

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**“DRAFT” MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, April 12, 2006 – 7 PM**

Mt. Gleason Middle School  
10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue • Sunland

**Call to Order** by Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn, Pledge of Allegiance – Boy Scout Troop #50 with Kevin Knopp, Star Scout and Evan Habbershaw, 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

**Roll Call:** 19 Board Members present. Introductions of Dignitaries 111 persons in attendance.

**Presentation:** STNC Vice Chair Nina Royal introduced speakers LAPD Captain Joseph Curreri (replacing Capt. Szymanski) and Captain Ron Marbrey of Valley Traffic who opened the discussion with statistics on traffic in the Foothills. Nine pedestrians have been killed, to date, in the S.F. Valley, the most recent was a senior citizen crossing Foothill at Oro Vista. Seven of the fatalities were aged 55 years or older.

DOT official Mr. Gallagher was also present to give his input and hear about issues of concern to stakeholders. He said that Foothill Boulevard, between the Sunland 210 off ramp and Lowell Ave. are connected to a centralized system that monitors traffic conditions. The traffic lights change based on the traffic conditions and can be adjusted according to the needs of traffic.

LAPD Officer McAdams, who is the traffic coordinator for the Foothill Division, spoke about traffic enforcement issues. She requested anyone with a traffic specific need, fill out the form she brought to submit their ideas or complaints.

Stakeholders then asked questions of these traffic officials, which included:

- Speeding by motorcyclists on Mt. Gleason
- People operating non - licensed vehicles
- Enforcement of 18 –wheelers coming off the 210 onto Sunland Blvd.
- Excessive speed and stop sign running on Foothill Blvd.
- Problem created by the installation of speed bumps on Oro Vista (on Eldora)
- Walk signals that don't allow adequate time for pedestrians to cross safely
- Conditions under which residential streets' speed limits are raised from 25 to 30 mph

Officer McAdams suggests anyone with traffic complaints call police and request an area car to drive through the neighborhood, which will speed up response time. A stakeholder asked if they could submit videotape and DVDs of traffic violations. Officer McAdams said they could use more volunteers who are registered with the schools to take the footage.

As far as the short pedestrian crossing time, she stated that Woodward Ave. is controlled by magnetic loops on the roadway as well as by walk signals. Due to many complaints at that intersection, signal timing will be addressed for that intersection.

Officer Marbrey reiterated his commitment to making the community safer by having the police focus on five principal problems that increase traffic collisions, including speeding. He said that speeding is the primary factor for collisions accompanied by pedestrians violating crossing rules. He said that not wearing seatbelts contributes to the highest number of motorist fatalities.

Captain Curreri asked residents who have a problem with police service to call the station right away to report it. He asked for volunteers for their Volunteer Surveillance Team to work with officers. For more info, call Community Relations and ask for Karen York at: 818 756-8866.

Cindy presented Captain Curreri and Captain Marbrey with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**Public Comments:**

A stakeholder at 10719 Irma offered free, fill dirt to anyone who picks it up. Amelia Herrera-Robles from DONE announced the upcoming Conflict of Interest training for the following week and thanked participants who attended the recent class.

Eric "Moose" Mahoney announced his independent bid for Governor. He is running a no - contribution campaign. He also said he would like to help anyone who is interested in running for State Senate.

A Kagel Canyon resident talked about her community's opposition to the Union Rescue Mission's proposed homeless shelter on 71 acres in Kagel/Lopez Canyon.

Surveys were distributed to the Board for a Neighborhood Council analysis by University students.

Another Kagel Canyon resident voiced his opposition to the Union Rescue Mission's homeless shelter, proposed for that area.

Lloyd Hitt announced the annual plant sale fundraiser for Bolton Hall on April 29<sup>th</sup>, 9 – 1 p.m. by Greeley and Commerce. He also spoke about the upcoming Historic Home Tour.

A stakeholder announced the Tujunga Little League Golf Tournament fundraiser.

A stakeholder from the Crescenta Valley Heritage announced their historical society's meeting on April 17<sup>th</sup>. She also talked about the preservation of the Montrose historic district in the Montrose Shopping Park.

