

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SPECIAL JOINT GENERAL BOARD/LAND-USE COMMEETING MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2016

- I. Meeting was called to order by General Board President Mark Seigel at 7:09pm
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
 - a. General Board – Present
 - i. Mark Seigel
 - ii. Charlie Bradley
 - iii. Nina Royal
 - iv. Cindy Cleghorn
 - v. Pat Kramer
 - vi. Arsen Karamians
 - vii. David Barron
 - viii. Susan Mona
 - ix. Marlene Hitt
 - x. Jon Von Gunten
 - xi. Krystee Clark
 - xii. John Laue
 - b. General Board – Absent
 - i. Brenda Fortune
 - ii. Jorge Martinez
 - iii. Gail Carlson
 - iv. Maureen O’Byrne
 - v. Dana Stangel
 - vi. Julie Cuddihy
 - vii. Sergio Soto
 - viii. Janet Paz
 - c. Land-Use Committee – Present
 - i. Cindy Cleghorn
 - ii. Bill Skiles
 - iii. Debby Beck
 - iv. Nina Royal
 - v. Elektra Kruger
 - vi. David Barron
 - vii. John Laue
 - viii. Arsen Karamians
 - ix. Karen Zimmerman
 - x. Lilianna Sanchez
 - xi. Cathi Comras
 - d. Land-Use Committee – Absent
 - i. Roberta Konrad
 - e. No Public Representative Present
- IV. Public Comments
 - a. Mark Seigel

to the DEIR of the V. H. Residential Project written by Dean Sherer on behalf of the STNC (see attached draft)

- a. A joint meeting of the LUC and General Board has been scheduled for this evening to vote to review and approve the draft letter as the deadline for submission is two days away.
 - i. There has been a lot of outreach to get neighbors to weigh in.
- b. **MOTION:** by Elektra Kruger of the LUC to recommend approval of the STNC Draft Comment Letter to the DEIR of the V.H. Residential Project as written by Dean Sherer on behalf of the STNC 2nd by Karen Zimmerman
 - i. Discussion
 1. Cathi C.: at the end of the letter there were comments stated as rhetorical questions – this was inappropriate so she rewrote them as statements
 2. Karen Z.: Questions raised in the STNC Comment Letter are legitimate as we do question statements that have been made in both the 2009 and recirculated DEIR version
 3. Dean S./Karen Z.: We are working together as a community to speak as one on what we think the impacts of this Project would be.
 4. Karen Z.: While one group may be concentrating on one aspect of the DEIR, another group may be concentrating on another. Dean S.'s letter is a very comprehensive response to the DEIR.
 5. Some things being address were somewhat on a side-note such as recreation which was not recirculated but something that was mentioned by a number of people
 6. Dean S.: And others focused on the fact the 2009 DEIR was released 5-6 yrs ago – people have moved into the community since then & have had no opportunity to review the 2009 doc
 7. These people have only seen a small sliver of the total document in the recirculated version. The overarching theme was that we are limited to commenting only on the recirculated DEIR
 8. The recirculated DEIR focused on the subjects: 1.) Green house gases 2.) New alternatives 3.) Culture/Resources 4.) Traffic
 9. There are 6 Alternatives to the Project including the “No Development” Alternative. The decision-makers may select the Alternative to be treated as the “Project”
 10. Thus, although we as a community may not come away with the Project we would like to have, do not cease input – with input we will still get protective measures we may not have otherwise had
 11. Entire document should have been recirculated because environmental baseline has changed between 2009 and 2015
 12. The City felt their decision not to recirculated the whole DEIR was on firm legal ground – the only significant changes needing to be addressed now were in those four sections
 13. However comments sent in in response to the 2009 version will also be addressed and incorporated in the Final EIR

