

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 9, 2006 – 7:00 PM
Mt. Gleason Middle School, 10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue • Sunland, CA

Attendance: 100, audience: 85, Board: 15

Pledge of Allegiance by Boy Scout Troop 307

1. **Call to Order** – Cindy Cleghorn, STNC Chairperson: 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Penny Barcena, Tim Borquez, Dan McManus, Linda Brand, Janet Linsalato, Cindy Cleghorn, Nina Royal, Jeannine Crowley, Victor Castro, Saro Minassian, David Cain, David DeMulle, Mark Seigel. Quorum established: 14 members. (John Blue arrived late, David DeMulle left early). Absent: George Powell, Deborah Ray, Shirley Kellstrom, John VanEs, Joan Slater, Michelle Sahfran, and Richard Stewart.

2. **Welcome** to stakeholders and introduction of elected officials.

Chairperson's Announcements: Cindy announced the availability of new DPW Bureau of Street Services brochure, "Protecting Native Trees" and requested anyone wishing to speak under Public Comments to fill out a Speaker slip available at the back table.

3. **Report by Dale Thrush: CD2 Planning Deputy:** Dale talked about two issues: Home Depot and the Canyon Hills Design Standard meeting. He said that the Councilmember's office is investigating why Building and Safety approved Home Depot's request for building improvements to the former K Mart building in Sunland. The community has time to appeal this during the next 3 – 4 weeks. At the request of the No2HomeDepot campaign, Dale arranged for a meeting tomorrow (Thursday) morning at the Council Office at City Hall with the City staff who approved the issuance of the building permits. This will be an opportunity to ask detailed questions and get answers.

There was also a meeting held with the developer and several interested community members about the Canyon Hills tract map's design standards. Dale said some major big issues were identified including: how to preserve and reuse the vegetation during grading of the project, how to reduce the visibility of the project using controlled materials, colors, siting, and the shapes and sizes of the buildings. More information was requested from the developer in the form of more site map detail.

4. **Report by Angela Motta, CD2 Field Deputy** announced Councilmember Wendy Greuel's Community Picnic: Sept. 9th 11:30 – 2 p.m. at Van Nuys/Sherman Oaks Park

5. **Public Comments:**

Lloyd Hitt, Little Landers Historical Society announced the opening of their free concert series: The 2nd and 4th Sundays, August, September and October, 5:30 – 8 p.m. This Sunday is the first concert. Concert performers are local to Sunland-Tujunga.

Tomi Lyn Bowling asked for help with the Tujunga Wash. A sign has been posted where the County plans to pave over a natural lake. The site is at the end of Tujunga Valley Street in Sunland. Contact: Tomi@tomirealty.com or 818 353-9143.

Chrissa Villaneuva, a Verdugo Hills High student invited the public to the drama club's Summer Nights musical review, August 17 – 19. Tickets are \$5.00. The show takes place at Verdugo Hills High School on Plainview Avenue.

Linda Casteel: Sunland – Tujunga City Library announced the start of the library's summer reading club for children and teens. The library has a new manager who is looking for ideas for new programs to take place in the multipurpose room.

Joe Barrett: No Home Depot Campaign announced that he would attend the meeting with City Officials tomorrow. His group will be asking them to pull the permits for Home Depot until they can resolve this matter.

Alice Debbaudt, Mt. Gleason Middle School, offered free mulberry trees to anyone in the community and asked for help with removing tree stumps. Contact her at: 818 489-9605.

6. Executive Committee Reports

Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn gave a short update on the No2HomeDepot campaign's opposition to Home Depot, she announced the upcoming DAC meeting for Monday, August 21st at 7 p.m. at North Valley City Hall which will be attended by a representative of the Department of Transportation. He will be at the meeting to address the potential traffic impacts on Tujunga Canyon Boulevard from new developments and whether the DOT will be providing the community with a traffic impact study that covers the entire stretch of Tujunga Canyon Blvd. between Foothill Blvd. and La Tuna Canyon Rd.. She also mentioned five upcoming public hearing notices that pertain to permit requests. This information is posted on the www.STNC.org website. She also spoke about the new community events this weekend: the Watermelon Festival and the new Little Landers Concert Series, to take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month by Bolton Hall. She encouraged the community to attend.

Treasurer's Report: Linda Brand reported that she has paid all bills to Apple One and has submitted reconciliations to DONE. Apple One considers us a model neighborhood council for handling approvals and payment of their bills. After paying for fireworks (\$1,500), Outreach has \$5,200 left in their budget. \$4,000 has been allocated for Sun Valley NC toward the License Plate Recognition "SMART" police car. Petty cash has \$251.47 left and the remaining funds in the budget as of August 1st: \$75,032.47.

Recording Secretary: No report.

Grievance: In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Jeannine Crowley, Corresponding Secretary read that a grievance has been received from a stakeholder against a board member.

7. Approval of Minutes: The Board approved the minutes for the July 12, 2006 board meeting, as presented. Vote was unanimous.

Corresponding Secretary: No report.

8. Board Member Reports on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction.

District reps – David Cain, District 3 rep attended a hearing on a mansion someone wants to build on Sister Elsie Road (in District 3). Due to opposition by the community and the mansionization ordinance, it was put on a six - week hold before a decision will be made by the Building and/or Zoning Departments Janet Linsalato, District 3 rep also attended the hearing and spoke before the hearing in support of the neighbors' concerns.

Safety Report – Nina Royal reported that there would be a new CERT training coming up. Anyone interested can contact her for more information: (818) 352-5504. The August National Night Out program was a success.

9. Committee Reports

Outreach – Dan McManus spoke about the Watermelon Festival this weekend, Friday - Sunday. He said the Lions Club – sponsored event was a major outreach event for STNC. They are sharing a booth with CD 2. The monthly Outreach meeting is postponed until August 26 at 1 p.m. at Joselitos. The focus of the Outreach Committee is going to be the election in December. He also encouraged everyone to support the multicultural concert series by Little Landers, starting this Sunday.

Budget Committee Recommendations for new guidelines:

Treasurer Linda Brand presented the following Budget Committee recommendations:

That all expenses up to \$100 need only the approval of the committee chair from whose budget the expense will be deducted.

That all expenses over \$100 but under \$300 need the approval of the committee chair from whose budget the expense will be deducted, plus the approval of an executive board member, and that the committee chairman and executive board member cannot be the same person.

That all expenses \$300 and over need to be voted on by a quorum of the STNC board and receive a majority vote to be approved.

To approve up to \$450.00 for Carvin Sound system for use at all meetings. *Budget Category: Administrative.*

Vote: Unanimous to approve all four recommendations. The recommendations carried, unanimous.

Design Advisory Committee – Victor Castro reviewed the DAC's last meeting discussions:

Referring to Home Depot, he stated that there are some people going to that meeting (with City officials) who have the community's best interests in mind.

Victor then reviewed upcoming development projects on Tujunga Canyon Road including:

Verdugo Hills Golf Course – He said this project is being planned for 269 units.

Oak View Convalescent site: Condo development: 25 units are being developed on Tujunga Canyon Rd.

Joy Fellowship Church on Tujunga Canyon Road – Victor said the site is just north of the Open Bible Church on a large lot with black iron gates. There is an educational aspect to the project and the possibility of a lot of traffic going in and out of this location, if the project is allowed to move forward.

Mekitarist School – No current proposal for development at this Foothill Blvd. location is known at this time but anticipated in the future which could have a serious traffic impact on Tujunga Canyon Blvd. Needs consideration with all proposed developments.

In process Town home condo development at Tujunga Canyon/LaTuna Canyon development.

Because many of these projects are located on Tujunga Canyon Road, the DAC has invited a Dept. of Transportation representative to answer questions about the traffic impacts from these combined developments. The meeting is scheduled for August 21st at N. Valley City Hall at 7 p.m.

Victor also mentioned the FAR ICO, a plan that limits the building of "McMansions" in the Sunland – Tujunga area. Councilmember Wendy Greuel's office is working with City Planning on an extension. He suggested that interested stakeholders get involved in this process by attending DAC meetings. Otherwise, these projects may lead to increased density and change the open space this area is known for.

Victor moved that the STNC accept the following motion:

"DAC recommends support for a zoning variance for 10164 Leona Avenue for exemption on a request for parking relief. DAC approved unanimously for accessory parking." The vote was unanimous in favor of the recommendation.

A second motion was not put forth because the zoning variance was granted, despite DAC's request to deny a zoning variance for 9531 Inspiration Way, a substandard hillside lot in a designated Red Flag zone and an emergency access road for the Canyon Hills Development.

No2HomeDepot Campaign: Abby Diamond reported that despite the community's opposition to suspend Home Depot's building improvement request, the permit was granted. CD 2 has said they cannot suspend this action. The campaign has sent justification for an appeal to the board of Building and Safety Commissioners. The Council office is supporting their appeal. They have requested that Building and Safety submit documents supporting why they made this decision.

