

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
“DRAFT” Minutes: MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 8, 2006
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue • Sunland

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by STNC Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn with the following board members in attendance: Nina Royal, Deborah Ray, Jeannine Crowley, Joan Slater, Mark Seigel, Victor Castro, David Cain, David DeMulle, Janet Linsalato, Richard Stewart, Saro Minassian, John Blue, Myrna Grijalva, Dan McManus, John Van-Es, Michelle Sahfran, Tim Borquez, George Powell and Shirley Kellstrom, Parliamentarian with 92 in attendance.

Pledge of allegiance was led by:

Public Comments:

- Lloyd Hitt reported on the new Bolton Hall exhibit: “Faces of Freedom.”
- Elektra Kruger of the Shadow Hills Property Owners Association announced their March 14th Point-Counterpoint Debate at Tierra Del Sol in Shadow Hills and the tour of the Bradley landfill March 10th, 2006.
- Stakeholder Elaine Brown requested the Board and stakeholders participate in the letter writing campaign to the City Council and Congress on behalf of the Rim of the Valley.
- Deborah Ray also encouraged the public to participate in this campaign and for everyone to remind their neighbors to attend the monthly STNC meetings.

Comments from Park Rangers: Officers Joseph Tempoya and Albert Jenning explained the changeover of the Parks Rangers/ Law Enforcement officer on February 19, 2006 after a two - year debate on this subject. The City of L.A.’s parks, libraries and other City facilities now have law enforcement of their own, separate from the police department. Officer Jenning said this means more personnel by training law enforcement officers with Parks experience who are better equipped to handle problems. For more info, call the main dispatch #: (213) 978-4670 for the L.A. General Services Office of Public Safety or call: “311.”

Executive Committee Reports:

Treasurer Marianne Brown was absent so Corresponding Secretary Jeannine Crowley gave her report. She said that Marianne has been working very hard on the books and has provided a preliminary reconciliation to DONE. The estimated remaining funds for STNC are: \$22,824.67 for fiscal year 2005-06. This figure does not include some of Jan/Feb’s expenses. Funds remaining for outreach event are: \$10,824.67. These numbers are preliminary. When DONE is satisfied that they are true, they will make them public.

Vice Chair/Safety Report Nina Royal introduced dignitaries for the **Safety Report:** LAPD's Captain Waters spoke about the speed bump proposal for Tujunga Canyon Boulevard saying that speed bumps will slow down the fire department response because the fire engines' suspension won't allow for them to go over them at full speed. Note: STNC has not taken part in the placement of recently installed speed bumps/humps. **Red Flag Days:** The Fire Captain defined this as "when weather conditions are extreme enough, humidity wise, to create high risk for brush fires. He said there has been a lot of concern about the "no parking" signs for streets posted. He requested that the public go to: www.lafd.org or call "311" to find out whether their streets are posted. He asked that people NOT CALL "911" or the fire department for this information as it will tie up their phones, used for emergencies. Brush season is coming up and the Captain said notices for brush clearing will go out in May. Property owners then have 30 days to clear the brush with inspections taking place during June/July. Nina added her own item of caution: That anyone who has wall heaters with gas heat check to make sure they are properly ventilated. Captain Joe Currieri (replacing Captain Szymanski) is the newest member of the Foothill team, introduced himself. He was, formerly, the Commanding Officer at Devonshire for 8 years. Captain Currieri has been meeting with Councilmember Wendy Greuel and her staff and welcomed the community to call him with any questions: (818) 756-8860. Nina announced the next Safety Meeting date, time and location. Sunland Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez talked about crime issues: They have been concentrating on areas where gang members and large groups of kids have been causing disturbances. They are reducing the graffiti in the community by making arrests. They are also displacing transients in the Wash by the Golf Course, under the bridges. He asked anyone with info on transient locations to call him. He also spoke about the problem of drag racing in Sunland between Mt. Gleason and Wentworth. He asked the public to call them when they see this occurring so the officers can catch these people.

Recording Secretary: Deborah Ray read statement that the STNC has received a grievance from a neighbor regarding a board member. The grievance was referred to the Grievance Committee consisting of Shirley Kellstrom and Ed Rock. Report due at April 12th STNC meeting.

Council District 2 Staff Reports: Jackie Keene, Field Deputy for Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office spoke about upcoming events in S-T including the grand opening of the LAPD drop - in center at North Valley City Hall on March 18th. Wendy will have office hours at the District office that day. On March 25th, there will be a reopening at Bolton Hall of Little Landers Park with a new playground. Also, the groundbreaking will take place for the development at the old Ford property at Commerce and Foothill.

