

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

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

Attendance: 90 stakeholders including board members.

**7:15 PM Call to Order by Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn.**

**Roll Call:** Victor Castro, David Cain, Saro Minassian, Richard Stewart, Shirley Kellstrom (parliamentarian), Cindy Cleghorn, Nina Royal, Mark Seigel, Jeannine Crowley, Michelle Sahfran, Lydia Grant, Deborah Ray, John Blue. Absent: Joan Slater, Penny Barcena (family illness), Tim Borquez, John Van-Es, Janet Linsalato, and Linda Brand.

Pledge of Allegiance and Introduction of Board & City staff: Dale Thrush and Angela Motta from Councilperson Wendy Greuel's office, DONE rep. Amelia Herrera-Robles, and L.A.P.D. Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez plus Joan Luchs, Board member of Hollywood Hills North NC and Frank Buchanan, Board member of Foothills Trails District NC.

Dale Thrush, CD2 Planning Deputy reviewed the recent DAC meeting with Councilperson Wendy Greuel on Nov. 6, 2006 at which over 350 stakeholders were present. The meeting lasted until midnight and most of the focus was on the Home Depot issue. After the meeting, Councilperson Greuel drafted a letter to L.A. Planning Director Gail Goldberg, which Dale read. (See attachment on website for full content). Dale then answered questions from board members and stakeholders and gave an update on the old Ford property. Stakeholders expressed concerns about required clean up at the former K Mart's auto bay and discussed zoning issues and whether there was a need for an EIR for that property.

Angela Motta of CD 2 answered questions from stakeholders after Dale left the meeting. Susan Potoff asked where she and her husband could take debris from building materials dumped on St. Esteban. Angela suggested the Street Services location on Wentworth.

DONE Rep. Amelia Herrera-Robles thanked everyone for participating in the Mayor's budget survey and spoke about upcoming trainings and roundtables for NC board members. The Ethics training is mandatory. All board members must complete it by Dec. 31 to stay on the board. There is online training available on the DONE website at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics/?audience=done>

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Resignation of David DeMulle, Ph.D.**, environmental board member of STNC

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCT 11, 2006 BOARD MEETING:** Board member Deborah Ray asked that the Board not approve the minutes until the next meeting as she had not reviewed them and felt that, as Recording Secretary for the STNC, the minutes should not be approved until she reviewed them. During a discussion about whether to approve or wait on approving the minutes, Ms. Ray stated that she would leave the meeting, leaving the Board without a quorum if the vote was taken to approve the minutes. **(Stewart/Seigel) then moved to approve the Oct. 11 Board Meeting minutes, as presented without changes.** At that time, Ms. Ray got up and left the Board table, moving to a seat in the

audience, and leaving the STNC without a quorum for voting. **The minutes were then tabled as no vote could be taken.**

**The meeting continued with various reports.**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM STNC BOARD MEMBERS:**

Lydia Grant, District 4 Rep., reported on relevant news in district 4.

Michelle Sahfran, Education Rep, commented on the Mt. Gleason Middle School garden looking beautiful.

Nina Royal, Safety Rep, announced a forum to take place in Sylmar on spotting sexual predators. The forum will be held on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at a location to be announced. The Safety Committee is putting together a disaster preparedness training for community members. More details to come.

LAPD Officer Larry Martinez, Senior Lead Officer for Sunland, gave an update on crime:

- Sunland is notorious for property crimes such as breaking and entering and vandalism. He suggested property owners and residents keep windows and doors locked at all times to cut down on crime.
- A dead body was recovered on Oro Vista in the wash area. The subject was a missing person. No identity was given.
- The police and fire departments have been clearing brush in the Tujunga Wash and evicting transients who reside there.
- Rite Aid has been getting vandalized quite a bit lately. Purses are being taken from shopping carts when shoppers leave them unattended. Also, people have reported wallets stolen from their pockets. Police warn residents to lock their cars when in the Ralphs Shopping Plaza, particularly while doing holiday shopping. Officer Martinez noted that someone may be staking out consumers in the parking lot and an increase in thefts in cars parked there is an indication that it is not safe to leave cars unlocked.
- He said the same rule of thumb goes for any parking lot where people are doing a lot of holiday shopping. He suggested reparking in another area of large shopping malls after locking presents in the car, if you are going to continue shopping.
- The police are renewing their truancy patrols to keep an eye on kids who are contributing to crimes. The patrols will be going out in the area at least three times a week.

David Cain gave an outreach report, acknowledging Guidos and Coffee 'n Cruise, providers of the pizzas and coffee that stakeholders and board members enjoyed during the meeting. He asked everyone to please support these local businesses.

Saro Minassian, Business Rep, thanked the Dept of Transportation for their work on installing the Red Zones on Foothill Blvd.

Richard Stewart, Interfaith Rep, asked stakeholders to suggest people of faith who are contributing to the community so the STNC can acknowledge them.

