

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Minutes: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, June 14, 2006
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue • Sunland

Call to Order by Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson, Pledge of Allegiance, Introduction of Elected Officials and staff: Dale Thrush and Angela Motta from CD 2, DONE rep Amelia Herrera-Robles, Mike O'Gara of Sun Valley NC and Frank Buchanan of Foothill Trails NC.

1. Roll Call: 15 board members present: Cindy Cleghorn, Nina Royal, Linda Brand, Jeannine Crowley, Victor Castro, Penny Barcena, David Cain, Dan McManus, Mark Seigel, Michelle Sahfran, Dr. David Demulle, Saro Minassian, John Blue, Richard Stewart and parliamentarian Shirley Kellstrom. 62 stakeholders in attendance, Total attendees: 77.

2. DONE Report from Amelia Herrera-Robles: On Saturday, June 17th, the Annual Congress of Neighborhoods takes place at the L.A. Convention Center with the theme "Emergency Preparedness." Amelia distributed registration forms and spoke about free transportation from Councilmember Alex Padilla's office.

3. CD2 Report from Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy
Dale reviewed two options Home Depot has explored in their plans to move ahead with a Home Depot store at the former K Mart site on Foothill Boulevard in Sunland. The current option they are pursuing involves making improvements to the existing building for a future store. Both the Planning Department and Building and Safety are reviewing those plans. A traffic study, Home Depot's experts provided was rejected. "No Home Depot" is doing their own traffic study at this time. The proposed housing project for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Tujunga is also being reviewed. It involves housing built around a new 9-hole golf course. STNC's Design Advisory Committee will be meeting with the developer at an upcoming meeting.

4. Safety Update:

* Nina Royal gave a Safety Report saying there was a robbery at Citibank in Tujunga on Saturday. The suspects are two, male African Americans who were wearing masks. Anyone with information is asked to call LAPD. August 1st is National Night Out, an event to educate people about public safety. The LAPD is suggesting people have block parties on this date to get to know neighbors. The Office of Homeland Security is accepting applications for grants with the deadline, June 22nd Call Nina for details. STNC will have CERT table at the July 4th fireworks event. She asked for volunteers to man their table.

* Captain Rhodes reported on the need for brush clearing to lower the risks of fires. It is suggested stakeholders clear all debris within 200 feet of their homes. This includes brush and

grass, woodpiles, sheds, trash, old vehicles, and anything else that could be flammable. For more info go to: www.lafd.com. Q&A from neighbors included concerns about the annual citations.

5. Public Comments:

- * Abby Diamond, No Home Depot Campaign, thanked volunteers who donated to their rummage sale items and asked for volunteers to man their float in the annual July 4th parade. They will hold a meeting at Joselitos in Tujunga this Saturday at noon to discuss upcoming plans.
- * Mike O'Gara, Sun Valley NC, asked STNC to partner with them and other local NCs to purchase vehicle cameras for LAPD's squad cars. The new technology allows police to scan license plates of parked cars and track stolen vehicles more effectively.
- * Kim Gripp, Tujunga stakeholder, read a prepared statement about how Sunland - Tujunga has changed in a negative way from thefts and drug houses, to speed bumps, unpaved streets, increased traffic and problems with house insurance not covering certain guard dogs.
- * Stephanie Pierce, Verdugo Hills High School, asked for support for their school play this weekend to raise money for their theater department.
- * Michael Carpenter, "New Heaven on Earth Ranch Foundation," invited everyone to their upcoming concert at All Nations Church in Lakeview Terrace and asked the Board to consider buying an ad for their fundraiser.
- * Linda Casteel, Sunland-Tujunga Public Library, said the S-T Public Library is now open after three weeks of improvements. She announced a senior citizen driver's class available for \$10.00 at Sunland Park Senior clubhouse, which will provide insurance discounts for seniors.
- * Simon Clarke, founder of www.Foothillsforum.com, asked the public to utilize his local - oriented online forum.
- * Susan Potoff, a stakeholder, spoke about emergency preparedness distributing info detailing what belongs in an emergency kit.
- * Karen McPivitt, Kagel Canyon resident, reported on a local campaign to oppose the proposed homeless shelter, Hope Gardens. She said residents voted 131 - 34 against the project saying they do not believe the proposer is acting in good faith. She said the proposers recently tried to remove a large quantity of oak trees in Kagel Canyon, despite not having applied for permits to do so. Residents interrupted the tree clearing and were able to save many healthy trees. She asked the Board to write a letter of resolution opposing Hope Gardens.
- * Marlene Rader, Kagel Canyon resident, added that the Union Rescue Mission Project is trying to use an old conditional use permit that contradicts their intended usage of the property for a rehab facility. Despite efforts to keep the property from being sold, the owner has closed escrow already. She also asked the Board to support a letter of resolution to stop the project.

