

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 9, 2007
Mt. Gleason Middle School
10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue – Sunland

Attendance: 112 Board: 16, Stakeholders: 96

Call to Order by Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance. Introduction of STNC Board, Elected Officials, City staff, LAPD Sr. Leads, DONE rep. etc.

Roll Call: Richard Stewart, Saro Minassian, Allen Rodriguez, Jenny Rodriguez, Mark Seigel, Cindy Cleghorn, , Nina Royal, Olina Lowe, Bill Manning, Dan McManus, Lydia Grant, David Cain, Victor Castro, Linda Brand, Rick Grubb and John Blue. Quorum established. And Shirley Kellstrom (parliamentarian). Excused absences: John Van-Es, Jeannine Crowley, Janet Linsalato, Tim Borquez.

Announcements:

Nina Royal, Public Safety: LAPD Officer Costi is still in intensive care at Holy Cross Hospital. A silent auction and raffle will be held to raise funds for his care at Our Lady of Lourdes Family Fun Days event.

Police Update: Tujunga Senior Lead Officer Frank Avila was joined by six officers from the Police Academy, who are learning on the job and bolstering police presence in the area. Crime update: Crime went up last week with increased motor vehicle burglaries. Ten to twelve suspects have been arrested. Some of the arrests were made with input from the citizens offering tips. Officer Avila recommended residents lock their cars and also their home windows at night, even though it is warm enough to keep them open. The open, unlocked windows are an invitation to crime. In response to a question about what is being done to respond to traffic violations on Foothill Blvd., he said an average of twenty tickets are written per day.

Neighborhood Watch meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Council District office in Sunland at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. STNC's Safety Committee holds meetings the 3rd Thursday of every month at the municipal building at 7 p.m. Also, CERT meetings are held then. If anyone is interested in safety they can attend.

New Business:

Mission College Proposal: Mission College President Ernest Moreno addressed the board on the college's proposal to open a satellite campus in Sunland. They have a few locations they are looking at but are open to seeing any others that can accommodate 9 – 12 classrooms. The satellite school would be a Community College center with credits only and the low fee of \$20.00 per unit. The credits are fully transferable to any other college. President Moreno said

they would like to offer both day and night classes as well as vocational programs: pre-nursing, administration of justice, child development, health careers, & EMT.

Public Comment:

- Tomi Lyn Bowling talked about real estate and residential sales.
- Debbie Flores announced that she is walking to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and seeks donations.
- Lydia Grant announced that teacher Angel Espindola, a baseball coach at Verdugo Hills High School, would be receiving a Teacher Appreciation Award.
- Andrea Manning, Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church, announced an upcoming rummage sale, Saturday, June 2nd.
- Marlene Rader, Kagel Canyon stakeholder, announced a public hearing on Union Rescue Mission's proposal to enlarge their women and children's shelter on Kagel Canyon. Residents are opposing this plan. The hearing takes place Wednesday, May 23, 9:00 a.m. at the Hall of Records, 320 W. Temple Street, L.A. Busing will be provided by the Kagel Canyon Civic Association.
- Donna Leuning, stakeholder, announced an increase in fees for bus riders by the MTA. She asked the Board to oppose this bus service increase.
- Joe Barrett, No 2 Home Depot campaign, announced a hearing on Home Depot's appeal to build on the former K-Mart lot. The hearing takes place before the North Valley Area Planning Commission on June 7, in Van Nuys. They are trying to arrange a bus for transportation. They need a large turnout for this hearing.
- Roberta Cole, Shadow Hills Property Owners Association, announced a pancake breakfast on, May 19th. 8 am. – noon at Tierra Del Sol.
- Veronica, a stakeholder, asked for help in trying to get Parks and Rec. to support funding for a community pool. She asked the board to write a letter to CD 2 to support this.
- Jackie Keene, CD 2:
 - Announced that the owner of the "We Buy Houses" signs has been fined for putting them up in the community, thanks to help from residents.
 - Councilperson Wendy Greuel is holding her annual picnic on May 19, 2007 in North Hollywood. The BBQ is free to the public to thank the volunteers.
 - A property owner on Mt. Gleason who has been violating Building and Safety code is coming up to a jury trial.
- Elaine Brown announced a public hearing in Van Nuys to stop development at the site of Oro Vista at Big Tujunga Canyon. Also, Mario

Sterling's proposal for development is moving forward to build a 4-story condo structure on that site.

- Wally Wharton, stakeholder, opposes Mission College setting up a satellite school in the community.
- Kathy Sedwick, stakeholder, doesn't feel it is right to bring a dog to the STNC meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes approved with one correction by Allen Rodriquez. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report, Linda Brand gave an overview on the STNC preliminary FY2007-08 budget. There is currently \$37,000+ remaining in the STNC City account. After the July 4th fireworks and other expenses, there should be around \$31,000 rolling over to the next fiscal year's budget. The Budget Committee met last month to review the proposed budget expenditures and monies for the next fiscal year.

4. Board Member Reports

- Education Rep, Lydia Grant met with a School Board official on April 21, 2007. Last month, she spoke with a LAUSD official, the local superintendent at her Schools Discussion meeting held prior to the Board Meeting. The LAUSD Director for Verdugo Hills HS was at the meeting prior to this meeting to answer parents' questions.
- Media Rep., John Blue presented his idea for presenting neighborhoods in a cohesive way. He would like to create oral histories of senior citizens in the area with reminiscences of trails and assembly places: local watering holes which could be of historical value, as a buffer to future development.
- Business Rep. Saro Minassian thanked Jackie Keene for her help with illegal signage. The community also received help from Street Maintenance with filling potholes on Valmont and Tujunga Canyon Blvd.
- Interfaith Rep. Richard Stewart asked stakeholders to help him acknowledge religious leaders to contribute to the community with Service Awards from STNC.
- Environmental Rep. Rick Grubb spoke about the Watershed report: Tujunga Watershed is the largest watershed in L.A. For more info, visit: www.riverproject.org for the L.A. River Master Plan.

5. Committee Reports:

a. Safety: Nina Royal: Support of Volunteer Surveillance Team: LAPD Officers Walia and Rumenapp talked about the Volunteer Surveillance Team and what they do to help LAPD officers. They are trained, skilled volunteers who assist the police in surveillance operations to report crimes in progress like drug sales,

burglaries, graffiti, curfew violations and other crimes. The officers requested help with funding of a vehicle for surveillance and other equipment.

(Royal/A. Rodriguez) moved to refer this item to the Safety Committee.

Motion carried unanimously. (Safety Committee meets on Thursday, May 17 at the Municipal Bldg. at 7 p.m.

b. Outreach. Dan McManus displayed one of the new banners now hanging along Foothill Blvd. to promote STNC. **(McManus/Castro) moved that the STNC support the Verdugo Hills High School Boosters by supporting the 2007 4th of July Fireworks Festival. STNC to provide \$5,000 to become the “1776 Title Sponsorship” of the event. Motion carried unanimously.**

c. DAC Committee, **Victor Castro, DAC Chair, moved that STNC approve the written DAC report and recommendations as presented.**

Details of DAC Recommendations: From 4/23/07 Meeting:

RE: 10240 Commerce presentation for 3-story, 18 unit condominiums was approved in 2005 for 22 units. Requesting an exception on height (10%).

That DAC appreciates owners and developer's reduction in density to allow for more open space and that it is has been presented as a more family oriented condo project. The DAC would prefer that the height limit be in accordance with the Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan.

From 5/7/07 Meeting: 8040 Foothill.

That STNC pay for the cost of bus transportation to the Home Depot appeal hearing to be held on June 7, 2007 before the North Valley Area Planning Commission at 4:30 p.m. Approximate cost to not exceed \$600.

Recommendation: Bill Manning will chair the new Transportation Team that will propose actions to the DAC on policy, programs, projects and budgets related to vehicular safety, mobility and related issues and programs.

DAC recommendations approved by the STNC board unanimous..

Victor invited everyone to attend the next DAC meeting on Monday, May 21, 7 p.m. North Valley City Hall.

Executive Committee motion:

“That the STNC Environmental rep be present during negotiations regarding redrawing of boundaries for Angeles Golf Course and invite a Fish and Game rep to be present for all negotiations and that the following letter be sent to CD2:

“The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council would like to make available our STNC Environmental Representative (or an STNC Board member) to be present at all meetings/negotiations with the Angeles Golf Course regarding their Conditional Use Permit. The ANGC is in an extremely environmentally sensitive area and we believe it is our duty to protect it to the best of our ability. Please keep us advised of all future meeting dates and times in order that we can have a representative attend.”

d. Bylaws Committee, Mark Seigel spoke about new bylaws that need to be submitted to DONE/BONC. These bylaws have already been approved by STNC.

New Business – None.

Public Comment:

- Susan Potthoff, stakeholder and CERT member announced that Mayor Villaraigosa has eliminated CERT funding. She recommended the public write letters asking for CD2’s support for CERT funding.
- K. Sedwick: Asked about the status of potholes on Tujunga Canyon.
- Elaine Brown asked anyone with a digital camera who sees wildlife to document it as the City says there isn’t any wildlife in this area. Once they take the photos, they should date-stamp it and submit it to Ed Rock at the STNC office. The Foothills Paper will run the photos.
- Nina Royal, publisher of the North Valley Reporter, announced that she is now the sole publisher of the North Valley Reporter and needs writers, ad sales reps and advertisers.
- Lydia Grant reported that there is new eviction legislation being proposed by Rocky Delgadillo, which would require eviction of any residents who possess dangerous weapons, commit violent crimes, or possess or are involved in drug sales.

Neighborhood Council Review Commission: Cindy Cleghorn announced that the NCRC has come up with a new definition of stakeholders: **(preliminary as of 5/3/07 NCRC meeting)**

“The plan is to be amended to state that, “stakeholder status in NC’s should be open, by self-affirmation, to those who live, work, or own property in the neighborhood, and also to those who declare a stake in the neighborhood and the basis for it.” Can link from STNC.org website to NCRC site at ncrccla.org

Meeting adjourned: 9:22 p.m.

Next STNC Meeting – Wednesday, June 13, 2007. Visit: www.stnc.org

Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One.