

**Committee Chair:** Joe DeCenzo

**Committee Members:** Gerardo Barrientos, Debby Beck, Lucy Berman, Joanna Gates, Dawn Jenkins, K.T. Travers\*, Karen von Gunten, Michelle Wadler\*

\*Denotes STNC board member Quorum = 6

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**SUNLAND-TUJUNGA**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## Arts, Recreation & Culture Committee Meeting (STARC) Tuesday, October 25, 2022 @ 7:30 PM Pacific Time (U.S. and Canada)

### MINUTES (Draft)

**In Attendance:** Joe DeCenzo, Dawn Jenkins, K.T. Travers, Michelle Wadler, Gerardo Barrientos, Joanna Gates, Lucy Berman, Debby Beck **Guests:** Roger Klemm, Laura Newlin, Abby Diamond, S.L., Karen Moron, Cindy Cleghorn, Jennifer, Sherry McCoy, David Jenkins, Cheryl Schmidt, Carol Hutchinson, D. Arima

- 1. Call To Order; Introductions, Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2022:** Joe DeCenzo invited the guests to introduce themselves. He then read through the minutes of the prior month's meeting. Gerardo Barrientos moved to approve the minutes as written. Joanna Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.
- 2. Review mission statement; Code of Conduct; Quorum requirements:** Joe DeCenzo reviewed the mission statement and current code requirements. He briefly reviewed the code of conduct and invited members and guests to view the complete list at [www.empowerla.org](http://www.empowerla.org).
- 3. Public Comments/Updates for Non-Agenda Items:** Committee members/Guests: Joe DeCenzo stated that member Corey Stein has regrettably informed the committee that she is resigning her position due to health reasons. She will rejoin the committee in the future if fate allows. Michelle Wadler announced the "Greening" project at Apperson Elementary is seeking plant and financial donations for the planting days of November 5th, and 19th. Joe announced that former Sunland/Tujunga poet laureate will be performing at Bolton Hall Museum on November 13th at 4:30 p.m.
- 4. Guest Speaker Presentation:** Craig Durst, the life and music of eden ahbez. Craig shared a video slideshow with those in attendance. Historic images of Big Tujunga Canyon where Mr. ahbez resided were included. Craig played an audio version of Nat King Cole's rendition of Nature Boy which was #1 on the Billboard charts for 3 months in 1948. Many details of the life he shared with his wife Zoma were included. The Swedish band, "Ixtahuele" recorded eden's second album Dharmaland. Craig played some of the tracks from the album in his presentation. They featured natural animal sounds and hand drums, flutes crafted by eden, auto harps and tribal percussion. eden ahbez passed away in 1995 at the age of 86. Roger Klemm shared a photo from the Welcome Garden he maintains. One of the informational plaques he designed contains a lyric from eden's song Nature Boy. Craig concluded by announcing the Verdugo Hills Cemetery will seal its time capsule at 6:00 pm on October 30th.
- 5. Update: McGroarty Arts Center:** Joanna Gates thanked those who attended the "Burgers, Beer and Band" festivities to benefit the Arts Center. She praised the Key Club members for their invaluable help. She announced the plans for the "Arts and Crafts Faire" are in development. It will be held on December 3rd and 4th. Joanne closed by inviting Lucy

Berman to send her the information regarding “Hanukkah in the Foothills” so she can produce the Constant Contact email.

6. **Discussion:** Future Guest Speaker Bookings: Committee. Members are encouraged to list their suggestions for guest speakers on the Google Doc file created by Dawn Jenkins. Only confirmed speakers will be listed on the dates of the upcoming meetings. All others will be listed as “potential” until they can be confirmed.
7. **Community project updates:** Gerardo Barrientos (Pinewood mural), Michelle Wadler (“Phoenix Rising), Bus Bench Ads, Committee
8. **Discussion/Review** Past and Future events, Committee: The Randy Van Horn singers, emceed by Frannie McCartney, will be performing at Bolton Hall at 1:00 p.m., December 10, 2022.
9. **Adjourn:** 9:20 p.m.