

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
LAND-USE COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 17, 2016

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- I. Meeting was called to order at 7:14pm by Co-Chair Cindy Cleghorn
- II. Roll Call – Quorum Present
  - a. Present
    - i. Cindy Cleghorn
    - ii. Debby Beck
    - iii. Elektra Kruger
    - iv. David Barron
    - v. John Laue
    - vi. Lilianna Sanchez
    - vii. Cathi Comras
    - viii. Pati Potter
  - b. Absent
    - i. Bill Skiles
    - ii. Nina Royal
    - iii. Karen Zimmerman
  - c. Public Representative present 😊
    - i. Karo Tarossian – Planning Deputy, CD2
- III. Announcements
  - a. Cindy Cleghorn
    - i. Mission College is looking to place a sign at the Foothill/Commerce TownCenter
    - ii. There will be a Candidate Forum Tues. Oct. 25 at All Nations Church
    - iii. The Planning 101 Class held last Sat at Glassell Park was very good. It focused on Community Plans. It was well presented in more lay-man’s terms. Hopefully we might be able to get them to come to our community
    - iv. It will be a while before Sunland-Tujunga gets their Community Plan up-dated – perhaps into the 2018 timeframe
    - v. LUC meetings to begin meeting at the NVCH again in November
    - vi. Distributed a booklet of pro/con arguments for items on the ballot of the upcoming election (see attached). It was originally distributed at the United Chambers which is an organization for all Chambers of Commerce in the Valley
    - vii. There are currently three positions vacant on the STNC-LUC. Audience members were invited to consider joining the committee. Has applications available (see attached)
  - b. Lilianna Sanchez
    - i. Monday Nov 7 – at the next LUC meeting – a gentleman by the name of Beach Bradley will come from the State Bureau of ABC to answer all our questions re any alcohol retail businesses and alcohol licenses – anything we need to know
      - 1. We need to outreach to Sunland-Tujunga to get people to attend
      - 2. There are different types of licenses in Sunland-Tujunga, some that are very old. Now things have changed. He is from the State-side so we should concentrate on what to ask from the State approval side
      - 3. What kind of conditions can be added to an application – any concerns people may have

4. Karo T.: The City cannot regulate hrs of service for alcohol – that falls under State regulations. The City has to review the entire business as a CUP. Some communities have encouraged the State ABC to incorporate specific conditions
  5. Karo T.: One thing that communities have been pushing for is eg placing regulations on single-serve beer – a regulation the City cannot call for but the State ABC can
- ii. The Mission College Committee met with Dr. Perez. They are going to handle the survey to hand out to the public. The Committee will first review it, then they will publicize and advertise it.
    1. There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Nina is taking care of the invitations. It is scheduled to take place in a couple of weeks. The Mayor and Herb Wesson have been invited to the ribbon-cutting ceremony
    2. Classes are scheduled to begin in Spring 2017 and may be scheduled anytime from 7am to 11pm, 7 days a week
    3. They have offered some great ideas, eg classes for home-school parents to educate parents since Sunland-Tujunga has a high home-school population
    4. We do however need more input from the community as to the type of classes it would like to see have offered.
    5. We already have the keys
- IV. Early Notification
- a. 9801 Commerce
    - i. Construction of a 961 sq ft SFR in the form of a “Manufactured Home”. The ZA’s determination will deal with vehicular access from the boundary of the lot in a hillside area that is not improved continuously with a 20’ min width
      1. The Zoning Administrator will review the circumstances and either permit the reduced width with specific conditions or require the road to be improved to 20’
  - b. Fenwick
    - i. No up-dates. Someone had contacted Cindy C. regarding the Sterling’s property – there was a past interest in that site for housing units.
- V. Council File on Haul Routes (for information only) – Elektra Kruger
- a. DOT says that currently there are limited enforcement options if haul trucks stage where curbside parking is legally permitted, whether in front of a construction site or elsewhere. The City Council’s Transportation Committee recommended that:
    - i. The City Attorney prepare and present a Draft Ordinance that would require haul trucks to obtain a permit with the City to stage immediately adjacent to a construction site (and nowhere else in the public right-of-way)
      1. The Transportation Committee’s Report has already been adopted by City Council, but the Council Action page in the file is not directing the action to the City Attorney
      2. Karo T. suggested that perhaps they are awaiting the 3-day Council vote reconsideration period before sending it to the City Attorney
  - b. Cindy C.: Haul routes are frequently an issue w/our narrow streets, so this Motion is something to be aware of. Frequently, the time betw City Council asking the City Atty for a Draft Ord and actually getting that Draft Ordinance on the radar can take years
- VI. Community Planning: Goals, Objective, policies