14. We are trying to identify what is missing in the DEIR with input from the community.
 15. Comments received from Bill Skiles, Debby Beck, Elektra Kruger and Cathi Comras have been incorporated in the STNC Draft Comment Letter
 16. Jon V.: Due to the # of items fudged on, manipulated, the overall tone of the STNC Draft Comment Letter is far too polite – needs to be more emphatic about alleged miscalculations
 17. There was a Bd discussion as to whether the DEIR Comment Letter was the proper doc to make the reader feel “defensive”. If there is fraud it should be further addressed elsewhere
 18. In the DEIR there were two different software programs used with no explanation why. That could be unreasonable. Rather than claim “manipulation” request “justification”
 19. Mark S.: The traffic study for Home Depot was prepared using a nationwide standard model, the number of car trips came out to be less than that of a fenced off parking lot = less than zero
 20. Discussed the fact that the City is the “third party” evaluating the DEIR prepared by a contractor hired by the developer. Los Angeles is the only City that may hire his own DEIR contractor
 21. Thus, the DEIR will still lean in favor of the developer and it is up to us to let the City know what is wrong with the evaluation.
 - ii. Cindy C.: As a LUC we have a Motion on the table to recommend the STNC Board support the STNC Draft Comment Letter to the DEIR of the V. H. Residential Project as written by Dean S. Vote: Unanimous approval
- VII. Cindy C., Co-Chair of the STNC-LUC handed the meeting over to Mark S., Pres. of the STNC Bd, to accept/deny the recommendation of the STNC-LUC to support the STNC Draft Comment Letter to the Recirculation of the DEIR for 6433 La Tuna Canyon.
- a. **MOTION:** by Cindy Cleghorn to support the recommendation of the STNC-LUC and to approve and submit the STNC Draft Comment Letter on the DEIR for the V.H. Residential Project located at 6433 La Tuna Canyon.
 - i. Mark S.: There does not have to be a second as the recommendation comes from committee. Is there any further discussion?
 1. Pat K.: In the letter there is a reference to a “small lot subdivision”. Requested definition. Dean S. explained the Ordinance and its abuse. Use from urban infill to large parcels
 2. John L.: Is there a timeframe in which the City must respond to the comment letters? Dean S.: No. The City will consolidate all letters fr 2009 & the recirculated sections to produce the Final EIR. It is the Final EIR that goes to the City Planning Commission. Unless another intervening factor takes place, the DEIR should move forward and go to the City Planning Commission (estimate six months).
 3. Cindy C: Or they will take our recommendation to recirculate the entire DEIR. Dean S.: The City really should have recirculated the entire DEIR now that the “Project” is an “Alternative”

4. Dean S.: By not referring to the current “Project” as *THE* “Project” and recirculating the whole DEIR, it seemingly expedites things by deciding the Project will be an Alternative
5. Cindy C.: We need to keep copies of our documents/history so that when the new Board comes in in a month, we will be able to bring them up to speed – we need representation from this community downtown at the City Planning Commission
6. Cindy C.: Recommended that new Board Members attend a couple hearings to experience how they function – testifying is the function of the Board and LUC
7. Mark S.: STNC needs to sponsor a Planning 101 class again
8. Pat K.: We need an aerial view of the 221 unit VHGC site + the adjacent 221 unit Canyon Hills site + the 242 unit Canyon Park site to help visualize the potential traffic congestion
9. Discussed Phasing, current extension of entitlement lifetimes, ability of developers to request further entitlement extensions so as not to lose existing entitlements which would require the application process to begin all over again
10. Karen Z.: If you have not already written a letter and are not sure whether to do so believing the comment to have been submitted in other letters, do so anyway to get how you feel on record
11. Cindy C.: You could support the STNC letter as well as add your own comments. Important to weigh in.
12. Is there a place to see the 2009 STNC comments to the DEIR – they are on the web-site
13. Must E-Mail comments at this time – snail mail will not arrive by deadline
14. Mark S.: There is a Motion on the table in favor of supporting the STNC Draft Comment Letter to the DEIR of the V.H. Residential Project as written by Dean S. Vote: Unanimous approval
15. The letter will be passed on to the City

VIII. Announcements

a. Nina Royal

- i. Running for office – did not jump the gun & begin campaigning before being registered as some have said. All done by the book. If anyone has registered and your name does not yet appear on the list, don’t panic.
 1. Mark S.: E-Mail the City Clerk and DONE staff to check if your candidacy is approved

IX. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm