

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Minutes

Wednesday, August 8, 2007 – 7:00 PM

Mt. Gleason Middle School

10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue – Sunland

Attendance: 46. 15 board members, 31 stakeholders.

1. **Call to Order** by Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson: 7:12 p.m.

Introduction of STNC Board, Elected Officials, City staff, LAPD Sr. Leads, new DONE rep. Melvin Canas, handouts, notices, sign-in sheets, speaker cards, timer.

Roll Call: Lydia Grant, Dan McManus, Olina Lowe, Bill Manning, Mark Seigel, Linda Brand, Ricky Grubb, Tim Borquez, Allen Rodriguez, Richard Stewart, Cindy Cleghorn plus Shirley Kellstrom, parliamentarian. John Blue and Vic Castro arrived after roll call. Absent: Chrissa Villanueva, Janet Linsalato, John Van-Es.

2. **CD2 Report:** Dale Thrush, planning deputy for City Councilmember Wendy Greuel gave an update on the reversal of the North Valley Area Planning Commission's appeal by PLUM (L.A. City Council's Planning and Land Use committee). Two other Councilmembers voted with Councilmember Greuel declaring Home Depot a project. This effectively reverses the July 19th decision by the North Valley Area Planning Commission. The City Council will vote no later than Aug. 21 on PLUM's recommendation declaring Home Depot a 'project.' Dale said ten votes are required to validate that ruling. Coverage will take place on Channel 35 – for those who cannot get to the meeting. STNC is sponsoring a bus to transport stakeholders to the City Council for that meeting.

At the August 2, 2007 hearing of the North Valley Area Planning commission hearing they denied the Tujunga Valero gas station at Foothill/Marcus an appeal for off sale beer and wine license and denied Discount Tire's appeal to operate an automotive business at the site of the former bakery shop at 6511 Foothill in Tujunga, an issue that has been ongoing since February 2006.

3. **Melvin Canas, DONE project coordinator** was introduced. Melvin is replacing Amelia Herrera-Robles as our DONE rep. Melvin has served with DONE for six years working with Central and East L.A. neighborhood councils. Melvin announced that the L.A.P.D. is offering neighborhood councils a \$1,000 incentive to help LAPD recruit new police officers. The bonus is payable after the prospective officers recommended by NCs complete the police academy. In conjunction with the Mayor's Million Trees campaign, NCs are asked to host tree planting activities. Finally, there will be a mini Congress of Neighborhoods meeting and education seminars on Saturday, August 25 from 8:30 – noon in Van Nuys. He encouraged the board to attend.

4. **Approval of July Minutes:** The board approved the approval of the July minutes with two minor revisions.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Linda Brand announced that DONE still has a different balance than STNC has on the books. The discrepancy is about an \$80,000 difference in our favor. She believes this is because the bank account the STNC formerly used has not provided up to date balances to DONE. She will try to get this corrected by the next meeting. The current balance in the treasury is about \$67,000.

6. Committee & Rep. Reports:

Outreach Committee (Dan McManus, Outreach Chairman) invited the board and stakeholders to support the Watermelon Festival this weekend. Help is needed at the STNC booth. Call him to volunteer: 818 353-0063. The Outreach Committee will hold their next meeting on Saturday at the Watermelon Festival. District 4 reps are planning to hold either a pancake breakfast or a fundraising dinner in September and possibly, a booth at the Home Show at the LA Convention Center in the future.

Education (Lydia Grant, Chairperson): Lydia spoke about a heated issue at Mt. Gleason Middle School with administration and parents. She said parents have been kept out of the decision making process and major changes have been made that will affect students in terms of length of classes and their participation in clubs as well as other concerns. Of specific significance was the recent removal of a LAUSD director. She asked the community to attend a meeting Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007 at 7 p.m. at North Valley City Hall in Tujunga. She urged parents to not remove their children from the local schools but to help them resolve these issues.

Interfaith – Richard Stewart said he supports Lydia’s efforts and asked the community to attend the aforementioned meeting.

Environmental and Wildlife - Ricky Grubb is working on creating a local nursery that would rescue local trees and plant new native plants in the area. He would like information on getting native plants from the Million Trees Initiative.

Media – John Blue – no report.

Business – Saro Minassian- absent (out of the country)

Arts & Culture – Tim Borquez is working with the Foothill Performing Arts Council to put on a local production of “Scrooge” this December. They are looking for volunteers in the community to audition, make costumes, etc. The event will be held at New Hope Community Church behind Alan’s Flowers on Oro Vista.

Youth – Chrissa Villanueva – absent.

District 1 Rep - Olina Lowe is interested in representing the businesses in her area and helping resolve any concerns they may have.

District 1 Rep - Bill Manning is focused on resolving local traffic and speeding issues by asking the community to help police by noting license plates and any incidents that occur.

ST-SERVS – Allen Rodriguez announced the next CPR training will be held August 25, 2007 at the Elks Lodge and on August 28, a new series of CERT trainings will begin. The fee is \$20.00.

Public Comments:

- Deborah Ray announced an upcoming Community Planning meeting Aug 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at North Valley City Hall. There will be a letter writing campaign to City Council members. They are also planning a bus trip on August 15 to City Hall.
- Mark Dodell asked if anyone else is having cell phone problems with AT&T, formerly Cingular. He would like to know how they could get the phone service to improve.

