

**STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2007**  
**North Valley Neighborhood City Hall**  
**7747 Foothill Blvd. – Tujunga**

84 in attendance, 15 board members

1. **Call to Order** - Cindy Cleghorn, STNC President. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. **CD2:** Cindy introduced Dale Thrush: CD2 Planning Director.  
Verdugo Hills Golf Course: Dale reiterated the need to get their comments in by Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007 to: David Somers, Environmental Review Coordinator, Environmental Review Section, Department of City Planning, 200 N. Spring Street, Rm. 750, Los Angeles, CA 9002.

Dale said financing is being put together for the possible purchase of the golf course with Supervisor Antonovich's commitment of \$1.7. Councilmember Greuel has committed her total QIMBY monies: about \$500,000 toward the purchase.

**Home Depot update:** Dale said that HD has requested 3 lockdown permits from the Planning Department to weatherproof the building (former K Mart). This includes an electrical permit of unknown scope and a heating, ventilating and air conditioning permit. Councilmember Greuel said she will not oppose these permits if they are legitimate and not used to further the project.

**Roll Call:** Board members present: David Cain, Saro Minassian, Olina Lowe, Bill Manning, Nina Royal, Cindy Cleghorn, Richard Stewart, Linda Brand, Allen Rodriguez, Mark Seigel, Dan McManus, Ricky Grubb, Lydia Grant, John Blue, Tim Borquez.

**Safety Report:** Nina Royal introduced Captain Ivan Minsal, who is replacing Captain Zipperman for overseeing the STNC area. Capt. Minsal then addressed stakeholders on the crime in the area saying that although there was a homicide last week, violent crime is almost non-existent. The real issue is property crime. He advised everyone to keep their cars and homes locked at all times. Last week, there were 13 incidents including 3 car thefts. Regarding the homicide on Samoa, four arrests have been made. The Captain said that gang crime and narcotics were involved. He talked about the efforts of the Volunteer Surveillance Team whose help led to 75 arrests. When asked about how to deal with gangs, he told stakeholders to not show their fear, to avoid trying to play police, but rather, to call the police with reports so they can track what is happening.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** No action.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** No report.

## 5. Public Comment:

a. Neighbors on Airlie Drive – Several neighbors stood up and talked about a barbed wire fence at 7600 Airlie Drive, erected by a property owner. Concerns included: loud noise created by orange construction materials flapping in the wind, a loss of scenery, blocking of a scenic trail (Rim of the Valley Trail), obstruction of a wildlife corridor, and public Safety concerns for emergency vehicles' access.

Jim Stopp, a neighbor on Airlie Drive, said the fence goes around a 34 - acre parcel. It was built by the land owner, a private contractor who is upset because he couldn't get a zoning variance. Jim said the fence is ugly and is affecting neighbors' property values.

Joe Franco, another neighbor, said it stands 10' high and runs a mile long. Doug Runyon added that the owner is a spiteful person who has reported neighbors for minor infractions.

CD2's Jackie Keene suggested that people put a petition together with as many signatures as they can regarding the fence. She is willing to organize a meeting with reps from city agencies to answer questions on this issue.

b. Home Depot's representative, Jeff Nichols, Director, Real Estate, Western Division came to speak about the permits they are requesting at the site but Dale Thrush covered it. When asked by a stakeholder whether HD would consider leasing the lot to another retailer, he said they have an obligation to their stockholders. He also said the decision to not open the Glassell Park HD store not based on public opinion or disapproval.

c. Marc Dodell, stakeholder, commented on the mailers he's received from HD.

d. Tay Aston, LAUSD/Mt. Gleason teacher talked about Mt. Gleason's rating in the LAUSD and comments made by a board member at the previous meeting.

e. Elaine Brown said that the development she has been fighting at the corner of Oro Vista and Big Tujunga Canyon was approved for up to 18 homes. Elaine is filing an appeal to the decision.

f. Tim Borquez invited the board to a community Christmas Show, Thursday – Sunday, Dec. 13 – 16th in Sunland.

g. Nina Royal invited the public to attend a fundraiser at the Elks Club on Commerce Ave featuring an omelet bar this Sunday, 9:00 – 12:30 p.m. Toy donations and food donations will be accepted.

