

**STNC Monthly Board Meeting
February 13, 2008
Mt. Gleason Middle School
110965 Mt. Gleason Ave., Sunland**

Attendance 71, Board members: 11: Audience: 59.

Elections Training Meeting

6:30 p.m. Independent Elections Administrator Joann Deutch held a candidates information session for those running for the next STNC election. Interested candidates are: Ricky Grubb as Environmental rep, John Blue representing Bolton Hall, Dan McManus as President, Nina Royal as 2nd Vice President, Lydia Grant as Education rep, Richard Stewart as Service rep, Olin Lowe and Bill Manning as Region 1 reps, Jenny Rodriguez and Berj Zadoian as Region 2 reps, Debra Ray as Business rep, Ben Douglas Vandertuin and J.D. Speas as Region 3 reps and Elizabeth Jahelka as Youth rep.

February STNC Board Meeting

1. Call to order at 7:15 p.m. by President Cindy Cleghorn. Roll call: Vic Castro, IV, Lydia Grant, Jenny Rodriguez, Allen Rodriguez, Ricky Grubb, Cindy Cleghorn, Nina Royal, Bill Manning and Dan McManus, John Blue and Richard Stewart.

2. Public Comments:

- Lloyd Hitt, S-T Coordinating Council, asked anyone with an organization to let him know about future events and he will post the information.
- Mona Curry, City of L.A. Emergency Management Dept., spoke about the April 5th Neighborhood Preparedness Ambassador Program. The program will train residents on hazard preparedness, mitigation plans, evacuation plans for people and large animals, crisis response team, utility preparedness and gives a CERT overview. The goal is to educate NCs as a whole in emergency preparedness.
- Jackie Keene, CD2, gave a summary of items the Council member is working on. She said the Mayor's Reporting Day was a great success.
- Mae Welter, actress and Tujunga resident has opened a performance school in Montrose (www.321talentshowcase.com). It is an on-camera TV acting school with their studio on Honolulu Ave. She's enrolling new students now.
- Tomi Lyn Bowling, representing the Elections Committee for STNC, extended an invitation to residents to serve on the next STNC board. She

also made a statement directed to the Country Board of Supervisors, “that closing a local hospital will not reduce the backup of emergency rooms in other hospitals.” Tomi has a new program for homeowners called:

www.savemyhousefree.com.

- Abby Diamond and Joe Barrett, SunlandTujungaAlliance.com, thanked the community for their support at a fundraising yard and bake sale, where they raised \$1,200. Joe spoke about Home Depot hiring Christopher Joseph and Associates (who represents the environmental review for the developers for Canyon Hills and the Verdugo Hills Golf Course) to prepare the new environmental document for the Home Depot. Joe asked if anyone is present representing the Home Depot. A woman identified herself as from Consensus Planning representing HD.

3. Mt. Gleason Middle School: Debra Acosta, principal of Mt. Gleason Middle School, introduced three teachers leading the Florida Program: Mr. Thurman, 8th grade, Mr. Ireland, 8th, and Shannon McCormick, 7th and 8th grade. Mr. Thurman showed photos from last years’ trip with 31 students. They will be repeating their trip this year and so far, have 27 kids signed up to go. To raise the needed funding, they have set up a deal with Joselitos on March 10th. For every meal purchased, the buyer must put the receipt in a box by the cash register, Joselitos will donate 15% of the proceeds of the total to the program. At last year’s fundraiser, over \$300 was raised. Another event will be a “Bowl-a-thon.”

On the trip, students will learn in the field with a focus on physics. Their “Science in Motion” tour will include research at Disneyland, Kennedy Space Center, and Sea World. The entire trip will be hands-on for the kids with lots of structured activities.

Lydia Grant then added comments about plans for a planetarium on campus. She has spoken with LAUSD Superintendent Jim Morris and the way it needs to work is that the planetarium and other exhibits must be open to the entire community for funding to be provided. There will potentially be different rotating exhibits including a dinosaur bone dig-site (with bones cast and hidden in the sand for students to dig up) painted rocks, a succulent garden, a 6’ - 9’ pyramid, an outdoor stage area and many other projects for the Leaning Center. Mr. Ireland said that although the initial focus was on the planetarium, it has grown into a larger project that would create an educational experience for the whole community putting Sunland – Tujunga on the map as a destination.

