: It was wondered if Home Depot was aware of the community's feeling regarding having one of their stores. Options were given in the meeting with Home Depot representatives. It was possible that Home Depot would purchase the trailer park.
- 3) Commercial Property at Foothill and Scoville (currently boarded up): This was the site of a future medical office.
- 4) Help was requested on Airlie Drive.

Outreach Committee Report: Deborah Ray reported that the Verdugo Hills Golf Course survey was out. She asked that everyone fill them out and turn them in. The survey is also be available on the STNC web site.

Peter Babaian reported that all but 3 businesses supported the Farmer's Market to be held on Commerce Ave. Volunteers were requested for the 4th of July Parade to help pass out promotional items (postcards and magnets). An STNC logo contest is being planned. A student award program is planned for the fall. The next outreach meeting date and time was announced.

Vision 2020: Julianne Maurseth introduced the program speaker.

**Program: "A Healthy Future for Sunland Tujunga" by Dr. Neal Kaufman**

Dr. Kaufman spoke on the subject of designing communities for better health. While he doesn't know a lot about Sunland-Tujunga, he stated that Sunland-Tujunga was a mountain community, which would be a public health person's dream area for living. He discussed the various health risks and epidemics currently facing the population of Los Angeles particularly. He also stated that the aesthetic qualities in the design of the buildings in a community help promote health for individuals in the community. The designs proposed by Dr. Kaufman had been used in Europe, but not in the U.S. One can visit [nsbn.org](http://nsbn.org) for further information.

**Old Business:**

1) 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 Tujung 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. Motion seconded in the March 2005 meeting. Motion moved to Committee (see below).**

This motion had been presented by Robin Meares at the March 2005 meeting and postponed.

Julianne Maurseth moved to refer the motion to the Design Advisory Committee to discuss type and color and that the DAC provide their recommendations to the STNC before Robin's motion is voted on.

**Motion by Julianne Maurseth. Motion seconded. Motion passed with one dissenting vote.**

**New Business:**

1) Robin Meares moved that the STNC approve the 2005/2006 Budget as follows:

OUTREACH	\$22,790
ADMINISTRATION	\$9,670
STV2020	\$4,570
Fixed Assets	\$1,800
DAC	\$8,170
NMF/Neighborhood Purposes Grant	<u>\$3,000</u>

TOTAL BUDGET

\$50,000

I further move to enact the following approval procedures for those expenses not approved in detail in the 2005/2006 Budget:

Expense of \$300 and under:

Must be approved by the Approval Authority specified for the appropriate category below AND either the Treasurer or the Chairman.

<u>Budget Category</u>	<u>Approval Authority</u>
Outreach	Outreach Chair with the following exceptions: STV2020 Chair And DAC Chair to approve their Department's Outreach Expenses.
STV2020	STV2020 Chair
DAC	DAC Chair
Fixed Assets	Logistics Chair
Administration	Logistics Chair
Grants	Full Board Approval

Expense of \$300 and above:

Full Board Approval

I further move to transfer \$1,250 from 2004/2005 Outreach Budget to the Administration Budget to cover monthly Administrative costs.

**Motion by Robin Meares. Motion postponed.**

2) Rhonda Herbel moved that the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council send the attached letter to the Los Angeles City Council, Planning and Land Use Management Committee, Mayor, and Mayor-elect, urging support for efforts to strengthen protection for trees in Los Angeles.

(A copy of the letter was in the Program packet provided to all board members at the meeting.)

**Motion by Rhonda Herbel. Motion seconded. Motion passed.**

3) Louise Clarke Stone moved that the STNC designate Julianne Maurseth as STNC's representative to the City Planning Director Interview Board regarding the City Planning Director position soon to be vacant.

**Motion by Louise Clarke Stone. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

4) Julianne Maurseth moved that the STNC Board approve the “draft” Standing Rules for the STNC Board, dated June 8, 2005.

**Motion by Julianne Maurseth. Motion withdrawn. Julianne recommended a special meeting for this item.**

5) Rhonda Herbel moved that the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council ask Councilmember Wendy Greuel for her leadership in advocating for reform of inefficient practices within the Los Angeles Department of City Planning including but not limited to the currently flawed administration of the Slope Density Ordinance. We shall communicate this request by way of the attached letter.

(A copy of the letter was in the Program packet provided to all board members at the meeting.)

**Motion by Rhonda Herbel. Motion seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

6) Mark Seigel moved that the STNC support the community by helping pay for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks in the amount of \$2,200.00.

Two representatives from the Chamber of Commerce were present to describe the support benefits and the outreach opportunity.

**Motion by Mark Seigel. Motion seconded. Motion amended by Julianne Maurseth to provide \$500 instead of \$2,200. Amendment seconded and passed with six dissenting votes. Ammended motion voted on and passed 8 in favor and 6 opposed.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM

*Minutes taken by Cindy Cleghorn, Recording Secretary pro tem.*