**6. Outreach Committee Report:** Dan McManus invited the public to attend the next Outreach Meeting Sat. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at Joselitos. Outreach committee has passed motions related to saving the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. He reiterated it's important to get comments in before the end of December's deadline.

As approved by the DAC, **(McManus/Royal) moved that the DAC allocate up to \$1,000 for outreach on the Verdugo Hills Golf Course - Notice of**

**Preparation Environmental Impact Report for outreach efforts and funding, meeting announcements and updates.** The motion carried unanimously.

**(McManus/Manning) also moved to approve \$500 from the Outreach budget for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course community outreach.** The motion carried unanimously. .

**7. Bylaws Amendments (Reconsideration from 10/22/07 Board meeting).** **Mark Seigel reviewed the need** to approve amendments to STNC Bylaws including the structuring of the Executive Board (V 2.90), with 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 STNC have one secretary.

**Elections Procedure Amendments:**

Cindy reported that the next election for STNC board will be April 5, 2008, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. at N. Valley City Hall. Cindy reviewed all the information relevant to the Elections Procedures and needed changes to existing bylaws.

**(Seigel/Royal) moved that STNC approve elections procedures as presented with bylaws changes to be incorporated by the Bylaws Committee, as applicable.** The motion carried unanimously (with 15 votes).

**Bylaws Amendments:**

**(Seigel/Borquez) moved that STNC accept the Bylaws Committee's recommendations of the restructuring of the Executive Board.** The motion carried unanimously (with 15 votes).

**(Seigel/Brand) moved to modify STNC's bylaws as suggested by DONE (Revision 2.90) with the correct text provided. And that the Bylaws Committee review the final product that goes out with the final copy made available to the board.** The motion carried unanimously (with 15 votes).

b. STNC's Elections Budget Spending in the amount of \$8,000.00. The board reviewed Cindy's suggestion to spend monies allocated for advertising the election with local publications such as The Foothills Paper, North Valley Reporter, Pennysaver, Daily News, Los Angeles Times, local Armenian newspaper. Also, to coordinate a cooperative effort for a newsletter with production/printing costs covered by STNC and mailing costs covered by DONE to all S-T addresses. Postcards, banners, sandwich boards, lawn signs and other marketing items that promote participation may also be considered by the Elections committee. Costs for these suggested items to be coordinated by the STNC Elections and Budget Committees. Cindy reported that she has met with the other two, local NCs (FTDNC and SVANC) about coordinating the date of April 5<sup>th</sup> for all three NCs. There is a possibility of coordinating some advertising

with them such as a full page ad. A newsletter and door to door / face to face campaigning has been most effective at getting voters. STNC Treasurer Linda Brand stated that no vote is necessary on the amount of money to be spent as it is already set aside in the budget.

#### **8. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Environmental** – The STNC unanimously passed a motion pertaining to Whitebird Inc./Canyon Hills, the developer at 7000 – 8000 La Tuna Canyon Road, involving measures to safeguard the native plants: **(Grubb/Lowe) moved that STNC hereby directs that the City of L.A. departments and/or agencies act immediately to ensure all agreed upon environmental mitigation measures are enacted in a timely fashion. In particular, we are concerned that the Whitebird Inc. Canyon Hills project in Tujunga has commenced clearing of native plants landscape prior to the collection of seed and container stock as was agreed upon. We ask that the developer immediately provide evidence of the agreed upon preservation of native plants genetic material or cease and desist from the removal of native plants and trees and cease clearing of this natural area.** (See attached)
- b. **Arts & Culture** - Tim Borquez asked the public to support the upcoming Foothill Performing Arts Council (FPAC)'s Holiday event this weekend at the New Hope Church on Oro Vista in Sunland.
- c. **DWP/MOU** – David Cain gave an update on proposed DWP rate increases. Now that DWP has passed their own rate hikes, there is a two month reprieve for the public to respond. He asked everyone to write, email and fax the Council office opposing the rate hike, since DWP is not willing to implement any conservation or efficiency measures to save money.
- d. **Safety** – Nina Royal encouraged everyone to attend the Safety meetings. She also spoke about the telephone tax, which will be on the next meeting agenda and encouraged everyone to read up on it. Another issue of importance to watch is the proposed Las Lomas development at the intersection of Interstates 5 and 14. STNC is opposed to this due to increased traffic on an already congested area of the freeways. This week, the City Council's Budget and Finance committee met and it was reported that Councilman Alarcon was trying to fast track this issue. Las Lomas will come up on the Council agenda again around the end of January for further discussion.
- e. **ST-SERVS** - Allen Rodriguez said ST-SERVS is working on setting up new CERT and First Aid training classes for February and a safety fair in April. He advised stakeholders to keep working on their own disaster plans and put all

