

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

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MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 10, 2007 – 7:00 PM
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue – Sunland

157 attendance, 144 audience, 14 board members

7:12 PM Call to Order – Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance, Introduction of STNC Board: Lydia Grant, Dan McManus, John Van Es, Deborah Ray, Linda Brand, Nina Royal, David Cain, Janet Linsalato, Tim Borquez, Victor Castro, Mark Seigel, John Blue, Cindy Cleghorn, Richard Stewart and Shirley Kellstrom/Parliamentarian.

Introduction of local Neighborhood Council members: Mike O’Gara Sun Valley Area NC, Frank Buchanan and Terry Kaiser, Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council.

Introductions of City staff, Angela Motta from CD2, LAPD Captain Zipperman and Sr. Leads Frank Avila and Larry Martinez, DONE rep Amelia Herrera-Robles. Explanation of speaker card procedure.

Public Comment:

Joe Barrett, No 2Home Depot, invited stakeholders to join a demonstration in front of the old K-Mart site. He announced that a public hearing will take place on Jan. 19th at the Marvin Braude Center in Van Nuys at 9:30 a.m. before the Zoning Administrator. A free bus will take everyone to the hearing, leaving from the Do-It Center at 8:00 a.m. He said public support is very important for this hearing.

David Cain, District 3 STNC Rep. encouraged the large audience of young adults to continue to attend STNC meetings and get involved. He then spoke about problems with illegal trash dumping in the area asking anyone who sees trash left on the roadside to report it to the City: “311.” David announced his Write-In candidacy for the L.A. City Council against incumbent City Council member Wendy Greuel. To vote for David, stakeholders must write his name on the ballot.

Marc Dodell of 10719 Irma Ave. Tujunga is still offering free dirt to anyone who wants to haul it away. Anyone who is interested can come to his address. Please leave the rocks but take the dirt that takes up most of his front yard, the result of excavation work on his property.

Elaine Brown announced that the site of Mario Sterling’s Restaurant is proposing a large 49 condo development on Fenwick Street. She is organizing a campaign to try to prevent this

from happening. Another proposed development that she has been organizing a campaign against, at the end of Oro Vista by the Tujunga Wash, is going forward with a proposal to build 20 homes. The good news is that this area has been designated a Scenic Corridor so the developer will be limited by the restrictions that apply.

Rick Grubb of the environmental group Falcon spoke about environmental issues affecting the area.

Certificates of Appreciation for Holiday Lights: Cindy announced the winners of the holiday light campaign goes to four stakeholders for their beautiful holiday light decorations: 10326 Langmuir Ave, Tujunga; 7000 Parsons Trail, Tujunga; 10811 Terecia Road, Tujunga; 10960 McVine Ave, Sunland. These homeowners are asked to contact STNC for their Certificates of Appreciation.

DONE Rep. Report:

- Amelia Herrera-Robles announced that DONE is offering training for stakeholders who want to get involved in their neighborhood councils through the Empowerment Academy. This includes a Board Orientation for new NC board members on Jan. 17, 2007, Strengthening Communities for identifying your NC's needs and assets on Jan. 20, 2007, and Funding Orientation on a future date. There are other workshops taking place in Feb. and March. (See: Attachment A).
- A meeting will take place this Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007 to unveil plans for a Citywide campaign by the organization Keep America Beautiful. KAB has elected Los Angeles to kick off its national campaign prompting citizens to become more involved in improving our environment. (See: Attachment B)
- Amelia also handed out information regarding the status of the Congress of Neighborhood Councils from the Office of the City Attorney. (See: Attachment C).

Presentation to Teachers: Lydia Grant, STNC District 4, gave a presentation to outstanding teachers in the Sunland-Tujunga schools. The students from Sunland Runners Club showed up in force to honor and applaud their teachers which included: Bobbie Peterson and Kelly Garnett of the Victory Club (Volunteers in Community to Represent Youth), which raises money from recycling aluminum cans for several charities. Kelly named those charities as: the Ronald McDonald House, L.A. Mission, Unicef, the Troops in Iraq, senior citizen groups, and Special Olympics. She asked the community to help support the students' upcoming training for the L.A. Marathon in March by purchasing water and Gatorade for the kids. The other awards were: parent Tony Radice, Teacher Assistant Michael Ritchie, parent Andy Aranda, and teachers Jennifer Mazanet, Jeremy Hules and Craig Moss. Moss spoke about SRLA, which is helping get the kids involved in fitness. They will be participating in a running event at the Rose Bowl in January and hope to win the top prize, as they have in previous years. Photos with the teachers and the STNC board were taken after the presentation.

