

Design Advisory Committee
Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
October 2, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:25 p.m. with approximately 44 people in attendance (per sign-in sheets).

In attendance: Tomi Bowling, Lloyd Hitt, Penny Blackwell, Ed Rock, Debby Beck, Victor Castro, Cindy Cleghorn, Vic Aghakhanian. Mark Seigel arrived later in the evening. Also in attendance, Anita Cerna from City Planning Dept., Dale Thrush from CD2. Absent: Joan Slater, Deborah Ray, Kathy Anthony.

Introductions of DAC, CD2 and Planning Department. Audience introductions.

Cindy spoke about the Tujunga Watershed Workshop to be held on Monday, Oct. 9 at Bolton Hall, 7 p.m. Also reminded all about the Mayor's Budget Survey with copies available here, online or the STNC office.

CD2: Mr. Thrush gave the following updates: 1) Home Depot appeal was filed Sept. 18 but receipt acknowledged Sept. 25 by Building and Safety. May see a draft of response report this week. 15 days to appeal to Planning Dept. then Director's decision if still not satisfied the appellant can appeal to the Planning Commission. 2) Met last Friday re: Verdugo Hills Golf Course. Preservation of golf course is prevalent in community. Exploring possibility of buying it to preserve it. 3) 6501 Foothill Blvd./Tujunga Cyn. Place proposed mixed use retail. This is a "by right" project. Plans were submitted and permits were approved and issued. Meeting to inform neighbors next week. 4) 6561 Elmhurst proposed single family lot split. Steepness brings into play slope density. Most likely will be denied due to that issue. Much too steep to be allowed to split. 5) 9635 Hillhaven – lot split also trying to discourage. 6) 8330 McGroarty – 43 acre site proposing to subdivide into 19 lots. Hearing notices were sent out incorrectly. No hearing until a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is done. 7) re: General traffic on Tujunga Canyon. Discussed with Wendy and a motion to City Council will be submitted. 8) Mario's Sterling site has been in e-mails but no formal application yet. Q&A: Asked to put "physical count" in the motion. Re: Discount Tires – assigned to the Recording Secty, Tomi Bowling as this project has been in violation and continues to not be resolved. Re: 8330 McGroarty – Victor reads info on the hearing notice but hearing is cancelled. It was erroneously sent out. Debby Beck to follow-up with Dale on this project. Elaine Brown announced cell tower hearing will be Oct. 5th. Asked about Liquid Pain Tattoo shop – being looked into. Ed Rock reports that they have been advised the use is not allowed and are due to be out by Oct. 18. Sandra Poppink (8277 Chapin Lane) the only one to receive the notice of the erroneous hearing regarding 8330 McGroarty. This is an additional problem that no one else was notified. Penny Blackwell asked if we can get a letter from Wendy backing us up and opposing the cell tower to be sent to the hearing? Cell tower has been rejected by the DAC several times. Debby Beck said the

application is for a monopine tower (fake tree). Hearing is in Van Nuys, Marvin Braude Center at 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 5th.

Anita Cerna – She has recommended a study is warranted for our Community Plan as follow up to her brief last week. Citywide mansionization ordinance is moving forward with prospective motion for new ordinance. One to One floor area ratio (FAR) is what they are proposing. Also looking at second story restriction to two-thirds first floor foot print. Also looking at single story neighborhoods.

Abby Diamond – No2HomeDepot campaign update same as Dale’s. Response has been drafted but not received yet.

Elaine Brown heard Dick Platkin could be back at these meetings if Wendy requested it.

Public Comment – Cindy Cleghorn says its “duck season” with the Kiwanis Incredible Duck Splash. Adopt a duck. STNC meeting is one week from Wednesday at Mt. Gleason. Victor Castro announced that Verdugo Hills Football team is 5-0 undefeated. Rotary Golf Tournament will be at golf course. Tour of Mt. Gleason garden recommended by Alice Debbault. Elaine Brown says communities are coming together regarding the Verdugo Hills Golf Course site and to please attend the cell tower hearing on Thursday at 4:30 p.m. Kim Ogle who lives on Hillhaven says that lots are being split on Tranquil Dr. and 5-6 homes are being built. Trees are being torn down and hills being graded. It’s a one lane road that is not wide enough for all this building. No permits appear to be pulled for the work seen. Grading has taken place at night. Dale said he would look into it and a stop order can be issued if justified. Nina Royal asked DAC to invite the “Design Safe Streets” division of LAPD to speak to DAC. Penny Blackwell said that Verizon owns property on Woodward near the old K-Mart and it is zoned residential R-1. Old Ford Property (7200 Foothill) is hoping to start in two weeks and six months of digging will take place (per Debby Beck).

Sign Committee Report by Penny Blackwell – Spoke to the e-mail sent regarding various signage issues. Goodwill is one of the signs in violation, never corrected. Other specific signs also mentioned. Seems to be getting worse. Penny has frustration with the system and not being able to get any correction done. Photographs of examples distributed. Previous reports to Building and Safety yielded no changes or corrections. Elaine Brown commented that the quantity of complaints will get attention. Penny suggests involvement of local businesses and chamber. Rewards for compliance to businesses who have the legal signage. Penny doesn’t have time to fully take on the issue. DAC sign committee form is available to be filled out by anyone and turned in to Ed Rock at the STNC office for follow-up. Penny wants help from community to put pressure on the City.

5 minute recess.

9635 Hillhaven – There was a Zoning Administrator’s hearing but no decision has been made.

6348 Foothill Blvd. – proposed PetSmart. Resummarized project. Altered plans for signage to leave as the height of the building is now and change in color. Motion by Tomi that the DAC support the proposed elevation #2 as presented by PetSmart as long as it abides by Dept. of Building and Safety standards. Motion did not pass.

All presenters that did not come tonight will be moved to next meeting.

Much discussion to reconsider PetSmart. New motion needed. Cindy moved that DAC support the straw vote of the community in favor of proposed elevation #2 as long as it abides by Dept. of Building and Safety standards. Vote: 5 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention. Motion fails.

Tomi wants to take issue with membership of DAC as we are required to have 6 votes to pass or fail an item but rarely have a full DAC present (11). Mostly we have 6-8 present. Discussion regarding DAC members Kathy Anthony and Joan Slater who are never in attendance. Recommends a STNC Bylaws change is needed to amend the 11 DAC members requirement.

Minutes approved as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Tomi Lyn Bowling, DAC Recording Secretary