4. Safety Report, Nina Royal. The Community Police Advisory Meeting takes place on 2/14. While funding has been approved for the Vehicle Surveillance unit, she is putting funding on hold because the vehicle is now being used exclusively in the West Valley. She reminded everyone about the upcoming CERT program as well as the CERT overview April 5th.

5. Outreach Committee, Dan McManus. The next outreach meeting is Feb. 16 at Joselitos. They will be discussing outreach for STNC related to the Verdugo Hills Golf Course project, the Historic Home Tour and Election outreach.

6. Chair's Report: Cindy acknowledged an ad in the North Valley Reporter which previews the combined election on April 5th for STNC, Foothills Trails District NC, and Sun Valley Area NC. She reviewed the Election Training prior to the board meeting and showed everyone the new STNC newsletter just published. There is also a stakeholder survey which she asked stakeholders to fill out and return to Ed Rock, who will then send it to DONE to tabulate.

7. CD2 Update, Dale Thrush

SB1818 – Dale called SB1818 a “really complicated situation.” He said that this State law was enacted 3 years ago. It allows for 35% increased density in a community if affordable housing is provided. He said enforcement is a must but the City is trying to work out a motion, as presented by Councilmember Greuel, that would allow for greater density in some areas, as opposed to others. As an example he said increased density might be more appropriate near transportation centers. The Councilmember introduced her motion on 2/13 and it was approved by the City Council. Her other motion introduced protects single family housing from the increased height of buildings for affordable housing. Dale said there is a consequence for not applying a State ordinance. But this new proposed ordinance blends the State law with City ordinances making it easier for the City to function - with respect to the State law's structure.

Las Lomas - A special meeting of the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee was held to discuss the supplemental fee agreement, from Councilman Alarcon's motion. There is a question about whether the 'supposed' owner actually owns all 555 acres of the project. Another issue is whether Las Lomas can be annexed to the City, since it is not adjacent to the City's boundary.

Home Depot Lock Down permits – Dale said that CD2 said it would not have an issue with the lock down permit for work on Home Depot's building as long as the work did not advance the project.

Canyon Hills – Dale said the developer is proceeding with survey work. He told Ricky Grubb, Environmental Rep, that the developer would be gathering seeds this summer on the site and giving them to the Theodore Payne Foundation. Ricky asked how that would be possible since the trees were already cut down.

Rent Control: Dale said this is another complicated initiative. An effort is coming up on the June ballot to abolish rent control in certain areas. Dale said this ballot measure is already certified and is a State, not a city process. This item will be on a future STNC agenda for discussion.

Verdugo Hills Golf Course – A meeting was held by the Council member on Feb. 5th with Rec and Parks, the Grants Specialists, City of Glendale and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, on some potentially advantageous funding sources for purchasing the site. He explained what a “Golf Trust Fund” was being issued from the City where revenue bonds are generated from cash flow from the Golf Course to purchase this property back from the developer.

8. Board Member Reports:

Lydia Grant, Education rep gave an update on safety issues at Vons where students from VHHS have been causing theft and loitering. She met with Vons’ Store manager, LAPD, and the school police who come up with a plan to alleviate problems. They are also looking at parking the buses behind Vons by the park and pulling them around when the students come down the street to open the street up so police can identify people selling drugs to the students. There has been a large theft of aerosol cans and Red Bull energy drink. She also spoke about continued efforts to remove lead paint from a building on Mt. Gleason’s campus. Parents have requested a traffic study for the area of Mt. Gleason in front of the school entrance. Efforts are moving forward to provide a Girls Softball diamond at Hansen Dam for school practices. A new page will be added to the STNC website on educational issues/news. Lydia said it will allow access to any school flyers that school administrators want to post to the public. There will be about 150 students participating in the L.A. Marathon. She asked for donations of food and drinks for the students. And in response to a community meeting held recently by City Recreation and Parks, Lydia said the schools are being asked to provide space for parks, which would also be accessible to the community as a solution.

Bill Manning, District 1/Transportation rep noted that traffic is the #1 complaint in L.A. County. In January, the L.A. City Council adopted phase 1 of a traffic reduction plan sponsored by Councilmember Greuel. Bill said it is a very important move forward for the city. Councilmember Greuel called L.A. traffic “the worst traffic problem in the nation.” In her plan, she asks for transportation planning to be studied for all future development projects. She has secured a ban on rush hour construction and increased the synchronization of traffic lights across the city. She’s launched a campaign to fill potholes across CD2. Stakeholders are urged to contact the City at: “311” to report where potholes are in this area. Bill asked anyone who wants to give him input on this plan to call him and he will coordinate for presentation through the STNC to Councilmember Greuel.

Dan McManus, Outreach rep thanked CD2’s Jackie Keene for help with outreach. He acknowledged local contractor Charles Van Aalst of CVA Contracting, LLC who has helped other residents who have experienced problems with other contractors.

Allen Rodriguez, S-T SERVS rep announced the next CPR training on April 26th. He urged residents to take this training which can save someone's life. The cost is \$20.00. STNC's website has info. The next ST-SERVS meeting is March 24th when they will try to organize a Ham Radio Operators group.

Jenny Rodriguez asked everyone to participate in the work on the elections.

John Blue, Media – no report.

Nina Royal: Safety Committee said Tujunga Senior Lead Officer Frank Avila has been promoted to sergeant and moved to the West Valley.

Olina Lowe, District 1, was absent but her report was read by Nina Royal. Olina is concerned about the urban blight of stolen shopping carts. Ralphs Supermarket said it costs \$250 each to replace them. She would like this issue to be put on a future STNC agenda. She also would like the issue of the elimination of rent control discussed at a DAC meeting. She pointed out that many elderly in the trailer parks would be affected by this and forced out.

Vic Castro, Design Advisory Committee:

a. Senate ordinance 1818: Tomi Lyn Bowling read a statement from the DAC opposing proposed ordinance SB1818, the Bonus Density Implementation plan for the City of L.A. There was a brief discussion on the City Council's vote (on 2/13) of 9-3-0. Dale Thrush of CD2 said ten votes are needed for it to pass. There will be another reading and another vote on it in the future.

b. Las Lomas update, Nina Royal reported that Supervisor Antonovich has requested a full investigation into ownership of the property involved for the proposed development. Nina met with six other NCs to put together a package opposing the City working on a development outside the city limits.

c. Verdugo Hills Golf Course – Sharon Hales of VHGC Committee gave a progress report. She spoke about the 'full capacity crowd' at the Scoping Meeting in Sunland last month. The comment period is now closed. In 6 - 9 months, the public will be allowed to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report. She suggested anyone who has not yet done so, fill out the Department of Rec and Parks' online survey (available through the Verdugo Hills Golf Course website) and talk about this issue. She talked about the Feb. 5th meeting by CD2 to review financing options. She said it was an important step forward. There will be another meeting in the future to reassess progress.

d. Ford Property at Foothill/Commerce: Cindy read a letter by DAC's Debby Beck who was asked to look into possible changes on the Ford Property site. Debby acknowledged that a Day Spa was being built and that required the construction that was taking place.

e. K-Mart site (See Dale's report)

f. Transportation Strategic Plan – previously given.

9. Approval of minutes: The Board meeting minutes for January 9th were unanimously approved. The Jan. 14th Special Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

10. New Business:

a. (McManus/Castro) moved that STNC form a committee in the absence of an active and effective PTA to surface and share practices employed by local LAUSD schools and parents for the purpose of improving the educational environment in the Sunland-Tujunga area. The motion carried unanimously.

b. DWP Oversight Committee: Cindy reported that on 2/16, Council members Perry and Parks are holding a Town Hall meeting regarding the proposed DWP rate increase. STNC supports the Oversight Committee's opinion against the rate increase.

c. Cindy asked for board members to fill out the Self Assessment survey. She reminded everyone that the board needs to help out with elections outreach efforts by taking a stack of newsletters and distributing them in their Region. Stakeholders will also get these newsletters in the mail.

11. Board Announcements:

Lydia Grant spoke further about ongoing situations in the local schools. This includes Mt. Gleason changing its phone number to an unlisted number last June. Bathrooms are still being locked during school hours and inaccessible to the kids and boys are being forced to use the girls' restrooms. She believes school officials see her as bashing their schools, but she said she is just passing on reports she gets from parents who have been asking her to take action.

Nina Royal announced the upcoming Safety Committee meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

12: Meeting adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

- Minutes by Pat Kramer, Apple One. -