Dale Thrush, Planning Deputy for Councilmember Wendy Greuel updated the Board on several items:

- 8040 Foothill Blvd. - Home Depot is pursuing two, separate tracks for that property: 1) A new building track, which requires discretionary approvals from the City. 2) A move - in option, where they would just renovate the interior of the old K Mart building for faster occupancy.
- 9166 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. – Currently the Oakview Convalescent home is to be developed on Tujunga Canyon Boulevard for 25 condo units: Dale said these units would be about the same size and type as the other condo units on Tujunga Canyon Blvd. (on the same side of the street). A hearing was held before the City’s Planning Department but Wendy’s office had little warning of this hearing. As a result, they have recommended to the advisory agency that makes the decision on the subdivision, not to rule on the zoning change request until the community has a chance to work with the developer on the project. While he said they are obligated to grant a zoning change, due to inconsistent zoning in this area, they are not obligated to grant the one the developer wants. Instead, they could grant a more restrictive zone change for that property. He spoke with the developers today and they have said they will combine their efforts with the community’s input so they can move forward together.
- Historic preservation: Two historic preservation items were approved by the City’s PLUM (Planning and Land Use Management) Committee last week: Weatherwolde Castle and the Oak Glen Ranch. For the Castle, PLUM recommend historic designation to the three lots under a restrictive covenant. The Oak Glen Ranch on St. Esteban and Hillhaven received historic designation for the entire two acres.
- General Plan Change: Councilmember Greuel has submitted a motion to the City Council for a change in the General Plan for this area, north of Ellenbogen and Airle Drive. She did this because there were several large pieces of property with inconsistent zoning. She has sent a letter to the Planning Department asking for that process to be expedited.
- Discount Tire store on Foothill (old bakery property). Dale said, for reasons not entirely clear, the Dept. of Building and Safety was allowing that process to go forward because, 20 years ago, there was a certificate of occupancy for a tire store. What they did not realize is that this ignored the Foothill Specific Plan. Dale has contacted them about this and they have now decided that the tire operation is not an appropriate use.

Questions: Stakeholders asked:

- Will the developers be widening Tujunga Canyon Blvd. if they go forward with the convalescent home condos. Dale said that the Department of Transportation does require them to provide a nine-foot improvement to the frontage of their property.

- What is happening with the Verdugo Hills Golf Course? Dale said that a few months ago, they asked the developer to “stand back” on this issue because it was fairly contentious. Now, the developers want to initiate community outreach and will be contacting Council members and others in the community.
- Problems with increased traffic in the community: Dale said the Planning Department rejected a traffic study submitted by the Home Depot consultants because it stated that traffic would decrease if they open their store. Home Depot now had to do another traffic study, as required by the Dept. of Transportation.
- Trader Joes coming to Tujunga? Dale said that the Ralphs in Tujunga is going to be closing. He has contacted Trader Joes in La Crescenta and asked them to consider moving into that building on Foothill Blvd.
- Changes to storefronts on Foothill Blvd. in Sunland: Dale reported that the property across from Starbucks in Sunland is owned by a medical clinic, which has plans to renovate the entire block.
- Can Tujunga Canyon Blvd. be widened? Dale said this requires eminent domain.
- What about the other tire store on Tujunga Canyon Blvd? Dale said that the STNC DAC has indicated it would support the other tire store – Alex’s Tires.

Speaker Presentation: Mary Benson of Foothill Trails (Shadow Hills) gave a presentation of the Rim of the Valley proposal, now before Congress. Mary is also a voting member for the L.A. Watershed Committee representing the Tujunga watershed:

- The Rim of the Valley encompasses 12 cities represented by half -dozen congressmen and a number of different groups and agencies. In 2005, Congressman Adam Schiff introduced the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study Bill to find out what the natural, cultural and heritage resources are that might be designated as a national park or a national recreation area. One of the things this study could do is identify national cultural heritage sites such as the Verdugo Hills Golf Course property, which was used as a small concentration camp during WW! This bill would allow federal money to come in for preservation of named historic resources and could lead to a number of things. Mary pointed out that the National Parks Service operates about 150 urban park projects in the greater L.A. area. The National Parks Service can support non - traditional urban parks,

partnership programs for scenic highways, national historic trails, old historic buildings, and national landmarks.

