

Minutes
Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting
February 9, 2005
Mt. Gleason Middle School – 7 PM

Monthly board meeting of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council was called to order by Chairman, Ken McAlpine at 7:02 PM with 20 Board members in attendance. 84 in the audience.

Ken McAlpine welcomed newcomers and guests.

The flag salute was lead by Boy Scout Troop 315.

Retiring 2004 board members were presented with certificates on behalf of Michael Antonovich's office.

Executive Committee Reports

Treasurer: Robin Meares gave an update on the budget versus actual spending for fiscal year ending July 2005. She reported that there is currently \$8,527.32 of remaining funds for this fiscal year.

Correspondence: No report was given.

Minutes of December 12 January 2005 were approved as presented.

Program Speaker: Laura Chick, City Controller

Laura Chick described her position as the City's chief auditor and chief accountant. She is responsible for audits and reforms in the City Council. She described herself as a taxpayer watchdog. She is making an effort to improve city services, by exposing and eliminating waste and fraud. She went over the details of various audits that she has done and their results. She stated that anyone can access all of that data by going to her website at <http://www.ci.la.ca.us/ctr/>. Ms. Chick recommended that people read the cover letter and the executive summary to get a picture of what was found.

Ms. Chick acknowledged the hard work done by Councilmember Wendy Greuel and Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski to enact an ethics ordinance. This ordinance states that Commissioners appointed by the Mayor can no longer raise money from people with whom they are interacting on a professional level as Commissioners.

There was a period of question and answer wherein it was announced that Ms. Chick plans to do an audit of the Planning Department and what that audit will entail. She also announced that if a City Councilmember receives five to eight to ten emails/calls/letters that are not form letters, their attention would be gotten on that topic. She announced that all purchasing is centralized except by Proprietaries. The only negative to this method of

purchasing is that only the large companies get the City's business, but it does save taxpayer dollars. If there is a specific concern that isn't being resolved, it is possible to email the essential facts of the matter to Ms. Chick for her review and possible help or guidance. The new transit bus shelters proposal was mentioned and Ms. Chick stated that she would look into the situation and find out what is broken about it, since it is taking too long.

Board Reports:

DWP: Louise Clarke Stone reported that the DWP MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) is still in progress and she is now working with Ron Deaton, the third general manager of the DWP since the process began. She described what an MOU is. Louise stated that the following two issues inserted in the MOU by the DWP are not acceptable: 1) The DWP would like the MOU to not be precedent setting. 2) The DWP would like Neighborhood Council's to not take public positions on DWP rate hikes.

Fireworks: Jim Moore, Business Representative and President of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, announced that the Chamber is planning the 5th annual 4th of July fireworks in the park and that funding for this is needed. He also announced some upcoming community events.

Public Comments:

The following announcements were made:

-The Arts and Culture Calendar is at the back of the room. Debby Beck asked that people email her with events to put on the Arts and Culture Calendar.

-The 10th annual Historic Home Tour will be May 1st. People were invited to volunteer their homes to be a part of the tour.

-Kiwanis is a humanitarian club providing service to the community. New members were invited to join. Invitation letters were at the back of the room.

-STABLE (Sunland Tujunga Association for a Better Living Environment) is looking for volunteers to train as tutors in the library and schools.

-It was requested that people tell Office Depot what school they would like to support when they make purchases so that 5% of their purchases will go to that school. A garden clean up was scheduled to be held at Mt. Gleason School.

-The following day would be the first day that FEMA would be open at North Hollywood Park to help those who had damaged property from the flood. FEMA was scheduled to be open for one week.

-A White Bird meeting was announced for February 24th at the Planning Commission. A description of the White Bird proposal was given.

-The Coffee Stop is now open and offering free hot chocolate for children, with purchase, from 6pm to 8pm. They are willing to do fundraisers for local groups.

- A man announced that he was present for the Valley Hertzberg Campaign.

