

Minutes of the
Design Advisory Committee
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
November 21, 2005 – 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order at 7:10 PM by DAC Chairman, Richard Pozzo. Committee members in attendance included Cindy Cleghorn, Lloyd Hitt, Mark Seigel, Penny Blackwell, Julianne Maurseth, Debby Beck, Roberta Actor-Thomas. Also in attendance Abbey Greenspan, CD2 Assistant Planning Deputy, Anita Cerna from the City Planning Department, Brad Neighbors, Principal Inspector; Jim Buchan, Building Inspector/Sign Inspection and Brad Graham, Building Mechanical Inspector/Sign Inspection Division from L.A. Department of Building & Safety. Approximately 20 people in the audience.

Brad Neighbors, LADBS, talked about the proactive survey they took of our area showing before and after photos of signage violations. Stats as of 11/21/05: 783 sites inspected, 642 sites with no violation; 141 courtesy notices issued; 62 voluntarily complied with courtesy notice; 79 orders to comply issued; 66 compliance obtained case closed; 13 cases currently open. Dean Staron is the supervisor in charge and the sweep covered the entire Foothill Blvd. Corridor specific Plan area. Statistics of the sweep were distributed to the committee. It is their department's belief that the education process helps on the front end. Inform violations and how to comply. They see a noticeable change in our community. Courtesy notices also work.

Mr. Neighbors' comments included the following:

1. If a building was built under a valid permit, they have a non-conforming right for the existing signage.
2. Once a business ceases doing business on a site they have 90 days to remove the sign. Then it must be blanked out.
3. Copy change can be made without permit
4. Pole Signs that exist can stay as long as they are painted and in good repair. 49% repair is a non-conforming right.
5. LAUSD signs are not within the LADBS responsibility. Contact LAUSD directly. Private schools are within LADBS responsibility.
6. Signs within residential zones are OK if they are less than 20 square feet or two if 12 square feet and 15 feet apart. Signs are limited to 30 square feet maximum and must be less than 6 feet 6 inches from the ground. No moving or illuminating parts. Hinges are not considered moving parts.

Other items discussed with Mr. Neighbors:

1. Street Vendors only allowed in Venice and at McArthur Park.
2. Oak tree removals: Call 311. There is a LADBS inspector always on call.

Abbey Greenspan gave the following updates:

1. Verdugo Hills Golf Course developers asked to slow down. Other developers have contacted their office interested in the property.
2. Home Depot. Working at all means to make sure “no Home Depot”. There will be a meeting in January with community to include Dept. of Transportation, Planning, Building & Safety, City Attorney who will talk about what can and cannot be done, what Home Depot’s rights are and community’s rights are. Date not confirmed yet. Will likely be held on a Saturday. Dept. of Transportation report expected to be completed by then. Trip credits should also be completed within two weeks. Roberta asked about the economic component of the general plan. Anita Cerna reported that Home Depot reps submitted a new site plan within the existing footprint however it still has errors so all is on hold. There is a hold on the environmental. Since information is not accurate it stops the clock on the City’s process. Julianne asked about our being in danger of Home Depot doing something. Anita replied that they are unable do anything without permits. Nothing will occur unless they move in as-is. DAC/STNC standpoint is “no Home Depot”. Is there something the DAC can do that is positive to clarify this so the community is engaged? Recommend that DAC draft a position letter to STNC. Penny Blackwell requested DAC minutes reflect that Home Depot has not had a meeting with the community at all. Don Breeding, Home Depot Team Leader, has been out of town and is expected back after the Thanksgiving holiday. Debby Beck announced that Atwater Village/Glassell Park is hosting a meeting with Home Depot reps on Nov. 29, 7-9 PM at the Glassell Park Community Center on Verdugo Blvd. It is expected that Home Depot will reveal their revised plans for the site in that area located on San Fernando Road.

Richard Pozzo gave the following sites from the Environmental reports:

1. 10214 N. Fernglen
2. 10119 N. Commerce (condo conversion)
3. 7274 W. Valaho (certificate of compliance)

Style Guide Update – Roberta commented on the status of this item and the concern she and Debby have about doing so much work on it and it not being acceptable to either the committee or the community. Asked if DAC will support the concepts that Roberta and Debby propose including within FBCSP, outside R3, other projects and Airlie Drive. We need residential guidelines. Suggested they meet with Richard to get clarification. Roberta and Debby will give a timeline. Important to note that the Style Guide will be recommendations and guidelines only.

Outreach & Education – Deborah Ray gave a report on her plans for outreach to owners on Foothill Blvd. especially for Certificates of Occupancy and if a business changes

hands. She outlined an outreach proposal including public relations campaign. Bottom line is getting timely information from building and safety.

Richard announced City Hall's new video conferencing from the Van Nuys office to City Council and City Council committee meetings in lieu of driving downtown for hearings.

10105 Commerce – No update other than property now has a real estate broker's "available" sign. This could mean its either for lease or for sale.

S-T Revitalization - Vision 2020: Julianne reported that CD2 asked to hold a couple of meetings. Rosalind and Claire join Vision 2020. Pilot Plan is on the STNC web site. Nov. 29 meeting is cancelled and rescheduled for Dec. 6

ICO regarding street widths – Still pending. Mark Seigel and Richard Pozzo will work together on this. Roberta has the draft ready except for the streets.

Minutes of Nov. 7, 2005 approval postponed to 11/21/05 for further changes/corrections.

Mr. Bush from LADBS will be our speaker at the DAC Meeting on Monday, Dec. 19. Committee is requested to submit items for Mr. Bush to discuss to Cindy so we can forward them to him in advance of our meeting. Encourage outreach to businesses and neighbors to attend. Cindy's proposed list includes the following:

1. Definition of retail
2. Paperwork process, what is it for master plan, permit?
3. Fees
4. Time
5. Variance process for residential
6. Trees – leveling lots before plan check
7. Grading – 10504 Commerce does not have a driveway. How does the community get enforcement. Photos available.

Announcements: There are DAC committee vacancies and if anyone is interested, please submit interest for consideration by the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Cindy Cleghorn, Design Advisory Committee Member.