

**Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**FIRST CANDIDATE INFORMATION SESSION 6:30 P.M.**  
**BOARD MEETING AT 7:00 P.M.**  
**Mt. Gleason Middle School, 10965 Mt. Gleason Avenue - Sunland**  
**Wednesday, January 9, 2008**

Attendance: 88, Board 14, Audience: 74

**1. Call to Order** by Cindy Cleghorn, STNC President and Elections Chair. The first candidate information session was held with approximately 12 in attendance. Joann Deutch, Independent Elections Administrator led the session. Interested candidates picked up packets and turned in applications to the IEA. Session adjourned to the monthly STNC board meeting at 7 p.m.

The Boy Scouts, Troop 355 led the flag salute and pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Olin Lowe, Bill Manning, John Blue, Nina Royal, Saro Minassian, Allen Rodriguez, Mark Seigel, Richard Stewart, Lydia Grant, Ricky Grubb and parliamentarian Shirley Kellstrom. Quorum established.

**Community Clean Up:** CD2's Jackie Keene presented Community Clean up certificates to the Boy Scouts Dylan Share and Jessie Sullivan, plus Tomi Lynn Bowling, who organized the recent clean up activities at the Tujunga Wash. Cindy also presented certificates from STNC to those present. Those who were not present to receive their certificates included: \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Lead Officer's Report:** Nina Royal introduced Sunland's (LAPD Foothill Division) Senior Lead Officer Larry Martinez, who stated that crime was down 2.4% in 2007. However, on January 8, 2008, there was a homicide in La Tuna Cyn. LAPD Officer Rich Wall said they could not provide any details on the crime as it was still under investigation.

**CD2 Report:** Planning Deputy Dale Thrush informed the board that Home Depot, who is suing the city, is now applying for 3 lockdown permits to protect their building on Foothill Blvd. The permits would allow them to do work to protect the roof and flashing, to extend electrical work for their security systems, and to power up heating, air conditioning and ventilators in the building.

On another issue, Dale said the Citywide Baseline Mansionization Ordinance is now in the PLUM Committee. He advised STNC members (and the community) to give input on this before it goes to a vote. He also reminded everyone that the Public Scoping Meeting on Thur. Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at North Valley City Hall will be to get community input for the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed development of the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. He asked for input on a Community Advisory Board that is being formed, which could make decisions that impact historic preservation. Jackie responded to a question about Hookah Bars doing business on Foothill Blvd. A stakeholder has seen underage teens coming and going and spoke about pornography displayed in the bars. Jackie said that when these establishments have been inspected, there hasn't been any

smoking going on. The stakeholder suggested they come back at 11 p.m. to reinspect.

**2. Approval of Minutes:** The December 2007 Board Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously with the additional wording added on Ricky Grubb's Environmental Report (Item 10) to "request a response in a two week period."

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

**4. Design Advisory Committee** (Victor M. Castro, IV, DAC Chairman)  
**DAC moved to approve an application to expand the adult day healthcare center on Fenwick, next to Mario Sterling's. The motion was unanimously approved.**

**DAC moved to approve a beer and wine license for the market/deli at 7802 W. Foothill Blvd. in Sunland by Mt. Gleason. The motion carried 8 – 2 -0.**

**DAC moved to approve a proposal for a 4-unit subdivision at 7117 Apperson, Tujunga. The motion of support was approved.**

**DAC moved to approve a change of use permit for a beauty business at Foothill and Tujunga Place. The motion carried.**

Victor spoke about an illegal massage parlor that was found to be operating in a small shopping center at Foothill and Floralita. The DAC approved a letter of opposition to the Police Commission. Subsequently, the Police Commission denied the massage parlor operation. Building and Safety also said that it did not comply.

**CD2 Updates:** CD2 input on development: Dale Thrush announced the Public Scoping Meeting on Thur, Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at North Valley City Hall, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Input given should be on environmental impacts by the proposed development at the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. The Notice of Preparation Environmental Impact Report comment deadline has been extended to January 31, 2008. Dale said that the City of Glendale is also taking comments at their Jan. 15 City Council meeting in January. They have not made a commitment of funds.

In December, Councilmember Greuel issued a letter covering Phase One of City's Transportation Strategic Plan and asked for feedback. (See copy and web site link at <http://www.lacity.org/council/cd2/strategicplan.htm>). Ricky Grubb suggested the Council member consider the impact traffic has on wildlife in the city's report. Bill Manning offered to coordinate any public comments and get them over to the Council office on this subject.

A stakeholder from Sunland Oaks condo complex mentioned ongoing problems with a falling down fence behind the Century 21 lot, which no one is fixing. He

also mentioned a transient who is living in his brown van in the adjacent parking lot and disposing of unsanitary waste in the wash. He was asked to report any further problems to the Safety Committee. Jackie Keene responded to his request from the Council office saying it was difficult to deal with homeless people living in vehicles as they keep moving around.

#### **5. Public Comment (non-agenda items)**

- Robin Gilbert of CA Clean Money Campaign made an announcement.
- Abby Diamond S-T Alliance, said that they encourage support of efforts to preserve the Verdugo Hills Golf Course. She mentioned the Scoping Meeting on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> and announced a community input workshop on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at Sunland Recreation Center to identify future wants and needs for city parks in L.A.
- Nina Royal said she spoke before the Burbank City Council on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> and the result were very positive about preservation of the VDGC. They will take into advisement comments expressed.
- Ricky Grubb asked Dale if there has been any word from Canyon Hills on their proposed development. Dale said they are talking to the developer. Ricky mentioned two upcoming motions that would affect trails and the environment.
- John Blue reported that the ugly fence that stakeholders complained about last month on Airlie has been removed by the land owner after STNC contacted him.

