

Design Advisory Committee
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
August 7, 2006 – 7 p.m.
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by DAC Chairman, Victor Castro.
In attendance: Tomi Lyn Bowling, Lloyd Hitt, Victor Castro, Cindy Cleghorn, Mark Seigel, Vic Agakhanian, Debby Beck, Penny Blackwell. Dick Platkin, Anita Cerna, Katie Peterson from City Planning Dept., Dale Thrush from CD2. Approximately 45 people in the audience.

Chairman asked for show of hands in audience regarding No Home Depot in Sunland-Tujunga = 58 and Yes to Home Depot = 2.

Minutes of July 31, 2006 approved as presented.

Forms for the DAC to track progress and results of DAC recommendations were briefly discussed and approved without opposition by the committee. Note: Victor has been using the progress form with much success. It is a good tool.

DAC Expenses – Cindy distributed copies of the CEQA training to be held on 8/18-19 at Occidental College in Eagle Rock and recommends people attend from the DAC and the community and that the DAC approve up to \$200 to cover registration expense. Penny asked that anyone who goes return with written report with copies for all. Also handouts. Elaine Brown said she would consider going if CD2 would help with Mitigated Negative Declaration notices being delivered to neighbors on time and not slipping through. Dick Platkin suggests that it is good education, not vital. Motion that DAC sponsor, pay for Ms. Brown to attend on Friday at \$140 and Ms. Actor-Thomas on Saturday at \$45. Seconded by Penny Blackwell. Motion passed with 6 in favor, 1 abstention.

Dick Platkin gave an update regarding the Sunland-Tujunga FAR/ICO (mansionization ordinance). There are some difficulties in insuring all projects comply to the FAR/ICO. Option of two renewal periods (each six months) giving an additional one year. Must come from a motion at the council office (Wendy Greuel). ICO does expire in six weeks. Asked if a letter from the DAC would speed this up. Dale Thrush says that no letter/motion is needed to get a motion in progress by Wendy. Motion to send letter of thanks to Wendy Greuel for her support of the extension of the FAR/ICO. Seconded by Lloyd Hitt. Discussion: Vic suggests making it more stringent, stronger ordinance. It is possible to amend it as part of extension process. Need to confirm that the extension process will not create any loophole for developers to slip in their applications. Dale says that a motion to extend will be submitted before the City Council recess starting Aug. 18. Will be submitted to PLUM. Motion already drafted. Acted upon when council returns on Sept. 5th. Must be extended by Sept. 25th. Debby Beck would like to amend letter to say that we have heard from her deputy. Motion passes with 7 in favor, unanimous.

Anita Cerna presented colors for façade of Vons Market including their first set of plans and the newest plans. They want the DAC to recommend whether or not they agree with change in color scheme.

Dale Thrush reported on the following:

1. That Home Depot is holding off building any of the changes they received building permits for. Looking for dialogue with the community as they want a trade to build what the community wants in exchange for being able to build what they want.
2. Discussion regarding the Old Arco Station on Foothill next to the Mekhitarist School and the other proposed developments along Tujunga Canyon Blvd. and the impact it will have on this heavily traveled area.
3. Report on Public Hearing held 8/7/07 re: 6152 Sister Elsie. This is a severely graded road. One of the worst roads in the City of Los Angeles. Hearing was regarding width of street vs. application to build a home. It would cost millions of dollars to fix the road. City cannot afford it. Residents do not want to pay. Opposition to build on this site by current neighbors. The area just can't take any more building. The Zoning Administrator is taking it under advisement. Response should be sent in about 6 weeks.
4. St. Estaban - 1-3/4 acre parcel on St. Estaban behind the YMCA. Applicant asking to build two more houses on the already two house lot. He was already in violation with the two houses on the lot already. Expects application to be denied.
5. Street improvements on Tujunga Canyon Blvd. (north side) are on going. Driving beams into the ground to shore up the hillside.
6. Ford Property held up by inconsistency in who applied and bonds were not issued. Bonds have now been issued and should not be any further delays.
7. 9166 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. condo/townhomes subdivision was approved. Appeal has been filed. Not known who filed the appeal. At North Valley Planning Commission Hearing on Aug. 17 at 4:30 p.m.
8. Canyon Hills Design Standards meeting held with some members of the community and the developer to pressure biological element for later use, if removed. A little too early for this discussion but a good opportunity for community members to voice their concern regarding the plants and trees to be effected by the grading.
9. 6511 Foothill = no change, under appeal.
10. 8668 Foothill (former Popeye's) still pending.
11. 10189 Tujunga Canyon Blvd. – proposed Verizon Cell Tower. Verizon is moving forward with their plans and hearing is on August 11th.
12. 9627 Hillhaven – request to build a home on 5,068 lot in lieu of 15,000 sq. ft. hearing notice for 8/25, copies available.
13. 6920 Valmont – subdivision that conforms to plans was approved. Mr. Gaines will return with updated design plans at a later date.

14. 8231 Foothill Blvd. – Design Review report received. This site should be moving forward with development of retail stores. Is located next to Burger King in Sunland.

Next DAC meeting will be August 21 at 6:30 p.m. with Department of Transportation representative. Much of the meeting will be devoted to discussion with DOT regarding the proposed and pending projects along Tujunga Canyon Blvd. below Foothill.

Style Guide Report – Reviewed existing style guide. Debby needs at least 10 minutes to present report. Schedule on agenda for 6:30 p.m.

Reviewed letter regarding FBCSP training. Debby will edit draft letter for approval next meeting.

Public Comments:

1. Speed humps on Shadygrove in Tujunga. St. Estaban also approved. These speed humps needed very much. See written comment letter.
2. A neighbor would like to see final plans for the 25 condos at 9166 Tujunga Canyon Blvd.
3. Tujunga Canyon southbound just before Foothill at Washington Mutual, no left turn should be enforced better. Suggest better signage or something to prevent this.
4. Should enforce no left turn into YMCA as it stops traffic on Foothill.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Minutes taken by Tomi Lyn Bowling, DAC Recording Secretary