

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

Mt. Gleason Middle School, 10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue – Sunland, CA

Attendance: 107 stakeholders, 16 board members.

1. Call to Order: 7:07 p.m. by STNC Chairperson, Cindy Cleghorn. Pledge of Allegiance let by Girl Scout Troop #1246. Introduction of elected officials' representatives, DONE rep., request for stakeholders to sign-in and fill out speaker cards.

Roll Call: Richard Stewart, Allen Rodriguez, Bill Manning, Olina Lowe, Jenny Rodriguez, Mark Seigel, Linda Brand, Cindy Cleghorn, Nina Royal, Jeannine Crowley, Dan McManus, Ricky Grubb, David Cain, Lydia Grant, Victor Castro and John Blue. Excused Absences: Shirley Kellstrom, also Chrissa Villanueva, Janet Linsalato, John Van-Es and Saro Minassian.

2. 9/11 Remembrance Presentation: Captain Stacey Gerlich of the Los Angeles City Fire Department spoke about her experience at Ground Zero at the 9-11 site in New York City. She shared her recollections and stressed the importance of being ready for any future catastrophes in our own area, i.e., the possibility of a major earthquake anticipated in the next thirty years. Captain Gerlich encouraged all stakeholders to take the free, 7-week Certified Emergency Response Training (CERT). Captain Gerlich was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation and a special commendation for improving safety in the STNC area. Nina Royal added that 61 police officers lost their lives in 9-11.

3. LAPD: LOJAC Funding Presentation: LAPD's Detective Tom Barnhardt and Officer Bobby Royal of the multidivision task force, Community Effort to Combat Auto Thefts, requested funding for two, portable LOJAC instruments at \$1,000 each. There is also a set-up fee of \$350, plus \$120 per month for airtime. The Safety Committee recommended a \$500.00 contribution for 2007-08 and \$250 per year thereafter. Safety Committee Chair Nina Royal noted that other NCs will also be contributing to this fund. **(McManus) moved to approve the Safety Committee's recommendation. The motion carried: 12-2-2.**

Community Safety Fair: Nina announced the Safety Fair takes place September 22, noon - 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes School.

Safety Report: Tujunga Senior Lead Officer Frank Avila reports crime was up 40% at the beginning of 2007 but has decreased to a 3.6% above last year, mostly attributed to grand theft auto and auto break-ins. LOJACs will help bring that down further. Of the 19 divisions in L.A., Sunland – Tujunga has the second lowest crime rate in the city. He advised motorists to be cautious where they park their vehicles and not leave valuable items in sight in the car. October 20, 11:00 – 3 p.m. there will be an Open House at the

Foothill Division. Children are invited to attend in Halloween costumes.

4. Outreach Committee Report, Dan McManus: Outreach meets at Joselito's in Tujunga on Saturday, September 15 at 1 p.m. A Pancake Breakfast hosted by STNC District 4 reps takes place September 22, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. at Coffee Stop. A brainstorming session follows.

5. Girl Scout Troop 1246: Education Chair Lydia Grant awarded Silver Star Awards to six Girl Scouts who assembled backpacks with school supplies for needy students. The backpacks were presented to a L.A. Unified School District representative. The Troop received a Certificate of Recognition and a Certificate of Appreciation from STNC. Lydia reported over 60 homeless students in the STNC schools. She would like to see this as an ongoing annual event.

6. NATIVE PLANT RESCUE, Environmental Representative Ricky Grubb presented a slide show on the Community Native Plant Rescue Nursery, which currently has a test site transplant location to preserve native plants at McGroarty Arts Center. This effort will be partially funded with tax dollars. Ricky noted that he was inspired by finding the rare, native endangered plant Berberis Nevinn found on his own property. Mark Seigel suggested the area known as 'Jurassic Park' (past 210 freeway off Sunland Blvd.) as a future site for this project. John Blue asked if the DAC could put forth a motion to protect native plants for all future proposals for development. This will be forwarded to the DAC for future consideration.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:Mark Seigel announced 8-week Ham Radio classes will begin September 18, 7 - 9 p.m. at the Municipal Bldg. On Nov. 7th the FCC test takes place. He also added he is concerned about dropping API/APY scores for the local schools' scores in the most recent scoring period.

Cindy Cleghorn announced the 3rd Annual Kiwanis "Adopt a Duck" event October 20 in the City of Glendale. \$5.00 to adopt a duck.

CD2's Jackie Keene announced the 16th Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held September 15 in Sherman Oaks. The 1st Annual Senior Celebration is Thursday, September 27 at the Woodley Park Amphitheater in Van Nuys with free bus service to seniors from Sunland Park. The annual Child Health and Safety Fair is October 6th at Valley Plaza Park. Parent volunteers are being trained for safety drop offs at schools. For more info, call the Council member's office.

Tay Aston, Mt. Gleason Elementary teacher, stated misinformation expressed at the last Education meeting. She said parents have been involved in decision-making and offered to meet with any interested parents to answer questions or take feedback. She noted there are several committees in which parent input is needed including School Site Council, which determines how monies are spent at the school level.

Andrea Manning of Shadow Hills Presbyterian Church announced their upcoming fundraiser for work with the homeless and other outreach programs. Dine at Dominick's Italian Restaurant in La Crescenta on September 26, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Nell Skillsky spoke of the 501c3 non profit animal rescue organization Wildlife Way Station that is in dire straits and could lose its ability to rescue native and exotic wild animals. The issue is over zoning, which is currently for agricultural. They have been operating under a conditional use permit, renewed every five years.

Bob Friend, WW board member gave a history of the Wildlife Waystation, founded in 1976. It has aided 76,000 animals over the years. A longer presentation will be given at a later date.

