

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

Attendance: 83, 15 Board Members, 69 Stakeholders.

1. Call to Order - Cindy Cleghorn, Chairperson: 7:04 p.m.

Introduction of elected officials and city reps: Jackie Keene, CD2 & Senior Lead LAPD Officer Larry Martinez: Officer Martinez talked about safety tips for Halloween and invited the public to the Foothill Police Station's Open House on October 20th. There is a Senior Lead Police Officer's Summit, which the public can attend on October 16th at 7 p.m. Crime statistics: To date crime is down 22.8% in the STNC area. The biggest crime problems continue to be property crimes with an increase in grand theft auto around the Foothill – Oro Vista- Mt. Gleason area. Police have made 7 or 8 arrests for this so auto theft should be going down too as well as break-ins to homes. They are still working on the transient problem in Sunland Park and the Tujunga Wash.

Roll Call: Board members present: Richard Stewart, Allen Rodriguez, Jenny Rodriguez, Mark Seigel, Jeannine Crowley, Cindy Cleghorn, Nina Royal, Bill Manning, Olina Lowe, Dan McManus, Linda Brand, Tim Borquez, Lydia Grant, Vic Castro and John Blue. Quorum achieved with fifteen.

2. Presentation: Wildlife Waystation: Kat Meredith, Karen Suter and Dana Staegel gave a presentation of the financial problems facing the wild animal refuge, Wildlife Waystation, located on Little Tujunga Canyon Road. It is in dire need of finances, resources and volunteers since the public tours were prohibited. WW reps say they don't know when they can correct the regulatory requirements due to a lack of money. Many many animals rely upon this unique facility for their lives, which is estimated to cost \$5,000 a day for upkeep, and its goals as well as challenges. They are asking the public to help finance operations in return for giving educational presentations onsite at different companies, schools, or facilities. They need the public's help in getting the word out and also need more volunteers to work on site. Two animals also stopped by for a visit.

3. Presentation/Discussion/Action: S-T Rotary Club – Mike Lucas, Community Beautification Project. Mike spoke about projects the Sunland-Tujunga Rotary is known for (4th of July Parade) and talked about plans to install trash receptacles along Foothill Blvd. from Tujunga to Shadow Hills. They are working with CD2, Councilmember Wendy Greuel to obtain grants for this beautification project. They also are starting to do educational outreach to children in the S-T schools about keeping the community clean. Mike asked anyone who is interested in helping with beautification project to attend their weekly dinner meeting at Coco's on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

(McMannus/Royal) moved that STNC support the Sunland-Tujunga Rotary's Beautification Project. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Approval of Minutes** for September's board meeting were approved without objection.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Linda Brand reported that the Budget Committee has opened a new account at US Bank so checks can be written for petty cash.

6. **Outreach Committee:** Outreach Chair Dan McManus invited the public to attend a Pancake Breakfast this Sunday at the Coffee Stop on Foothill Boulevard. As part of the Outreach budget, the Outreach Committee recommended approval of Item 12, tabled from the Sept. meeting to help the Sunland Senior Center with a needed purchase. **(Lowe/Seigel) moved that STNC approve up to \$200 for the purchase of a 100 - cup coffee pot for the Sunland Senior Center. An engraved tag with credit to the STNC is included in the cost. The motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Public Comment:**

- CD2 Deputy Jackie Keene said the Council office has donations of bottled water available for community meetings. They are available to those who need them for public meetings. The Council Office has started a pilot program where they are videotaping crime using the Q - Star camera system. This program is resulting in more arrests, specifically for tagging. She would like STNC to think about purchasing these cameras to enhance police surveillance. The Council Office is also taking donations of old cell phones. The money raised will fund breakfasts for underprivileged kid's in the local schools. There are no updates on Home Depot at this time.
- Tomi Lyn Bowling announced a Community Clean up taking place on Oct 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the end of Tujunga Valley Street in Tujunga Wash. There will be a great deal of community participation. Anyone can attend and help out.
- Elaine Brown gave a report as a member of the Tujunga Watershed - Steering Committee Report on the Overall Projects .She said several areas targeted for protection in the STNC area for preservation of local aquifers have been passed over by the Watershed Committee. She will continue to bring attention to them at the next meeting, which could be several months away.
- Regarding the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, Councilmember Greuel has put forth a motion to keep it from being developed. The developers who purchased the land have submitted plans to build over 200 new homes. The builder has now agreed to do an Environmental Impact Report.
- Lloyd Hitt, Little Landers Historical Society, said efforts are now underway to find the next Sunland-Tujunga poet laureate. There are also plans to present a historical look at Route 66 this Saturday at Bolton Hall.

- Shirin Buckman of the L.A. City Human Relations Commission introduced herself and explained that the commission works on resolving election issues and helps provide outreach to diverse communities.
- Nina Royal announced that the new issue of the North Valley Reporter is available and is free.
- Jeannine Crowley shared a PowerPoint presentation with photos taken by STNC Environmental Rep. Ricky Grubb. Plans are to produce a calendar with these images.
- Bill Manning spoke about a proposal for beautification in Shadow Hills involving a welcome sign and a possible animal watering facility. They need a grant to fund this. It will cost about \$10,000. Bill asked stakeholders to commit ten hours to supporting community beautification. Also, there is a street clean up taking place on Sunland Blvd. this weekend sponsored by the Presbyterian Church.

