

(DRAFT – to be approved on Aug. 8)

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday, July 11, 2007**

Mt. Gleason Middle School

10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue - Sunland

**120 attendees, 14 board members, 106 stakeholders**

1. **Call to Order:** 7:15 p.m. by STNC Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn  
Introduction of STNC board, Council District 2 representatives Dale Thrush, Planning Director; Jackie Keene, Field Deputy; & Jim Dantona, new Planning Deputy; Millie Jones from Supervisor Antonovich's office, and LAPD officers Tim Walia and Shawn Rumenapp. Cindy announced the availability of, sign-in sheets, speaker cards and other materials for the meeting.

**STNC Board Attendance:** Cindy Cleghorn, Victor Castro, Nina Royal, Jeannine Crowley, Lydia Grant, Dan McManus, Olina Lowe, Bill Manning, Allen Rodriguez, John Blue, Jenny Rodriguez, Mark Seigel, Ricky Grubb, David Cain. Absent: Linda Brand (working); Tim Borquez (working); Chrissa Villanueva (performance rehearsal); Richard Stewart (medical); Saro Minassian (out of town); Janet Linsalato (working); John Van-Es (on vacation).

**Public Comments:**

- Sharon Weisman: Invited the public to a meeting of Crescenta Valley stakeholders who are meeting on August 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. to form a committee for a cross jurisdictional community or neighborhood association at Deukmeian Park, 3429 Markridge Road in La Crescenta.
- Melinda Kelley, Tree People, spoke about projects in the N.E. Valley. including a free Community Greening Workshop on Saturday, September 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Sun Valley. Register by calling: (818) 623-4878 or email: [leremita@treepeople.org](mailto:leremita@treepeople.org). Free fruit trees are going to be available soon.
- Elaine Brown, stakeholder, asked the public to take pictures of local wildlife (with a date stamp on the film). Pictures will be used to prove to developers the existence of wildlife when they propose a project that requires a bio assessment. Photos should be copied to: STNC at North Valley City Hall and the Foothills Paper.
- Sandra Lockner, stakeholder, encouraged the support of the police department.
- Susan Pothoff, Tujunga resident, expressed concerned about proposed changes to bylaws and asked for details on what the changes were and when the upcoming meeting will be to address them. (See below)

- Cindy Cleghorn announced a hearing by the Neighborhood Council Review Commission to present their recommendations on changes to the Neighborhood Council system to the public. The hearing for the North Valley will be held on Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Panorama High School.
- Mark Seigel announced the formation of the Tujunga Ham Radio Club.

**Public Hearing - North Valley Area Planning Commission Hearing** - Abby Diamond with the No2Home Depot Campaign reminded stakeholders of the Home Depot Appeal hearing to be held before the North Valley Area Planning Commission on Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m. at Mt. Gleason Middle School auditorium.

2. Approval of Minutes: Minutes for the June STNC meeting were approved as presented. Changes to Lydia Grant's education report minutes were recommended by stakeholders. (not part of STNC meeting).

3. Treasurer's Report: Tabled.

4. **Safety Report:** LAPD officers reported on crime in the Sunland-Tujunga area: Overall, crimes increased up by 6% last month. This included two assaults with deadly weapons (domestic violence), a robbery on Foothill Blvd., and burglaries from motor vehicles where computers, GPS, cell phones, and PDAs were stolen. The officer warned residents to not leave items like these in their cars viewable to passerbys. Currently, he reported that the vehicles most attractive to car thieves are: Hondas, Nissans, Toyotas and trucks.

5. **SWIRP** – Bureau of Sanitation reps Reina Pereira, P.E. Project Manager, and Alan Wang gave a PowerPoint presentation on efforts to make Los Angeles a zero waste city by 2010. The department is in the process of trying to educate the public about voluntary multifamily recycling programs, their 20-year Solid Waste Integrated Resource Plan, and what types of items can be recycled. For more info. Go to: [www.lacity-alternativetechnology.org](http://www.lacity-alternativetechnology.org) or call: 213-485-3611 to enroll in the new multifamily recycling program for apartment complexes.

6. **VERDUGO HILLS GOLF COURSE** - Rich Toyon, a member of the Verdugo Golf Course Committee and VOICE, gave an informative presentation on efforts to save the local golf course from major development. He reported that the golf course was sold to MWH Development Corp. in 2003. Their initial proposal was to build 269 housing units. Since that time, it has been scaled down to 229 homes.

Traffic: He noted that during morning rush hour, an average of 74 cars per minute pass the intersection of Tujunga Canyon Boulevard and La Tuna Canyon. With a development, those figures would skyrocket.

Use of golf course: Rich observed that the golf course is still doing a great deal of business in the community and is a centrally located, very well used

recreational facility in our backyard. It is not a 'dinosaur' as the developer's experts have said.

Other development in the area: He counted 11 multifamily developments underway in the immediate vicinity area. However, there are no plans for additional recreational facilities.

Historically, the area now used for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course was the state's first internment camp during WW II. It is also the site of an early Tongva village.

Proposal: Several entities including Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, City of Glendale, and L.A. County Supervisor Antonovich are trying to raise the funds to purchase this site to keep it as a golf course. The Verdugo Hills Golf Course Committee is proposing that they purchase it from the developer and use it as a multi jurisdictional property.

Action is needed to make this happen. Those who would like to support it can send an email, phone call, fax, or some other communication to Los Angeles City Councilmember Wendy Greuel, Glendale City Mayor Ara Najarian, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich, and the Santa Monica Conservancy. Richard Toyon can be contacted at: 818 515-2575.

#### **7. Committee Reports:**

Executive Committee Recommendations: The STNC Executive Committee recommended and passed four measures, together, as a package by a vote of: 10-2-0:

- 1) To approve a letter of support for Prop K funding for a build out of Oro Vista Park in Tujunga.
- 2) To approve a letter of support for Prop K funding for acquisition of the 227-acre property called Verdugo/La Tuna Canyon (located off La Tuna Canyon Road near its interchange with I-210) for parks and recreation.
- 3) To approve up to \$375 for the purchase of "Founding Sisters" books for Los Angeles City Office of Historic Resources. *Budget Category: DAC*
- 4) To approve up to \$500 for All Nations Community Family Concert, National Heritage Foundation event to be held July 20, 2007 in Lakeview Terrace. *Monies raised to benefit New Heaven and Earth Ranch, Foothill Place, Lakeview Terrace. Budget Category: Outreach.*

#### Design Advisory Committee (Victor M. Castro, IV, DAC Chairman)

- 1) CD2 updates: Dale Thrush, planning deputy for CD2 reported that Council member Wendy Greuel lost her mother last week. Several members of STNC attended the funeral.
- 2) Dale answered questions regarding the upcoming Home Depot appeal hearing to be held at Mt. Gleason Middle School on Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.
- 3) He explained land use logic and policy on the executive committee recommendations regarding the letters of support for Prop K funding for the La Tuna Canyon and Oro Vista recommendations.

A DAC motion to approve the written DAC report as follows carried unanimously:

1. Appointment of stakeholder (former STNC board member) Deborah Ray to DAC 2007-2008 year.
2. That FAR/ICO hardship exemption for property owners at 10934 Floralita be approved in the amount of 350 sq ft.
3. That a zoning change request be approved for 10336 Samoa Street in Tujunga, by the owners, to combine three lots into two and create a flag lot. The approval is contingent upon receipt of neighbor support documentation turned in to the STNC office.
4. Approval of a letter to Council member Wendy Greuel re: the Sunland-Tujunga FAR/ICO extension beyond Sept. 25, 2007.
5. Approval of a letter to Council member Greuel regarding Dept. of Building and Safety Grading Section.

Additionally, Mr. Castro announced that the July 23<sup>rd</sup> DAC meeting will take place as a field trip to the Oro Vista 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres at 11130-60 Oro Vista (end of Oro Vista at Big Tujunga Cyn.). Meet adjacent to this intersection at 6:30 p.m. Current proposal is for a 20 single family residences. Field trip will be able to see first-hand the current traffic impacts and other points of interest that have been talked about in DAC meetings. This site is also across the street from the 9-acre Oro Vista Park which sits at the back of the Angeles National Golf Course site. After the field trip, approximately 7:30 p.m., everyone will return to N. Valley City Hall for refreshments and the DAC meeting.

Bylaws (Bill Skiles/Mark Seigel) The bylaws changes were tabled for lack of time. A new meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 30, 7 p.m. at N. Valley City Hall to consider the following changes:

- 1) Article VI changes to the STNC Bylaws v. 2.72
- 2) Tier 2 changes to STNC Bylaws v. 2.72
- 3) Updated copy of STNC Standing Rules.

#### 8. **Board Member Reports**

- a. Lydia Grant, Education rep. spoke about the progress she is making with efforts to get the community involved with the LAUSD. Input is coming in from stakeholders. She is now looking for community involvement to create a survey for stakeholders on local school issues. She is also working on efforts to open the pool at Verdugo Hills High school to the community year round and getting an observatory built at Mt. Gleason Middle School.
- b. David Cain, District 3, talked about local crime in his area: Commerce east, Foothill north. They have had some break ins into cars but have gotten a good response from LAPD on curbing gang activity.
- c. Dan McManus, District 4: They are planning a pancake breakfast and are looking for a good location on Foothill.
- d. Dan McManus, Outreach chair: Dan talked about the success of the STNC/Boosters sponsored Fireworks event on July 4<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the

- different contributors. The committee is now disbanded. The next Outreach meeting is Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at Joselitos West, 1 p.m.
- e. Nina Royal, Safety Committee chair said the local fireworks display was 'incident free' on July 4<sup>th</sup>. She is looking for help in trying to get funding for a local park where skateboarders can practice. CPAB meets on Thursday, July 12 at Villa Scalabrini in Sun Valley.
  - f. Victor Castro, DAC chair, noted that the fireworks had the largest turnout of previous years. Expenses were approximately \$18,000, while income was \$21,000. Final report to follow.
  - g. Andy Rodriguez, S-T SERVS Committee, announced a Safety presentation, July 25<sup>th</sup> at the Elks Lodge. On August 28<sup>th</sup> the new CERT training begins. It will run for eight weeks. Training and be held at 7:30 p.m. each week.
  - h. John Blue, Media rep. talked about the creation of 'Project Green Book,' which will be a database of local trails in the area, wildlife, and historic and Native American sites. This database will be drawn upon when developers are proposing to build in the area. He is looking for people who have lived in this area for a long time and who have information to provide to the database.
  - i. Ricky Grubb, Environmental rep., talked about the new recycling program of Dept. of Public Works saying it has been a huge success. He noted that they are now trying to expand the residential program to apartment residents.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:26 p.m.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, August 8, 2007 - [www.stnc.org](http://www.stnc.org)**

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