

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

Ken McAlpine called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. There were 18 Board members in attendance and 91 in the audience. Ken McAlpine welcomed newcomers and guests. Ken announced that a cake was available at the back of the room to celebrate the two-year anniversary of the certification of the STNC. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Kristin Asadourian, Field Deputy for Councilmember Wendy Greuel, presented a proclamation to two of Sue Dell's neighbors for being good neighbors and helping to recover her cat.

**Executive Committee Reports**

Recording Secretary: It was announced that the minutes of the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting were still being prepared.

Treasurer: Robin Meares presented her fiscal report for year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

**Public Comment**

The following issues and concerns were brought up:

- An individual announced that bulldozing that had occurred on her street and she was concerned about the rains.
- A letter was presented to all Board Members regarding dissatisfaction from Brian Fitzburgh regarding a DAC presentation.
- A parent volunteer from Mount Gleason Middle School and two of her students made an announcement about needing \$500 for an ROTC program.

**Program Speakers:**

**Michael Espinosa, Grant Manager, Office of Community Beautification**

Michael Espinosa spoke regarding the Community Beautification Grant. He went over the basic eligibility requirements, General Information Workshops, the 7 steps to getting the grant, what funds can be matched and what types of projects could qualify. The deadline for submitting the grant requests for this year would be October 27, 2005. More information could be obtained at [www.LACity.Org/BPW](http://www.LACity.Org/BPW) or by calling Mr. Espinosa directly at (213) 978-0225.

There was a question and answer period and the following ideas were discussed:

- \$800,000 per year is given in grants, which translates to about 100 grants.
- A community can receive more than one grant per year.
- The grants are only for publicly accessible space.
- A church can work on a project if it is open to the public and has no religious connotation.

**Board Reports**

Grievance Report: Recording Secretary, Ava Wrightsman, read a prepared statement: On May 24, 2005, a stakeholder reported a grievance to the STNC Chair regarding Board member Robin Meares, concerning an email communication from the STNC. The grievance was read at the STNC regular monthly meeting of June 8, 2005, and was referred to the Grievance Committee for review, report, and recommendation. After conducting their investigation, the Grievance Committee submitted their report to the STNC Board and advised the stakeholder of their findings and recommendations. While the committee's findings indicated that more than one individual was involved in the situation, the report fundamentally pointed to a lack of adequate formal policies and procedures with regard to authorized STNC correspondence. The STNC Board has referred the Grievance Committee recommendations to the Bylaws Committee for further evaluation and changes to the bylaws in an effort to avoid a similar occurrence in the future. The STNC Board further instructed that, in the interim, all STNC Board and committee members are to be advised of the recommended changes and also that all correspondence from the STNC, including general distribution emails, are required to be handled by the STNC Corresponding Secretary.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **DAC:**

FAR/ICO: Roberta Actor-Thomas reported that the Floor Area Ratio Interim Control Ordinance (FAR/ICO) had passed PLUM and would be going on to the City Council for a vote for final approval. She reported that this ordinance would change the floor area ratio from 1.5 to 0.4. At 1.5 a 12,000 square foot house could be built on an 8,000 square foot lot, but at 0.4 only a 3,200 square foot house could be built on an 8,000 square foot lot. People can build up to 40% of their lot size or up to 2,400 square feet, whichever is larger. Roberta thanked the many people who helped on this.

DAC Chairman, John LaRocca, presented Roberta with an award for all of her hard work on the FAR/ICO.

Ford Property Update: Debby Beck reported the final touches were being put on the architectural plans for the Ford Property and they would likely be reviewed at the August DAC meeting. The ground breaking would probably be in September with an opening date of late 2006 or early 2007.

Home Depot Strategy Team: Don Breeding reported that the 40 year leasehold is now owned by Home Depot and not by Kmart. The Home Depot Strategy Team was working on getting a general store, e.g. Target or Kohls and possibly a theater and restaurants at this location.

There was a question and answer period for the DAC in which the following were brought up:

- FAR/ICO had passed PLUM and was to be voted on by the City Council. Since it had approval from both PLUM and Councilmember Wendy Greuel, it was extremely likely to be passed by the City Council.
- FAR/ICO does not apply to hillside property. The Slope Density Ordinance would apply. Additionally, engineering will be involved in these types of properties.

- It was hoped that the decrease in FAR would dissuade developers from subdividing lots.

Robert Actor-Thomas further commented that a flyer had been circulated stating that Sunland-Tujunga Vision 2020 intended to condemn Commerce Avenue. Roberta said that she is a member of the Sunland Tujunga Vision 2020 Team (STV2020) and eminent domain and condemnation are not a part of their strategy. She invited all to attend the STV2020 meetings.

Safety: Nina Royal announced various safety related meetings that were coming up in the near future. She also announced that the Fire Department would be receiving the Above and Beyond Award. The LA Police Academy would be open on Thursday nights. The Community Surveillance Watch Program would be starting up again and people could email Nina at [Nroyal925@aol.com](mailto:Nroyal925@aol.com) or call her at (818) 352-5504 for more information. Nina also asked people to keep Mary Shotwell in their prayers and to help out at the Community Food Bank.

