

Design Advisory Committee
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
August 21, 2006 – 6:30 p.m.
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall

Meeting called to order at 6:52 p.m. by DAC Vice Chair, Debby Beck.
In attendance: Tomi Lyn Bowling, Lloyd Hitt, Victor Castro, Cindy Cleghorn, Mark Seigel, Vic Agakhanian, Debby Beck, Penny Blackwell, Ed Rock. Absent: Charles Montgomery, Joan Slater and Kathy Anthony. Dick Platkin, Anita Cerna, Katie Peterson from City Planning Dept., Dale Thrush from CD2 and Sergio Valdez from the Department of Transportation. Approximately 45 people in the audience.

Brief presentation of the Design Guidelines of Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan (FBCSP) by Debby Beck. Debby stated that the guidelines exist for the benefit of the community. Photos shown for all to see of existing barbed-wire that is along fences which currently exist on Foothill Blvd. Barbed-wire is only allowed when “not” visible from Foothill Blvd. or Commerce Avenue. Photos showed current violations. A second set of photos showed window violations where windows on Foothill are covered up when they should be uncovered per the FBCSP.

7:05 p.m. Victor Castro arrived and assumed position as chair and announced meeting recess for four minutes.

7:13 p.m. Meeting resumed with introductions with the assistance of Sarineh Minassian who also volunteered as photographer. Introductions of DAC, city officials, CD2 and D.O.T. representative. Audience self-introductions.

Victor Castro introduced the first agenda item briefing all regarding the traffic around new proposed developments: Joy Fellowship Church, Oakview Convalescent, Verdugo Hills Golf Course and Canyon Hills, all along Tujunga Canyon Blvd. Residents within one mile asked to come up to the microphone to speak on this agenda item and included one resident who is a Fire Commissioner. Mark Seigel showed an aerial view of the area. Victor mapped out on a board so all could see all of the projects location-wise. Question posed by Victor to D.O.T. rep: Can we look at traffic impact for all projects cumulatively instead of each individual project’s traffic study?

Sergio Valdez – Traffic study is triggered by specific requirements. Over 43 am/pm peak trips triggers need for traffic study. Reports must be in a specific format as required nationally. Intersectional traffic analysis is how they determine whether or not a theoretical impact can occur in a given location. Over 1% impact requires mitigations by the project. His office reviews new projects for mitigations (contact phone: 818-374-4688) Operational Department which is another department that handles current issues (Belshaw – DOT rep’s name). After his brief there were several DAC questions and then audience questions.

Dale Thrush, CD2 update – No2Home Depot. Tenant Improvement permits issued on 7/24/06. Meeting between Building and Safety and Community and CD2 regarding options. Next step is to file an appeal.

9627 Hillhaven – 3 lots. Hearing Friday morning. Recommendation to Wendy is to disapprove this project. Oro Vista dumping stopped. Question asked if they will be required to remove the fill that was placed there. Answer: No. Asked about extension of FAR/ICO. Motion has been formulated by Wendy Greuel.

Platkin/Peterson – Starting next meeting only one person from Planning will come to our meeting. Also, Tuesday and Wednesday this week there will be a strike so no answers or data from Planning of D.O.T. Training should still go forward for the DAC. October is expected reorganization time and may complicate it so should do it right away.

Re: Scenic Preservation Plan. Could use any input from those that worked on it. Also need to know how plant loss was derived. Wants to hear from those that worked on it.

No2Home Depot – Joe Barrett gave an update.

Motion by Debby Beck that in support of the No Home Depot Campaign, I move that the DAC send the attached letter to Wendy Greuel regarding Home Depot.

I also move that the DAC request the STNC to send its own letter to Wendy Greuel in support of the DAC's letter. The letter in its entirety was read aloud. The chairman first asked the audience for a straw vote on this motion which showed unanimous support. DAC vote: unanimous. (Note: Letter faxed to Wendy Greuel's office on 8-24-06)

Vons Market – representative Chris Swan presented the color change only and distributed samples of plans to the DAC and audience. Motion by Cindy Cleghorn that DAC approves revised plans as presented. Seconded. Discussion on the motion and vote: did not pass (5 in favor, 1 abstention, 2 opposed). New motion by Debby Beck that DAC recommends the following. Seconded by Lloyd Hitt and passed unanimous. DAC recommends:

1. Use the previously approved wood stain “cocoa”, instead of the newly proposed “gargoyle”, on the columns and any other areas planned for “gargoyle.”
2. Use “foxtail”, as previously approved, on any corresponding trim.*
3. Please note: The proposed plans seem to show a Craftsman-era style of architecture, but the roof is shown with Spanish style tile. A wood shingled/shake roof (or cement/fire retardant) substitute for the shingles or shakes would be appropriate for the craftsman style.

*I believe Mr. Platkin determined where this should be used. The new elevation drawings did not use the same numbering system as the previously approved set of elevations.

8055 McGroarty Street – Presenter submitted plans in 2004 and were approved by the DAC at that time. City clearances completed in 2005. After dedication of 7 feet to street the project now falls under the FAR/ICO as now 8,000 square feet. He is requesting a hardship exemption. Note: this project is for two single family homes on a hillside. No action taken by the DAC either pro or con to this request.

9627 Hillhaven – Zoning Admin. Adjustment. CD2 recommends. Motion by Cindy Cleghorn that DAC takes the same position as CD2 on this item. Seconded. Vote taken unanimous.

FAR/ICO hardship exemption for 10711 Helendale. We cannot vote on this as not posted in time for this meeting. Will add to next meeting on 9/18.

Next DAC meeting discussed and will be held 9-18-06.

7101 Foothill Blvd. – Trusty Gas Station at corner of Pinewood and Foothill. Presenter announced he has applied for an off-site beer and wine license. As not on our agenda for tonight, no action taken. Requested to return to 9/18 meeting.

Re: 6561 Elmhurst – Neighbors trying to get scheduled on agenda to voice opposition to large lot on Elmhurst being subdivided.

Item #12 tabled to future meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Minutes taken by Tomi Lyn Bowling, DAC Recording Secretary