Angela Motta from Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office announced the Senior Center Lifestyle Fair on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

**Committee Reports:**

Grievance Report: Shirley Kellstrom reported on the grievance report filed on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and read at the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 STNC board meeting. The grievance was received by a stakeholder regarding an STNC Board Member . The Grievance Committee found that the board member did not use their position on the STNC in any way in pursuing their problems with the stakeholder and that it amounts to a dispute between neighbors. Letters have been forwarded to all concerned parties with a copy on file at the STNC office.

DAC Chair Victor Castro:

Deborah Ray of DAC's Education and Outreach announced that this new committee has been formed to notify stakeholders and businesses about the Foothill Corridor Specific Plan and other land use items. She asked for participation from the community.

Victor announced that at their recent meeting, the DAC recommends the following actions:

1. Support for property owners at 9930 France for their FAR/ICO hardship exemption
2. Denying support for proposed construction at 10344 Leolang on their FAR/ICO hardship exemption
3. Denying support for a FAR/ICO hardship exemption for 7437 Kyle. However, this project was already approved by the City's PLUM committee so the developer will be able to proceed with their project. A meeting has been scheduled with Councilmember Wendy Greuel by neighbors who are strongly opposed. to PLUM's approval.
4. Support for the Old Mertz Building façade improvements at 7861 Foothill Blvd.
5. Support for 7123 Greeley's condo project plans
6. Support for Von's façade improvements
7. DAC recommends the most restrictive zoning possible for 9166 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. property being subdivided for 25 condos that is currently Oakview Convalescent.
8. The DAC has requested the EIR status for a proposed 23 – 30 home development proposed for 11130 –11160 Oro Vista.

**Victor then moved that the STNC Board vote in favor of the DAC's above recommendations on the items. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.**

Victor introduced CD2 Planning Deputy Dale Thrush who gave the following update:

Home Depot Corporation is pursuing two, separate actions: 1) will involve demolishing the existing K Mart building and constructing a new building on the site, around the same size as the K Mart. Since this would require significant entitlement changes, they are also pursuing:

2) proceeding to move into the existing K Mart building and remodeling it to meet their purposes. Dale said they feel they can do that by right and don't expect any obstacles other than obtaining a building permit. Councilmember Greuel has sent a letter to the new Planning Department Director Gail Goldberg, asking her to work with CD2 to go over Home Depot's Tenant Improvement Package with an eye for anything that might require a plan review under the Foothill Specific Plan. Dale reiterated that Wendy is opposed to having a Home Depot in the community and will do everything she can to stop the project.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course has downgraded their development plans from their original proposal for 280 detached condos on the golf course, development on 38 acres of hillside property and a 300,000 sq feet of retail, small regional commercial development to a housing development that will preserve some version of the golf course. Dale said they would present their proposal before the DAC at the upcoming meeting.

FAR/ICO Hardship Cases: Dale explained that this provision limits building new single family homes to a set formula based on the size of the lot: One can build up to 40% of the area of a lot or 2,400 sq ft., whichever is larger. On the two hardship exemptions, the DAC supported the one for 9930 France Street. It involves a couple who has lived there for many years and got started before the rules changed. The DAC has denied one for 7437 Kyle, a larger structure, which generated considerable opposition.

Joy Fellowship Church: Hearing at Marvin Braude Services Center: The hearing is to determine if Joy Fellowship Church should be allowed to proceed with their proposed development on Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, south of Foothill. This proposal generated concern because neither the DAC, nor CD2 were given advance warning of these plans by the developer who already went before the Planning Department. Dale has asked for and received a 60-day delay in the Zoning Administrator's decision until they can bring the project before the STNC.

Discount Tire Store on Foothill: This business went through the Building and Safety process without mentioning the Foothill Specific Plan and thus, were treated as a normal permit case and granted permits. Since then, this application has been challenged, the owners have been cited, and they need to request an exception to the plan to stay open. Dale said he didn't expect it to be granted.

Ford Property Groundbreaking took place at Foothill and Commerce for the redevelopment: a 41,000 square foot, commercial and office complex with a community plaza and space for a restaurant.

Dale then concluded his presentation and Victor returned to finish his report:

- Alex's Tires at 10172 Tujunga Canyon Boulevard has been ordered to comply with zoning regulations. The City is investigating whether they are allowed to operate in this location, which is not zoning for a commercial business.
- DAC reviewed plans for a 9-unit condo project at 10244 Hillhaven but determined that they are too far along in the City processes for DAC/STNC to have input.
- 10504 Fernglen: No action will be taken by DAC on a request to build a basement.
- 10046 Samoa Ave. DAC has categorically rejected design plans for this proposed condo project. The presenter has said they will work with City Planning on a new design, recommended by DAC.

The Narrow Streets Control Ordinance is the subject of the upcoming Project Meeting scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at North Valley City Hall, followed by the bi-monthly DAC meeting: 7 p.m.

**Victor moved that the STNC appoint Vic Aghakhanian to the DAC**, saying he has the experience to assist them in a valuable and positive way. Nina Royal added that Vic is a the Kiwanis Club President. **The motion carried unanimously.**

STNC Budget Report and Approval: Mark Seigel reported on the vacant position of the treasurer saying that Marianne Brown had completed 95% of the work, requested by DONE, before the Board can receive funding. Mark said the account has a balance of: \$30,888.00 and after bills are paid, \$26,888 will be left to take them to the end of the fiscal year in June. After June, new funding will be provided.

#### **New Business:**

Cindy advised the Board that Marianne Brown has resigned as treasurer and that a new, interim treasurer is needed to pay the bills. **She moved that the Executive Committee recommends the appointment of Vice Chair Nina Royal as STNC Fiscal agent. The motion carried unanimously.**

Cindy pointed out the availability of DONE's parameters, guidelines, and procedures with requisition forms for expenses. She asked the Board to familiarize themselves with these items.

Bylaws Committee: Mark Seigel reported that his committee is working on revisions to the bylaws. Action was postponed until next month.

Rules Committee: Action was postponed.

Outreach Committee: Dan McManus postponed action on the light pole banner presentation until next month so Jeannine Crowley can finish the work on the proposed designs from the winners of the logo contest for STNC.

On Sunday, May 7th, the STNC will participate in the Mayors' Day of Service with clean up projects in the community including tree planting and painting of the Post Office. Volunteers will meet at 8 a.m. at North City Hall where tools will be provided for beautification work. A BBQ will follow for attendees.

**Motion: John Van Es moved, "That the STNC cosponsor the Street Fair on Commerce Avenue with the donation of advertising." (Mark Seigel seconded). The Motion carried.** Nina Royal pointed out that the STNC can't donate money but can provide funding for a specific purpose. Any request for funds will be brought before the STNC board in advance.

**Motion:** "That the STNC Board approve recommendations of the L.A. City Education and Neighborhoods Committee regarding the Neighborhood Council Review Commission." Cindy requested postponement of this item until the upcoming Special Board Meeting for April 24, 2006.

**Motion:** Nina Royal moved, "That the STNC host an Assembly District Candidate Forum prior to June 2006 primary or November 2006 General Election." **Nina Royal amended her motion to read, "That the STNC host an Assembly District Candidate Forum prior to the Nov. election." (motion seconded). Motion carries.**

**Motion: Deborah Ray moved, "That the STNC establish an oversight committee to investigate and gather information of any Board or Committee activities at the request of the STNC Board." The motion was seconded. After discussion, the question was called and passed. The motion was then voted on and carried unanimously.**

5. **Motion:** Deborah Ray moved that "The STNC approve up to \$250.00 from the STNC Outreach budget for costs related to Board Member Deborah Ray's attendance at the Neighborhoods USA Conference to be held in St. Louis, Mo. In May 2006." Deborah amended her motion to allow up to \$1,000.00 per person to attend. (The amendment was seconded).

Nina Royal and Michelle Sahfran both spoke in opposition of funding this expense. John Van Es and Mark Seigel supported the funding.

**John Van Es requested an amendment to the motion allowing for \$3,000 in expenses to be provided for three persons to attend this Conference. (seconded) The motion to support the amendment carried with a vote of 7 for and 6 opposed.**

**Cindy then requested that this motion to approve \$3,000.00 in expenses for three attendees for the May 2006 USA Conference in St. Louis be postponed until the upcoming Special Board Meeting on April 24<sup>th</sup>. (motion seconded). Motion carried.**

**Motion:** "That the Fiscal Agent submit STNC's 2006/07 Budget process and timeline recommendations at the May 10, 2006 STNC Meeting." Action tabled.

2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment: None

**Meeting Adjourned** at 9:45 p.m.

*Minutes compiled from media tape by Pat Kramer, Apple One*