6. **DONE Report:** Melvin Canas, Project Coordinator, acknowledged that the STNC bylaws changes were approved. He and bylaws co-chair Bill Skiles were thanked for their work on this.

7. **Outreach Committee Report:** Dan McManus said they are working on the VHGC issue. Their next meeting at Joselitos will be held Sat., Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.

8. **Safety Committee:** Nina Royal said the Safety Fair, previously scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>, will be rescheduled. On March 1, a Safety and First Aide class will be held at 8 p.m. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, a new CERT class will start.

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

- John Blue, Media Rep said the Methyl iodide concerns he expressed to STNC last month and the letter to go to city officials is an ongoing effort. He plans to address the concerns about this DNA - altering compound, being considered by the Dept. of Agriculture in CA, to other NCs around the City. Also, Lydia Grant has gotten a teacher at VHHS to take this on with his students, who will potentially write letters.
- Ricky Grubb, Environmental Rep reminded people to write letters for the upcoming Scoping Meeting. He urged stakeholder to use native plants in their yards, which they can get at the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley (Tuxford Street).

- Saro Minassian, Business Rep said he chased down a banner for STNC that the wind had torn down. He asked people to tell their relatives to go to Glendale City Council on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> to ask for their funding for the purchase of the VDGC.
- Allen Rodriguez, Safety Committee Rep asked the public to attend the Safety meetings, the 3rd Thursday of every month, when they have concerns about graffiti, traffic, or abuse of safety. He announced upcoming Disaster Planning, CPR, CERT and Emergency Medical Trainings. The dates will be posted on the STNC website. He also informed the board that there is a move to require LAPD Gang Intervention officers to disclose personal financial information to the City. He believes this is a bad idea and would lead to a loss of police officers.
- Mark Seigel, Bylaws Chair, thanked Steve for his help with the sound system.
- Nina Royal introduced Louis Bono, a stakeholder interested in participating in STNC. Louis was formerly active with Atwater Village Neighborhood Watch.
- Bill Manning spoke about the recent Area Neighborhood Watch meeting which LAPD attended. He suggested residents keep their cars locked to prevent becoming an easy target. If anyone spots anything suspicious, they should immediately call the City's "311" to report crime.
- Lydia Grant, Education Rep, said VHHS's Mr. Tejeda is running a program where students earn community service points by working on local projects. She has introduced the letter writing campaign to expose the dangers of methyiodine. She's also still working with Von's on safety issues with the VHHS kids who hang around after school lets out and cause problems. She talked about a volunteer organization: [www.volunteerla.org](http://www.volunteerla.org). She suggested the public take a look at their website and consider giving of their time. She asked the board to nominate people in the community for a community award's event in April. She will also be recognizing teachers at Verdugo Hills HS at future meetings.

Mt. Gleason's Principal Acosta spoke about a program needing funding that would bring students to Florida in June. More on this will be presented at the Feb. STNC meeting.

#### **10. STNC Chair Report:**

- a. Cindy reported that the Planning MOU/Oversight Orientation meeting takes place January 12 at LACC. Councilmember Janice Hahn, Education and Neighborhood Committee chair will be present.
- b. DWP rate increase: Stakeholder Susan Potthoff noted that the rate increase now exceeds what was originally to take affect for city water and power users.
- c. Cindy also spoke about the Citywide Community Needs Assessment Project Survey, which the Department of Recreation and Parks is using to help prioritize and address the needs for additional recreation and park land, existing facilities needing improvements to meet current and future community needs, actions to

prevent future maintenance problems, and offer positive alternatives to our City's increasingly dense and urbanized population. (See: <http://losangeles.prosconsulting.com/index.html>)  
d. STNC will be doing election outreach with two other NCs: FTDNC and SVNC.

#### **11. Public Comment (non-agenda items)**

**CD2's** Jackie Keene announced an event with Graffiti Busters on Sat. Jan. 26, 11 a.m. at N. Valley City Hall will to inform the public about how to deal with this chronic problem, on Jan 26, there will be a Community Greening Workshop with Tree People and on Thurs, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. there will be a Public Safety Neighborhood Empowerment meeting at All Nation's Church. Jackie encouraged everyone to submit comments to Rec and Parks on their needs assessment. She spoke about the Q Star Surveillance Camera System saying that Councilmember Greuel will match any funds contributed on this.

Nina Royal announced that the Las Lomas Development proposal at the intersection of the 5 and 14 freeways comes up in City Council in Feb. She encouraged the public to write to City Council regarding the use of city funds to pay for a study on this.

#### **12. New Business:**

**Communication User's Tax / Prop S Ballot Initiative:** There was discussion on this initiative, which could have a major impact on the City's budget revenues and, in turn, a major impact on the way that City services are prioritized and delivered. It comes up on the ballot Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>. Dan McManus says it is a replacement of an illegal tax posing on wireless communications, posing as a tax reduction. It would tax DSL, broadband services, and other wireless services that currently are not taxed. **(McManus/Royal) moved that STNC express its opposition to Prop S and forward a letter to the City Council and appropriate authorities. The motion carried unanimously.**

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:27 p.m.

Next STNC Meeting & STNC Elections Candidate Info Session will be Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at Mt. Gleason Middle School

Minutes taken by Pat Kramer, Apple One.