Safety Report: Nina Royal announced a Division 3 Fire Dept. training this Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007 at Station 88 in Sherman Oaks. This is free training for stakeholders on how to sandbag in case of an emergency. The next Safety Meeting is Friday, Jan. 19 at North Valley City Hall at 7 p.m. Nina encouraged the youth at the meeting to attend.

Captain Steve Zipperman, Commanding Officer of the LAPD Foothill Division, introduced himself. He has 28 years on the job and now oversees the 44 square miles of the Foothill Division. He urged stakeholders to get involved in safety trainings to be more effective in reducing crime and improving the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga. Tujunga **Tujunga Senior Lead Officer Frank Avila** reported on crime in Tujunga saying they had just investigated a robbery in Tujunga, prior to the meeting. It involved five gang members. Two were arrested at the scene. He said that overall, crime increased citywide by 4.8% in 2006 but Sunland-Tujunga is still the lowest in total crimes Citywide, out of 19 divisions.

Sunland Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez talked about crime in Sunland saying car thefts are still a problem. He urged motorists to lock their cars when shopping locally and parking in large lots and to be aware of people who are unfamiliar in the neighborhood. Call the police to report suspicious activity at any hour.

The officers then talked about the program to train local residents who want to get involved in the Volunteer Surveillance Team (“**VST**”) **program** where they are trained and equipped with police radios. Commander Zipperman said a recent VST report led to a graffiti artist’s arrest – who then provided details of a murder that had been unsolved. To volunteer for the VST, call the Foothill Division: (818) 756-8866.

Correspondence: Cindy reviewed recent correspondence, which included:

NC Planning Taskforce - Pilot Program

Neighborhood Council Review Commission – Survey of current & past board members

CERT-LA – Neighborhood Councils of L.A. Emergency Task Force Meeting -

<http://www.cert-la.com/index.shtml>

Board of Public Works Invitation – Keep America Beautiful – Jan. 13, 2007

STNC web site updates – Cindy said the STNC website will be getting a facelift in the next few weeks.

Committee Reports

Election Committee: Chair Mark Seigel announced the upcoming election for STNC board members will be held on March 19, 2007. Feb. 17 is the deadline for filing candidate applications. The filing period is now open.

Outreach: Dan McManus announced the next committee meeting is Sat. Jan. 13, 2007 at Joselito’s West at 1 p.m. CD2 has approved the motion to put up light pole banners for STNC outreach but they are requiring the City seal to be shown on the design so that is now underway. The banners should be up in the next few weeks.

Design Advisory Committee: Chair Victor Castro announced that three major topics were discussed and voted on by the DAC at their meeting of Jan. 8, 2007, approving motions on three community impact statements:

- 1. (Item 4.a.) asking for all permits for the proposed Home Depot at 8040 Foothill Blvd. be immediately revoked,**
- 2. (Item 4.d.) opposing a Verizon Cell Tower proposed for 10189-93 Tujunga Canyon Blvd.**
- 3. (Item 4.g.) opposing a request for a beer/wine license for a gas station at 7101 Foothill Blvd. (Foothill/Pinewood).**

The Board approved the DAC's recommendations unanimously. Details below:

Item 4 a. re: 8040 Foothill Blvd., Sunland (Home Depot)

Community Impact Statement for STNC:

The Sunland-Tujunga community is community of households with children, seniors and small businesses located in the mountains adjacent to the Angeles National Forest.

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council represents family neighbors, supports development in keeping with the rural nature that is in keeping with our Community Plan, Scenic Preservation Plan and Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan.

The impact of a the proposed Home Depot on our community is devastating being totally opposite in focus to our history, rural lifestyle, community, scenic and commercial corridor plans. The STNC demands that all permits issued to Home Depot be immediately revoked due to the "piecemealing" of the project, incomplete and inconsistent plans and the avoidance of all environmental review.

Item 4. D. re: 10189-93 Tujunga Canyon Blvd.

