

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
LAND-USE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2016

- I. Meeting was called to order by Interim Co-Chair Cindy Cleghorn at 7:24pm
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Present
 - i. Cindy Cleghorn
 - ii. Bill Skiles
 - iii. Debby Beck
 - iv. Nina Royal
 - v. Elektra Kruger
 - vi. David Barron
 - vii. Karen Zimmerman
 - viii. Lilianna Sanchez
 - b. Absent
 - i. John Laue
 - ii. Arsen Karamians
 - c. Public Representative ☺
 - i. Ricardo Benitez
- III. Self-Introductions of Board Members and Audience
- IV. Approval of Minutes
 - a. **MOTION:** by Karen Zimmerman to approve the STNC-LUC Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2016 as amended 2nd by Debby Beck Vote: Unanimously approved
- V. Committee Member Up-Dates
 - a. None
- VI. Public Comments
 - a. Roberta Cole
 - i. Thanked the LUC and especially its Chairperson Cindy Cleghorn for their dedicated service to assure the quality of life and environment in Sunland-Tujunga with their knowledge and objectivity in evaluating land-use issues
 - b. Elektra Kruger
 - i. The most recent presentation at Bolton Hall was on the Furst family that lived in the Furst castle on the hill above the Old Vienna Restaurant in SH. The room was filled & many could not get in. There will be an encore presentation – see attached flyer
 - ii. BH will be having its annual fund-raiser the Blazing Star and Plant sale Sat. April 16. 9am to 3pm. Anyone wishing to donate items to the sale may do so any Tues/Sun from 1pm-4pm. Also certainly attend the sale – see attached flyer
 - iii. There will be a Day of Dialogue on the future of policing hosted by the LAPD Operations Depart, Valley Bureau Apr 14, 6pm-8pm. For those who missed the S/T Townhall Meeting this would be an excellent opportunity to share your concerns – see attached flyer
 - c. Lilianna Sanchez
 - i. There has been some noticeable absenteeism among LUC Board Members. I recommend a letter be sent to them encouraging them to take responsibility for the position for which they have volunteered.

- ii. Lilitiana would like to fill the vacant position of an LUC Board Member as opposed to that of an alternate
 - d. Nina Royal
 - i. Mission College will be coming to S/T. They want to start classes in the summer. We need to send them a list of the types of classes that may be of interest to residents of Sunland-Tujunga. Send recommendations to nroyal1959@aol.com
 - ii. Re Samoa. They have put up a perimeter fence all the way out to the street encroaching onto street parking on a very narrow street that already has limited street parking
 - 1. Cindy C.: In our letter we did request that fencing be off-set from the street
 - e. Cindy Cleghorn
 - i. Re the STNC election held last Sat. There were 1223 voters – a record for the Valley. Venice held the record for all NCs at over 1600. A recount is being held today and results are still pending
 - 1. Maryellen: Made a comment about the post card sample ballot arriving the day before and day of the election.
 - 2. Karen Z.: It would be wonderful if people involved in the voting would continue to follow what’s going on and see how they could get involved. Positive outcomes are so dependent on community involvement
- VII. Committee Announcements
- a. Nina Royal
 - i. Mission College will be coming to S/T this summer. Classes will temporarily be held at the Commerce Center on Commerce/Foothill. Classes can run from 8am to 10pm 6 days a week – that could accommodate a wide variety of classes
 - 1. Cindy C.: There is a survey on the STNC E-Newsletter. Thus far there have only been about 35 responses. We need to encourage people to take the survey. Since the meeting we now have 100 responses.
 - b. Cindy Cleghorn
 - i. There will be a ReCodeLA Forum in our area in Northridge on April 20.
 - c. Oro Vista/Big Tujunga Canyon – Lilianna Sanchez
 - i. Spoke to Senior Grading Inspector Martin Holmes. He and John Kitchco have been on the property itself at our request. They spoke to the contractor Josh who has been “uninvolved” and unaware of what was taking place there
 - ii. They had to remove the lg boulders fr the Wildlife Corridor (being referred to as an Open Air Easement). The corridor is still under investigation bec the perimeter fence is out to the street – it is supposed to be 52’ off-street
 - iii. As of this morning, the fence was still out to the street.
 - iv. The inspectors are requiring construction of a berm to keep water out of the Wildlife Corridor
 - v. The Sr Grading Inspector Holmes said he had not read any of the documents associated with the property. Requested he review the documents/plans and make a return visit to verify the base ht of the building pads are properly raised.
 - 1. The site is in a flood plain. The building pads must be adequately raised prior to initiation of construction to prevent future flooding events of the development site