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Frank Avila announced that he had been appointed as the permanent SLO for Tujunga. He gave out his contact information: cell (818) 634-0754 and office (818) 756-8866. He reported that crime statistics were down for the most recent reporting period.

A question and answer period was held with the SLO and the following were discussed:

- There had been no increase in gang activity on Commerce Avenue.
- For emergencies one should always call 911, not the station's front desk.
- Dialing 911 on cell phones reaches the CHP, which is a state run organization. Then the CHP transfers the call to the local area.
- An individual was concerned about home vans parked on corners. The SLO invited her to contact him personally for help on this issue.

Outreach: Mona Curry announced the certification cake at the back of the room to celebrate the STNC's two-year anniversary. She also announced the Farmers Market and intentions to revive "Movie in the Park". Mona also encouraged people to give out promotional items when they attend other meetings, to promote the STNC.

Peter Babaian announced that it was hoped that the Farmers Market on Commerce would open on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 had been referred to the DAC in a previous meeting and was not out of committee yet.**

### **New Business**

#### **1) Neighborhood Purposes Grant**

Robin Meares moved that the STNC sponsor the clean up of plot 14 at the Mount Gleason Middle School with a grant of \$350.00. I further move that the STNC sponsor the purchase of tools to be used in the maintenance of plot 14 with a grant of \$150.00. The total of this Neighborhood Purposes Grant is \$500.00

#### **Project 1: Outdoor learning center**

Project manager: Captain Murray Verdugo High ROTC

Date of project- August-September 2005

Description of project- ROTC will clean up plot 14 in Mt. Gleason

Garden and assemble and paint 5 outdoor benches that turn into desks.

Supplies needed:

45 lengths of 2 x 4's, each 6' long

outdoor paint or stain/sealer and paint brushes

estimated cost: \$350.00 (priced at Home Depot)

#### **Project 2: Maintenance Supplies**

Gardening tools- hoes, spades, hoses, trowels, vermiculite, peat moss

estimated cost: \$150.00 (priced at various sites)

The STNC money will come out of the Outreach category in the 04/05 Budget. This grant is supported by our Strategic Plan in the following priorities:

#1 sub section 3,5

#2 sub section 2

#5

We will receive a stepping-stone acknowledging the STNC for its sponsorship. Additionally, all tools with wooden handles will be marked with the wording “sponsored by the STNC”. Alice Debbaud will oversee the acknowledgments.

**Motion by Robin Meares. Seconded by Mark Seigel. Passed unanimously.**

2) Intervene on New Cable Provider

Robin Meares moved that Councilmember Wendy Greuel intervene with the negotiations with our new Cable provider Time Warner to insure that Tujunga is provided:

-a Public Access Studio which is local to the community

-a Public Access Studio that has one public access channel and one local educational access channel

-Assures that our local community access facility is updated to modern standards a minimum of every 5 years or as needed

The cable company is required to provide every franchise area with a public access studio and public access channels. Tujunga is in Franchise area D.

**Motion by Robin Meares. Seconded by Louise Clarke Stone. Passed unanimously.**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

3) Open Meeting on Home Depot

Nina Royal moved that all Home Depot meetings be open and transparent to the public after our next meeting this Friday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Motion by Nina Royal. Seconded by Michelle Sahfran. After debate amongst board members and hearing pro and con comments from Stakeholders present at the meeting, the motion failed with 3 in favor, 10 opposed and 2 abstentions.**

4) Position Letter re: Planning Committee

Julianne Maurseth moved that the STNC approve the “draft” position statement in response to the Planning Commission Report on the Canyon Hills hearing.

**Motion by Julianne Maurseth. Motion postponed, as Julianne was not able to attend the meeting.**

5) Strategic Plan Strategy

Julianne Maurseth moved that the STNC approve recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee regarding short-term “wins” for the Community.

**Motion by Julianne Maurseth. Motion postponed, as Julianne was not able to attend the meeting.**

6) Sponsor Ford groundbreaking event

Debby Beck moved that the STNC sponsor a groundbreaking celebration for the Ford Property on September 17, 2005.

**Motion by Debby Beck. Seconded by Mark Seigel. Passed unanimously.**

**Second Public Comment:**

- Ken McAlpine announced the upcoming meetings.
- The stone created by the children of Mount Gleason Middle School acknowledging the STNC's support was shown to all in attendance and would be kept in the STNC office at the NVNCH.
- All board members were asked to attend the Budget Summit on July 16<sup>th</sup>. It would be noticed as a Budget/Board meeting.
- Mark Seigel announced that his HAM Radio classes would start in the next two weeks and he was looking for students.
- An individual announced that the Canyon Hills report came and he would like the STNC to hold an orientation meeting so that he could write letters to the City.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM**

*Minutes taken by Ava Wrightsman, 2005 Recording Secretary*