Community Impact Statement for STNC:

The proposed cell tower is an unnecessary exception to the Foothill Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan and is contrary to Verizon's own protocol, opposed by the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council, the Design Advisory Committee which monitors the Specific Plan, and the Commerce Owners and Business Restoration Association, Inc. (COBRA) created to restore this area.

COBRA is in the first phase of the Pilot Plan for the Great Streets Project and finds this tower detrimental to their goals and devastating to the pristine mountain views. The tower will be 100 feet from historical monument: Blarney Castle as well as Bolton Hall, the second building in Los Angeles to receive historical status, thirty feet from one designated Scenic Highway, and sixty feet from another Scenic Highway. An alternate rooftop site should be considered.

Item 4 g. Re: 7101 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga
Community Impact Statement for STNC:

The Sunland-Tujunga community is community of households with children, seniors and small businesses located in the mountains adjacent to the Angeles National Forest.

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council, represents family neighbors, supports businesses that serve the needs of the community in accordance with our Community Plan, Scenic Preservation Plan and Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan.

This site is adjacent to a full service liquor store that already serves the immediate neighbors. Economic, public safety and crime impacts are of serious concern to the neighbors in this area and urge a denial of the request for beer and wine sales at this time.

- Victor reported that the DAC approved a motion for funding a bus to take stakeholders to the Jan. 19 hearing in Van Nuys, regarding the tenant improvements permits issued by Building and Safety for the proposed Home Depot in Sunland. Council member Wendy Greuel will be present for that hearing.
- The Verdugo Hills Golf Course proposed development is taking a new turn: County Supervisor Michael Antonovich has proposed \$700,000 for seed money to turn Verdugo Golf Course into a County Golf Training Camp.
- Victor said the Oro Vista development project, referred to earlier by Elaine Brown, is a huge 'can of worms' that, if developed, will open this rustic part of the Sunland-Tujunga to more development and eventually lead to the loss of the ridgeline and open space in Big Tujunga Canyon. While it has been declared a protected area, he said the issue is not completely over.
- He spoke about the Honolulu Extension, which is a plan that could lead to widening Tujunga Canyon Blvd. and open it to more development. DAC is keeping an eye on this.

CD2: Council Member Wendy Greuel's office: Angela Motta gave a report which included action against a property owner for illegal grading and an illegal structure. Dave Sherwin of Building and Safety filed papers with two criminal charges against the owner of 11360-11380 Mt. Gleason Ave. with hearings scheduled with City Attorney. Soil samples have been demanded but not produced. A judge will be prosecuting this property owner. On the issue of an attic being approved for a home then converted to an upper story, Angela said two motions were drafted by Council member Greuel: to have Building and Safety revise the way they count square footage to be habitable. Another motion is to clarify the protected tree ordinance. She reported that a business of concern, a Tobacco Shop on Foothill Blvd., has been the under observation by the police for possible illegal activity. A clean up will take place at the Tujunga Wash. No date has been determined.

This was in response to a comment about bulldozing in the wash. Permits have been obtained for the bulldozing by the Angeles National Golf Course and for cleaning up the arroyo in the flood channel. Finally, CD2 is holding a Equine Chip-A-Thon with the Dept. of Animal Services on Jan. 13, 2007 at Lakeview Terrace Rec Center to identify horses with microchips. The cost is \$15 per chip, and \$14.00 for a license.

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

District reps – Vic Castro asked Angela from CD2 to notify DAC on any new bulldozing permits that are requested.

Stakeholder Group reps – None.

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

Bylaws & Rules: Mark Seigel reported that DONE has asked STNC to change certain language in the bylaws regarding the time at which they hold the election pertaining to a possible limit of a new term for new board member, since the 2007 election is being held several months later than normal. **The Committee moved that: "Elections for the STNC Executive Officers and Directors shall be held annually on a date in the fourth quarter of the year. If special circumstances prevent the election during this period, it shall be held in the following quarter." Parliamentarian Shirley Kellstrom made a friendly amendment, "In the event that the elections are held in the 1st quarter of the following year, the newly elected board would serve a limited term." The motion with the friendly amendment was passed unanimously.**

A recommendation to adjust definition of bylaws committee in section. Article VII. Section F. by the Bylaws Committee was tabled for the next meeting.