- While the Santa Monica Conservancy has pledged funding to support this cause, the legislature must authorize the study before anything can take place. They need this study to be passed so that these resources can be identified and protected before they are gone.
- This bill was passed in the Senate in 2005, but has sat in the House since then. It needs community support to move forward. Mary asked everyone to write to their Congressmen to nudge the Chair of the House subcommittee to get it on the agenda and on the House floor for a vote. She has identified 11 Congressmen in this area including Brad Sherman, Buck McKeon, and Howard Berman in the Hanson Dam area. She brought form letters for stakeholders to add their names and addresses to. She said she would personally deliver the letters to Congressman Adam Schiff when he's in town.
- On Feb. 7th, Councilmembers Wendy Greuel and Alex Padilla introduced HR355 to the L.A. City council and it has been approved and is on the Mayor's desk: City Council file: # 060002-S21. She said there is more info on the U.S. govt web site.
- Question: A stakeholder asked whether Las Lomas would be affected, between I-14 and I-5 in the Newhall Pass. Mary said she wasn't sure. But she said that she is aware of Beal's Cut, a historic pass that was used in the 1800's as a route overland to San Francisco, which is a part of this property.
- On another subject, Mary said the City is trying to apply for grants to improve water quality and water resources under the Greater LA Integrated Regional Water Management Strategic Plan. The S-T area is part of the upper water region for which she represents the Tujunga watershed. She invited stakeholders to their upcoming meeting in Glendale and said she would be proposing a Haines Canyon Riverwalk from the Ford property to Haines Canyon. Mary can be reached at: # 800 660-0650.

Cindy presented Mary with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Committee Reports: Design Advisory Committee Report:

Cindy announced that newly – appointed chair Victor Castro was ill.

In his place, Debby Beck gave the DAC report:

Debby handed out invitations for the March 25, 2006 groundbreaking of the Foothill Commerce Town Center at 7200 Foothill Blvd. She confirmed that the DAC did approve Alex's Tires (behind the Steel Pit) but the City Planning

Department is still researching whether the Foothill Specific Plan zoning allows it to operate in an "M1 zone" (for manufacturing which is different from a commercial zone).

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports: Rules, Bylaws, Communications announced dates for future meetings and to check the web site for meeting times and updates. Citywide Budget: John Blue and Michelle Sahfran both attended the meeting and have provided written reports on file.

New Business - Discussion/Action:

1. Board Recommendation #1 that STNC endorses CF06-0399 – Ridgeline Protection Motion -- *See attached City Council Motion* - **Recommendation passed unanimously.**

2. Board Recommendation #2 to approve Budget Committee recommendations.
 - a. Ratify emergency spending budget to include approval for spending until required reconciliations are accepted by DONE for the following items only:
 - i. Office Admin \$5,220.00 through 6/30/06
 - ii. Telephone/DSL
 - iii. Office Expense
 - iv. Gas Expense
 - v. Postcards for meeting announcements
 - vi. Copying for meeting minutes, handouts, announcements
 - vii. Postage
 - viii. Possible new copier/fax if repair not possible.
 - b. That \$5,220.00 be reallocated from the Outreach committee budget to a new category called administrative salary budget.
 - c. Approve revised STNC FY 2005/2006 Budget.
 - d. Approve new Expense Requisition and Pre-Approved Expense Reimbursement Forms as designed by the Treasurer.
Recommendation passed unanimously.

3. Board Recommendation #3 to approve Outreach Committee recommendation to endorse The Foothills Paper & Coffee Stop Farmers Market & Fair to be held twice a month. **Recommendation passed unanimously.**

4. Discussion/Action on the appointment of District 1 representative to the STNC board. Motion by Deborah Ray that Penny Barcena be appointed to the STNC Board to fill the District 1 vacancy. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5. (Victor Castro) Discussion/Action to endorse the actions of the Design Advisory Committee (DAC). *See attached DAC Minutes* – **Postponed.**

6. (Victor Castro) Discussion/Action to appoint alternates to DAC. -
Postponed
7. (Dan McManus) Discussion/Action to approve Outreach Committee Mayor's Community-wide Day of Service recommendations. Motion by
Dan McManus passed unanimously.
8. (John Blue) Discussion/Action: Motion be made in L.A. City Council open session to make permanent the two Area Planning District Budget NC Representatives to the Mayor. See attached. **Motion passed unanimously.**
9. (John Blue) Discussion/Action: Motion be made in Los Angeles City Council open session to make a ruling that 50% of all new City Councilperson employees be hired from those living within the geographic district of that Councilperson. See attached. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Minutes transcribed from electronic media by Pat Kramer – Apple One