- a. On continuance w/the recommendation that Bd Mbrs review the C.P. on the City Planning Web-Site – click on General Plan – scroll down to Community Plans. We are the Sunland-Tujunga, Shadow Hills, Lake View Terrace and East La Tuna Canyon C.P.
- VII. Revitalization of Commerce Ave. – Ben Sos
- a. A couple of months ago a friend of mine and I noted what a lovely street Commerce was and could see that it had undergone some improvements for which we were grateful – repairs to the sidewalks, installation of decorative street lamps, planting of trees, etc
  - b. However, in walking up-and-down the street, we could see a lot of trash and garbage. We had a lot of community input as FaceBook postings to a FaceBook Page called “Revitalize Commerce”. We would like to do just that
    - i. We have two central focuses that we feel we could make in small steps along with encouraging store-front facade up-grades. We began working with the Neighborhood Initiative that started at the Four-Square Church
      - 1. We asked for a few volunteers on Oct 1 and went up-and-down the street doing our best to clean up the street. Now, on a weekly basis, we go up-and-down the street grading each property
        - a. Red = very dirty, yellow = moderately dirty, green = clean. We are keeping a metrics on that. In evaluating these metrics we can determine good places to put trash cans on the street
        - b. Karo T.: W/regards to the trash cans, I recommend reaching out to CM Herb Wesson to request the cans. Each CD is assigned 150 cans – although they would not be the decorative ones
        - c. Cindy C.: We put a lot of effort into the restoration and money into those more wired trash cans – I have all the maps where the benches are, where the pots are, where the trash receptacles were placed – it is also part of the City record
        - d. Karo T.: Any cans other than the plastic receptacles would have to be sponsored by the businesses and the businesses would be responsible for the trash
        - e. Ben S.: The major issue is garbage on the str – any trash cans might speed up the effort to “revitalize” the str. It would be nice to have the newer businesses sponsor cans more fitting the style
        - f. In evaluating these metrics we can determine how frequently we need to schedule a street clean-up effort
        - g. Pati P.: One of the problems with our street cleaning Beautification efforts – store owners begin expecting someone to do that for them
        - h. Cindy C.: Anyone with a store should take responsibility to clean the section of the street in front of his store
      - 2. For the Facade Up-Grades we are looking to participate in the Great Streets Grant the City is offering. We have drafted proposals for portions of the street
        - a. We are aware that another group is seeking the same Grant for a sec of Foothill Bl. That is good. The more proposals that are submitted fr our area, the more attention is drawn to our area and the more likely S/T will get the Grant for somewhere

- b. John L.: There are two separate types of Grants – one for a temporary “pop-up” grant and one for a longer stretch of the street. The Grant proposal is due Dec 18
  - c. John L.: A NC cannot be part of a Great Streets application – it can come from a 501c3 or a Chamber of Commerce or .....
  - d. Cindy C.: I did encourage the CoC to participate because they did have a facade improvement program that did result in some improvements, but it needed more structure/money
  - e. Debby B.: I am particularly interested in the aspect of facade improvement because if an area looks nicer people would be less likely to mess it up
  - f. Debby B.: Foothill/Commerce both have some vintage bldgs w/some architectural detail that w/a bit of enhancement could give the area a bit of “old town” flavor that people are so drawn to
  - g. Discussed creative ways to give Commerce an “old town” flavor attracting such things as art galleries – dealing with change of use, dealing with limited parking issues
  - h. Debby B.: And there are endless violations of both the Specific Plan and Municipal Codes – eg percentage of window surfaces painted over, permanently displaced banners
- c. Lilianna S.: Have you heard any rumors about someone wanting to change the name of the street. Ben S.: Many have expressed the desire to retain the name “Commerce” as it was once the commercial center of our area
  - d. Pati P.: On the residential part of Commerce north of Valmont, I have made numerous 311 calls for bulky item pick-ups in front of the apartments – people seem to think stuff just magically gets picked up
    - i. Pati P.: Sometimes I am hesitant to make the call because it probably reinforces the idea that things just magically get picked up – they don’t realize someone has made the call for them
      - 1. Pati P.: We need to get the word out – perhaps a newspaper article or ad
    - ii. Discussed the value of approaching apartment managers about the issue. Karo T.: When approaching apartment managers the Council Office can provide magnets to distribute to them to place on tenant refrigerators
    - iii. It is policy for Bulky Item Pick-Up trucks to drive right by discarded items or ignore discarded items even immediately adjacent to an address listed on a specific work order if that address does not have its own work order
    - iv. If you contact 311 and they do not come, contact Ron Lee of the Department of Sanitation
    - v. Bulky Item pick-up will not take bags. You must go to the City on Glenoaks and pay up to \$1/bag up to 20/year. You can bag anything – attach the tag – and they will pick it up
    - vi. Cindy C.: There is a need for greater outreach and education on all the resources available