Bylaws: Chair Mark Seigel announced the next meeting is on Friday, August 11, 3 p.m. Municipal Bldg.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports/Action:

Communications – Jeannine Crowley: No report.

Grievance Committee: – Ed Rock read the recommendation by the committee regarding a grievance filed by an stakeholder against a board member. The Grievance Committee found that the board member did not represent the STNC or the act as a board member with regard to the grievance filed and recommended no action by the STNC board. **(McManus/Brand) moved to accept the recommendation of the Grievance Committee.** Discussion included both audience stakeholders and board members. A straw vote was taken of the audience showing unanimous consent to accept the report of the Grievance Committee. **Vote: 9 - 1 - 2. The motion carried. The grievance committee was thanked for their service.**

10. New Business:

a. Discussion/Action: Arts & Culture Committee

(Borquez/Cain) moved, "That the STNC establish an ad-hoc "Arts & Culture" committee with board member, Timothy Borquez as chair. The Arts & Culture committee will consist of a minimum of 5 Sunland-Tujunga stakeholders with no more than two STNC board members. Three members of the committee, one of them being a STNC Board member, will constitute a quorum. Meetings shall be held a minimum of once per quarter and called at the direction of the chair who will set the agenda for meetings. The Arts & Culture committee makes no decisions for the board but will advise and present motions to the board. Upon ratification of its formation by the STNC, this committee will exist through the 2007 STNC elected year, plus 2 months- through February 29, 2008 and can continue upon ratification by each newly elected STNC board before the end of February year to year until such time as it becomes a standing committee through a Bylaws amendment or it may be disbanded at the beginning of each new elected term by the STNC if no longer needed. Purpose: to discuss issues, foster collaboration on projects, and develop ideas to encourage greater community support and involvement in the arts; provide a resource focusing on artists and the creative life of the community; expand awareness of, involvement in, and access to arts and arts experiences; and to help our community use the arts to explore ideas in order to articulate community history, identity and values through telling local stories, giving voice to its citizens, and providing a forum for group action and expression.

10% of all DONE funds and any other funding resources that make up the total STNC Operating Budget for fiscal year July 2006 will be set aside for this committee to do its work in that year. A minimum 10% of all DONE funds and any other funding resources that make up the total STNC Operating Budget every year thereafter, will appear as an "Arts & Culture" line item in the STNC Operating budget unless amended or the committee is disbanded."

This motion generated discussion on several fronts: Board Members wanted to know how much 10% amounted to and which budgets the money would come out of. While many agreed the arts deserved funding, they didn't feel the motion should set a specific percentage.

Tim amended his motion, removing the % named to the following:

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Vote: 11 - 0 - 1. The motion carried.

A second motion was then created for funding purposes:

(Borquez/Royal) moved, “That the STNC Budget Committee and newly - formed Arts Committee work together to see if there are monies available for the Arts and Culture Committee for this fiscal year.” The motion carried unanimously.

Cindy suggested Tim bring the names of his committee members to the next STNC meeting so the Board can vote on them.

b. Discussion/Action: Little Landers Concert Series:

(Royal/Seigel) moved, “That STNC supports the Little Landers Park Concert Series to be held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of August, September and October 2006 in cooperation with Council District 2, L.A. Department of Recreation and Parks and local business people. The events will offer a variety of music and dance representing the different ethnic backgrounds of the local neighborhood. The concerts will be outdoors on the Valmont side of the park with the audience bringing blankets or lawn chairs to sit on.”

The motion carried unanimously.

c. Discussion/Action: CEQA Workshop: Removed from agenda.

11. Announcements:

- **Nina, Safety:** Sept. 9th, Four outstanding police officers will be honored at the Elks Club on Commerce Ave. as a part of the “**Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Awards.**” The Elks Lodge is located at 10137 Commerce Avenue, Tujunga. 7 p.m. Tickets for dinner: \$15 donation. (Note: since the publishing of these minutes this event has been postponed).
- **Mark** asked Tomi Lyn to restate where the area in question is that the County is planning to pave over.
- **Elections Chair request:** Cindy reminded the Board that an Elections Chair is needed for the STNC board elections usually held in December. DONE requires a strict timeline and we are losing our time schedule if we don't get started.

11. Final Public Comment:

Marti Marshall asked what District reps are doing to outreach to stakeholders, especially District One.

12. Meeting adjourned: 9:18 PM

Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, Apple One.