Elaine Brown also requested funding for the Wildlife Way Station. She supports this organization strongly.

Also, Elaine is President of Commerce Owners Business Restoration (COBRA). She needs 200 volunteers for a community improvement project to take place at Tujunga Canyon and Commerce (three hours per person) involves painting, planting, digging, etc. Date to be determined.

Lloyd Hitt, President of Bolton Hall Museum, announced a new exhibit celebrating local sports figures through history. He also asked for signatures on the petition to save the Verdugo Golf Course as a “Green” area to be used for public recreational activities.

Karen Clark, local homeowner, is working on the campaign to save the Verdugo Hills Golf Course (savethegolfcourse@gmail.com) from land speculators. Her group had made door-to-door canvassing.

Mark Seigel asked the public to support local proprietors Coffee Stop in Sunland and acknowledged pizza by Guido’s in Tujunga.

8. **TREASURER’S REPORT**, Linda Brand reported STNC’s bank balance is now just short of \$50,000. She is looking for a new bank to handle the STNC’s petty cash – other than US Bank.

9. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes were approved as corrected.**

10. **DAC REPORT**, Chairperson Vic Castro.**Dale Thrush, CD 2’s Planning Deputy** said Home Depot construction is at a standstill, since the City Council voted to overturn the North Area Valley Planning Commission’s ruling. They now have three options:

1. To walk away and cut losses.
2. They can sue the City to try to over turn their decision.
3. They can comply with environmental and all pertinent regulations. Since they are paying a significant rental rate each month, Dale believes they will make a decision pretty soon.

Slope Density: On irregularities in the former Slope Density ordinance, revisions have taken place. The City Council and mayor have approved the changes and the new law will become effective as of Monday, Sept. 17th. The ordinance details minimum density criteria and other critical land use particulars for development.

Land Use element of General Plan has also been inconsistent with respect to land use applications. Council member Greuel submitted a motion to amend the General Plan and it goes to the City Council later in the week. Formerly there was a very complicated process under the General Plan regarding zoning.

S-T Mansionization Ordinance will be approved this week, renewing limits on building mansions in the STNC area

Abby Diamond, No Home Depot Campaign: There is a huge legal bill as a result of their efforts. They are looking for donations of any amount to help with the legal expenses.

Tomi Lyn Bowling: Reported that bolders have been moved from the corner of Oro Vista by the vacant land owned by Angeles National Forest. Transients have created a safety hazard, there have been stolen cars deposited on that property. There is a urgent need for a community clean up at this site. DAC is trying to put this together. They are also looking for help with horse trails on this property.

Vic talked about the South Trail being a concern to DAC. He is thinking about setting up a field trip to the site. He also talked about a steel plate on Foothill Blvd. and why it is still on the road. He invited the Wildlife Waystation to make a presentation before the DAC. DAC is looking for community input for the future Community Plan. Next meeting of DAC is Monday, Sept. 17 at 7 p.m.

Committee Reports:

LA DWP Rate Increases: **(Cain/Grubb) moved that STNC not support Los Angeles DWP proposed rate increases. The motion carried unanimously.**

Lady of Lourdes Expenses: **(Rodriguez/Seigel) moved STNC's Safety Committee fund \$430 for this item. The motion carried unanimously.** STNC's logo will be placed on the Church's banners and flyers.

Board Member Reports:

Olina Lowe, District 1, reported that Little Landers Historical Society's Bolton Hall Museum needs funding to install air-conditioning. This is a Los Angeles Historical Monument built in 1913. Donna Larson is spearheading this Committee and is seeking three cost estimates. Also, Olina recently visited the Sunland Senior Center to ask how STNC can help with their needs. Their requests included a 100-cup coffee - making Urn, 2 wheeled serving carts, 10 armless stackable chairs for their knitting classes, long plastic table cloths, cork bulletin boards, additional metal folding chairs. All these items are within the budget request of \$750. **(Lowe/Seigel) moved to approve the \$750.00 expenditure for the Sunland Senior Center.** Treasurer Linda Brand suggested this item falls under "Outreach."

(Brand/Royal) moved to table the motion for consideration by the Outreach Committee at their next meeting. Motion carried: 11 -3-0.

Bylaws Committee:

(Seigel/McManus) moved three wording changes to the STNC

bylaws:

1. Change the name of “Director” to “Representative.”
2. Change the word “District” to “Region.”
3. Change title from “Chairman” and “Vice Chairman” to “President” and “Vice President.”

The motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Comments:

Victor Castro: **(Castro/Seigel) moved that a letter to support the preservation of the Historic Preservation Overlay Zone for 91 stone houses in Stonehurst. A letter will be sent to City Planning regarding this decision for passage of the HPOZ. The motion carried unanimously.**

John Blue moved that the board direct the DAC that all future plantings include 50% - 100% native plants.” Motion to be forwarded to the DAC. Blue then moved that STNC send a letter to County Supervisor Antonovich and City Council member Wendy Greuel to support to the Wildlife Way Station. This was also forwarded to the DAC.

Communications, STNC Chair Cindy Cleghorn:

Board Member Resignations: Cindy Cleghorn informed the board of two open seats as a result of resignations by Janet Linsalato, District 3, and John Van-Es, District 2. Areas include Commerce to Lowell and Commerce to Mt. Gleason.

Neighborhood Council Review Commission has one final meeting on Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

Councilmember Greig Smith seeking NC support on Los Lomas.

Neighborhood Council Self - Assessment forms are now available.

Lydia Grant congratulated Verdugo Hills High School on receiving a \$10,000 grant to prepare students for an occupation in the health care industry.

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

Minutes taken by Board Member Olina F. R. Lowe with transcript of minutes provided by Pat Kramer, Apple One.