valuable documents in a place where they can be quickly access in an emergency.

- f. **Planning MOU/Oversight** meeting - Cindy Cleghorn said the Planning MOU is moving forward. Workshops will be held in the New Year.
- g. **Education** – Lydia Grant spoke about the Service Learning Project, a new requirement for high schools to graduate students. Mr. Tejeda is the key person for this and he is inviting offers from the community business people to get the high school kids involved in projects going on in the community. Members of STNC spoke to the students about the Neighborhood Council and what it does. Lydia also met with Brad Smith of Environmental Safety to discuss a problematic issue of high school kids causing problems at the bus stop on Foothill after school. Vons is responding to this by creating a Loss Prevention program and adding security during the time when the students flood the store. Lydia responded to comments made about her reports regarding Mt. Gleason dealing with bathrooms being locked and a Health and Safety Plan not being visible during an inspection. She said the bathrooms were locked for safety issues and that the Emergency Plan was in place, it just wasn't accessible during the inspection because the staff at the office didn't know where it was.

#### **9. Board Member Reports**

- a. Olina Lowe asked stakeholders to support our two local papers.
- b. Richard Stewart – Interfaith Rep – announced the Clergy Council's community day and multi faith prayer breakfast. More info in January.
- c. John Blue – Media Rep – reported a new safety issue for parents with babies. There is a certain type of baby bottle that has been leaching chemicals into baby's formulas. He said the name of the brand is available on a document he brought to the meeting listing safe and unsafe baby bottles.

#### **10. STNC Opposition to use of methyl iodide:**

**(Blue/Stewart) moved that STNC accept the following motion as stated:**

**1) We urge the California Governor and California Department of Pesticide Regulation to stand fast in their resistance to the fast-tracking approval of this dangerous pesticide methyl iodide, and;**

**2) We inform the California Strawberry Commission and other commercial venues considering the use of methyl iodide of our (and soon other Neighborhood Councils') opposition to this dangerous pesticide methyl iodide, and:**

**3) We demand the EPA explain in writing to us whether the former Chief Executive of the private for-profit trans-national corporation ARYSTA LIFE SCIENCE CORP., Elin Miller, now a top official at EPA, had ANY oversight, influence, or persuasion at all in the sudden EPA approval for the use of ARYSTA'S new pesticide containing methyl iodide, and;**

**4) We send copies of this news article and this motion and our subsequent correspondences to all other Neighborhood Councils in the Los Angeles area, and;**

**5) We correspond with some of the Nobel Laureates and concerned scientists mentioned in the news article and ask for copies of their documentation in opposition to methyl iodide.** The motion carried unanimously.

John reported that with Lydia Grant's help, students in the Sunland/Tujunga area will be taking part in the campaign by writing letters of opposition. John said because this lethal chemical moves through the food chain, it is a flagpole issue that could affect future generations. He is interested in getting the word out to other NCs about the importance of taking action on this issue.

**11. Meeting Adjourned: 9:44 p.m.**

*Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, Apple One.*