VIII. Approval of Minutes

- a. **MOTION:** by Lilianna Sanchez to approve the October 3, 2016 STNC-LUC meeting Minutes as amended 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Laue one abstention (Debby Beck – was out of town that day) Motion approved
- IX. Disposition of STNC=LUC files currently located at the temporary STNC Office and in storage
- a. The STNC had been up-heaved and moved out of the CD7 Tujunga Field Office – it is now moving back. There are boxes of land-use related files and there is concern that they may inadvertently be destroyed or lost
    - i. Much of it could be scanned and archived – could someone assist with this?
    - ii. Cathi C. suggested Bolton Hall, as a community archival repository, might accept the files. Elektra K. recommended that the STNC contact both Regina Clark and Jackie Karvas of Bolton Hall to see if they would consider these records appropriate for acceptance into the Bolton Hall archive.
    - iii. Cindy C.: Items of special importance to retain = surveys done over the yrs which reflects the community history, our agendas, our Minutes, our sign-in sheets, all positions taken as an LUC/NC, specific sites we have dealt with
    - iv. Elektra K.: Is there any possibility of hiring someone to take over Ed Rock's position? Cindy C.: Probably not – there is no funding
- X. LUC Up-Dates
- a. 8150-60 McGroarty
    - i. No up-dates
  - b. 8318 Foothill – Comprehensive Community Health Center (old DVD site)
    - i. AKA 8330 Foothill
    - ii. Has permits for:
      1. Change of use from retail to medical
      2. Lighting
      3. Electrical
      4. Plumbing
      5. Temporary Power
      6. Gas Line
      7. New back-flow device
      8. Has been signed off by Planning as being in compliance with the SP
    - iii. Cindy C.: Expressed concern that as a NC we used to get info/notification packets for any proposed project in a SP area – we rec'd no copy of the Master Land-Use application for this project. It appears as if things are just being signed off over-the-counter.
  - c. 8334 Foothill – proposed lease as recycling center (former Security Pacific Bank)
    - i. Prior proposals for this site fizzled despite whole-hearted acceptance by the community because they included housing in a commercial zone not permitted in the SP
    - ii. Security Pacific has no interest in selling
  - d. 7101 Foothill Drive-thru car wash CUP (76 station)
    - i. No up-dates
  - e. 7577 Foothill – former Denny's
    - i. Cindy C. Has heard rumors about interest in replacing it with housing – it is a great site for a restaurant, would hate to lose it. Karo T.: Site is split-zoned. Front = commercial, rear (current parking) = R3 (apartments)
  - f. 7656 Foothill Drive-thru car wash CUP/7-11 (at Apperson)

- i. No up-dates. C: A lot of people in the community are not aware of what is planned for that location. Cindy C.: Neighbors would not yet have been notified by the City, the NC has
    - ii. Karo T.: They did not know they were in a SP area and have not filed for a Project Permit Compliance Review (SPP). The Planning Department is now aware of this. Planning staff did not flag this as a SP area
    - iii. Pati P.: After the last meeting Georgia \_\_\_\_\_?\_\_\_\_\_ contacted the 7-11 head office – they had no idea this community had any bad feelings toward any of its 7-11s. People drive by – we complain amongst ourselves but don't step up to make headquarters aware
  - g. 12400 Big Tujunga Cyn
    - i. Lilianna S.: Is there any way to prove there is a new owner since it used to be owned by an LLC? Karo T.: Was in contact with the old representative that sold the property – has not been in contact with the new representative Fred Gaines
    - ii. Lilianna S.: The SMMC's Joe Edmonton and the Sierra Club have both expressed interest in purchasing the property – so if there is a new owner I would like to know who that is
  - h. 6433 La Tuna Cyn – Verdugo Hills Golf Course
    - i. No up-dates
- XI. Next meetings
  - a. Nov 7, Dec 5 and Jan 2. Because of the Holidays there will be no meetings scheduled for Nov 21 (Thanksgiving) or December 19 (Christmas) unless something time-sensitive comes up and we do need to meet.
- XII. Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm