

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council**  
**General Board Online Meeting**  
**Meeting date: February 10th, 2021 6:45pm**  
**ZOOM Meeting Online or by Telephone**

**Called to Order:** 6:45 pm by Liliana Sanchez, President.

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Liliana Sanchez	Present	Yes	President
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	1st Vice President
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	2nd Vice President - Outreach
Sandy Capps	Present	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Secretary
Lallah Rowe	Present	Yes	At-Large Group Representative
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Region 1 Representative
Vacant			Region 1 Representative
Glen Belt	Present	Yes	Region 2 Representative
Arsen Karamians	Present	No	Region 2 Representative
Oscar Alvarez	Present	Yes	Region 3 Representative
Rafi Shaheenian	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Representative
Carol Hutchinson	Present	Yes	Region 4 Representative
Pati Potter	Present	Yes	Region 4 Representative
Arnie Abramyan	Present (at 7:35)	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Kresse Armour	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Garbis Khanjian	Absent	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Shirley Kim	Present	Yes	Stakeholder Group
Vacant			Stakeholder Group
Vacant			Stakeholder Group
Vacant	Not Applicable	Not Applicable non-voting consultant	Parliamentarian
Quorum: 15 Present for Roll Call, 16 for most of meeting			

## GENERAL BOARD MEETING

### Item 1.

A-B. **Call to Order and Welcome, President Sanchez**—Meeting called to order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call Meeting quorum met. Meeting attended by 40 at roll call, including members of the board, public officials and members of the public.

**Meeting Protocols Reminder by Secretary Cindy Cleghorn** – Welcome. This meeting will be recorded for records purposes. Treasurer Capps will be the timer. Meeting attendees will be muted, use raise hand feature to comment on Zoom or dial \*9 on phone. Comments by public limited to two minutes. We are transitioning into this new environment. Please provide grace and follow code of civility. Please address comments to the Board and not to individual members. Board members generally do not respond to public comments. Board members should mute if not speaking or voting.

**Board Members Eligible to Vote / Member Training** – All Board Members Eligible.

C. **Board Member Conflicts** – None stated.

**Item 2. President's Report:** President Sanchez— Welcome and thank you for attending. If any new candidates for the STNC are present tonight she suggests they take notes and if they have any questions, they should contact her or another current STNC member.

There are 3 open seats on the board, 1 Region One representative and 2 Group Representatives. Qualifications for these seats read into record.

To accommodate busy schedules of on duty police officers and other speakers with multiple speaking engagements tonight, agenda items were taken out of order at this meeting.

### Item 3. Legacy of the 2019 STNC Board

Treasurer Capps—needs another month to complete this item for next month's meeting.

**Item 4. Covid Vaccine Information Updates:** Caroline Menjivar, the Mayor's East Valley Representative is not feeling well enough to attend tonight. President Sanchez did invite another speaker-- Phillipe Escobar from Pacoima Beautiful. This organization has been selected by Los Angeles County to help those with language or technological barriers who are currently eligible for the vaccine. They are now hiring 4 bilingual part time workers to do outreach and track those who need the vaccine and coordinate available appointments, transportation. They will train the new hires on their system which uses the Excel spreadsheet program.

Q&A:

Q: by President Sanchez: What languages are you hiring?

A: Now seeking people who speak Spanish or Armenian. The program is up and running, but still working out details. He will send President Sanchez a flyer with more details next week.

President Sanchez notes she is grateful for this program because she works with the elderly and knows that some are not that tech savvy. She thanks Mr. Escobar for providing these services and for sharing this information.

### Item 8. Representative Announcements and Reports

**Vickere Murphy, State Senator Anthony Portantino's Office** – the big thing happening this term is the senator is taking the lead on introducing a major resilience bond measure that will help the state prepare for wildfires and have supplies of clean drinking water. She thinks this bill will be of interest to this area given its closeness to the wildland/urban interface. The senator is also working on some other bills: 1) mental health training in schools; 2) creating incentives to convert empty box stores to homeless housing; 3) requiring

schools to screen in early childhood for dyslexia. There has been a huge influx of EDD claims exacerbated by the revisions to the EDD database in order to implement recent federal legislation and to combat the massive EDD fraud problem that even extends to organized international criminals.

Q&A:

Q: By Secretary Cleghorn—Do you have any updates on Covid 19 vaccine availability?

A: She does not think anything has changed; they are still vaccinating front line health care workers and seniors 65 and over. The numbers infected / hospitalized are way better than they were a month ago.

Member Keshish has a comment -- he commends the Senator for doing something to catch dyslexia early in childhood, this is very important. Many people do not discover they are dyslexic until they are adults.

**Esmelrada Marical, Director of Community Engagement & Advocacy, LAUSD Region 6** – Unfortunately the Covid 19 risk is too high to open schools at this time. The key will be a rapid distribution of vaccine to all school employees. She is advocating having educators prioritized. LA County’s Health Director, Barbara Ferrer, will be at next week’s LAUSD Board meeting. She will email the link so it can be posted on the STNC website. Since the last meeting, Kelly Gonez was elected LAUSD president. She looks forward to hearing from the public. The student advisory council will also be starting to meet online.

**Senior Lead Officer Caloca** – she reminds the audience that she covers Tujunga from Mt. Gleason to Lowell. There has been a huge increase in property crime, especially vehicle theft. Always be sure to lock your car and take the key fob. The LAPD does have a few clubs to give those with older cars, contact her if interested. Violent crime is down. As for those living in vehicles, the City cannot impound the vehicles, but she can encourage them to move if they are causing a problem. It is good to let her know about people living in vehicles so she can know who is living in a given vehicle.

Q&A:

Q: by Member Belt- He has heard a lot about nighttime crime between 10pm and 6am, people checking cars to see if they are locked. Is the LAPD doing nighttime patrols? The Area around Mt Gleason Middle School seems to be a problem area.

A: No requests for door checks, and has not seen any trends for vehicle break-ins other than on Foothill Blvd.

Q: by VP Grant – she has seen a lot of social media posts about catalytic converters being stolen; is this a problem in this area?

A: Not in her area.

Q: by Member von Gunten: he has noticed some TVR tagging around Commerce Ave. Does this signal an uptick in gang activity?

A: No. Oddly the gang problems get worse when members from out of town come here to visit. She is focusing on Little Landers Park, trying to make it a little more family friendly. If you see suspected gang activity in the park, please report. You should call 311 for graffiti removal, but also let your SLO know.

Q: By Member Hutch: Notes 311 has a phone app to make graffiti reporting easy. How has the LAPD funding cuts impacted police response times?

A: (by LAPD Sergeant Jesse Ojeda) The LAPD has responded to the budget cuts by making patrol a priority. A lot of officers who were previously assigned to the HOPE team or to other special units have been reassigned to patrol. Has heard in other meetings complaints about 911 and AskLAPD call response so there may have been impacts these services due to lack of staffing.

Q: By Member Hutch: How should you now report a car break in?

A: You can now generate your own report online for low level crimes. This is also the procedure for non-injury traffic collisions.

**Senior Lead Officer Cesar Contreras** – There is no real crime trend in his area, but take the same precautions since criminals do not care if they are in Tujunga or Sunland. His main issue is dealing with the homeless dwelling in vehicles or around Sunland Park. They are very limited in what they can do at this time, no deep cleaning, they can only do spot cleaning and ask if tent dwellers have trash / hazardous waste they want removed. The tents have to be ADU compliant, those across from Sunland Park are and they are not committing crimes so he has no power to remove them. Tries to have a good relationship with the homeless; discouraging them from camping in Sunland Park. As far as the merchants go, he tries to discourage them from selling alcohol to those with substance abuse problems; free Wi-Fi is also a huge attraction for homeless people.

**Sgt. Jesse Ojeda, Community Relations LAPD Foothill Division** – Always remember to take your key fob and not leave valuables in your vehicles. They are doing a virtual Valentines event for the Police Cadets to give them some sense of normalcy despite Covid.

Q: By Tabu Stewart – just moved here from LaCrescenta and thinks the homeless on Commerce are bad for local businesses.

A: (by SLO Caloca) Knows of only one person set up at Foothill / Commerce. Email her with any details of illegal activities. Most homeless campers are East of Tujunga Canyon Blvd. except for one camper at Mt. Gleason and Foothill.

**DONE Advocate Jasmine Elbarbary** – NC elections updates will be in the monthly profile. Information on election resources is consolidated in one link: [cc2021ncelectionsresources](#). DONE is looking for volunteers to serve on regional grievance panels and on regional election grievance panels. Vote by mail will be coming soon, that is the time for candidates to engage with their voting base.

**Q&A:**

Q: By Treasurer Capps: Any word on when the new board is going to be seated?

A: Does not know if a decision has been made yet. She will let the Board know

Q: By VP Grant: Has DONE decided where the drop box for the STNC elections is going to be located? She needs this information to print up the flyers.

A: She does not know yet, she will let VP Grant know as soon as she knows.

**Eve Sinclair, Area Director for Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez** – They are moving forward with the 10.5 million dollar Measure W project. LA Sanitation will give the work to a contractor after initial design. Community meetings will probably be sometime this summer; loss of staff in City departments may impact the timeline. LADWP's Redmont Pump Station is in the final design stage, there will be community outreach. This project is from Oct 2021 to Nov. 2023. Operation Bright Spot will be here again in Tujunga March 22 to April 23 and in Sunland from April 26- May 28th. The conversion to low voltage lighting on Commerce from Summitrose to Valmont will hopefully start late this month. There will be a sewer improvement project on Tujunga Canyon Blvd. from Pinewood to Marcus/Valmont. The project is now in the design phase. This health and safety project was deemed necessary because of bad smells due to septic systems and illegal installations. The rest of the alley west of Commerce resurfaced last year will be resurfaced from Foothill to Tujunga Canyon Blvd. The City broke ground on the 56 unit Silver Crossing homeless housing development in Sylmar. The 49 unit Summit View project in Lake View Terrace should be completed by the end of the year. The Arroyo Women's Center in Sylmar, the Pacoima Winter Shelter, and the North Hills Safe Parking facilities are open and operational. 97% of the Covid vaccines the City was given have been distributed. The City is working on getting more resources for vulnerable populations such as the project with Pacoima Beautiful

**Q&A:**

Q: by Matt Walker: Any update on Patrick, who is living in front of the library? He has spoken to him and he is sick. Would he be a candidate for the expanded Operation Room Key he read was recently fully federally funded?

A: The CARE team goes to this site on a regular basis. There are two case workers helping Patrick, she cannot give medical details per federal health privacy regulations. Operation Room Key usually uses larger hotels than what is in our area, 50 units or more. The City is considering two smaller hotels next door to each other in this area. Some homeless need to move out of the area depending on their needs.

#### **Item 5. Old Business**

- A. Owl Boxes** – By VP Grant – she has no new news, she reached out to CLAW the organization that provided the boxes, and they are not that helpful because the City Depts. that would handle this sort of issue are on skeleton crews due to Covid. She will continue to follow-up.
- B. Yard Signs** – STAT Committee Chair Pat Kramer – the yard sign give away was very successful with 50 yard signs given away at the event and 38 more yard signs delivered to people who could not make the event or saw a sign and wanted one. She still has 22 yard signs available; email her if you want one. It must be placed on your property or with your landlord’s permission. It cannot be placed in the City right of way in front of your home. She hopes the signs let careless drivers know they will be reported. If the Foothill Traffic Division gets numerous calls about one driver, this will be noted by Valley Traffic. This project took over a year to accomplish and took a team. She thanks all the members of the STAT committee: Jon von Gunten, Betty Markowitz, George Arakel, Levon Parian, and Barbara Rowe for two years of dedication to make this happen She also thanks artist Gerardo Barrientos for designing the sign graphics.
- C. Update on Grievance #265** – By VP Grant – she has submitted documentation in response to the grievance that DONE initially did not give her time to submit. She does not know at this point if DONE is going to move forward with the grievance.

#### **SPECIAL BOARD ONLINE MEETING**

President Sanchez said each of the three presenters would be given 2 minutes each for the two items on the Special agenda.

**Special Meeting Item 1.** Special Meeting called to order at 8:04 pm by President Sanchez.

President Sanchez introduced Special Meeting Item 2:

#### **Special Meeting Item 2. Equity and Inclusion Resolution**

**MOTION:** Discussion/Action to review and approve the proposed Equity and Inclusion Resolution of the Neighborhood Council of Sunland-Tujunga, California acknowledging Sunland-Tujunga’s racially-exclusionary past and our community’s commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging.

Member Grant requested to allow the presentation of the item.

President Sanchez refused and called for the Motion.

Member Grant presented Motion to Postpone Item 2 indefinitely.

**Motion: Postpone Item 2 indefinitely on grounds the resolution 1) is not under the purview of Neighborhood Councils (“NCs”), 2) many items requested would require legislation, NCs do not legislate, 3) does not support the mission of the NC system 4) does not pertain to the work of NCs under the City Charter, 5) does not pertain to a LA City Counsel File, 6) special notice violates the bylaws by not having this item go through the Executive Committee who sets the agenda, 7) the STNC is not responsible for the behavior of individual community members, 8) violates the purpose of special meetings because it is not so urgent it cannot wait for the next Board meeting, 9) is another example of President Sanchez violating the bylaws to push her personal political agenda, 10) information is inaccurate, not based on facts and is biased, 11) documentation provided is from cities other than Los Angeles, 12) requests NC resources that cannot be used for these purposes, 13) is designed to create division, 14) has the ability to disrupt the**

<b>upcoming NC elections, 15) some items may take away community members' rights of free speech; Motion to postpone indefinitely the Equity and Inclusion Resolution.</b>				
Motion: Lydia Grant Second Carol Hutch Roll call vote BAC Signed				
Yes	No	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Royal Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez, Potter, Abramyan, Hutchinson, von Gunten, Armour, Kim	Sanchez			Shaheenian, Khanjian
15 yes, 1 no, 2 absent motion passed				

**Special Meeting Item 3. Appoint Stakeholder Group Representative for PTA**

**MOTION: Discussion/Action to review and approve appointment of Michelle Wadler**

Secretary Cleghorn notes she has two documents submitted by applicant, a letter of interest and a letter from her organization. She has confirmed Ms. Wadler is a Sunland resident.

**Candidate Statement:** she is a mother of 2 at Apperson Elementary School and chair of the Apperson PTA. She has lived here most of her life except when she went to college. She wants to make the neighborhood better for everyone. President Sanchez reads the letter of recommendation from the Apperson Elementary PTA.

**Q&A**

Q: by President Sanchez: What do you hope to accomplish as a Board member?

A: She would like to see inclusivity of neighbors. People do not know what is going on in these STNC meetings.

Q: by Member Potter: what region are you from?

A: Region 4

<b>Motion: Postpone approval of appointment of Michelle Wadler to follow process outlined in STNC Bylaws</b>				
Motion: Lydia Grant Second Nina Royal Roll call vote BAC Signed				
Yes	No	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Royal Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez, Potter, Abramyan, Hutchinson, von Gunten, Armour, Kim	Sanchez			Shaheenian, Khanjian
15 yes, 1 no, 2 absent motion passed				

VP Grant notes that the new STNC Bylaw (incorporating new provisions of the LA Municipal Code) requires that stakeholder groups confirm where in the NC their meetings are held and that they have been in existence for one year. This new bylaw was the reason another stakeholder group rep candidate was denied, it would not be fair to apply a different standard to this candidate.

President Sanchez does not think the bylaw pertains to the PTA; they have been around for a long time.

Elisabeth Yerke-Robbins- wrote the group letter and thinks she can clear this up. The PTA has been around for 70 years and they still hold virtual meetings.

Member Royal thinks that according to state law, the PTA is not supposed to be political.

Member Potter believes the STNC Bylaws say the letter must state where the group meets, how often they meet. We need to stick to the rules.

Members Von Gunten, Secretary Cleghorn and VP Grant note no one is making a comment re the candidates fitness to serve, just about the paperwork.

Member Hutch wonders if the whole PTA voted to have the candidate as their group rep.

Bylaws Committee Chair Bill Skiles is concerned about this being a special meeting agenda item. This should have gone through the Executive Committee and the regular process for candidates seeking board appointment.

**Special Meeting Adjourned at: 8:31 pm.**

### **GENERAL BOARD MEETING (Continued)**

**Item 6: STNC Elections Update** by VP Grant- the phase 2 flyers are complete. We have 45 candidates, a new record due to the hard work of the elections committee. April 20<sup>th</sup> is our election day. There will be a time for online registration, and then those that register will be mailed a ballot. You can send the ballot back by mail, but if you wait too long you will also be able to drop the ballot into the drop box on Election Day. Working with the City Clerk to customize materials to fit the STNC Bylaws such as stakeholder group candidates who must state what group they represent. The form letter that the City Clerk sent these candidates to qualify does not request all the needed information.

### **Item 7. Committee/Liaison Announcements & Reports**

- A. Bylaws/Standing Rules – Feb 22 2021 @ 7 PM
- B. Beautification – Feb 17, 2021 @ 5:30 PM
- C. Budget & Finance – Feb 24 @ 6 PM
- D. Neighborhood Watch next meeting TBA, Chair von Gunten will post report on last mtg. tomorrow
- E. Land Use – Pati Potter March 1 & 15 @ 7pm
- F. Community Improvement- Government Affairs Feb 18 @ 6:30pm
- G. Elections Committee Feb 12 @ 6:30pm
- H. Outreach – Feb 18 @ 7pm
- I. STAT - Safe Traffic & Transportation Committee next meeting Feb 23 @ 6 PM --
- J. STARC – Arts, Culture & Recreation Committee, Feb 23 @ 7:30 PM - via Zoom – no report.
- K. Executive Committee – Feb 24 @ 7:00 PM

#### Liaisons:

1. Homelessness – Camille Yiu
2. NC Budget Advocates Punam Gohal
3. Public Works – Lydia Grant
4. LADWP – Nina Royal
5. NC Sustainability Alliance – Oscar Alvarez and Dorisa Shahmirzai
6. RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) – no in person workshops, online virtual training
7. Emergency Preparedness Alliance – Nina Royal 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday Feb 27
8. VANC – Feb 11 @ 6:30pm
9. DWP/MOU Committee March 6 @ 8:30am
10. LANCC March 6 @ 10am – VP Grant notes homelessness programs will be discussed as well how DONE is doing its job under Raquel Beltran’s management

### **Item 9. General Public Comments /Community Event Announcements**

Clare Gordon – Has been a homeowner in Tujunga for 21 years. Is now an archival assistant at the Bradley Center at CSUN. Was a co-author of the resolution on tonight’s special meeting agenda. Thinks it is vitally important to have greater inclusiveness and equity in the STNC. By discovering more about the lived experience of those who have been traditionally marginalized we will create more community involvement and investment. Our neighborhood’s racist history has effects on our non-white residents to this day. We need a forum centered upon anti-racist ideals.

Evelyn Serrano – Thank you for the opportunity. She will work with board members to make the resolution fit STNC rules. Sunland-Tujunga has been her community for 12 years. She is passionately committed to a more compassionate, equitable and inclusive community for all residents especially minorities, particularly the 1% of African Americans who live here. Many feel unsafe and others have been targeted, making them reluctant to attend or speak at STNC meetings. Others have been told this work is not necessary, discounting their experiences. We can and must do the work to make Sunland Tujunga anti-racist and inclusive.

Leny Freeman – is a candidate for Region 1 representative. His priorities are safer conditions on Foothill Blvd., controlling illegal fireworks that upset veterans with PTSD and dogs, and participating in clean up events so there is less trash in the community. Thinks everyone is being included now. He would like to see evidence which supports the claims of the previous two speakers.

Cheryl Schmidt – she is a candidate for Region 4 representative. Public safety is her #1 concern. She thinks the community should work with the police to keep parks clean and safe. She supports small businesses and would like to see more of them.