6. Committee Reports

- * Dan McManus, Outreach Chairman, asked for community support for an STNC event in the July 4th parade.

* Victor Castro, Design Advisory Committee (DAC) Chairman reported on recently reviewed projects by the DAC:

a) Home Depot and Verdugo Hills Golf Course. On Monday, June 19 at 6 p.m. there will be a meeting at North Valley City Hall with developers of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course proposed project. The topic will be traffic mitigation. At the same time, there will be a Narrow Streets ICO meeting, then a DAC [CC1][CC2]meeting. Abby Diamond reported on Home Depot's traffic study that was rejected by the Planning Department saying it conflicted with the traffic study by experts, prepared and submitted by No Home Depot.

b) FAR/ICO Hardship Exemption for 7754 Jaydee Circle - Property owner Kevin Regan distributed letters of support from 12 neighbors for his proposed home expansion plans, previously presented and approved by DAC at their June 5th meeting.

c) Joy Fellowship Church Proposal for 9717-9729 Tujunga Cyn. Blvd. - Alex Woo, representative for Joy Fellowship Church, presented the Board with their plans for building a parking lot with 67 spaces and three buildings for the Church on 11.35 acres of land along Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, south of Foothill. DAC Chairman Victor Castro shared his concern about traffic mitigation, as there are two other major development projects proposed along that same stretch of Tujunga Canyon Blvd. Mr. Woo asked that STNC and DAC take their plans under advisement until they complete a traffic study next month. Board members asked several questions regarding the development specific to parking and use of the site.

7. Executive Committee Reports

Vice Chair, Nina Royal reported on recent action with the City's 912 Commission: STNC Chair Cindy Cleghorn was selected as one of the nominees to be sent to the Mayor at the Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils. She asked the Board and stakeholders to now write a letter to Councilmember Wendy Greuel asking her to appoint Dan McManus to another seat on the 912 Commission. Both Cindy and Dan were voted by the Board as the two official reps for STNC for the 912 Commission.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Brand discussed her efforts to balance the books after a period of time with no treasurer for STNC. DONE has approved the Board allocation of \$1,500 for fireworks. Funds from Petty Cash have been used to pay back Board members for purchases they made out of pocket. It will take two more months of Petty Cash to complete the reimbursements. DONE has funded the STNC credit card. With the new fiscal year beginning July 1st, she asked that the Board approve her draft budget tonight so STNC can receive the new fiscal year's funding.

Minutes Approval: STNC Chair Cindy Cleghorn requested that the minutes for May 10, 2006 and May 2, 2006 be approved. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Corresponding Secretary - Communications: Jeannine Crowley reported on letter received from Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council supporting STNC and our community by opposing Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga.

8. Board Member Reports

District Reps: Victor Castro, District One, recommended the Board oppose Joy Fellowship Church's current plans for development at their Tujunga Canyon Blvd. site.

Group Reps:

- * Dr. David DeMulle, Environmental Rep, said he would be researching property titles for Reverend Park of Joy Fellowship Church.
- * Richard Stewart, Interfaith Rep, said he would be sending a letter to different faiths to let them know the STNC is here to help them.
- * John Blue, Media and Communications Rep. turned in an updated media list.
- * Scouting Rep. Mark Seigel asked the Board to attend the upcoming Outreach meeting July 15. He also gave a report on the Neighborhoods USA Conference in Kansas City, which he recently attended. For the record, he stated that STNC did not fund his trip. Mark recommended that more reps attend next year as it was an educational experience.
- * Business Rep. Saro Minassian said he recently got speed limit restrictions approved for the 7500 block of Foothill Blvd. and also parking limit striping. Items he has worked on for the past few months.
- * Education Rep, Michelle Sahfran, is working with Mt. Gleason Middle School on plans for STNC meetings. She has received approval from the principal to get the kids more involved in helping with set up next year. They receive service credits for their time.

Grievance Report/Action: Grievance Committee member, Shirley Kellstrom reported on a grievance against Board Member Michelle Sahfran from stakeholder Jim Stopp. Ms. Sahfran and Mr. Stopp have been involved in a neighborhood dispute that does not involve the STNC and Shirley pointed out that it is not the Board's role to get involved in neighbor - to - neighbor disputes. However, in conjunction with this dispute, Shirley said that Ms. Sahfran had been out of line when she stepped out of a STNC meeting, while in progress, to speak with a police officer about her personal dispute. After speaking to Michelle about this and the impact this had on her role as a Board member, Michelle apologized to the Board for her actions. Shirley distributed the draft of the STNC's Standing Rules & Code of Civility and alerted the Board of the ethics of being a board member. Both Ms. Sahfran and Mr. Stopp have agreed to arbitrate their personal dispute.