David Cain, DWP Oversight Committee member, reported on his new role on this committee. He announced a DWP campaign to promote high efficiency light bulbs, which are more energy efficient. He said there will be a campaign starting soon offering property owners two, new high efficiency light bulbs in exchange for two, old standard light bulbs with a limit of two per household. David needs volunteers who would be willing to go door to door in the community to do the exchange. This program will help conserve energy for the City, noting it was a step in the right direction to avoid having to build a costly new power plant that taxpayers will be forced to fund.

Mark Seigel, Elections Committee, said he submitted the elections paperwork to DONE. The proposed date for STNC's election is March 19, 2007. No absentee ballots are allowed, according to STNC's bylaws.

Treasurer's Report: None due to absence of treasurer.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mark Godell, a resident and history teacher, noted that he was quite impressed with the DAC/Council District presentation Monday night. He also reminded residents that he still has five truckloads of dirt in his driveway from recent construction. He needs to get rid of it and asked anyone who is interested in free dirt to come and get it.

Claire Knowlton, from the McGroarty Art Center, announced a Holiday Open House on Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Local craftspeople and artists will be featured. She asked the public to support them.

Victor Castro announced that Verdugo Hills High School's football team made it to the playoffs. The first game is Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Pancake dinner fundraiser on Friday, Nov. 17 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Coffee Stop.

**STNC Board Member John Blue arrived reestablishing a quorum for the meeting. At this time Deborah Ray also rejoined the Board.**

Outreach: Committee presented two motions:

**1. "The Outreach committee recommends allocating up to \$700 for the Historic Home Tour's advertising with direct visibility of STNC co-sponsorship. The remaining funds can be used for co-sponsored printed programs." The motion passed unanimously.**

**2. "The Outreach committee recommends support to McGroarty Arts Center's Art Reach program in the amount of \$600 per quarter for flyers and mailing that include specific STNC sponsorship printed on them." The motion passed unanimously.**

### **New Business:**

**1. Board vacancy appointment: (Blue/Seigel) moved to appoint 16-year old Chrissa Vallenuva as Youth Arts & Entertainment to the STNC board.** Chrissa introduced herself to the Board saying her goal is to show the community what local youth can do and what talent they have. **The motion passed unanimously.**

**Cindy asked that it be noted that due to Chrissa's age, she must recuse herself from any action that requires financial decisions.**

**Tujunga Watershed Presentation:** STNC Board Member Jeannine Crowley gave a detailed power point report on the twenty-six (26) projects proposed for protection as part of the Tujunga Watershed Project.

Ricky Grubb, of the organization Falcon, spoke about native plant concerns.

Elaine Brown urged the public to not take for granted the efforts being made to protect the Watershed as it involves about 500 acres.

John Blue asked which projects would be given priority of the 26, if there wasn't enough funding. Jeannine said the first ten that were presented were the highest priorities.

**(Royal/Sahfran) moved to approve the Tujunga Watershed Committee's recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.**

Design Advisory Committee – Victor Castro announced that the next DAC meeting is Nov. 13. Some of the items to be discussed include an update on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, the Tujunga Canyon traffic study, No Home Depot, the Mario Sterlings project, and the Citywide Mansionization hearing scheduled for Nov. 14 at the Marvin Braude Building.

**DAC presented a list of recommended items to be approved by STNC:**

1. DAC recommends that the STNC Bylaws Committee review the requirement that the DAC have 6 votes to pass or fail an item, and 11 committee members and four alternate requirement. The committee rarely has all 11 committee members present.
2. DAC recommends Saro Minassian be appointed to the DAC replacing Charles Montgomery who resigned.
3. DAC recommends approval of zone change R1 to R2 at 7117 Apperson for the construction of a proposed duplex.
4. DAC recommends non support of a zone change to RD1.5-1 for 4 unit town homes on a very small lot at 7010 Greeley, due to the narrowness of the street and that a request for down zoning in this area be made to the Planning Department.
5. DAC recommends support for the extension of a conditional use permit for Tierra Del Sol.
6. DAC recommends a letter be sent to the Planning Department recommending a postponement of the application filed for the former Mario Sterlings at 8737 Fenwick.

(Victor Castro/Nina Royal) moved to approve DAC's recommendations as presented.  
**(Ray/Sahfran) moved to amend it by removing item #3 pertaining to Apperson. The motion to amend failed with a 5-5-2 vote.**

**The original motion then passed with a vote of: (9-2-1).**

**Approval of October Minutes: (Stewart/Royal) moved to approve the October board meeting minutes, previously presented but not voted on. The motion passed: 10-1-1.**

**Other New Business:**

Motion that STNC sponsor holiday lighting/decorations recognition. This item was sent to the Outreach Committee.

**Announcements: None.**

**Discuss list of future agenda items: None.**

**Final Public Comment: None.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 p.m.**

***Minutes prepared by Pat Kramer, Apple One***