Member von Gunten – he supports outreach to underrepresented communities. To his knowledge every major ethnic group has been represented on the STNC Board during the last few election cycles. Thinks it does harm to their proposed resolution when they allege actions that happened so far in the past. If anyone has evidence that they have been excluded recently, he would like to hear it. In all his years in ST Neighborhood watch he has not heard 1 allegation of a racially motivated hate crime. He would like to see evidence.

Member Abramyan – to say there is no discrimination is naive. There has been harassment of the Armenian community, threats and constant social media complaints about reckless BMW drivers. That being said when bad things happen, your closest friend is your neighbor, they are the one to help you in a medical or other sort of emergency. Hopeful the focus could be more positive.

VP Royal – she has been begging people to attend the outreach meetings for months. If you want to participate, join the outreach committee. It does no good to dwell on things that happened 40 years ago or more.

Member Hutch – she keeps hearing about inclusivity, she is all for that. You can’t force people to be interested.

VP Grant – Would like to state for the record she is not a racist. Has a 30 year record of defending social justice and is from a mixed race family. She will not work with a committee that calls out the ST community for being racist. She does not like condemning and dividing people.

Member Rowe – she is also from a very mixed family. Does not see the need to blame and point fingers. Thinks a community town hall / day of dialogue with the police and the community might be a better vehicle to resolve these differences. Does not think this is a STNC Board matter.



**Items 10-12, Funding Consent Items:**

**10. Approval of January 2020 MER**

**MOTION:** The STNC Board approves the **January 2021** Monthly Expenditure Report

**11. Approval of Certificates of Appreciation**

**MOTION:** Discussion/Action to approve up to \$160 for printing full color certificates of appreciation request from STNC President Sanchez. (*Office*)

**12. Approval of Cost Increase for STNC Zoom Account**

**MOTION:** Discussion/Action: Monthly Zoom increase from \$14.99 to \$16.34 for a \$1.35 Utility Users Tax.

<b>Motion: Approve Funding Consent Items 10-12</b>				
Motion: Sandy Capps Second Lydia Grant Roll call vote BAC Signed				
Yes	No	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez, Potter, Abramyan, Hutchinson, von Gunten, Armour, Kim				Shaheenian, Khanjian
16 yes, 0 no, 2 absent motion passed				

**Items 13, 14 a-b. 15 and 16, Non Funding Consent Items:**

**13. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Discussion/Action that STNC Board approves the January 13, 2021 minutes

**14. Approval of Land Use Committee Recommendations**

- a. **MOTION:** Discussion/Action: that STNC support CF 21-0002-S18 which is in opposition to SB 9.
- b. **MOTION:** Discussion/Action: that STNC support CF 21-0002-S21 which is in opposition to SB 10.
- c. **MOTION:** Discussion/Action approve STNC letter of support regarding 11203 N Rhodesia SunlandENV-2020-7768-CE

**15. Approval of letter regarding LAUSD parent engagement program**

**MOTION:** Discussion/Action that STNC approves letter to LAUSD to open their parent engagement program.

**16. Approve Community Impact Statement regarding City's insurance vendors**

**MOTION:** Discussion/Action that STNC support **Council File** 20-0492 "The City should not be supporting investments in fossil fuel companies, and residents shouldn't have to worry about the City's insurance vendors failing due to investments in, or issuing risky insurance to, a declining industry." [recommended by STNC NCSA Liaison Dorisa Shahmirzai]

<b>Motion: Approve Non Funding Consent Items 13, 14 a-b. 15 and 16</b>				
Motion: Pati Potter Second Lallah Rowe Roll call vote BAC Signed				
Yes	No	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Sanchez, Grant, Royal Capps, Cleghorn, Rowe Keshish, Belt, Karamians, Alvarez, Potter, Abramyan, Hutchinson, von Gunten, Armour, Kim				Shaheenian, Khanjian

16 yes, 0 no, 2 absent motion passed				
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Land Use Committee Chair Potter requests Item 14c be removed because it is no longer needed.

**Final Announcements:** The next STNC General Board Meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021

Adjourn at: 9:09 pm

Minutes by Marjorie Maxon

DRAFT