Citywide Community Budget Report (Blue/Sahfran/Skiles). No report.
Arts & Culture (Borquez) No report.
DWP MOU Oversight (Cain) No report.

Audit Committee Report/Recommendation: Committee Chair Bill Skiles recommended the STNC Board approve and transmit their recommendations detailed in a three page report to DONE. These include:

- A Request that DONE provide the STNC with trainings on how to develop, construct and file Community Impact Statements (recomm.#3),
- Continue to identify its training needs and community those needs to DONE (recomm. #5),
- Maintain a log of all training requests made to DONE and to follow through an 'dun' DONE to insure that they fulfill those training needs (recomm. #5),
- Request that DONE provide the STNC will a list of all information systems that have been designed for NCs,

- And that the STNC should be aware of and provide training to the appropriate STNC board members (recomm. #12),
- That the STNC board prepare and submit to DONE a performance review on DONE to be completed on March 1, 2007.

The full list of recommendations were described as being historic. It is the first effort by a Neighborhood Council to evaluate DONE 's abilities and performance and to ask for specific responsibilities to be met. (See: Attachment D).

The Board passed the Audit Committee's recommendations unanimously. After passing the recommendations, the Audit Committee was dissolved, having completed the work required by an Ad Hoc Committee.

Executive Committee Reports/Discussion/Action

Cindy reminded the Board that the deadline for the mandated City Ethics training was 12/31/06. It is still available online at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics/?audience=done>

Treasurer Linda Brand gave an update on the budget: There is \$56,700 available in the City account, not including a payment of just under \$4,000 to be made for the approved police car cameras (License Plate Recovery System).

New Business:

Removal of Board member: Cindy asked the Board to consider possible action regarding the removal of a STNC board member whose lack of attendance exceeds the allowable limit under Bylaws Article VI, Section H. 4: "The board may remove any Board member when that person is absent unexcused from three or more consecutive meetings or six or more meetings during a term of office." The purpose of vacating the seat was to bring in a new board member who is available and has expressed interest in serving immediately.

John Blue/Nina Royal moved that George Powell be removed from the Board due to over three unexcused absences. The Board voted by the necessary 2/3's majority with 14 votes.

Appointment of New Board Member: John Blue/Nina Royal moved to appoint Ricky Grubb as Stakeholder Group rep: Environmental on the STNC Board. The vote was unanimous. Grubb then joined the board for the remainder of the meeting.

Ricky said his main interest as Environmental Member is in preserving native plant species and to work on protecting the area against the proposed Canyon Hills development. His affiliation is with the Sierra Club.

Motion to designate up to \$2,000 in funding for DAC education and outreach events:

Deborah Ray presented this motion as a back up plan to hire a bus, in the event that Council member Wendy Greuel did not come through with the transportation promised. There was no second on this motion. No action was taken.

Final Public Comment

Carol Locus, Valley Horse Owners, announced the State of the Horse, an event that will promote the coming together of politicians and horse owners on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007 at the L.A. Equestrian Center. There will be a presentation on the Rim of the Valley Trail by Assemblyman Alarcon's office. There will be a BBQ lunch with tickets \$25 to fund an Equestrian Chamber of Commerce.

Linda Brand, treasurer, explained the allowable procedure for disbursing funding. Requests of up to \$300 to a committee require the signature of the committee chairman and the executive committee. All funding requests must contain specific language and a specific set purpose or it cannot be approved.

Terry Kaiser, Foothill Trails District NC board member and Equestrian Trails member announced the Ride or Hike fundraiser on Jan. 21, 2007 at Lakeview Rec Center. Monies will go to St. Jude Medical Center.

Deborah Ray responded to Linda's comments about monetary requests saying that while her request was very vague, she was trying to put a bug in everyone's ear to take action on behalf of No Home Depot, as opposed to just letter writing.

The next STNC Board Meeting is Feb. 14, 2007, Valentines Day. Cindy asked if board members would attend that night or if the meeting date should be moved. It appeared that most of the board would prefer the meeting to be held a week earlier, February 7th, 2007.

Cindy announced the Neighborhood Council Review Commission (912 Commission) web site is www.ncrcla.org - Stakeholders may submit comments to the commission about their neighborhood council or the system in general via the web site.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 PM

-Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, Apple One-