- VIII. Traffic safety on Tujunga Canyon Place – Cindy Cleghorn
 - a. There are no up-dates. Rafi made connections at the LAPD Townhall Meeting and may be following up with this himself from there.
- IX. Up-Dates and new businesses in the FBCSP area + Commerce – moved to future meeting
- X. Presentation: 10105 Commerce – 2nd story addition to an existing structure – Argineh Mailian
 - a. Note: Q = Question, A = Answer by presenter C= Comment R = Response by person other than presenter
 - b. The structure was once a Post Office, then a Pharmacy and then a Dance Studio located across from Bolton Hall on the NW corner of Commerce/Valmont. Proposal is for a 2nd story addition to the existing building.
 - c. In 2012, they had obtained approval for interior renovation & change of use fr a dance studio to a temple. The 1st story is to serve as a shrine, the 2nd as classrooms & storage. Hours of operation proposed to be M-F 8am to 11am and 7pm to 9pm, S/S 8am to 8pm
 - d. Occupancy meets City Code. Proposed height = 29’6”. The 2nd story will be set-back 25 feet from Commerce ave (22 ft from the exterior wall of the first story)
 - e. Q: The maximum capacity of the shrine is 87 people, the parking lot has 18 spaces. That breaks down to 5 people/car. That is unrealistic. A: Parking spaces meets City Code in terms of spaces/sq ft structure
 - i. C: Our concern re parking is that if there is any kind of overflow, there will be no place to park or your membership will park in areas that should by right be available to local residents/businesses
 - 1. A: There is a large parking lot on Commerce/Foothill. We can park there and shuttle to the site. We will inform our people not to park along Commerce.
 - f. Q: The parking area perimeter wall on Valmont is currently covered with nice Bougainvillea bushes. The renderings show low lying plants. That leaves an aesthetically massive wall that would be attractive to graffiti artists. Will the bushes be removed?
 - i. This is only a rendering for the Planning Dept. A presenter showed us a picture of his personal residence in an effort to convince us how much improved the temple will appear – the two have no nexus
 - g. Q: The application states that you are asking for a BoE waiver – what are the waivers? A: All applications have a standard set of BoE requirements one of which deals with street widening. We believe this to be unnecessary.
 - i. C: Especially since the current structure only has a 3 ft set-back from the street
 - h. C: When you made a presentation over a yr ago, you made reference to how community involved your organization would be. Not one name on the submitted project support petition has a Sunland-Tujunga address and no one has been seen at a local event
 - i. C: You state that typically you have 20 people attending services & you have 4 stoves – that doesn’t jive. Also, for such a small membership, why are you adding all these classrooms? That seems like a lot of extra space if there is no membership to use it
 - i. A: M-F there are typically 20 people/day. S/S there are typically 50-60 (3.3 people/car) w/the hope to have an inc’d membership in the next 10-20 years. We hope to accommodate them without having to build another property
 - ii. A: The 60 people are not there all at once – they come and go during the course of the day

- j. Q: Will the facility be available to non-members for classes in eg yoga? Will there be outreach to the community letting them know the opportunity exists? A: Non-members are welcome to temple events. Flyers will be made available at the NVCH
 - k. Lloyd Hitt: I have been President of Bolton Hall across the street – the historic building #2 of the City of Los Angeles – for 10 years. You have not been good neighbors. Trash surrounds the building, plants have not been watered and are dead.
 - i. Lloyd H.: I have been there a # of times to take care of the property myself which just sits empty. I have been here since 1946. All prior owners have kept up the bldg. You may have nice plans for the building, but you have to care of it
 - 1. A: Apologized for the history of poor maintenance. Promised to take care of the property in the future. Stated that currently they do not come to the site often, but do take care of problems when they do
 - 2. C: That is a problem when you are an organization from out-of-town – you do not have members from the community who might help you take care of the site A: Once we move here it will be taken care of
 - l. Debby B.: clarified a number of details of the proposed plans with the presenters. Requested a sample board of colors/materials proposed to be used. A: Will provide that to the NC
 - m. Q: Will you be holding services during construction of the 2nd story? A: No Q: How long do you believe it will take until construction is complete? A: At least a year with the planning process as well as the construction itself
- XI. Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm