

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

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MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Minutes Wednesday, October 11, 2006 – 7:00 PM Mt. Gleason Middle School 10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue • Sunland

Attendance: 94, Stakeholders: 80, Board 14.

7:03 PM Call to Order– Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn greeted stakeholders.

Roll Call: Present: Dan McManus, Deborah Ray, John Van Es, David Cain, Jeannine Crowley, Nina Royal, Shirley Kellstrom, Cindy Cleghorn, Saro Minassian, Richard Stewart, Victor Castro, Linda Brand, Mark Seigel, John Blue, and Timothy Borquez. Absent: Joan Slater, Penny Barcena, Janet Linsalato (left early due to work commitment), Michelle Sahfran, Dr. David DeMulle, George Powell (school).

Pledge of Allegiance recited, introduction of elected officials: CD 2's Dale Thrush and Angela Motta were present.

Board member Richard Stewart presented a Community Service Award to Pastor Aaron Peterson of The Hub Christian Church. Peterson organizes the Children's Hunger Fund. A second Community Service Award was announced for future presentation to Pastor and Bobbie Reisner of Sunland Foursquare Church, who provide after school programs for children, programs for parents in recovery, and programs for seniors in nursing homes. The Reisners were unable to attend the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The Board unanimously approved the minutes for meetings of Sept. 13 and Sept. 21 as presented.

Public Comment:

- Janice Barquist, a candidate for the L.A. County Superior Court, introduced herself. She is a Deputy City Attorney and has been a Pro Tem Judge for nine years.
- Marti Marshall announced that a pancake breakfast will be held for Boy Scout Troop 307 on Oct. 14 at Tujunga United Methodist Church at 7:30 a.m.
- Susan Potthoff spoke about the Finn Park Community Garden, which she said needs a Matching Grant Request. She asked stakeholders to sign the Community Support Sheet.
- Ruth Anne Tarletz from Sunland Park Rec. Center announced they will have a Halloween Program.
- Victor Castro reported that Verdugo Hills High School has become a football powerhouse. Presently, they are undefeated: 6-0 and rank 23rd in the City.
- Elaine Brown spoke about a Verizon cell tower proposal for 10193 Tujunga Canyon Boulevard that is controversial in nature. She said despite the fact that it is an exception to the Foothill Specific Plan, it has received approval from the North Valley Planning Commission. She asked for support in opposing this decision.

Executive Committee Reports

Chairperson Report: Cindy reported on the Neighborhood Council Leadership Cabinet Meeting with Mayor's Area Director. She said a lot of work is being done with the School Systems. The first meeting for the 912 Commission is coming up in South L.A. The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils meets on Thursday, Oct. 12 The Citywide Alliance of Neighborhood Councils met recently with City Councilor Janice Hahn and City Planning Director Gail Goldberg. The Mayor's Budget Survey is still available online or by filling out the paper brochure by Nov. 15th.

Treasurer/Budget – Linda Brand, treasurer reported that the budget, as of Oct. 1st is \$63,000 (this does not include monies already designated for the "Smart Car" police camera.

Linda said the STNC phone bill may be going down as a result of efforts by board members to get a better rate.

David Cain brought the pizza for the meeting from Guidos.

The Budget and Finance Committee recommended that Bill Skiles be appointed to the committee to serve for the duration of the current term contingent on a seat being vacated. **Recommendation unanimously approved by the board 13-0-0.**

Board Member Reports

- Richard Stewart asked stakeholders to contact him if they are aware of someone who may be worthy for a Community Service Award.
- David Cain asked stakeholders to support the local businesses that contribute services to STNC.
- Tim Borquez announced an upcoming Harvest Festival at a local Church on Oro Vista, south of Foothill.
- John Blue noted that the STNC Youth Rep. has not been in attendance at the meetings and that there has been no plans for a Youth Festival.
- Victor Castro asked whether anyone had information about a police incident in District 1 by Tujunga Wash. He also mentioned that there will be no grading at the Haines Canyon Channel this year due to a lack of participation by the Golf Course in cleaning up the Wash. He said the Verdugo Hills Boosters have agreed to work with STNC on constructing a 50 foot tall Christmas Tree in conjunction with the canned food drive. He asked for input on any other groups that may want to participate in this event.
- John Van Es thanked the District 4 Neighborhood Watch and police for their involvement in helping control crime. He said he's convinced that it works and has a big impact on local crime.
- Dan McManus announced there would be an Outreach Committee Meeting this Saturday at Joselito's West on Foothill.

Safety Officer Report: Nina Royal, Safety Chair, reminded the Board of the "Above and Beyond the Call of Duty Award" on Oct. 31st at 6 p.m. at the Elks Lodge in Tujunga. RSVPs are required for dinner. Also, there is a CERT refresher class scheduled for Oct. 22.

Police Officer's Report: Tujunga Senior Lead Officer Frank Avila and Sunland Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez attended the meeting. Officer Avila said there has been an increase in breaking and enterings in Tujunga. He said a lot of the activity is being caused by gangs. Police have been making more arrests and crime is going down in gang – related crimes. Officer Larry Martinez spoke about an increase in mail theft in Shadow Hills and suggested stakeholders invest in locked mailboxes. He said there has also been an increase of graffiti in Sunland. In response to Victor Castro's earlier request for information on an incident in his District, Officer Martinez said that County Police were removing transient lodging under the bridge by the Golf Course near Tujunga Wash. They also removed a transient encampment by Wentworth Street.

There will be a Foothill Division Open House on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 11 – 3 p.m. at the station on Osborne by San Fernando Road. They will also feature a bike safety program for kids. The public is invited to attend.

Additional Public Comment: Robert Rodriguez, a candidate for U.S. Congress 25th District introduced himself and his goals. Rodriguez lives in Barstow, CA.

Design Advisory Committee – Victor Castro, Chairperson

Victor introduced CD2's Dale Thrush and asked him to provide an update on the situation with Home Depot:

Dale said that the "No Home Depot" campaign filed an appeal to the Tenant Improvement Permits that were granted to Home Depot to convert the former K Mart structure into a new store. The appeal was filed to the Dept. of Bldg. And Safety. The next step is for the appellants to appeal this to the Planning and Safety Dept.

Tujunga Cyn Traffic Study: Council member Wendy Greuel has directed the Dept. of Transportation to conduct a traffic impact study on Tujunga Cyn. Blvd. This will be going forward in a short time.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course - A meeting was held to discuss the possibility of a combined government effort to purchase the Golf Course and leave it as open space. A meeting is being set up to discuss technical options with zoning for that property. CD2 is seeking input from the Planning Department on this.

Oro Vista acreage: The five acres at the end at the end road of Oro Vista (by the wash) are still in limbo. CD2 has asked Congressman Brad Sherman's office to help with this since there is a technical issue regarding an endangered species. Dale said it is not known whether the species is on the federal endangered list and that is the issue. If it is not on that list, it might not affect the environmental assessment on the land's usage.

Questions from stakeholders than followed:

In regards to the **Ralph's Store on Foothill Blvd.** in Tujunga, Dale was asked why this store isn't being targeted for a good general merchandise store? He said the store is not large enough for a conventional store. He had spoken with Trader Joe's about relocating to that store, from La Crescenta, but apparently, there was a handshake agreement made between the Ralph's owner and Trader Joe's owner not to use that space for a food store. They don't want competition to their other Ralphs store in Sunland.

He was also asked to comment on the **boarded up storefronts** on Foothill Blvd. in Sunland between Eldora and Scoville and why the owner is being allowed to leave the stores like that. Many people feel it is an eyesore. Dale said he was not sure what the owner had in mind for the proposed use for that structure. He said the owner had cancelled a scheduled meeting, recently, so no information is known about what is going on.

Nina Royal asked Dale to address acquiring land for another **park** in Tujunga. Dale said that Council member Greuel has spent all her allotted Proposition "K" funds on parks in this area of her district – the closest one being in Sun Valley off Roscoe.