Parliamentarian, Shirley Kellstrom made recommendations on how the STNC Board could better conduct themselves during meetings in regards to attendance, absences and addressed rules on conduct during meetings. The board received two handouts: Board Ethics and a draft copy of STNC's Code of Civility which the board will be asked to vote on at a future meeting.

9. New Business:

Budget Committee: Treasurer Linda Brand presented to the STNC Board a proposed budget for fiscal year 2006 - 2007 beginning July 1st, 2006. The proposed budget for fiscal 2006/2007 started at \$110,000 but after several adjustments a realistic budget is now recommended. It takes

into consideration past year expenses for administrative/general operations, outreach and community improvement projects. It includes the unspent (rollover funds of \$27,278) funds. The budget proposed for 2006/07 is \$77,278. This method is now DONE's procedure to stay on track with an approved budget for NCs. It includes STNC's allocation of \$50,000 from the City in the new fiscal year.

Linda moved, "That the STNC Board accept the 2006/2007 budget as proposed." (Nina Royal seconded). The motion passed unanimously.

Design Advisory Committee:

DAC presented five separate recommendations which were bundled together and approved unanimously by the Board. Each motion was made after discussion and review at DAC meetings in May and June 2006. These include:

1. To deny a lot split at 10525 Las Lunitas. DAC's reason for denying this request was that it would create substandard lots.
2. To support a sign change for the former Rod 77 at 8404 Foothill Blvd. in Sunland to Valerio. DAC recommends support contingent that the signage be consistent in design.
3. To accept a FAR/ICO hardship exemption for 7754 Jaydee Circle.
4. To accept the Sunland-Tujunga Historic Home and Structures report and expedite a copy to Councilmember Wendy Greuel.
5. To request additional sign inspectors from the City. Specifically, "That the DAC/STNC send a letter to City Councilmember Greuel requesting additional sign inspectors for our area. This is imperative based on the following:

We have had requests from the community for another sign sweep (Penny Blackwell has called Inspector Dean Starnon and we are now added to the list. Due to the shortage of inspectors and the communities they have scheduled for "sweeps," it will be months before Sunland - Tujunga can be scheduled.) The illegal "fan signs" have returned.

Many of the illegal signs remain, i.e.: the 99-cent store by Smart and Final, the sign on Foothill with the words, "Pawn Shop." Many non-conforming signs and illegal signs have been installed since the last sweep. We strongly think that in order to eliminate or minimize these signs, the City needs more inspectors. We need ongoing enforcement, follow-up and regular sign sweeps.

Outreach Committee Motion: Dan McManus moved, "That STNC board approve up to \$500 for July 4th parade participation expenses and that the Outreach Committee recommend up to \$500 for STNC t-shirts for parade participants." (Mark Seigel seconded). The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Motion 1: Treasurer Linda Brand moved (Richard Stewart seconded), "That anyone who uses the Sunland Tujunga NC prepaid card be required to adhere to the same rules as the treasurer regarding said card as set forth by DONE." The motion passed unanimously.

Budget Committee Motion 2: Treasurer Linda Brand moved, "That Ed Rock is second signer on STNC debit card for the 2006 board year." The motion passed unanimously.

Safety Rep. Motion: Nina Royal moved (Michelle Sahfran seconded), "That STNC purchase the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Book regarding Traffic Counts estimated at \$290.00 plus delivery from the "Safety" budget category." The motion passed unanimously.

Beautification Motion: Mark Seigel moved (Nina Royal seconded), "That STNC establish the Community Beautification Committee with the purpose of getting a Welcome to Sunland-Tujunga sign across from Albertsons and also research other Community Improvement Projects. The motion passed unanimously.

Bylaws Committee: Mark Seigel asked that the minutes reflect that the bylaws were accepted at the last meeting.

10. Announcements:

Cindy Cleghorn announced a possible Roundtable Board meeting: July 10th. More details to follow.

Michelle Sahfran asked the Board to support the Montrose Shopping Park which is facing potential development.

Nina Royal announced plans are moving forward on tunneling under the 710 freeway in S. Pasadena to connect to the 210.

11. Future Agenda Items:

1. The purchase of a camera for police cars with the Sun Valley NC - referred to Safety.
2. Planning a meeting on the proposed Kagel Canyon development - referred to DAC.
3. Sponsorship of an ad for All Nation's Church - referred to Outreach.
4. Approval of the budget for light pole banners from Outreach.
5. Possible speakers from the Dept. of Transportation and LAPD on safety issues
6. An invitation to Foothill Businesses owners
7. An item to allow for absentee voting for the next election
8. An item addressing a break/recess or time to visit with any speakers who visit the Board Meeting before they leave.
9. A request that the STNC adhere to the two-hour meeting rule

12. Meeting Adjourned: 10:10 p.m.

Minutes taken by Pat Kramer – Apple One