-The Rotary Club is producing the new community paper. They are looking for human-interest stories and what local clubs are doing. Email information and stories to editor@TheFoothillsPaper.com. Anyone with questions can go to Deja View Photography and ask for Michael Lucas.

-Communication is needed to local officials regarding the Floor Area Ratio, Interim Control Ordinance, which was passed on 27 January 2005 as the Clerk still has to write the report.

Committee Reports:

Safety/Crime Statistics: Nina Royal reported for the local Senior Lead Officers (SLOs). The feeding is still occurring at Sunland Park on Thursday. The SLO is working to handle that. Students are loitering at Jimmy Dean's and McDonalds. SLO Julie Carpenter's main concern is theft from autos. Traffic enforcement is increasing. Officer Carpenter put a speed trailer at Plainview and Foothill, which brought on a lot of citations.

The Safety Fair has been postponed until hopefully April. Sign up sheets were in the back of the room. There would be no booth fees.

CERT classes begin March 8th at 7pm the Elks Lodge in Tujunga.

Outreach: Mona Curry reported that there was insufficient meeting attendance at the January Outreach meeting to do official business. Ideas that had been discussed were: 1) A Farmers Market, 2) An International Fair at Sunland Park, 3) Movie in the Park, 4) Live Performance at Commerce Avenue.

Chairman, Ken McAlpine, promoted that more people are needed to come to the STNC meetings, partly to get good speakers, like Laura Chick.

District 3: Peter Babaian announced that the STNC meetings will start being recorded and broadcast on public access and leased access TV as a free service to the public. Someone volunteered to do this. Comcast has public TV space available and the person who will be doing the recordings has Channels 27 and 99 available free of charge. Deborah Ray announced that she and Peter are working on the following: 1) putting together postcards for District 3, 2) a Farmers market, 3) Street Fair at Commerce Avenue, 4) Neighborhood Watch, 5) Putting together a committee to help Commerce Avenue with the DAC and the Merchants Association.

Design Advisory Committee (DAC): John LaRocca, DAC Chairman, reported on the following projects reviewed by the DAC:

1) 6941 Greeley Street: This is a proposed 12 unit development. John has heard that there is currently a stone structure on the property, but that has not been verified. There are three large oak trees on the right of the property. The architect has ignored the DAC through the process until now when the permit is needed right away. This will be "for sale" housing, not apartments.

2) Viacom Transit Shelters: We are slated to get ten shelters. This is something that is already contracted with the City. Viacom will handle graffiti and trash pick up at the Shelters. This group will do a presentation at next month's meeting (March).

There was a question and answer period where the following things were discussed: John did not know if there was anything in the contract between Viacom and the City to extend the lease duration if better structures were installed. This set of Transit Shelters is not supposed to have pay toilets installed in them. The DAC has a list of proposed locations for these structures. Regarding the Greeley subdivision project, apartments can be built without a zone change. The zone change is only needed to sell the units as condos. John made the point that selling the units as condos is better for the community than building apartment units. People were asked to come to the upcoming DAC meetings. John announced that if someone sees something that concerns them in the neighborhood, they can bring photos to the DAC meeting. It was suggested that people write to the Mayor regarding forcing people to go through Neighborhood Councils during the planning process. It was suggested that the STNC take a position to the Mayor on having plans go through Neighborhood Councils. If this were done, it would have to be at a future meeting.

Canyon Hills: Rhonda Herbel read her report on the Canyon Hills project. A copy of that report was provided to all attendees.

Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy, Council District 2: Dale announced that the next meeting on the Canyon Hills project would be February 16th at 6pm.

Kmart/Home Depot: Kmart closed months ago. Home Depot bought the lease and wants to build a 120,000 square foot new structure. They will need to provide more information with their permit paperwork. The community and the Council Office oppose a free standing Home Depot at that location. There was a question and answer period on this property. The present structure is approximately 100,000 square feet. The current zoning is footprint zoning (which means that it is zoned C2 for the building area and P for parking for the rest of the lot). Dale encouraged the attendees to channel their energy into the council office to help the property.

Canyon Hills: There are two recommendations from two different planning departments on this project. 1) 175 lot Ranchette subdivision with minimum of 5 acres for each home. No public owned open space. 2) 180-190 out of the 870 acres developed. The rest dedicated to open space. 280 clustered home project. This requires a zone change and a general plan amendment to allow clustering. Councilmember Wendy Greuel wants 85% open space, rather than the current approximately 70% proposed for open space. There was a question and answer period on this project. Dale did not think that the developer planned no streetlights for the project; however, it is possible to omit them from a project. The current design of the project includes public access from La Tuna Canyon Boulevard only. There would be a locked gated emergency access for the Fire Department at Inspiration and Verdugo Crestline. There would be no public access at that spot.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course: This property is located at Tujunga Canyon, La Tuna Canyon and Honolulu. There is a 400-600 unit project proposed for this property. There are three options for this project 1) cover all of the golf course area, 2) cover half of the golf course, 3) cover only the driving range with high-density

housing. The developer asked if commercial property would be accepted and Dale told him no. There was a question and answer period. An attendee asked if the White Bird project passed would that give an automatic acceptance to the Golf Course project. Dale stated that a plan amendment for one project does not set a precedent for others that follow. They are separate legislative acts. Both properties are hillside, but the characteristics of the properties are very different. There is no need to change the use of the golf course.

Ken announced the future meeting dates at the bottom of the program.

New Business

1: Canyon Hills Committee Motion (Rhonda Herbel):

Rhonda read a page of information supporting the motion that she made. Her motions was:

“I MOVE THAT the Board recognizes the infeasibility of the operation of the Canyon Hills committee, as specifically approved on December 8, 2004, and;

That the Board hereby separates the short-term, time-sensitive objectives from the longer-term objectives, and;

That the formation of a committee to monitor the implementation of project conditions and/or mitigation measures on behalf of the community is deferred until a final decision is made by the City of Los Angeles with regard to the Canyon Hills project, and;

That a transitional, temporary Ad-Hoc committee, comprised of a minimum of 3 and no more than 5 STNC Board members be specifically authorized to address the short-term and time-sensitive matters regarding the Canyon Hills project, including, but not necessarily limited to these representative tasks:

1. To attend the Council District Community Advisory meetings
2. To comment both verbally and in writing to the Council District on the merit of suggested adjustments or conditions to the Canyon Hills project in light of the STNC adopted position
3. To refer relevant matters to the Design Advisory Committee (DAC) for possible action by working team members in conjunction with the Council District Community Advisory meetings.
4. To attend public hearings on the Canyon Hills project and communicate points regarding the STNC adopted position on the Canyon Hills project proposal.
5. To transmit copies of the STNC previously adopted position regarding Canyon Hills to the City Planning Commission and other City departments as deemed appropriate
6. To request special meetings of the STNC Board, as necessary to approve additional correspondence to the City Planning Commission and other City departments as deemed appropriate

7. To make available information gathered about the ongoing discussions, hearings, and proposals regarding the Canyon Hills project.

And that Rhonda Herbel will Chair the committee, and committee members shall be appointed by the committee Chair and ratified by the STNC Executive Committee.

Motion by Rhonda Herbel.

Motion carried with two opposing votes.

2: Opposition letter regarding half percent sales tax on ballot (Louise Clarke Stone)

Motion: That the STNC send a letter to Councilmember Wendy Greuel advising our opposition to the half percent City only sales tax increase and our opposition to placing the half percent City only sales tax increase on the May 2005 ballot.

Motion by Louise Clarke Stone.

Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

Ken took a poll of which board members had attended other STNC committee meetings since the January 2005 meeting. The Foothill Paper was mentioned again and it was suggested that it be utilized by the STNC for Outreach purposes. Nina Royal announced that she did not put in the paper that she is the STNC contact.

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 PM

Minutes taken by Ava Wrightsman, 2005 Recording Secretary