Public hearing announcements: Cindy read information on upcoming hearings including one to be held on Friday, Aug. 24, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Marvin Braude Center on a public nuisance determination regarding the Canyon Market at 7421 Hillrose Street.

7. Safety Committee - Nina Royal, Chairperson said the police have told her they will be requesting funding from the NCs for the purchase and maintenance of Lojack monitoring equipment. They need each NC in five areas to provide about \$200.00 (for a \$1,000 total) for the purchase and another \$200 per NC, per year, for the maintenance of a computer system. Also the fire department is going to be asking for \$400.00 (from two NCs for a total of \$800.00) for a new water truck. Nina also talked about issues with alcohol beverage licenses being issued, something she is looking into further. The CPR and First Aid classes are \$20 at the Elks Lodge starting Aug. 25; the CERT starting Aug. 28 training is free. It will run seven weeks on Tuesday evenings. It is open to anyone 18 or older.

8. Design Advisory Committee (Victor M. Castro, IV, DAC Chairman) presented four DAC recommendations for STNC board approval:

- 1. Approval of a 'by right' project at 7650 Day Street pending liaison with and approval by Debby Beck (DAC) for color and design improvements,**
- 2. That a letter from STNC be submitted to the Planning Department, Council member Wendy Greuel and the Dept. of Transportation pointing out the large number of projects on Samoa Ave. in Tujunga and asking for a review process for the cumulative impact in this and other areas,**
- 3. That a letter from STNC be sent to Council member Wendy Greuel encouraging her to request an EIR (environmental impact report) of Verdugo Hills Golf Course development,**
- 4. That the STNC support a subdivision at 9069 Foothill Blvd. in Sunland, a (private) subdivision of (one) large lot for (two) family homes and recommend that the city pay particular attention to the earthquake, geology and soil issues in this request. The area suffered extreme damage during 1971 and 1994 earthquakes making the surround properties sensitive to any hillside grading. And that they further recommend the owner seek opinion or support in writing from surrounding neighbors and that the architectural design be compatible with surrounding homes.**

a. CD2's Dale Thrush gave an update on the Sunland-Tujunga FAR/ICO & Citywide Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, which passed the City Council's PLUM Committee. Both now await the City Council's vote after they return from vacation. The Sunland Tujunga FAR/ICO expires September 25, 2007.

In reference to item #4, Manssour Tabrizi addressed the board regarding the property at 9060 Foothill Blvd. which his father purchased twenty years ago. The lot in Sunland is now vacant. Tabrizi and his brother, both of whom grew up in Sunland, want to build two homes for their new families next to their parents. The lot would be divided into two and they would use native trees like jacaranda and oak.

Ricky Grubb asked that an item to be added to the DAC's next agenda regarding the west end of Apperson Street and Yates Ave.

Other issues discussed by Victor regarding a possible lease/sale of the Ralph's property in Sunland, a closed gas station at Apperson and Foothill, and activity at the former Arigato

restaurant on Foothill in Tujunga. Next month, the rep from Angeles National Golf Course will come before DAC to update the board on developments. Approximately \$2,280 in proceeds were made by the July 4th fireworks event held at Verdugo Hills High School. Linda Brand said this would contribute about \$1,000 to the community toward a pocket park. A wrap up meeting will be scheduled soon to set the timeline for next year's event.

9. Bylaws (Bill Skiles/Mark Seigel) moved that STNC approve a Standing Rule recommendation: "All requests for reimbursement by Board members must be submitted within 60 days for out of pocket expenditures. Any request received beyond this 60 day limit will be submitted to the board for approval." The motion passed with one abstention.

10. New Business:

a. The board appointed Marsha Perloff as STNC's representative to the Director of Animal Welfare (DAW) program. This is a citywide program coordinated through the NCs and outside the City of L.A. About 36 NCs around the city have appointed a DAW representative who coordinates with the L.A. animal shelters. Ms. Perloff will keep the STNC up to date on legislation affecting animal welfare. For more info, see: dawslaw.blogspot.com. (Blue/Grubb) moved, "That the board sponsor Marsha Perloff as STNC rep to the DAW animal welfare group." The motion passed with one abstention.

b. (Royal/Manning) moved, "That STNC support the Coastal & Northwest San Pedro neighborhood councils efforts to preserve R1 Zoning in their community." The motion was approved unanimously.

11. Meeting Adjourned: 9:08 p.m.

A Special Meeting immediately followed for one additional emergency item

1. Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn called the Special Meeting to order at 9:08 p.m. She asked the board first approve the additional item to the Aug. 8th Special Meeting agenda pertaining to funding \$500 for bus transportation to City Hall next week for stakeholders to attend the vote on the PLUM committee recommendation to consider Home Depot a 'project.' The motion to add the item was approved.

(Seigel) moved, "That the STNC approve up to \$500 for bus transportation for stakeholders to City Council meeting to be held by August 21, 2007." (Royal/Borquez) made a friendly amendment to increase that amount to "not exceed \$700." The motion carried unanimously.

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 9: 16 p.m.

Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, Apple One.

Next STNC Meeting – Wednesday, September 12, 2007