Return to DAC Business:

General Updates: The next DAC meeting is Monday evening at 6 p.m. at North Valley City Hall.

No to Home Depot Campaign: Joe Barret and Abby Diamond gave an update on their appeal. They also pointed out that the chain store, Target, has made three offers to Home Depot, which they have turned down. The appeal was 31 – pages in length and was sent to the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) who refuted their appeal. The campaign will have an opportunity to rebutt their decision. The next deadline is Oct. 20 to submit the next stage of appeal to City Planning. Abbey said it's not a "done deal" yet. Go to: www.notohomedepot.com to read their appeal under "News Flash."

Tujunga Canyon Blvd. Traffic – Victor reviewed the traffic survey that Council Member Greuel has recommended to the Dept. of Transportation. It will involve not only Tujunga Canyon, itself, but the ramps off the 210 Freeway that affect this area during peak traffic.

Watershed Project: STNC Chair Cindy Cleghorn sat in on this meeting in which specific projects were discussed. More info will be presented on Monday at DAC.

General Topics: Victor said there is potential for condo project at the former Mario Sterlings restaurant location. There is an issue with PetsMart regarding signage. There are presently openings on the DAC for interested stakeholders who want to be of service. On signage that may be illegal, he asked for input from stakeholders on any signs, banners, and other concerns that may be in opposition to the Foothill Specific Plan.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports/Action:

Elections – Mark Seigel, chair, reported that papers have been filed for the election with the earliest possible date, March 12th. DONE has confirmed acceptance of the initial paperwork but it is possible they may ask for changes.

Bylaws & Rules: **Mark Seigel recommended appointing Bill Skiles to the Bylaws and Rules Committee. The motion carried unanimously.**

Ratify corrections Tier 1 Bylaws changes: **(Seigel/Borquez) moved that the Board grant the power to the Bylaws Committee to make typographical changes on three bylaws that require updates/changes. Motion carried: 11-0-3**

To approve STNC Code of Civility Draft #2 dated 9-27-06: The Bylaws Committee recommended the board approve this motion. After much discussion on the

proposed code of civility, (Borquez/Van Es) amended this motion to strike Rule #2, (which states that Board Members remain seated at their designated area during the entire meeting unless excused by written request to the chairperson through the parliamentarian.) The amendment also stated that all new board officers be given this Code of Civility as part of their oath of office. Motion to amend motion passes: 11-1-1

(Blue/Cain) then moved to further amend the proposed Code of Civility to strike Rule #4 (which states the Board Members learn the applicable laws that govern Neighborhood Councils including bylaws, standing rules, meeting procedures, the Brown Act, conflict of interest laws, city ordinances and the City Charter.) The motion to amend failed: 4-8-1.

The Board then voted on the motion to accept the Code of Civility as amended. The motion passed: 8-5-0.

Art & Culture Committee: No report presented.

DWP MOU Oversight Committee: Cindy announced that David Cain was appointed as the new liaison to the MOU Oversight Committee.

New Business:

Discussion/Action regarding STNC board vacancies.

(Borquez/Brand) moved to appoint Lydia Grant as District 4 representative to the STNC Board. The motion passed: 11-0-1

Discussion/Action regarding STNC ad-hoc committee appointments. None.

Announcements:

There was discussion about Board member George Powell who has missed more than three STNC meetings and whether to remove him from STNC. Deborah Ray said that George is still interested in being on the Board but had a car accident and was unable to attend.

Stakeholder Tomi Lyn mentioned the DAC vacancy issue saying they can not hold votes without a quorum and asked that the Board to consider changing the bylaws to reduce the number of a quorum for Committee meetings.

Final Public Comment:

Shirley Kellstrom announced that the S-T League of Women Voters would hold a meeting to review the voting propositions on Oct. 19th, 1:30 p.m. at S-T Library. Cindy reminded the Board to utilize the "Protecting Native Trees" program. She also reminded everyone to register to vote for the November 7th. Election.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:42 PM

Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One, October 14th, 2006