8. Board Member Reports:

- a. Interfaith - Richard Stewart: None.
- b. Education - Lydia Grant said she is putting together lists of what items the different schools are collecting for fundraising efforts. She will issue a list and will collect these items at the STNC meetings. She also mentioned that she attended an inspection of Verdugo Hills HS's campus and was very impressed with the school's preparedness.
- c. Media - John Blue said there is an effort underway by the city to use a dangerous insecticide that is a neurotoxin. Although the EPA has approved it, he said it could multiply in toxicity when it gets into the food chain. John circulated a recent article on it in the L.A. Times on methiodide. He is requesting STNC look into regional outreach among NCs in the City to oppose the use of this chemical.
- d. Arts & Culture - Tim Borquez reported that plans are underway by the Foothills Performing Arts Council for a community Holiday Musical Production to be held Dec. 13 – 16th at New Hope Community Church (Oro Vista/Foothill). It will feature kids 8 – 12, teenage dancers, and provide a holiday variety show with holiday and pop music. The admission price will be \$5 for adults; students, seniors, and kids will be free. He asked the public to volunteer to help with the production.
- e. ST-SERVS/Safety Committee - Allen Rodriguez: No report.
- f. Safety - Nina Royal: The recent CERT class graduated 25 people but the Safety Fair was rained out. She encouraged the public to attend the Police Senior Lead Summit at Arleta High School on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. Oct. 20 is the Open House at Foothill Division. Nov. 1st is Officer Appreciation Day. On Nov. 11th, a Veterans Day Parade will be held on Brand Blvd by Laurel Canyon.
- g. Neighborhood Preparedness - Olina Lowe, the Ambassador to this program attended a recent emergency preparedness training. She urged the public to stock up on water and canned goods as earthquake

predictions are certain that there will be another major earthquake in the next 30 years in Southern California.

- h. Outreach - Dan McManus asked for people to help with the pancake breakfast event.
- i. Correspondence: Cindy Cleghorn invited the public to the Mayor's Budget Day at City Hall, Saturday, Oct. 13th and the Congress of Neighborhoods, Saturday, Oct. 27 at the L.A. Convention Center. Tierra del Sol's Fall Festival is Sat. Oct. 20 at 9919 Sunland Blvd., Sunland.

9. **Chair's Report:** Neighborhood Council Review Commission – Cindy, who was a commissioner on the NCRC, reviewed some of the recommendations proposed to improve the neighborhood council system in L.A. The complete report can be read on the STNC website or at: www.ncrccla.org. Also of interest, the DWP has approved the proposed rate hike for the utility company despite opposition by NCs throughout the city.

NALEO Communications Workshop: Two STNC reps attended the National Association of Latino Elected Officials. Alan Rodriguez said this workshop taught them important communication points and to always keep in mind the image they portray since they are representing the community as a whole. As such, all the board members need to be cohesive in presenting the missions and goals of STNC to set a better impression to the public at large.

10. **Design Advisory Committee** - (Castro/Borquez) moved that STNC approve the following motions:

- a. **The DAC recommended supporting Angelenos for Sensible**
- b. **Development's goals in regards to the Citywide Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (CPC-2007-160-CA) while also stating that STNC should have its own mansionization ordinance.**
- c. **DAC recommends STNC support its recommendation for zone change at 10637 Mt. Gleason to RD5 zoning as recommended by the owner. Strict conditions related to height, single story, and access from Mt. Gleason, only, are made part of the recommendation. Additionally, that the CC&Rs require garage parking of all homeowners and the erecting of the two parking spaces as discussed behind the owner's front house in order to minimize parking difficulties. Note: The owner was asked to use native plants offered by the STNC Environmental rep and to obtain the neighbors' list of concerns.**
- d. **DAC recommends STNC write a letter of support for LA County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's recommended modifications to L.A. City's draft ordinance (opposing Senate Bill 1818) thereby minimizing the damage to the quality of life in Sunland-Tujunga.**

The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Victor M. Castro, IV announced the next scheduled DAC meeting will include a field trip to Verduo Hills Golf Course and that the meeting will be held there.

11. **Presentation on Las Lomas** by Mark Edwards, The Afriat Consulting Group: Mr. Edwards gave an overview on the Las Lomas development proposal for 555 acres at the junction of Interstates 5 & 14. His group recommends opposing this massive project which would build 5,800 units of housing, a retail development, and a 300 room hotel in a 2 million 775 sq. ft. complex. He spoke about how it would impede traffic further, particularly for commutes in Santa Clarita and the Antelope Valley. The City of Santa Clarita is opposing Las Lomas.

The DAC recommends opposing this project as the official STNC position regarding **CF 07-2079**, the Proposed Las Lomas Development Project saying the city is already over impacted.

References: Councilmember Greig Smith White Paper dated Sept. 10, 2007 and Las Lomas Land Company, LLC letter of Sept. 14, 2007.

12. Committee Reports

- a. Bylaws (Seigel/Skiles) of the bylaws committee recommended several bylaw changes to the STNC Executive Committee structure recommending the board have two vice presidents (instead of one); one VP would assume outreach chair duties while the other would be in charge of community improvement projects with oversight of some other committees; and that the Recording Secretary not be an elected position on the board. **(Lowe/Blue) made a friendly amendment to change the title of Corresponding Secretary to Secretary. The motion carried with the changes noted: 13-1-1.**
- b. DWP/MOU - Update on DWP rate increases (David Cain). Tabled.

13. New Business:

- a. Appoint STNC 2008 Board Elections Committee: **(Royal/McManus) moved to appoint Cindy Cleghorn as Elections Committee chair. Motion carried unanimously.** Bill Manning and Mark Seigel will be committee members. Note: Vice Chair, Victor Castro, IV stepped in to chair the meeting for this motion.
- b. **(Borquez/Royal) moved to instruct the STNC Elections Committee to explore and promote opportunity to coordinate board elections with the Foothill Trails District and Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Councils in an effort to expand outreach efforts. The motion carried unanimously.**
- c. To appoint District 2 and District 3 reps to the STNC board. Tabled.

14: Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m. **Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, Apple One.**